



FARINGDON PEACE GROUP

NEWSLETTER 24

JUNE-JULY 2022

For further information contact Jennie 01367 710308
or Karen 01367 241707 or Dave 01367 240808

OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY 1st JUNE 7.30pm
EVERYDAY MILITARISM - ON OUR
STREETS AND IN OUR SCHOOL

Speaker: Symon Hill
(See Symon's description on Wikipedia)

This meeting is not Zoomed -
We are now back in the Meeting House

peace pledge union
RESIST ARMED FORCES DAY

SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2022 - 12:00 pm

Armed Forces Day drums up support for war by the back door and presents militarism as normal. Protests and other events around the UK to challenge the celebration of militarism.

END APARTHEID - FREE PALESTINE

The view that Israel is practicing the crime of apartheid is gaining ground around the world. This was confirmed last year in reports from B'Tselem (Israel's leading human rights organisation), Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

There is a responsibility on the global community to respond to this reality by holding Israel to account and push for an end to the oppression of the Palestinian people.

74 years ago Zionist forces ethnically cleansed villages and cities in Palestine, displacing over 750,000 Palestinians. The Nakba (catastrophe in Arabic) as it is known continues today with Israel's policy of apartheid and ethnic cleansing.

The Palestinian people need our solidarity now more than ever. We call for an end to Israel's oppression and to assert the right of the Palestinian people to live in freedom with justice and equality.

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY!

SATURDAY 2ND JULY

Starting at 12 for 1pm, until about 4pm.

Most of you know that we have held our annual Peace Fete for almost forty years. For the most part these have been in the lovely surroundings of the Clockhouse at Coleshill. This year that venue is no longer available.

We do owe a huge debt of gratitude to Denny and Family for their amazing hospitality over so many years. Denny has let us overrun her kitchen and garden for so long. So a big cheer and many thanks to Denny.

This year, the Fete will be replaced by a

BRING & SHARE PICNIC

for all Friends of the Peace Group.

We shall use the combined gardens of 17 and 19 Coxwell Road, Faringdon, (there is a walkway through, or, at least, there will be by then!), but please

ENTER VIA 19 COXWELL ROAD

Please bring a either a cold vegetarian main course which does not require reheating, a salad or a dessert to share.

Disabled/unloading parking is available on site. Further parking is available at the United Church car park (the church on the corner). If possible though, please come on foot or on the bus which stops almost outside, (Highworth Road stop) in each direction

We do need some idea of numbers, so please contact Jennie if you intend to come. Music, entertainment , raffle - and the inevitable tea and cakes during the afternoon.

DIARY DATE Another Big Green Day is planned for Saturday 1st October in Faringdon.

Peace Pledge Union SOLIDARITY WITH PEACE ACTIVISTS IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

The suffering in Ukraine continues to highlight the horror and futility of war. Putin's forces are still attacking civilians while NATO leaders send weapons into a war zone.

Meanwhile, war and the arms industry bring misery and devastation to Yemen, Syria and many other parts of the world.

At the Peace Pledge Union we have remained in touch with Russian and Ukrainian peace activists since the war began. It is easy to get the impression that Russian citizens wholeheartedly support the war launched by Putin in Ukraine," says Ilya Kurtsev, who points out that over 15,000 Russians have been arrested for their protests against war. She has written an article for the PPU website from the perspective of a peace activist in Russia.

As we back Russian such as Ilya who campaign against war, we also support Ukrainians engaged in mass non-co-operation to the invasion.

"Reporting on conflict focuses on warfare and almost ignores nonviolent resistance to war," says Yurii Sheliashenko of the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement. "Brave Ukrainian civilians are changing street signs and blocking streets and blocking tanks, just staying in their way without weapons."

As well as resisting invasion with active nonviolence, Ukrainian pacifists are also protesting against Zelensky's policy of turning all Ukrainian men into soldiers.

War and militarism cannot be defeated with more war and militarism. The PPU is challenging Boris Johnson and Liz Truss' attempts to misuse the suffering of Ukrainian people to promote the arms industry and higher military spending.

You can read more on the PPU's approach to the war in Ukraine, including regular updates and responses to the developing situation, at the dedicated Ukraine page on our website.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Items for the next newsletter by 23rd July
at *the very latest* to jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk

Please ensure that your contribution is ready to be taken directly from your email to the newsletter.

Word is probably the best program
The next newsletter will be for August & Sept

UK NUCLEAR ENERGY

from CND

The UK government is seeking nuclear expertise and investment from South Korea, as it scrambles to find outside partners to join its drive to boost nuclear energy output. Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng has held talks with the state-owned Korea Electric Power Corporation on investing in British nuclear production, with government officials telling The Daily Telegraph that Whitehall wanted to work with "like-minded, democratic allies" to develop further projects - although no specific projects have been agreed. If Korean involvement is secured, it would mark a return to the UK market after 2018's failed attempt to agree a deal to "rescue a floundering nuclear plant project in Moorside, Cumbria."

The life of the Hinkley Point B nuclear reactor could be extended by 18 months, under UK government plans to wean reliance off oil and gas, and to prevent a sharp decline in the number of online nuclear reactors in Britain. Hinkley Point B was slated to be shut down this summer, but pressure from industry leaders and the ear of a nuclear-friendly Prime Minister could see the plan come to fruition. However, a volte face from shutdown to life-extension operations would require the plant's owner - the French firm EDF - to submit a safety case to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), proving that the plant's reactor is in good enough condition to produce power without risk of a nuclear accident.





Tony Blair should be facing a war crimes trial but instead he will be joining the Queen at Windsor Castle to receive a knighthood. Stop the War will be protesting the granting of this award. Join us for the annual Garter Day procession in Windsor on 13th June. Time TBA



SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

I make no apology for including this passage in a secular newsletter! I feel it sums up what most peace-groupers must be feeling. This was adapted from a statement written some 35 years ago, but because of the concerns it expresses, it could have been written yesterday.

“Quakers in Britain have felt called to issue this statement in order to address a matter of urgent national priority to promote debate and to stimulate action.

We are angered by actions which have knowingly led to the polarisation of our country - into the affluent, who epitomise success according to the values of a materialistic society, and the ‘have-leasts’, who by the expectations of that same society are oppressed, judged, found wanting and punished.

We affirm the right of everyone to contribute to society and share in life’s good things, beyond the basic necessities.

We commit ourselves to learning again the spiritual value of each other. We find ourselves utterly at odds with the priorities in our society which deny the full human potential of millions of people in this country. That denial diminishes us all. There must be no ‘them’ and ‘us’..

..... we commit ourselves to examine again how we use our personal and financial resources. We will press for change to enable wealth and power to be shared more evenly within our nation. We make this statement publicly at a time of national decision [a general election] in the hope that each one of us in Britain will take appropriate action.”

Never forget you have more in common with someone arriving on a dinghy with nothing than with the millionaires sending them to Rwanda