



ABINGDON PEACE GROUP

Newsletter July - August 2024

Dear Peace Group supporter,

You may well wonder why you haven't seen an Abingdon Peace Group newsletter since May - or you may not have noticed! It would be good to know if that's the case.

The truth is that the Peace Group has run into the buffers - we still meet every week for the Monday morning vigil but we have too few people willing or able to chair meetings, no newsletter editor, and an ageing committee... we will call a general meeting in September, probably on our usual meeting date of the 3rd Tuesday, i.e. September 17th, to explore options for the future. If you care about the future of the Peace Group, please come, or at least drop us a line with your views.

This message went round by email last week. For now this will be our main way to contact people. Would you like to be on our email list? Is it OK to continue without a newsletter at all? Would you like to be forwarded emails from other organisations as we get them? Or just to be notified about local or online events? What events would you want to continue to take part in?

Please let us know - by email to abingdonpeace@gmail.com, or text to 07786 055195

You are invited to join us for Hiroshima Lantern Floating at dusk on Friday 9th August: 7pm at St Ethelwold's House.



Dear friends, Lanterns arrived today from Hiroshima, painted for us by students at Seishikan High School there. Lantern floating is a tradition in Japan to remember the dead.

You are invited to gather at 7pm in the Garden Room of St Ethelwold's House for a cold drink and cake, and an exhibition of photos from Hiroshima.

At 7.30pm we will gather by the Peace Pole in the garden for a ceremony and to light the lanterns. We will then process together, carrying the lanterns, to a suitable place on the river to float them.

Please Come!

Bring friends and family to this ceremony which is a "first" for us. The danger of nuclear war seems more real than ever: we must never forget what terrible consequences there would be.

This is a still from a video made for Salisbury CND at their lantern-floating last year. You can watch it on <https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/events/929-hiroshima-day-candle-float-5>



If you would like to take a turn filtering incoming emails and condensing them or just forwarding for everyone else, please let us know!

Here is a random selection:

Forces Watch campaign against Armed Forces Day: Many of the Armed Forces Day events around the country are marketed as 'family fun' days and/or have displays of military hardware on recruitment stands. In a new video - Is Anti-militarism Unpatriotic? - Joe Glenton speaks about what's behind Armed Forces Day and why we should be resisting it. Please watch and like on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxvnmWcpcic>

A Peace Vigil from Behind Bars: Drawing on the words of Hannah Arendt, two peace activists are keeping vigil from a German prison cell where they are serving sentences for opposing US nuclear weapons at the Büchel base. <https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2024/06/30/a-vigil-behind-bars/>

John Maclean, pacifist activist in WWI. His call was "Betray your country, serve your class, don't sign up for war!" and "A bayonet is a weapon with a working man at either end." APG member Richard Tamplin has written an fascinating, rousing appreciation of the life of this brave man. Ask if you would like a copy emailed to you. If we had a website it would go on it!!

Gaza Refuser Network. It is incredibly important to amplify the voices of those Israelis who are speaking out against the war against Gaza. www.refuser.org | info@refuser.org have a campaign "Voices Against War" on social media. Share and send money! <https://www.gaza.refuser.org/>

Declassified UK. Stay up to date with everything going on with UK foreign policy, military and intelligence agencies, e.g. BAE's BILLION pound subsidy from UK government. Read more or sign up for a weekly briefing here: <https://www.declassifieduk.org/>

CND Salisbury's website run by Peter Gloyns is an amazing repository of news & links. See <https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/> or email him to get a weekly update in your inbox!

USAF Lakenheath in Suffolk is expecting delivery of US Nuclear weapons. Greenham Women helped organise a Peace Camp 15 - 25 July, and local activist Ginnie Herbert was arrested. Watch the BBC Look East report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWIJGbK4GtA> and read more at <https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/>

Diary.

Tuesday 6th August 11am Bonn Square, Oxford. Hiroshima Day remembrance ceremony with readings, talks, and songs by Oxford Seagreen Singers.

Friday 9th August 7pm St Ethelwold's House, 30 East St Helen St. Abingdon. Hiroshima display and ceremony followed by lantern floating (see overleaf)

Saturday 14th September 10.30-4 Sands Film Studio, Rotherhithe (or online). MAW day conference "Alternatives to War in a time of Global Crisis" brings together peacebuilding and political experts including Prof Paul Rogers, Diana Francis, Jonathan Cohen & John Gittings. Book via <https://abolishwar.net/Alternatives-to-war>

Corrections and contributions to this newsletter are very welcome.

Abingdon Peace Group is run by a small "Forward Planning Group" and is looking for help. All who are interested in peace and campaigning for it are welcome to take part, and people with IT skills are urgently needed! The Group has no party political affiliations.

Contact us on abingdonpeace@gmail.com , 07786 055195 or (01235) 526265.