



ABINGDON PEACE GROUP

Mini-newsletter September 2024

Review Meeting Tuesday 17th September 7.30pm in the Garden Room, St Ethelwold's, 30 East St Helen St, OX14 5EB All Welcome! Please RSVP (see below)

Dear Peace Group supporters and newsletter readers,

In our July newsletter we promised an in-person meeting to plan the future of the Peace Group going forward. We have booked the Garden Room of St Ethelwold's House for this and are asking whether you can come, if only for 1/2 hour? We will start at 7.30pm instead of the usual 8.

Here is a list of some of the things the Peace Group has done in the past or recently:

- Regular monthly speaker or film meetings on 3rd Tuesday evenings in Northcourt Centre, or online on Zoom.
- Monthly newsletter distributed by hand to addresses in Abingdon, by post or by email.
- Local events eg Hiroshima display in market place, Peace Pole, lantern floating.
- Supporting national or regional events e.g. 2003 Anti-War march, Aldermaston demo.
- Vigils by the War Memorial.
- Library displays - Remembrance, Hiroshima.
- Saturday morning stalls and leafletting.
- Easter marches round Abingdon.
- Jumble Sales

What we would like to know is below (please reply by email to abingdonpeace@gmail.com, or by post to Sally Reynolds, 1 Thesiger Road, Abingdon OX14 2DY):

Your name..... Email or postal address.....

1. Would you like to still be kept in touch? Yes/No
2. Can you come on 17th September at 7.30pm? RSVP: Yes/No
3. If you cannot come, please give any thoughts, comments or suggestions about the way forward for Abingdon Peace Group?
4. What peace issue is most important to you at the moment?

Hiroshima Lantern Floating Friday 9th August 2024



them just as the sun was setting.

Huge thanks to our 3 canoeists, Richard Smart and Sally & Adrian Allsop, who rescued the lanterns to use again - they are so beautiful! Next year will be the 80th year since the bombings. Thanks also to the many photographers, especially Alastair Fear who posted some on his blog <https://abingdonblog.co.uk/?p=32480>



Anne Dodd was not able to be with us in person but she had devised the words we used in our brief ceremony, and perhaps the most meaningful was this quote from the author of the classic "Hiroshima", John Hersey. He wrote, ***“What has kept the world safe from the bomb since 1945 has not been deterrence, in the sense of fear of specific weapons, so much as it has been memory. The memory of what happened at Hiroshima”***. Hopefully our small ceremony, when joined with so many others, will continue to keep that memory alive.

Dates for your Diary. Every Monday, 8.15 - 8.45am, War Memorial, The Square, Abingdon. Vigil in solidarity with peacebuilders in all conflicts.

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 here: [Sands Studio website](https://sandsstudio.org.uk/) or via <https://abolishwar.net/Alternatives-to-war>

Saturday 12th October 12-3pm outside USAF Croughton (near Brackley) National “Keep Space for Peace” rally. Minibus leaves St Giles, Oxford 10.45 & Oxford Rail station 11.00 Tickets £10.00 – pre booking – contact: 07786 354 369 / oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday 10th November 12-1pm Tavistock Square, London. Alternative Remembrance Ceremony, then 2pm Hamilton House, WC1H 9BD : MAW AGM followed by Remembrance Lecture.

Corrections and contributions to this letter 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. The Group has no party political affiliations.

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