



FARINGDON PEACE GROUP NEWSLETTER 1st APRIL 2020

KEEPING IN TOUCH

A message has already been sent to most of you from Jennie and Phil.

"It seems to us to be important to try and keep in touch now that our record of almost 40 years of meeting every month has been broken by circumstances beyond our control. I/we feel it is important to maintain some sort of contact especially for those of us in self-isolation. Weeks and months of being so restricted as to where we can go and who we can meet (nobody!) have to be got through in as positive a way as possible, and one of the positive ways is by keeping in contact with each other.

In the meantime I now have time to sort out the Peace Group archives, a job I have been meaning to do for some years!

I/We are encouraged by the thought that there are fewer planes in the sky therefore emissions will be down this year!

and Spring is here. . . ."

AND SO it seems that a good way of keeping in touch is to have a newsletter, hence this epistle. But it will depend on your contributions please. If you don't want to receive it, please let me know. A return email with NO will suffice

Please send contributions for
the next newsletter to
Jenny Braithwaite
at
jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk

TELLING YOU WHAT YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNEW

In this time of self hibernation, remember the excellent service offered by Libraries including Oxfordshire, to download ebooks and audiobooks for free, to a tablet or similar device. Just join Oxford Library, and then download "Borrowbox", and it will tell you how to continue. And if you have a Kindle or similar, you can download and join Book Bub, which sends you a daily email telling you which books can be downloaded free on that day.

WE'RE IN THE MONEY

At the beginning of January, the national audit office declared that three projects needed to replace Britain's Trident nuclear weapon system are currently forecast to cost £1.35bn more than originally budgeted. They may end up costing even more than the current estimate of £2.5bn.

One of the projects, (Project Mensa) is a new nuclear warhead assembly (and disassembly) facility at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield, one of Britain's two nuclear bomb factories.

Another is the new BAE Systems shipbuilding structure in Barrow-in-Furness to build the Trident replacement 'Dreadnought' submarines.

The third infrastructure project is at Raynesway near Derby. It will help Rolls-Royce to develop and produce nuclear reactors for Dreadnought submarines.

Nearly half the extra costs to these projects were due to starting these projects too early and having to make changes later.

Thank You to Peace News for this

A message from Traidcraft

'Lands apart, sky shared'

It's time to stop

The whole world is doing it... no more commuting, gathering or shaking hands. The list of things we have to stop seems bigger than the list of things we're still allowed to do. But look a bit deeper and you'll see that we aren't stopping because we are defeated - we're stopping because we will not be beaten.

We're stopping to protect the vulnerable in society. We're stopping to save lives.

Your inaction, is the best possible action. Many are talking about their fears right now and it is certainly right to be cautious. But today we want to talk about our hopes. Because there is value in stopping, and it could look like this , , ,

We learn to stop polluting

Researchers in New York are reporting a near **50% reduction** in carbon monoxide compared to this time last year.

Perhaps this is a time where we can learn the value of reducing our emissions and our impact on the earth in the long term.

We learn to stop consuming

Forget about panic buying toilet rolls for a second and you can see that many of us are learning about what we really need - not focusing on the next big purchase.

Perhaps this is the time where we understand the value of what we consume and give our products and the people who make them the respect they deserve.

We learn to stop hating

'Lands apart, sky shared'

A quote from an ancient poem written on a shipment of masks and thermometers that was sent from Japan to China. Perhaps this is the time we realise that we share the same earth - and many of the same problems. Perhaps a common adversary will unite us.

It might sound idealistic

... to talk too much of hope right now.

But rest assured that we will be giving you practical ways that you can make the world a better, fairer place over the next weeks and months. We'll start with a short guide to the implications of the coronavirus on international trade and developing countries

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING TO PASS THE TIME?

I have been remarkably busy, with virtual meetings, emailing lessons, gardening, practising the ukulele, and ... playing the piano, a hobby I have retaken up recently since the acquisition of a piano. The pianos in Coxwell Road have a bit of a story.

My next door neighbour had two grand pianos, one of which she recently donated to her next-door-but-one neighbour. Now, her next-door-but-one neighbours donated their upright piano (in very good nick) to their next-door-but-two neighbours, ie me. The remaining neighbour, next door but one to me, received a grand piano from Freegle during the same week. Confused? So was the guy who moved them all.

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This week I was reminded of the Biblical parable about the woman who had ten silver coins and lost one. She lit a lamp, swept the house and searched carefully until she found it. And when she found it, she called her friends and neighbours together and said "Rejoice with me, I have found my lost coin".

A few years back, I was entrusted with a gold ducat by an elderly aunt, with strict instructions as to who it should be passed on to on my demise. When we went on holiday a couple of years back, I hid it just in case we were burgled while we were away - but on our return I just could not remember where I had put it, and, having searched high and low, I feared that I had inadvertently managed to lose it for ever. That it was in a little bag, along with my engagement ring and a pair of earrings which came from a great aunt long departed, didn't help! Monetary value was of course of no importance

So imagine my joy when it turned up a few days ago. I can't call the neighbours together to rejoice with me, but, amidst the current gloom, maybe the only cause I myself have for rejoicing this week! Maybe I should have done a little more diligent sweeping of the house sooner!

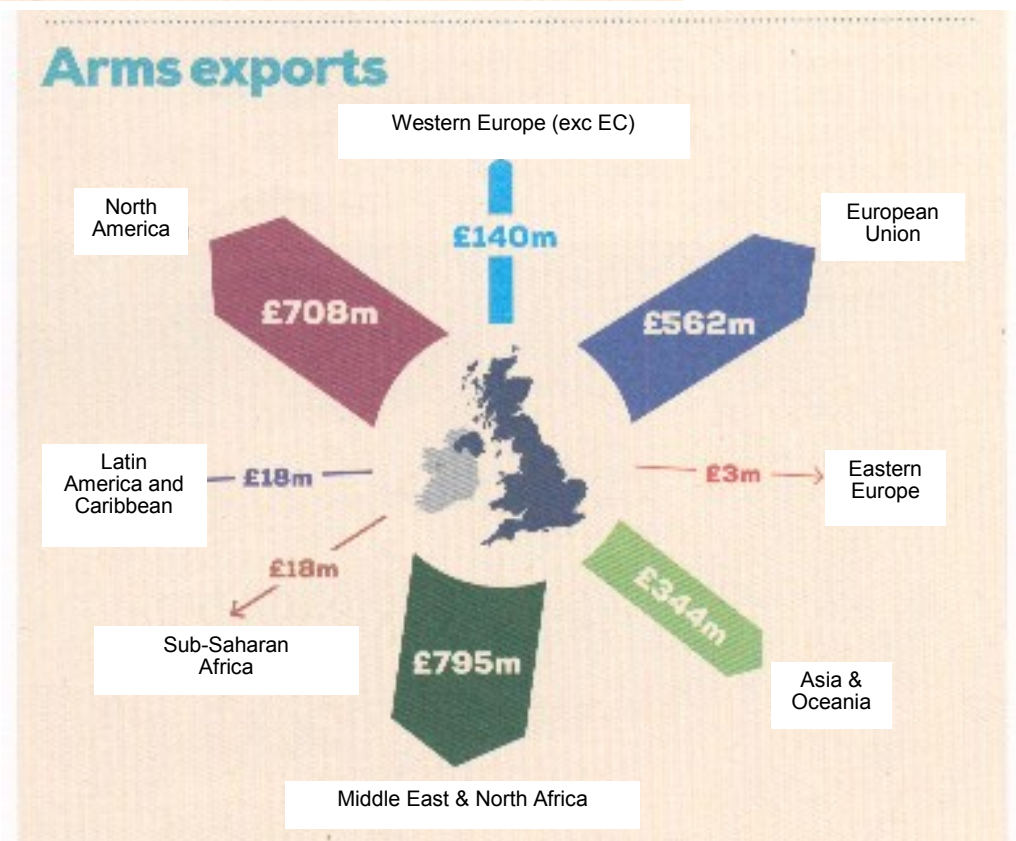
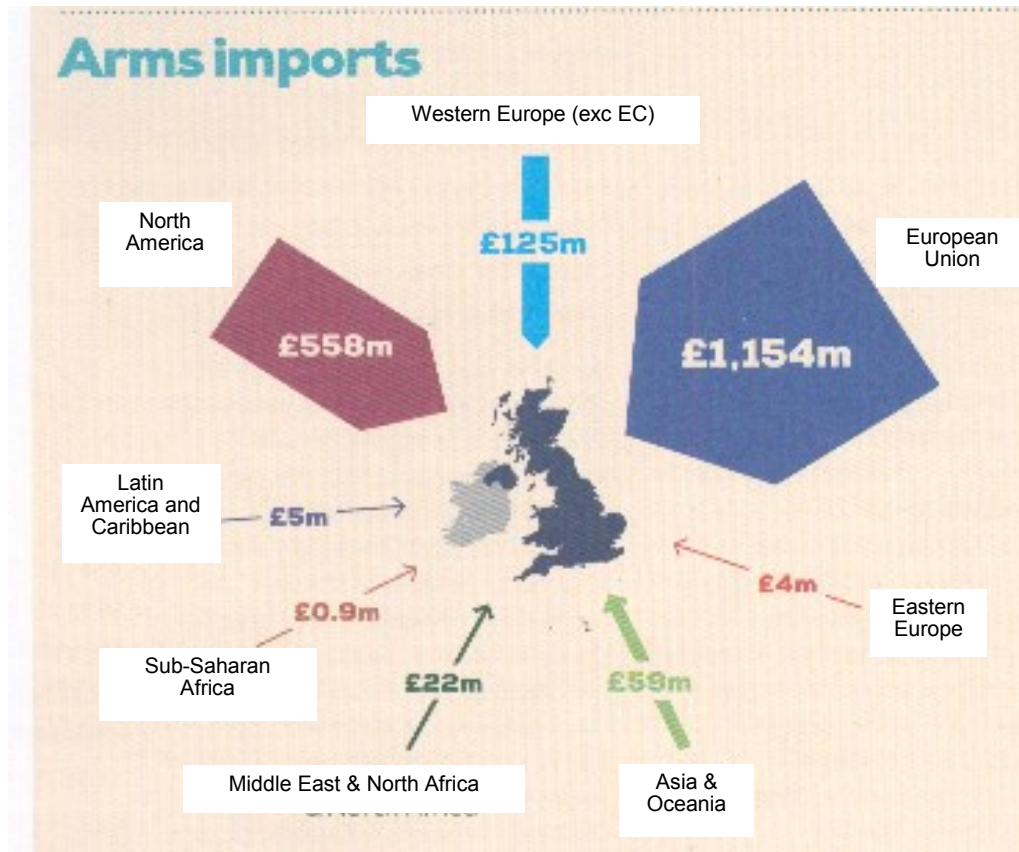
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If you are wondering why this letter is largely about **me**, please make sure it is about **you** next time by sending in **your** news and items!
Jenny
.....

UK CUSTOMS DATA

Thank you to CAAT for this

UK Revenue and Customs data (uktradeinfo.com) provides information on imports and exports. The data that is collected doesn't match up with arms export licencing data and often doesn't distinguish between military and civil equipment. However for some categories, the data can be specific enough to be meaningful.

The "commodity codes" used in the graphic cover small arms, bombs, missiles and torpedoes (also parts and accessories for these). They do not include armoured vehicles, aircraft or warships. The period covered is from the start of 2017 to the end of 2019.



JUST SAY 'NO'

84 percent of young adults around the world say that it is never acceptable to use nuclear weapons, according to a new poll carried out by the International Committee for the Red Cross.

The poll surveyed more than 16,000 people aged 20-35 (millennials) in 16 countries and territories, half of them experiencing violent conflict.

83 percent of British millennials said it was never acceptable to use a nuclear weapon, almost exactly the global average.

Just over half a million around the world thought it was more likely than not that a nuclear attack would occur in the next decade.

Thank You to Peace News for this

from Medecins sans Frontieres

Around the world, 7,000 newborn babies die every day and 800 women die every day from pregnancy and birth complications.

In this Year of the Midwife, MSF is more determined than ever to reduce the number of deaths and increase women's access to maternal healthcare.

JUST A FEW PICS from the archives
which might make you smile



Seen in Uganda



..... And the missing country is Denmark

Answers
1. UK, London. 2. Eire, Dublin. 3. France, Paris. 4. Spain, Madrid.
5. Portugal, Lisbon. 6. Andorra, Andorra La Vella. 7. Switzerland,
Berne. 8. Luxembourg. 9. Belgium, Brussels. 10. Netherlands,
The Hague. 11. Germany, Berlin. 12. Italy, Rome. 13. Czech Rep,
Prague. 14. Poland, Warsaw. 15. Part of Russ Fed, Kaliningrad.
16. Lithuania, Vilnius. 17. Latvia, Riga. 18. Estonia, Tallinn.
19. Iceland, Reykjavik. 20. Norway, Oslo. 21. Sweden, Stockholm.
22. Finland, Helsinki. 23. Austria, Vienna. 24. Hungary,
Budapest. 25. Slovakia, Bratislava. 26. Romania, Bucharest.
27. Moldova, Chisinau. 28. Ukraine, Kiev. 29. Belarus, Minsk.
30. Bulgaria, Sofia. 31. Greece, Athens. 32. Albania, Tirana.
33. North Macedonia, Skopje. 34. Serbia, Belgrade.
35. Montenegro, Podgorica. 36. Kosovo, Pristina. 37. Bosnia
Herzegovina, Sarajevo. 38. Croatia, Zagreb. 39. Slovenia,
Ljubljana. 40. Liechtenstein, Vaduz. 41. San Marino, S. Marino.
42. Malta, Valetta. 43. Cyprus, Nicosia.



This was one of the most magical moments of my life! Water gushing out of a borehole in Gulu, the Faringdon Quakers' aid project. Everyone was told not to drink the water for a week, but of course a load of teenage boys rushed in and did just that! As far as I know, none of them suffered any ill effects. Gulu is hot, dry dirty, smelly, and not your average tourist destination. Water coming out of this parched earth was indeed a miracle!



Mural Seen on a walk in Guernica



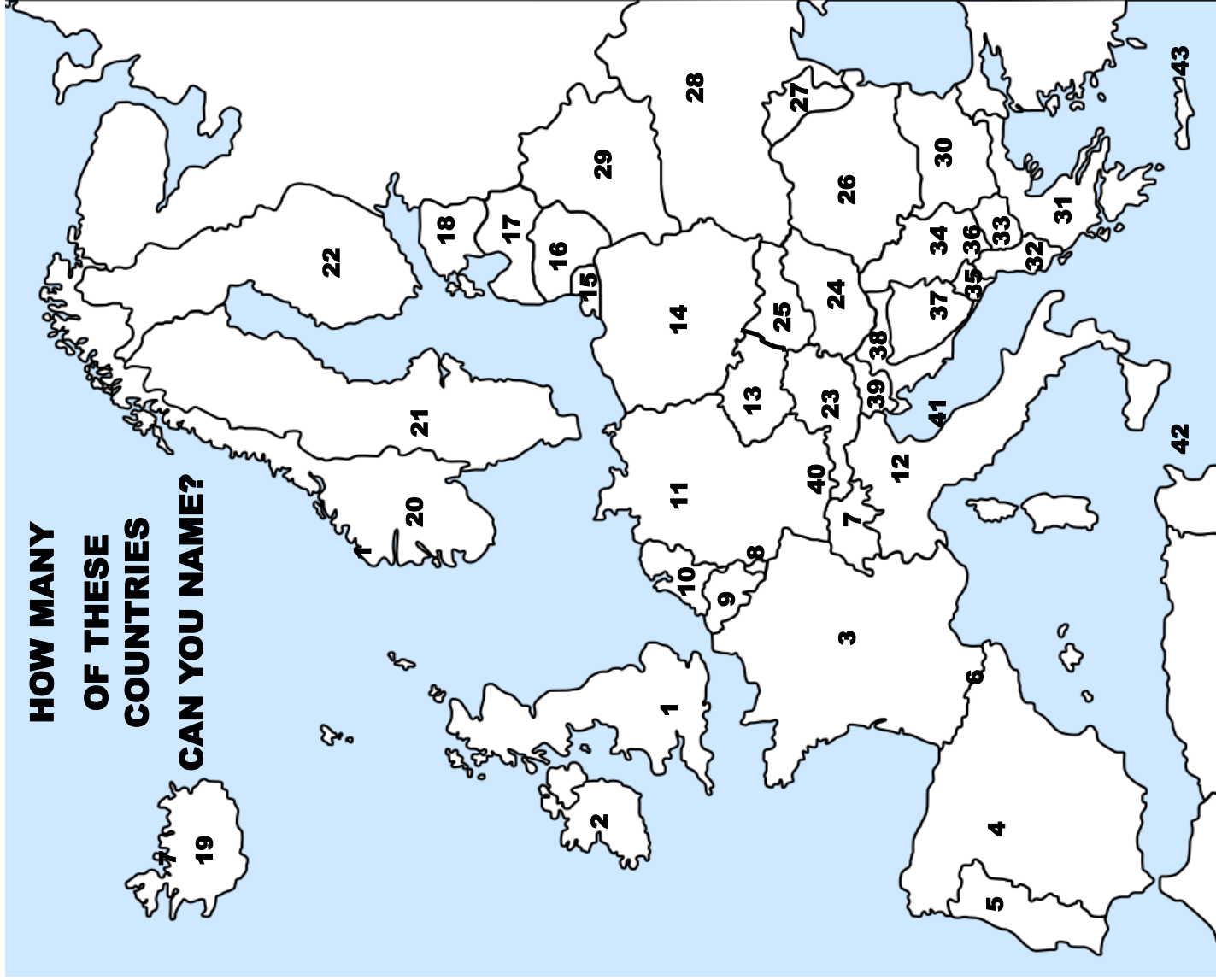
Seen on a Quaker walk in London



Anti Trident demo in London

An alternative spending all this free time doing Sudokus!

We often complain that our leaders, on both sides of the Atlantic, have no idea where a country is, even if they are attacking it or supplying arms for someone else to attack it. How many of these countries can you name? with their capitals? We'll start with Europe. One country is missing. What and where is it? (ans p3)



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