



FARINGDON

PEACE GROUP

NEWSLETTER (5)

When the US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the cities were obliterated. By 1950, over 340,000 people had died as a result and generations were poisoned by radiation.

Today 14,000 nuclear weapons still threaten our survival, even though the majority of people in the world and their governments support an international ban on their development and use. Climate change and the global pandemic Covid-19 are just two examples of the actual threats we face as an international community today. We should be focusing on working together to deal with these issues, rather than spending billions on weapons of mass destruction.

A QUANDARY – HELP NEEDED!

I listened to Desert Island Discs the other day. The interviewee was Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation). NATO is an organisation I am strongly opposed to. I see it as a war-mongering bastion of the so-called 'free' world - think Iraq, Afghanistan et al. Therefore Jens Stoltenberg is someone I should be opposed to - and yet, as I listened, I learnt that, in his youth, he was a member of the Labour Party, that he campaigned against the Vietnam War, that as Prime Minister of Norway he spoke up for drug addicts and that his beloved sister was one and died of her addiction, I began to wonder what to make of this man, and of the power he wields.

What a quandary! I'll be finding good things to say about Trump next!

Jennie

LOCKDOWN

The second-hand moves
then the minute hand

Ticking by . . . ticking by
Midnight and the waiting
The waiting for weeks

Then months . . . months
What percentage of my time
lost and forlorn

Shielding shielding from life
Covid 19 that benign flu
Healthy no problems

Ticking by ticking by
Will I get it
How long the wait

Can I wait the wait
Tick midnight click
I have got it

Tesco has a delivery slot

Pete Stone July 2020

(NOTE Other supermarkets are available but have you ever tried getting a delivery slot?)

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out -

because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out -

because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out -

because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me -

and there was no one left to speak for me.

Please send your contributions for next month's newsletter as soon as you like but by 22nd August at the latest, to jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk
Please send as a Word doc if possible

THE ARMY TARGETS YOUNG PEOPLE FOR RECRUITMENT.

With your help we can inspire young people to work for peace instead.

In these uncertain and dangerous times, it is vital that young people are empowered to work towards peace and to guard against military responses to current and future crises.

Please consider making a donation today to support the PPU's work with:

- Young people campaigning against the militarisation of youth.

Teachers and home educators offering an alternative approach to Remembrance.

Last Saturday you may have seen coverage of Armed Forces Day. Like the increase in cadet forces and 'military ethos' programmes in schools, Armed Forces Day is partly aimed at children, with the goal of recruiting teenagers into the armed forces, and building support for war and militarism in wider society. Many young people are determined to challenge this narrative. We need to support them. With your help, we can further our work with young people, teachers and home educators who stand against militarism.

Every year for Remembrance Day, we encourage educators and young people to explore the wider consequences of war, questioning established narratives and giving space to marginalised voices. This year we must do more to reach young people, whether back in school or learning from home due to the pandemic. As well as creating a brand new White Poppy Education Pack, fully adapted for home-schooling, we will be providing integrated online materials and donating more white poppies to schools and students.

The last year has seen a rise in the number of teenagers taking action with the PPU. Many are keen to challenge militarism in their schools, universities and communities. In November, PPU members and supporters in their teens and early twenties will act in solidarity with people around the world in marking the International Week of Action Against the Militarisation of Youth. They are already forming plans for actions in London and South Wales, with hopes of actions elsewhere as well. We want to provide them with leaflets, resources and practical training.

Please donate now at www.ppu.org.uk/appeal

Thank you very much for your support.
Peace Pledge Union. 020 7424 9444

THIS IS THE MOST DEADLY CARGO ON OUR ROADS



A southbound nuclear warhead convoy passed Oxford on the A34 at 5.00pm on Wednesday 15th July 2020.

Pictured is a nuclear warhead carrier in the convoy. Picture by Oxford CND nukewatchers. They help track and monitor the transport of nuclear Trident warheads on our roads.

The convoy was returning from the Coulport base in Scotland and heading towards the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield, near Reading.

Jill has sent me a 'letter of reminisces', dated 1997, from Hazel Townesend

".. And the Fetes. The worry; will it rain or not? the heat that melted everything. The avenue of limes that gave us shelter. Denny and Michael so generously letting us have their house for a weekend every year, the children's games, the balloons, the theatre, the groups of musicians, the courtyard teas, banners, cakes, sandwiches, the other stall holders. So many memories that they all seem to run together. But one event stands out. It was at the end of one of the early fetes, it had been very hot and the children were bringing in the bales. The sun was going down, it was very quiet, and the theatre group performed a piece. I don't remember much what it was about exactly, but there was such a feeling of peace and hope that evening"

Hazel

Faringdon Peace Group extends **CONGRATULATIONS**

to the former MP for Wantage, Ed Vaizey, who is to be elevated to the House of Lords.
(reported in the Times 18.07.20 and elsewhere)

PEACE CHALLENGE

75 years ago the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were devastated by atomic bombs, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children.

One of the victims of the bombing was a child named Sadako Sasaki. She was just two years old when the bomb was dropped on her hometown of Hiroshima. At the age of 12, she was hospitalised with leukaemia.

Despite being gravely ill, Sadako managed to fold 1,000 paper cranes, hoping that an ancient Japanese legend was true - that this would grant her wish to be healthy again.

Tragically, she passed away within months, but her story has become a global symbol of peace, and a reminder of the human tragedy and unimaginable suffering that today's nuclear weapons threaten.

CND campaigns tirelessly to see an end to nuclear weapons both in the UK and across the world, so that no child has to suffer as Sadako did. If you want to help, then **why not sign up for our origami peace crane challenge?**

We're asking supporters to get sponsored by family and friends to fold 75 origami peace cranes - one for each year since the bomb was dropped - to raise money to help our campaign. Or, you can set your own target for how many cranes you want to fold. **If you're up for the challenge, then take the first step by signing up here!** <https://cranes-for-peace.raisely.com/signup>.



HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI



The anniversary of the dropping of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is commemorated across the world. And this year, an international joint grassroots action will allow people – wherever they are – to join together in one action.

Starting from the moment the first bomb was dropped, 8:15am on August 6th, waves of many creative forms of actions will encircle the globe until 11:02 am on August 9th, when the second bomb was dropped over Nagasaki.

The first Peace Wave took place in 1987, after the delegates of the then Soviet and US peace movements at the World Conference against A and H Bombs called for an international action in support of a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons. The organisers of the World Conference have called for another Peace Wave this year, with the following statement:

“Let us make the Peace Wave a tremendous campaign by which the anti-nuclear movements, in cooperation with all other movements demanding cuts in military expenditure, protection of human lives, livings and jobs, gender equality and other vital needs, will take the lead in establishing a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world.”

How can you join in?

In Japan, actions will start with silent prayer at 8:15am on August 6th and also end with silent prayer at 11:02am on August 9th. CND is calling on all its supporters to also mark the moments that the bombs fell (but in UK time), with a silent period of reflection



JOIN THE HIBAKUSHA'S CALL TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

In the coming weeks, Quakers across Britain will be among millions around the world solemnly marking the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombs which destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Between 100,000 and 180,000 people were killed in Hiroshima. Three days later, between 50,000 and 100,000 died in Nagasaki. Many more people died in the days and months that followed.

While large-scale commemorations have been set aside to avoid the risks of COVID-19, online events will mark the disastrous days. Many will join the Hibakusha's (survivors) call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Marigold Bentley, Head of Peace Programmes and Faith Relations for Quakers in Britain, explains why Quakers are involved: "Humanity finds itself in 2020, 75 years since the world realised with horror the devastation it was able to inflict on itself, shamefully still unable to reject nuclear weapons. Quakers have consistently regarded them as both faithless and sinful, and are committed to working for nuclear disarmament, holding hard to our religious vision of a world without war. We are tasked with educating each generation of the danger of nuclear weapons, and to the many opportunities we have before us to rid the world of them. We remember what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 in order to recommit to work against them."

Ahead of the anniversary, Quakers in Britain are supporting Christian CND's call on the UK government to work for a global ban on nuclear weapons and to cancel the current programme to replace Trident

The full text of CCND's letter is here:

"August 6 marks 75 years since the dropping of a nuclear bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The bombings killed tens of thousands of people and caused environmental damage and suffering which many people continue to live with today.

"Shortly after the bombings the international community came together at the United Nations to say "never again" and pledged to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons around the world. Sadly, 75 years on, that goal has yet to be met, and many nuclear-armed states, including the United Kingdom, are currently pursuing upgrades to their nuclear arsenals, spending hundreds of billions of pounds in the process.

"As Christians we reject nuclear weapons. We believe that their capacity to indiscriminately kill millions of our brothers and sisters, and to catastrophically destroy God's creation, makes them contrary to the teaching of Jesus Christ. Recent events have shown that the global community must work together to overcome the challenges facing us in the 21st century. We must speak out and call for action to ensure that the horrific events witnessed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki are never repeated.

"We call on the UK government to make every effort to engage in meaningful international disarmament, most importantly by committing to the cancellation of the current programme to replace Trident."

Signed by Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain

David Johnston, MP for Wantage writes

We have a gender gap in educational attainment, with girls doing better than boys at every stage. We also have an ethnicity gap, in which certain ethnic groups do better than others. But no gap is larger than that between poor children and non-poor children. Given my career before politics was running organisations to help disadvantaged young people, it will not surprise readers to learn I have been very concerned by children and young people not being at school. Summer learning loss is a well-established principle with all children – but particularly the poorest – falling behind as a result of the 6-week summer holiday. The fact that some children will not have been in school for 6 months by September this year should concern us all.

Week after week on the Education Committee we have heard the damage this is likely doing, not just to the academic progress of children but to their emotional well-being too. Parents across the constituency have told me that their confident, friendly, outgoing child has become a shy, introverted, anxious child. There were children who already had mental health difficulties before lockdown and now many others will have developed these as a result of it.

Schools across Wantage and Didcot have done a great job to remain open for our most vulnerable children across this period, with some not shutting at all. But for other pupils nationally the gap in online provision has been stark, with 79% of children at private schools receiving online lessons compared to 41% of disadvantaged children at state schools. Yes, internet and computer access are an issue, although I have never thought that online teaching is a proper substitute for being in the classroom. We also can't ignore the opposition of the National Education Union, which issued a statement saying teachers should not be teaching a full timetable nor routinely marking work in this period – an attitude that I don't imagine reflects the attitudes of their members but makes it difficult for them to go against.

I am delighted that the Government is committed to all schools returning in September, keeping children in class or year group bubbles alongside other protective measures. I know some ask why we can't use nearby buildings to support schools, but there are over 24,000 schools in England alone, which means this is not a realistic option for many of them. The risk to children of the virus is very low, but if they have vulnerable adults at home they will be able to make arrangements to stay at home. It is imperative that all other children return if we are to avoid scarring a generation.

A little bit more about our world...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10. In which country is the ancient city of Petra? | Answers |
| 9. What river flows through Paris? | 1. Asia |
| 8. How many countries are there in Africa? | 2. 22% |
| 7. What is the fastest flowing river in the world? | 3. Strait of Gibraltar |
| 6. What is the largest country in South America? | 4. Istanbul |
| 5. What is the oldest active volcano on Earth? | 5. Mount Etna |
| 4. What is the only major city located on two continents? | 6. Brazil |
| 3. What body of water separates Africa and Europe? | 7. Amazon |
| 2. What percentage of the River Nile is located in Egypt? | 8. 54 |
| 1. What is the world's largest continent? | 9. The Seine |
| | 10. Jordan |
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from Christian CND, sent in by Jill

NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS INVESTMENTS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Christian CND has been working with other UK based faith groups to publish a new report into the financing of nuclear weapons. every year billions of pounds are pumped into companies in producing nuclear weapons, by banks and pension funds.

With the UK currently undertaking the replacement of the four Trident submarines at a cost of £205 billion, it is vital that pressure is applied to banks and pension funds to take money away from companies building these weapons. The international community is turning its back on nuclear weapons through the Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which may have implications for the financial institutions in the UK.

The report gives financial institutions a score for their policies and how willing they have been to engage with the research that fed into the report. While there are some positives, including the people's Pension and NEST, the government's default pension scheme with 4.5million members, committing to consult to get the views of their members, there is still much work to be done.

We've set up a template letter so that you can contact your bank or pension provider and ask them to move money away from funding nuclear weapons. To find out more, and to read the report visit the Christian CND website - www.christiancnd.org.uk

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A gem from John Crace writing in the Guardian "There should be statues to Grayling in every city, symbols of hope for losers everywhere",,,
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BOATS AT NIAGARA FALLS

stark social distancing differences in US and Canada.

Whilst cases of Covid-19 continue to rise across the US, neighbouring Canada has largely managed to contain the spread of the virus, helped by strict management of the situation.



A picture of two tourist boats at the famous Niagara Falls, which form part of the border between the United States and Canada.

Guess which boat is which!

WAR AND PEACE

Man invents war. Man discovers peace.

He invents war from without.

He discovers peace from within.

War man throws. Peace man sows.

The smile of war is the flood of human blood.

The smile of peace is the love, below, above.

Peace begins in the soul and ends in the heart.

War begins in the mind and ends in the body.

War forgets peace. Peace forgives war.

War is the death of the life human.

Peace is the birth of the Life Divine.

Our vital passions want war.

Our psychic emotions desire peace.

War is clear futility in dire spear-stupidity.

Peace is flowing infinity in glowing eternity.

Man seeks peace because

his earthly existence desperately needs it.

Man welcomes peace because

he feels that in peace alone is his life of achievement and fulfilment

Man spreads peace because

he wants to transcend death.

Sri Chinmoy