

FARINGDON PEACE GROUP AGM 05.10.11 - MINUTES

PRESENT

Al Cane, Jennie (JCh) and Phil Chesterton, Karen and Sjoerd Vogt, Dave Watson, Bev Fuller, Janie Cottis (JCo), David Morgan

APOLOGIES

John Cottis, Adam Twine, Gill and Trish, Daphne and Pat Saunders, Jenny and Steve Braithwaite, Charlotte Rivers

PC, in the chair, remembered the first meeting of Faringdon Peace Group 31 years ago at which there was a showing of 'The War Game'. JCh and JCo were also present.

MINUTES AGM 2010

Approved and signed.

No matters arising.

CORRESPONDENCE AND DATES

JCh handed round copies of 'Peace News' and national/regional and local dates for the diary drawing our attention to a play about Greenham Common, 'Devil's Gateway' being performed in Wallingford. Also the interesting programme of lunchtime meetings run by the UNA (to which FPG is affiliated) in Oxford. Forthcoming meetings include 'Gaza from outside to inside', '9/11 Revisited' and 'the Arab Spring'

November meeting - Harry Verhoeven talking about Central Africa (recommended by Braithwaites)

December meeting - Kevin Lister, who spoke impressively at Croughton, talking about Climate Change and the Military.

Annual Social - 4th Jan 2012 at 8.00pm. 7, Leamington Drive, SN7 7JZ. Bring food and drink to share. All welcome.

REPORTS

NEWSLETTER AND 'FARINGDON FOLLY' – Karen Vogt

- **Newsletter** - KV apologized for irregular publication of the newsletter. Should be quarterly, but overload of information and lack of filtering skills make it a more daunting task than it should be, leading to procrastination. Dates for diary are available on the website and emails are sent out regularly to the group so newsletter is less essential at least for those with computers. Meeting reports could also be put on the website (SV). Abingdon and Oxford PGs both do very good monthly newsletters.
- **Faringdon Folly** – Monthly meeting reports are always published in the Folly. Thanks to Al Cane (editor) for always printing in full.

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES – Jennie Chesterton

- **Meetings** – There have been 7 speaker meetings this year covering a wide range of subjects: Western Sahara, Iran, UK/USA special relationship, Climate Change, Jesus and Non-Violence and the effect of the death of Bin Laden on the power balance in Middle East.

One meeting was cancelled due to snow!

We have not held a big public meeting this year. Bruce Kent has expressed a willingness to return.

JCh's guidelines when choosing speakers are to try to get those that she has heard or come highly recommended. She also tries to ensure the subject is topical – with great success this year. She is always open to suggestions and recommendations.

- **Activities** – FPG has been represented at national demos (Afghanistan – Time to Go, Levellers Day), local demos (RAF Croughton), and many meetings (Network for Peace AGM, Southern Region CND AGM, STW Oxford, Oxford PSC AGM, MAW AGM, ‘Africa – Exploitation’). Thanks to those who have attended on behalf of FPG.

TREASURER – Steve Braithwaite

SB was not able to attend but sent accounts for the Peace Group and separately for the Fete. Thanks to John Cecil for auditing the accounts.

- **Fete** – Despite some one-off expenses, our best ever fete financially with profits of £1618.44 (2nd best was 2009 £1220.15). Teas, raffle, books and children’s tombola were way up on last year.
- **FPG** – Increased Fete income and £300 from MAW means we have almost £900 more in the bank than this time last year: £3233.95. Agreed to ring-fence MAW’s £300 to spend on something specific (see below – Arthur Hewlett Award).
- **Subscriptions** – Subs to CND, CND Insurance, Southern Region CND, Peace News, CAAT, Network for Peace and UNA amounted to £224
- **Donations** – Donations to Faringdon Quaker Aid, Bristol Peace Fund, Polisario (London), Nuclear Information Service, Peace News, St. Michael’s Church and Stop the War Coalition amounted to £655.

As we have a lot of money in the bank, but subject to the Treasurer’s approval, we agreed to the following donations to worthwhile causes which further the aims of the Peace Group:

- **£700 to Faringdon Quaker Aid** which is building a permanent training centre in a former war zone in Northern Uganda. John Cottis has copied a DVD about it which JCo will pass round.
- **£100 to Stop the War Coalition** which has requested funds for its October 8th Anti-War Assembly on the 10th anniversary of the war in Afghanistan
- **£100 to Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**, continuing its campaign against Trident
- **£100 to Campaign Against Arms Trade** whose current ‘This is not OK’ campaign targets UK arms sales to repressive regimes
- **£200 to Peace News** - an invaluable publication for the Peace Movement. This is instead of a subscription

RESOURCES – Dave Watson

- **Gazebos** - not checked since Sam Wickham borrowed them but will be done.
- **PA** - had a few accidents and a few repairs this year. Really belongs to OPC, so there is a £10 donation to OPC when borrowed. Will help pay for future maintenance.
- **Fete notices** – Sturdy new roadside board made for Fete with ingenious number system and extra attachable ‘Today’ notice (when KV has painted it!)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There was a big thank-you to all officers for their work over the past year, especially JCh without whom the FPG would not have kept going all these years.

John Cottis asked to step down as a chair due to ill health. We all wish him well in his forthcoming operation. Other officers remain the same, with Adam Twine added as an occasional chair:

CHAIRS – Sjoerd Vogt, Phil Chesterton, Dave Headey, Trish Wickstead, Dave Watson, Adam Twine

MEETINGS SECRETARY – Jennie Chesterton

NEWSLETTER AND PRESS SECRETARY – Karen Vogt

TREASURER – Steve Braithwaite

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION – Mairead Boyce

CREATIVE CO-ORDINATOR – Karen Vogt

FETE ORGANISER – Sjoerd Vogt

WEBSITE MANAGER AND TECHNICAL HELP – Sjoerd Vogt

RESOURCES MANAGER – Dave Watson

ARTHUR HEWLETT PEACE AWARD

FPG was awarded this £300 prize last November by the Movement for the Abolition of War. There was a discussion about how we can put it to good use but a decision will be made at a later date. Please all mull it over in the meantime.

- **A piece of artwork** - sculpture (possibly referencing Berners and eccentricity/humour), peace doves, mural, 'Banksy' type graffiti
- **A Peace Garden**. Need a suitable piece of land. Peace roses planted in church gardens many years ago to commemorate Hiroshima have largely disappeared. The oak tree in Folly Park though is still alive! Hidden away so less likely to be vandalised, but best not to draw attention to it with a plaque.
- **A Peace Memorial** – as opposed to a War Memorial.
- **Tabletop display boards** – to use when leafleting, vigiling, at the back during FPG meetings. Must be light, portable and durable.
- **Renaming a road in town** – as the French Twinning Assoc. have done.