

‘WAR PLAN OXFORDSHIRE’

Nigel Day, who lives in Oxford, is a lifelong peace campaigner and friend of Faringdon Peace Group. He shared with us his extensive knowledge of the huge number of military sites in and around Oxfordshire. As well as barracks, bunkers and training bases, many sites are essential to the UK and US in the execution of wars. Some RAF bases such as Fairford and Croughton have a nominal RAF station commander but are in fact US Airforce bases. Although Fairford is dormant at present it can very quickly be re-activated as a launch site for B2 stealth bombers in case of an attack on Iran, for example. Croughton is one of the most important communications centres in Europe. Brize Norton is now the biggest RAF base in the country transporting troops and equipment to war zones. RAF (USAF) Welford houses the largest conventional bomb store in Europe.

Most worrying however are the nuclear weapons sites just over the Berkshire border at AWE Aldermaston (research, particularly into Trident replacement) and Burghfield (nuclear bomb assembly and underground warhead store). Apart from the immorality and enormous costs of these weapons of mass destruction, Nigel also expressed concern over the safety record of these establishments. Most of us are unaware of nuclear warhead convoys which travel regularly on roads and through towns in Oxfordshire, carrying warheads from Burghfield to Scotland to equip Trident submarines. Nigel has spent endless hours tracking these convoys for ‘Nukewatch’. Despite the danger and potential disaster of an accident with these vehicles on its roads, emergency planning in Oxfordshire seems to be woefully inadequate.

Nigel will as usual be protesting at Aldermaston on Easter Monday and invited us to join him. More information from www.actionawe.org and <http://www.cnduk.org/campaigns/no-to-trident/item/1566-time-to-scrap-trident-stop-fooling-with-nuclear-weapons> . Also <http://www.nukewatch.org.uk/>

Karen Vogt

Faringdon Peace Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 8.00 in the Friends Meeting House, Lechlade Rd. now with disabled access and toilet. All welcome.