



FARINGDON

PEACE GROUP

.... 40 YEARS

On the morning after the AGM I happened to be in our garage, stacked high with boxes with some interesting labels - 'Early Days of F.P.G.' 'Greenham', 'David Kelly', 'Peace Songs', 'Dates for the Diary', 'Bases', 'Non-Violence', 'The Nuclear Threat'.

Who was it suggested a commemorative booklet be produced as part of an official recognition of 40 years of working for peace?? CND have published a history of the 60 years of their existence, so there is a precedent. . . .

I would like to be involved in this enterprise, but would need some help in making it happen. The story of Faringdon Peace Group and its influence on our lives needs to be set down. It is not by accident that we have continued to function for the last 40 years, but a tribute to the contribution of many people in many ways. I think it needs to be archived for posterity. So many campaigns have been almost lost to history, ones that we are only just beginning to discover and learn about, the achievements of ordinary people, which have contributed to the freedom and democracy we have today. I envisage this not as a strict year-by-year account, but as Chris (Owen) suggested, more of an eclectic approach, one that everybody can contribute to, whether they have been long-time supporters or have joined more recently.

Are you interested in contributing to the venture? I do hope so. Please contact me at [castle@myphone.coop](mailto:castle@myphone.coop) or by phone at 01367 710308. I have already had one offer of help with sorting through the boxes, but more offers would be very welcome. In the meantime, perhaps you too have got some memorabilia and photographs tucked away which would be useful for this project. Please start looking!

Thank you, Phil

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## STOP PRESS

### An important step towards a nuclear-free world

A new treaty to ban nukes is now set to become international law after being championed by nations from the Global South who are angry at the failure of nuclear weapons states to disarm. Read more.

KATE HUDSON reports

<https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/f/important-step-towards-nuclear-free-world>

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Please send items for the next newsletter to [jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk)

Please submit in a printable format, using Word preferably, or email text, by 24th November

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## HUNGRY KIDS IN 2020?

This pandemic has shone a spotlight on the travesty of child food poverty. Finally, it feels like this is something everyone is talking about - everyone, it seems, except this Tory government.

Many have been calling on the government to make free school meals available for every child in poverty in England, including during school holidays and lockdowns. It is the right thing to do. But recently, Conservative MPs voted down an extension of free school meal provision for school holidays.

Don't give up! Write to your MP

(Never mind, MPs still getting subsidised food and generous meal allowances)

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## Young people deserve the chance to weigh up different points of view.

Recent Department for Education guidance tells head teachers in England to ensure external organisations, speakers and resources do not take "extremist" stances. These include a stated desire to abolish capitalism and "a failure to condemn illegal activities done in support of their cause". The guidance also bans "victim narratives that are harmful to British society".

If the Department for Education wants to safeguard young people, it should be ready to support them to address the threats of climate breakdown and inequality. If it's serious about balance then the best way to achieve this is through allowing different voices and perspectives to be explored. Young people deserve the chance to weigh up different points of view, and develop their own moral compass – something so needed in our fractured times.

*Here are some voices which this guidance would ban from our classrooms*

### 1. Jesus

Jesus told his followers that accruing wealth was a barrier to the Kingdom of Heaven, and was ready to take direct action when commerce was out of control, upturning the tables in the Temple.

### 2. UK government

Having announced its intention to break international law with the Internal Market Bill in 2020, the UK Government would appear a very unsuitable organisation to talk to children.

### 3. Kareena Birla, climate striker

"There will never be ethical consumption underneath capitalism when people and nature are disregarded".

### 4. Ada Salter

President of the Women's Labour League and the first female mayor in London. Dedicated to making housing and the city liveable for the poor, London's greenbelt exists because of her and her fellow campaigners.

### 5. Naomi Klein, Author and anthropologist

"Capitalism sells itself as the height of Reason. But there is nothing rational about an economic model that systematically undermines the web of life on which humanity itself depends."

### 6. Martin Luther King

From jail, the civil rights campaigner wrote "There are two types of laws: just and unjust", and he was ready to break the latter.

### 7. Quakers in Britain

Global capitalism is based on exploiting people and the earth, and is causing climate breakdown. Quaker communities around Britain are trying to put alternative ideas into practice.

### 8 The Suffragettes

Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst share a plinth near the Houses of Parliament, but with their motto 'Deeds not words', the DfE would not countenance their presence in schools. .

*Adapted from an article by Ellis Brooks in 'Quake' a Quaker publication.*

## WHO'S WHO?



Clockwise from top left:  
1. Naomi Klein, image by Joe Mabel,  
3. Martin Luther King Jr, public domain  
4. Ada Salter, Wellcome Collection,  
5. Christ and the Rich Young Ruler,  
Heinrich Hofmann, 1889  
6. Statue of Emmeline Pankhurst  
in Victoria Gardens,  
7. School climate strikers,

Image detail

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NOVEMBER 2020**

### **MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

organised by Faringdon Peace Group as well as by other groups.

For further information please contact Jennie Tel: 01367 710308 or  
[castle@myphone.coop](mailto:castle@myphone.coop)

- Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov Black Lives Matter. Vigil 10.0 – 11.0am. Faringdon Market Place .  
More info: Liz at [lizrothschild@phonecoop.coop](mailto:lizrothschild@phonecoop.coop)
- Wed 4 Nov Monthly Zoom meeting 7.30pm. Cdr. Robert Forsyth RN (retd).  
40 minute Power Point video Robert has made about his Cold War experiences. In it he refers to being in Polaris, but not to his 'pauline' conversion regarding nuclear weapons. This he will explain in person at our meeting on **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**.
- Sat 7 Nov Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) 2.0pm  
**ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE LECTURE**  
Fabian Hamilton MP. Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament.  
Some of us heard his talk at USAF Croughton last year. Well worth registering to hear him speak on  
**'PEACE BUILDING IN THE POST-COVID WORLD'. Also Q and A**  
**To register , visit: [abolishwar.org.uk/rem2020.html](http://abolishwar.org.uk/rem2020.html)**  
**More info: Jennie. Early registration advised.**
- Sun 8 Nov Remembrance Sunday. Different arrangement this year.  
**FPG** will lay a wreath at 3pm. Faringdon War Memorial.  
Please ring Karen (F. 241707) if you can attend.
- Wed 11 Nov Armistice Day. Women In Black Silent vigil for Peace. 10.00-1045  
Faringdon Market Place. More details: Jennie
- Tues 17 Nov **FPG** Black Lives Matter follow-up session to be led by Liz, for those who signed up for the course. 7.30pm on Zoom
- Wed 2 Dec Monthly Zoom mtg. Gillian Smith from Scientists for Global Responsibility  
'The Carbon Footprint of the Military'. 7.30pm . More details later.
- Tues 8 Dec TBC. Women In Black Silent Vigil for Bethlehem.

### **TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

This is soon to be ratified by the 50<sup>th</sup> UN state and will enter into legal force in xxx. The Treaty bans all nuclear weapons world-wide. It provides 2 legal pathways for states to eliminate their arsenals.

**The UN has Banned the Bomb!**

***Be Ready to Celebrate!***

## DID YOU KNOW...

In the four years preceding the first world war, more than a million young men left these islands - at that time we "owned" Ireland - because harsh living conditions and lack of basic necessities forced them to go. During the next few years we spent a fortune killing off another million young men. Maybe, maybe, one day we shall get our priorities right.

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**In the twenty-first century, most regions of the world are more peaceful than they have been for generations – if not ever.**

Humans alive today are less likely to die as a result of wars or atrocities than their parents or grandparents. War in East Asia is at its lowest point in centuries and has been for nearly three decades.

War is almost extinct in the Americas, Caribbean, and western Europe. It is now uncommon in eastern Europe, southern Africa and increasingly in coastal west Africa.

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## SUCCESS FOR THE BURMA CAMPAIGN

The Burma Campaign UK has received notification from Maersk, the biggest shipping company in the world, that they will no longer use military-owned ports in Burma. These ports earn the military millions of dollars a year in fees from shipping companies.

"We placed Maersk on our 'Dirty List' in May this year, as they were using a military-owned port, and have been in dialogue with them to persuade not to use military ports.

This is a great campaign success. For the biggest shipping company in the world to stop using military ports is a blow for the military, and increases pressure on other shipping companies to do the same. Human rights activists in Burma have welcomed the decision.

Maersk will now use other ports in Burma which are not owned by the military, demonstrating to other companies that it is possible to do business in Burma without doing business with the military.

It is important to challenge companies when they do something wrong, but also to thank them when they do something right.

We'd like you to thank Maersk for taking this action. It sets a very important precedent. You can email them with a quick thank you here: [sustainability@maersk.com](mailto:sustainability@maersk.com)

Maersk is the third major international company this year which has cut its links to the Burmese military because of our campaigns. Together we are reducing the amount of money the military receives from its vast business empire."

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## LAST CALL FOR .....

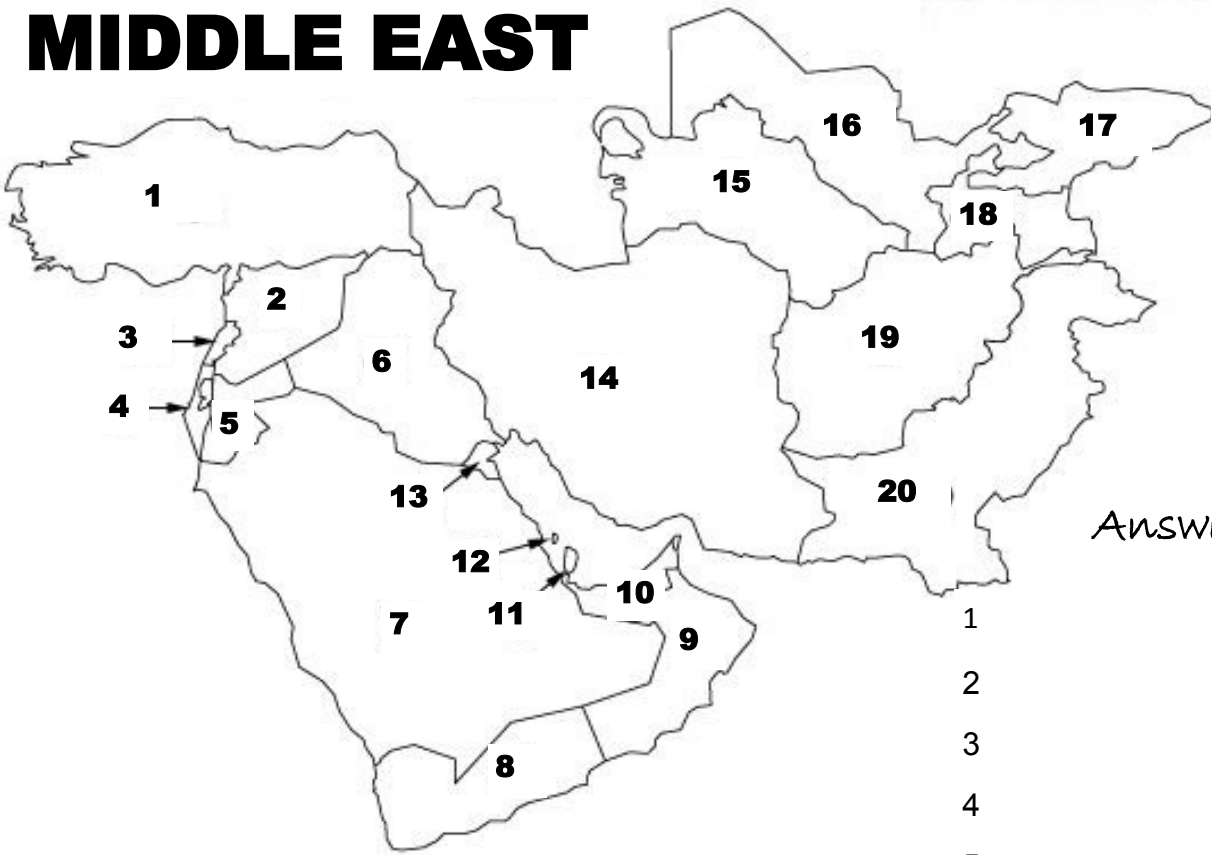
### PEACE GROUP UKULELE GROUP

I'd really like to have the occasional gathering of Uke players, or would-be players, or singers (however bad). I have a couple of Ukes to borrow, and can show you the basics. By Zoom of course for the foreseeable future. So if you have a Uke, join us from wherever you are. You will need a screen of at least iPad size, ie not a phone, and a printer

Let me know if you are interested  
[jennyrid@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyrid@yahoo.co.uk)

# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR WORLD?

## MIDDLE EAST



Answers

### KEY

1	Turkey
2	Syria
3	Lebanon
4	Israel/Palestine
5	Jordan
6	Iraq
7	Saudi Arabia
8	Yemen
9	Oman
10	UAE
11	Qatar
12	Bahrain
13	Kuwait
14	Iran
15	Turkmenistan
16	Uzbekistan
17	Kyrgyzstan
18	Tajikistan
19	Afghanistan
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