

## FARINGDON PEACE GROUP

### OTHER ACTIVITIES and EVENTS October 2019 – October 2020 (2<sup>nd</sup> version)

#### Oxfordshire Peace Campaign

We were represented at meeting by Jennie, Phil and Helen. Thanks are due, once again to Nigel Day and Chris Brennan for the spadework behind the meetings and organisation of the annual Rally at (USAF) Croughton. On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the speakers were Paul Mobbs (our guru on all things Croughton), Dave Cullen from the Nuclear Information Service (we have had several talks from the NIS at the Peace Group) and Fabian Hamilton, a Labour MP who was Minister for Peace and Disarmament in Jeremy Corbyn's shadow cabinet. It was at this Rally that we first heard about the young Harry Dunn, killed 3 weeks previously in a road accident outside the base, by the wife of an intelligence officer. The court case regarding the extradition of Anne Sacoolas continues.

This year 2020, the Rally is planned to be on Zoom, organised on behalf of OPC by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

#### Shared Humanity

We were asked by Howard Grace (who had spoken at one of our monthly meetings) to host a meeting with Letlapa Mphahlele, which we were very pleased to do, as we had only previously seen Letlapa on film. From being a soldier fighting during the long struggle against apartheid in South Africa, he had changed to talking to groups, especially school students, about the power of forgiveness, and our 'shared humanity'.

#### Remembrance Day Sunday 10 November

The British legion again allowed us to lay a wreath on the War Memorial in memory of **ALL** those who have died in wars. Thanks to Karen for performing this task.

#### Armistice Day Monday 11 November

In the Market Square, we held a Women in Black Silent Vigil for Peace and 5 women on the vigil were supported by 3 men giving out leaflets explaining why we were there.

#### Extinction Rebellion

Thanks to Karen and Helen who took part in various events, resulting in a court case for Helen, (which was eventually thrown out).

#### General Election 12 December 2019

Following what has become customary for Faringdon Peace Group, we organised hustings on Monday 25 November in the Corn Exchange, for a gratifyingly large audience.

#### Social Evening

This very friendly get-together was on 1<sup>st</sup> January and enjoyed by 20 people.

23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 onwards . . . . .

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We hadn't even got started on the preparatory meetings for the 39<sup>th</sup> Peace Fete, when covid-19 struck and we were in lockdown. All activities were therefore suspended, except that we were and are, very pleased that Jenny B. offered to start (or re-start) a monthly Newsletter. This helps to keep us in touch with local and national events, many of which are now taking place via Zoom.

### 39<sup>th</sup> Grand Peace Fete

We are very grateful to Zoe Williams who organised a virtual Peace Fete for us. There were various activities to be enjoyed, and Bruce Kent was persuaded to record his peace message .

We look forward to the 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Peace Fete.