

## **Conflict and Climate Change**

At their June meeting, Faringdon Peace Group watched a new, short DVD called 'Conflict and Climate Change' produced by the Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) in which several prominent political leaders, scientists and academics voice their concerns on the need to tackle climate change and reduce the risk of conflict and war. The questions posed by the DVD were: Is climate change really happening? Does climate change mean more conflict? Is there a military solution? What can be done to prevent future conflict? Are there signs of hope? What can we do?

After much interesting discussion, we concluded that climate change is definitely happening and is already causing droughts, floods and rising sea levels which lead to mass migration, conflict over land, water and other resources and instability in food production. It is one of the greatest threats to global security, but there is no military solution. Indeed money spent on arms and wars would be much better spent adapting to climate change to avoid conflict. Poorer countries will be most affected and will need help to adapt. As individuals and in our communities we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, produce more renewable energy, eat local seasonal food with less meat, lobby our MPs and join environmental campaigns to get people and governments to take climate change seriously. We all had great faith in the younger generation's passion, energy and commitment to bring about a more sustainable and peaceful world and the ability of social media to connect people across the planet helping them to work together both to tackle the causes of climate change and to alleviate its effects.

The Peace Group would thoroughly recommend the DVD to other groups interested in these issues.