

## FARINGDON PEACE GROUP AGM – 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2013

Phil Chesterton in the chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Present:** Jennie and Phil Chesterton, Karen and Sjoerd Vogt, Penny Wixey, Linda Harrison, Andy Day, John and Janie Cottis, David Roberts, Pat Williams, Ann from Fairford, Marge Crosby, Denny Andrews, Adam Twine, Daphne and Pat Saunders

The group would like to record here that we have lost 2 life-long campaigners for peace and good friends of FPG this year; Malcolm Harper in May and Jean Kaye in September. They will be greatly missed by all who knew them and benefited from their work.

**1. Apologies:** Jenny and Steve Braithwaite, Bev Fuller

**2. Minutes of the last AGM** were read and approved with a correction on last line to read ‘32<sup>nd</sup>’ birthday, not ‘31<sup>st</sup>’.

**3.** There were no copies of minutes for the Finances and Planning meeting from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012, so they were not read or approved. Copies will be available at our planning meeting in December.

### **4. Correspondence and Dates for Diary**

Anne Marie Hulme had sent an email wishing us all a happy birthday!

Copies of dates for diary were distributed: see [www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk](http://www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk) for full list, selected ones below.

- **Sat 19 Oct:** ‘Militarisation and Everyday Life in the UK’ A conference to share information. FMH London. 10.0am to 5.30pm, organised by Forces Watch (providing FPG’s Nov. speaker)
- **Tues 15 Oct:** AFFA meeting 7.30pm FMH. All welcome
- **Thurs 24 Oct:** Oxford Peace Campaign 6.30/6.45pm Oxford Town Hall
- **Wed. 6 Nov:** FPG meeting. Speaker from ‘Forces Watch’ ‘Questioning the Presence of the Military in Schools’
- **Fri. 29 Nov:** ‘Dancing through Walls’ Building peace through dance and song, focusing on Israel/Palestine. Led by Stefan Freedman. All welcome. No obligation to dance!! Refreshments. Suggested donation £5. Organised by Faringdon Peace Group, AFFA and Faringdon Circle Dance Group.
- **Wed. 4 Dec:** Monthly Meeting to discuss donations and our response to 100 yr anniversary of WW1
- **Wed. 1 Jan:** New Year’s Day, and our Social Evening at 7, Leamington Drive SN7 7JZ, 7.30pm.

## **5. REPORTS**

### **a) MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES – Jennie Chesterton**

#### **Monthly meetings**

Jennie was warmly thanked for arranging an excellent series of speaker meetings. The following issues were covered:

- Nuclear issues and banning the bomb with Dr. Frank Boulton from MEDACT
- Growing use of Drones for remote killing with Chris Cole from Fellowship of Reconciliation
- War Plan Oxfordshire (Oxon’s military bases and establishments) with Nigel Day from Oxford
- The March that shook Blair (anti-Iraq war demo in London) with Ian Sinclair (author of the book of the same name)
- Susan Clarkson’s account of her stay with young peacemakers in Kabul
- Gwithian Doswell’s report of her 3 months in the West Bank as an EAPPI volunteer
- Debate on Trident replacement with Kate Hudson (Gen. Sec. CND) and Col. Graeme Ollie (Ret’d.)

#### **Other events and activities**

- The Grand Peace Fete on 6<sup>th</sup> July had 3 planning meetings and a post Fete Feedback meeting.
- FPG was represented at the Croughton demo in October and Levellers Day in Burford in May.

Jennie noted that we had been less active as a group this year, no vigils or leafleting for example.

## **b) NEWSLETTER/FARINGDON FOLLY/POSTERS – Karen Vogt**

As agreed last year, there have been no newsletters this year, but meeting reports should have been circulated to FPG members each month. Will start that now. Meeting reports are printed in the 'Faringdon Folly' every month on the societies page (thanks to Al Cane and now Carol Keegan the editors) and are also on the FPG website with Dates for Diary. Suggestion that reports should also be sent to Swindon Evening Advertiser. Posters were produced and put up 2 weeks before speaker meetings.

## **c) TREASURER – Steve Braithwaite**

Thanks to Steve for producing accounts and John Cecil for examining them.

- Fete income was the best ever at £2524
- Other income and expenses roughly the same as last year so we made a profit of £430 compared with a loss of £570.
- Donations totalling £1143 (which includes donations to speakers' organisations) were made to Faringdon Quaker Aid, Campaign against Arms Trade (CAAT), Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, Peace News, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Movement for the Abolition of War, MEDACT, Peace Pledge Union, Medical Aid to Palestine, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Oxford Peace Campaign, Drone Wars UK and Nukewatch.
- We continue to subscribe to CND, Peace News, Network for Peace, CAAT, CND (S. region), Stop the War Coalition at a total cost of £328.
- We have £3094 in the bank, which was felt to be rather too much, but depends on how big our plans are for activities and meetings next year.

## **d) GRAND PEACE FETE – Sjoerd Vogt**

Sjoerd was thanked for organisation, Jennie for getting helpers together, Adam T for use of the store and Denny for letting us take over her lovely kitchen and garden.

Our best ever Fete financially, very good weather, people came and stayed.

Income not the most important factor, but atmosphere, gathering of like-minded people.

Missing some key people but comprehensive check lists worked well, particularly for teas and curries. Suggest do them for every stall.

## **e) RESOURCES – Phil Chesterton, Bev Fuller, Karen Vogt**

We have been very grateful for Bev's help over the years, but for personal reasons he will find it difficult to carry on in this important role. He is however prepared to help out when he can. The group sends their thanks and best wishes to him.

Phil and Bev sorted out the store at Colleymore and checked gazebos before the Fete. Karen redid some notices. 2 new pop-up gazebos were purchased and worked very well.

## **6. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

### **a) MONTHLY MEETINGS**

#### **Time**

After 33 years is it time to change to a 7.30pm start rather than 8.00? Historically was 8.00 to give us time to get small children to bed.

#### **Pro change**

- Most meetings start at 7.30.
- Gives speakers more time to get back home eg. London.
- FPG members can have an earlier night!

#### **Anti change**

- Quick turn-around for workers.

Vote was overwhelmingly in favour of change, but not until January so that we have time to remind people.

## **Overnight accommodation**

When speakers are travelling from a distance it is nice to be able to offer them overnight accommodation, although most decline. Jenny B, Penny Wixey and Daphne Saunders have offered an occasional bed. If anyone else can do the same please contact Jennie.

## **100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR 1 IN 2014**

- How should FPG mark this? Government has a £50 million 4 year programme of commemorations.
- Phil and Bev attended a Network for Peace meeting in London where peace movement plans were discussed. JC will circulate resulting calendar of events.
- There will be services and vigils marking the outbreak of war on 4<sup>th</sup> August.
- Jenny B has offered to help organise a big meeting in the autumn with 4 well known speakers giving views on how peace should be maintained over the next 100 years. Suggested Cameron, Owen Jones, Phillippe Sands, Andrew Feinstein. All agreed with this.

Decided there was too much to discuss at AGM. Discuss at December meeting. Come along with ideas.

## **7. SPENDING MAW AWARD (£300) AND DISTRIBUTION OF OTHER FUNDS**

See minutes of finances and planning meeting 5.12.12 for previous discussion about this.

- Adam T suggested we come to the December meeting with ideas for how to spend the MAW money and for causes/campaigns we think the Peace Group could support. All agreed.
- Jennie and Karen asked FPG to support the joint FPG/AFFA/Circle Dance event 'Dancing through Walls' on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Agreed. They have already paid for hall hire and publicity – will ask Steve to reimburse.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

All officers were thanked for their hard work over the past year and all agreed to stay in post this year. There are some changes: Charlotte Rivers will step down from press officer as she now lives and works in London in the week.

**CHAIRS:** Sjoerd, Phil, Dave H, Trish, John C, Adam

**MEETINGS SECRETARY:** Jennie

**FARINGDON FOLLY REPORTS/POSTERS:** Karen

**TREASURER:** Steve

**CREATIVE CO-ORDINATOR:** Karen

**FETE ORGANISER:** Sjoerd

**COMPUTER HELP AND WEBSITE:** Dave H and Sjoerd

**RESOURCES MANAGER:** Phil, Bev, Karen, with help from Adam

**PRESS OFFICER:** Post vacant.

Some discussion about a press officer. At present Jennie does the announcement in What's On and Karen does other local publications if the meeting merits it. Meeting reports only go to the Folly but will add Swindon Advertiser. Press officer would do press releases not just notifications. Would have to be someone who knows what's going on otherwise will need to be fed information, which is the time consuming bit. Pay someone?

## **9. Coffee and 33<sup>rd</sup> Birthday cake(s) made by Pam Pepper. Thanks Mum!**