

ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR FARINGDON PEACE GROUP

Faringdon Peace Group had a lot to celebrate at their AGM: a very successful Grand Peace Fete complete with a colorful troupe of young Palestinian dancers; interesting and enlightening speakers and the fact that we have been meeting without a break for the last 38 years! We are grateful to the founder members who are still very active in the group and who have been the driving force behind keeping it going for so long.

We marked three 100th anniversaries over the past year: 100 years of women's suffrage with a speaker on 'Votes for Women in Oxfordshire'; 100 years since the Balfour Declaration with a speaker on its devastating legacy for Palestine; 100 years since the end of World War 1, joining other local groups in laying a wreath with white poppies at the town's Remembrance Service and participating in the Flower Festival in All Saints Church in the summer. Other meetings have covered Jeremy Corbyn, Foreign Policy, the need for an anti-war government, Trade Unions - jobs v. peace, Burma and North Korea.

We have been represented at local and national meetings and demonstrations against war and threats to peace around the world and have supported Syrian refugee families in the Vale of the White Horse. A small group returned to Greenham Common – the site of the 19 year long Women's Peace Camp - and enjoyed walking freely across the common and visiting the control tower with its superb views and museum of the history of the common including the air base and the Peace Camp.

Thanks to the success of the Fete, we have been able to donate to speakers' chosen causes over the year and to be generous to organisations working for peace at home and abroad.

Maybe we should be lamenting rather than celebrating our 38th birthday as it means our job is not yet done – in fact we feel our role is more necessary than ever in these uncertain times. We already have some interesting meetings lined up for 2019 to which everyone is welcome – see local publications and <http://www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk/> for details. Our December meeting, with Baptist Minister Lee Reddyhoff, is about the Christian understanding of 'Peace'. Weds. 5th December, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Lechlade Road.

We wish you all a joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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