

FARINGDON PEACE GROUP AGM – OCTOBER 6TH, 2010

PRESENT: Jennie and Phil Chesterton, Karen and Sjoerd Vogt, Janie and John Cottis, Dave Watson, Charlotte Rivers, Judith Mortier, Adam Twine, Jane Youngs, Steve Braithwaite, Dave Headey, Bev Fuller, Penny Wixey, Carol Slade

APOLOGIES: Gill and Trish, Denise Ballard, Jenny Braithwaite, David Platt

MINUTES: Read and accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Cards were sent round to sign for Malcolm Harper on the birth of his first grandchild and for David Platt who has not been well.
- Abingdon and Oxford PGs both do excellent newsletters. SV to send out addresses if people want to subscribe.

DATES FOR DIARY:

- National and local lists distributed. Available on FPG website www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk . Peace News also distributed.

REPORTS

a) NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND LOCAL PRESS – KAREN VOGT

- Usual apologies for erratic newsletter publication. Request for submissions from others. Braithwaites copier no longer up to the task but DH could copy on United Church copier. Mostly now distributed by email but around 80 still postal or hand delivered.
- Reports of meetings always appear on the local groups page of the ‘Faringdon Folly’. Thanks to John C for compiling report when KV not there.

b) MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES – JENNIE CHESTERTON

Jennie is the mainstay of the group and has organised another interesting and varied year of speaker meetings. Many thanks to her for all that involves.

- **Monthly meetings:**

These have covered Palestine, Non-violent action, Climate Change, Unmanned Drones, Action at AWE Aldermaston, Dancing for Peace, Arms Divestment at Oxford University, and Western Sahara.

- **FPG Events :**

FPG organised the only pre-election meeting in the area on 16th April: an ‘Any Questions’ style evening with all candidates (except UKIP) and Henry Porter in the chair. 180 attended.

- **Grand Peace Fete:**

Another very good Fete with a record £1259.15 profit. Palestinian theme and hybrid stalls worked well, great atmosphere, best ever teas! New games worked well. All involved thanked for their hard work.

Other events and activities attended by FPG

- **Demos** - against Oxford Uni’s arms investments, RAF/USAF Croughton, Block the Builders at Aldermaston, Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford (arms fair?)
- **Talks** – FPG members spoke to Abingdon PG about visit to Palestine, Desmond Tutu in Oxford, ‘Stop Spread of War’ in Oxford, Dr. Swee Ang on Palestine, ‘Jerusalem Dispossessed’ I.C.A.H.D.
- **Exhibitions** - ‘Children of Gaza’
- **Other** – Levellers Day on ‘Food Security’, Hiroshima Day Lantern Floating in Oxford, Unveiling of Oxford Peace Plaque with Bruce Kent, Peace News Summer Camp

c) TREASURER – STEVE BRAITHWAITE

- SB presented accounts for FPG year ended 31.08.10 and a breakdown of income and expenditure for the Fete. The balance is a very healthy £2570.67.

- Accounts checked by Marcus Laphorn – a thank-you bottle of wine will be given to him. DW to ask Alan Hickmore to check next years.
- **Subscriptions** amounting to £187 were paid to CND, CND insurance, CND Southern Region, Peace News, United Nations Association, Network for Peace.
- **Donations** totalling £725 were given to Faringdon Quaker Aid, Faringdon Quaker Meeting, The Peace Fund mission to Gaza, Movement for the Abolition of war, Fellowship of Reconciliation, 'No Trident' advert in the Guardian, Stop the War Coalition.
- Meeting agreed to donate £400 to Quaker Aid for their Ugandan training programme.
- It was noted that having so much money in the bank allows us to put on another big meeting without too much financial risk.

d) RESOURCES – DAVE WATSON

- DW generally happy with resources.
- DW and KV will work on a new roadside sign for the Fete.
- PA was overworked at Fete.
- Gazebos OK – KV will make strong bags when she has number and sizes.
- Will look into buying a portable table and table-top display boards for use at events and activities. (DH will look for FPG display boards in his garage!)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No nominations or resignations received, so officers carry on as before:

- **REVOLVING CHAIRS** – John Cottis, Trish Wickstead, Dave Headey, Phil Chesterton, Sjoerd Vogt, Dave Watson
- **MEETINGS SECRETARY** – Jennie Chesterton
- **NEWSLETTER EDITOR, MINUTES AND FOLLY** – Karen Vogt
- **NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION** – Mairead Boyce
- **TREASURER** – Steve Braithwaite
- **FETE ORGANISER** – Sjoerd Vogt
- **COMPUTER HELP, WEBSITE AND EMAILS** - Sjoerd Vogt and Dave Headey
- **RESOURCES COORDINATOR** – Dave Watson, with Phil and Bev to help
- **CREATIVE CO-ORDINATOR** – Karen Vogt.

The officers were all thanked for their work over the past year as well as those who help in other ways, including: Society of Friends (Meeting House), Adam Twine (storage), Denny Andrews (Fete venue).

PLANNING THE PROGRAMME

- **Arthur Hewlett Award:** FPG have been awarded the 'Arthur Hewlett Award' by the 'Movement for the Abolition of War' (MAW) in recognition of the good work we do with few resources and is a great honour as we were competing against other peace groups all over the country. The £300 prize will be presented to FPG at MAW's AGM at the Imperial War Museum in London on 14th November, Remembrance Sunday and all are welcome to attend. Please let JC know (01367-710308). JC and PC will go, DH, KV, PW, BF, and CS all interested. The Museum will be open.
- **Shrivenham Defence Academy:** Adam Twine had collected ideas from the Summer Camp about engaging more actively with the military at our local Defence Academy: Get Paul Rogers or Scientists for Global Responsibility to speak to them, set up discussions with students, ask for a speaker for a FPG meeting, have a mobile loudspeaker at the entrance (!). We have had speakers from there in the past and useful dialogue – maybe time to resume contact, especially with the Strategic Defence Review going on.

The business part of the meeting ended with coffee and 30th Birthday cake – Thanks to Janie for making and Karen for icing.

We then watched the DVD of the Israeli attack on the Gaza aid flotilla with eye-witness testimonies and film from the Mavi Marmara. Shocking and disturbing but worth seeing. If you would like to borrow it, please contact Jennie.