



FARINGDON PEACE GROUP

NEWSLETTER 35

MAY-JUNE 2024

"We hope for peace, we pray for peace, we work for peace".

FARINGDON PEACE GROUP CONTACTS

including Speaker info, please contact

Jennie 01367 710308

Karen 01367 241707

Dave 01367 240808

For newsletter items jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk

For the website links
faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 1st MAY at 7.30pm

"CRUMBLING WESTERN DOMINANCE AND THE RISE OF FASCISM"

Dan Glazebrook,
Political Writer, Journalist and Author
at The Friends Meeting House.
All are welcome

PARTY IN THE GARDEN

SATURDAY JULY 6th
at 19 Coxwell Road, Faringdon.
from 12 midday

Please bring vegetarian food to share.
Tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery and protection
from the sun(!) are provided.

There is disabled parking onsite, we are on the
S6 bus route in both directions, and additional
parking is available at the United Church car
park just down the road.

Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends.

BOOK THE DATE

LEVELLERS DAY at BURFORD
Saturday May 18th

A BIG MEETING PLANNED FOR MAY

A big meeting in the Corn Exchange is planned
for **MAY 11th**
with the title

"BUILDING A FAIRER WORLD"

**Build a fairer system, a fairer world, where
everyone has what they need to live.**

To be chaired by Tracy Walsh

SPEAKERS:

MOLLY SCOTT CATO
"NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE"

*Molly Scott Cato is a former Green MEP and is
Emeritus Professor of Green Economics at
the University of Roehampton*

SYMON HILL
**"REJECTING VIOLENCE, REJECTING
MILITARISM"**

*Symon was Campaigns Manager for the
Peace Pledge Union and Editor of Peace
Matters. Now a Baptist Minister in training.*

ASHLEY SMITH
**"PAST ITS USE-BY DATE? THREE
DECADES OF PRIVATISED WATER"**
*Ashley is Founder Windrush Against Sewage
Pollution (WASP)*

MOHINDAR KAINTH, Faringdon Rotary.
"VOICES FOR CHANGE"
Rotary's Advocacy for a Fairer Society

There are plenty of printed leaflets and posters
for you to display and/or hand out. In case you
don't manage to pick up any, these are also
included with this newsletter (2 sizes)

Everyone is welcome. There will be plenty of
time for questions and for refreshments,
including cake. Entry free, although donation
would be welcome.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION



Image by Valeriia Miller.

According to legend, the organization I lead, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, was founded in August 1914 when a British Quaker and a German Lutheran shook hands at a railway station in Cologne. With England on the cusp of joining World War I, they pledged, "We are one in Christ and can never be at war."

Despite the pro-war hysteria that countries use to justify their military endeavours, conscientious objection remains a courageous option for those committed to peace. As the ongoing genocide of Palestinians unfolds in front of the eyes of the world, a brave, though unpopular, path. "Slaughter cannot solve slaughter," 18-year-old Israeli-American Tal Mitnick said in December 2023 before receiving his first 30-day prison sentence for refusing to join Israel's military.

The same week that Tal refused for the third time and received a third term in prison, he was joined by fellow teenager Sofia Orr. "I reject participating in the violent policies of oppression and apartheid that Israel has imposed on the Palestinian people, especially now during the war," she said.

It's not the sentences Tal and Sofia are enduring that make their actions exceptional. They have options. In fact, 12 percent of conscripted Israelis get out of service through notoriously easy-to-obtain mental health exemptions. Instead of the 10-year terms that Russian draft evaders face, even when Israelis are sentenced for refusing, they receive consecutive sentences with breaks in between to see if they have changed their minds.

Tal and Sofia are not being held indefinitely in overcrowded, abusive, deadly prison facilities like incarcerated Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank. But, what Tal and Sophia are doing is heroic and places them within a legacy of great peacemakers.

The earliest recorded act of conscientious objection occurred in 295 A.D. when Maximilianus refused his conscription into the Roman Army. He was beheaded for refusing to kill. Later, he was canonized as a saint.

With the majority of Israelis opposing an end to the war in Gaza and 72 percent of them supporting no humanitarian aid, Tal and Sofia are not part of a growing popular movement, like what took place during the Vietnam War. But their contributions to peace are no less important.

Whether or not other young Israelis join them in jail - Tal and Sofia were part of a group of 200 Jewish

Israeli 12th graders who pledged in August 2023 to refuse military service to protest the government's effort to overhaul Israel's judicial system - what Tal and Sofia have done places profound marks on the pages of history. We invite you to join us by following Tal and Sofia's journey at forusa.org/IsraeliRefusers.

Ariel Gold is the executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the oldest interfaith peace and justice organization in the U.S.

Thank you to Karen for sending this in.

Faringdon Peace Group invites all to a public meeting

'BUILDING A FAIRER WORLD'

Where everyone has what they need

Speakers

Molly Scott Cato

Green Party

No Justice, No Peace?

Symon Hill

Peace Pledge Union

Rejecting violence, resisting militarism:

Why the future is in our hands

Ashley Smith

Windrush Against Sewage Pollution

Past its use-by date?

Three decades of privatised water

Mohinder Kainth

Faringdon & District Rotary

Voices for Change:

Rotary's Advocacy for a Fairer Society

Chaired by

Tracy Walsh

Oxford based educator & researcher

Corn Exchange



Faringdon

Gloucester St SN7 7JA

Free entrance
donations welcome

Time for questions
and mingling

Free refreshments

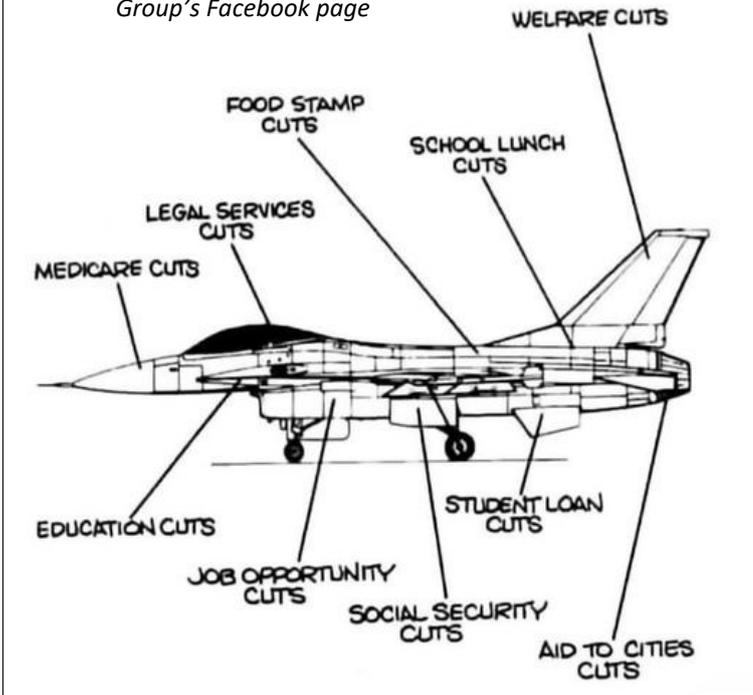
Saturday May 11 2024

Doors open 1.30pm - meeting 2 - 5.30pm

Further information from 01367 710308 www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

Just in case you didn't know what different parts of fighter jet are called.

From CND Cymru, via Abingdon Peace Group's Facebook page



And another from Abingdon Peace Group

On the 5th and 6th of June, the UK Government may be made to give back the right to retire at 60 to all those women who worked and paid their National Insurance.

Currently their pension payout is delayed until 66. We all know that the pension age for women born in the sixties has been raised. Did you know a campaign called 'Back to 60 Movement' has won the right to a Judicial Review and is taking the DWP to the High Court? On the 5th and 6th June they will attempt to get the 3.9 million women justice over non consultation in raising the pensionable age to 66 and above.

Michael Mansfield QC will lead the case and the argument for the movement. However, there does not appear to be any media coverage regarding this significant event. That is why we're raising the awareness now. Let's hope for justice rightly deserved.

There appears to be a media blackout on this issue, which suggests that the government have put a block on the media reporting it. So let's use social media for what it's good at - share the hell out of this. Come on ladies - this is worth a great deal to you.

PLEASE, PLEASE COPY AND PASTE!

TAKE THE TEST!

Recently the Meeting House has been let to a theatre group who have been rehearsing for a production they put on at the Burton Taylor Studio in Oxford. The topic was "Prostate Cancer" which you might consider to be an odd topic to be entertained by! Apparently, roughly 1 in 8 men will get the disease. The average age of onset is 50+, but can strike at any age. The purpose was to make people aware of the disease, and to urge men to seek treatment early, by merely taking a routine PSA blood test periodically. This gives a good indication as to whether you are affected.

So, BOYS, go and ask for a PSA blood test!

Faringdon Peace Group invites all to a public meeting

'BUILDING A FAIRER WORLD'

Where everyone has what they need

Speakers
Molly Scott Cato
 Green Party
 No Justice, No Peace?

Symon Hill
 Peace Pledge Union
 Rejecting violence, resisting militarism:
 Why the future is in our hands

Ashley Smith
 Windrush Against Sewage Pollution
 Past its use-by date?
 Three decades of privatised water

Mohinder Kainth
 Faringdon & District Rotary
 Voices for Change:
 Rotary's Advocacy for a Fairer Society

Chaired by
Tracy Walsh
 Oxford based educator & researcher

Free entrance donations welcome
 Time for questions and mingling
 Free refreshments

Corn Exchange Faringdon
 Gloucester St SN7 7JA

Saturday May 11

2024
 Doors open 1.30pm - meeting 2 - 5.30pm
 Further information from 01367 740308 www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

And finally

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
 Learn as if you were to live forever."