



ABINGDON PEACE GROUP

Newsletter December 2024

Dear Peace Group supporter,

APG Christmas (Tea) Party!

You are all invited to our **Christmas Party next Tuesday, 17th Dec at 4-6pm** in lovely St Ethelwold's House. Please bring a story of good news or hope for peace - there is so much going on in the world we never hear about in the mainstream media! Do bring festive nibbles to share if you like - but there will be plenty anyway! RSVP by email, or text to 07786 055195, or just come. See you then!

And if you care about Palestine, and like singing, join Didcot Red Kites and Oxford Seagreen Singers to sing some traditional tunes with alternative, powerful words:

Tuesday 17th Dec, at 5pm for 5.30pm outside St Michael's at The Northgate.
And on Wednesday 18th Dec. at 5.30pm outside Didcot Parkway station.

Fairford US base: on the front line in the 'new Cold War'.

In January APG as part of Oxfordshire Peace Campaign joins Drone Wars UK and national CND to raise awareness of USAF plans for drone operations from Fairford airbase near Lechlade.

Please put these 2 dates in your diary:

15 January 2025 (Wednesday) 7pm Online speaker meeting.

25 January 2025 (Saturday) Demonstration at Fairford: lunchtime - minibus from Oxford, or share cars.

Drone Wars UK, CND, and Oxfordshire Peace Campaign are organising a public meeting and demonstration in January to highlight the role of Fairford US air base in the 'new Cold War'. There are plans to deploy US Global Hawk and Reaper spy drones at the Gloucestershire military base and a task force of B52 heavy bombers is currently there on a temporary deployment to rehearse for war in Europe.

The drones will use RAF Fairford as a base for secretive US surveillance missions, only intensifying the UK's complicity in far-reaching US military intelligence activities. Join us as we learn more about and resist this dangerous development, and its worrying consequences both locally and globally.

Further details, and to register for the zoom on 15 January, go to: <https://dronewars.net/fairford/> (webpage will be updated regularly).

And to request or offer lifts to Fairford on Saturday 25th January (the demo will last about 1 hour starting at 1pm, and is a national demo with speakers from CND as well as Drone Wars), please email Sally on abingdonpeace@gmail.com or text 07786 055195.

“Lakenheath - another Greenham? Making ourselves a target” - APG meeting February 18th

Our February Zoom meeting will help highlight what is going on at Lakenheath in Suffolk, where US nuclear weapons are expected to be based this year. A Peace Camp will be from Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April 2025, followed by direct action on Saturday 26th April. Read more on Lakenheath Alliance for Peace's website: <https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/>

We are delighted to say that **our speaker on Tuesday February 18th at 8pm** will be **Sophie Bolt, the new(ish) General Secretary of National CND**, following the retirement of Kate Hudson. Spread the word, and please join in and make this Zoom a success! Poster & link to follow.

News from incoming emails and elsewhere: (If you would like to take a turn filtering and condensing emails please let us know!)

Amnesty International investigation concludes Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. Amnesty International's research has found sufficient basis to conclude that Israel has committed and continues to commit genocide against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip, the organization said in a landmark new report, 'You Feel Like You Are Subhuman': Israel's Genocide Against Palestinians in Gaza. Read the full report here: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/8668/2024/en/>

Gaza - A War on Healthcare. Faringdon Peace Group invited Prof Nick Maynard, a consultant surgeon at JRH, who has been teaching medical students in Gaza for years, and more recently volunteering with Medical Aid for Palestinians, to a meeting on 4th December. His first-hand report was devastating. Israel Defence Forces are waging a war against health services in Gaza, destroying medical equipment such as MRI scanners and renal dialysis machines, as well as water and electricity supplies, killing doctors and nurses or taking them prisoner: they are tortured, sometimes to death, in Israeli jails. Dying and injured children cannot have even basic pain relief. You can listen to his testimony on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/ste-LQMWmP4?si=csIfV91EX-moIESJ> - google "Nick Maynard Gaza" for more. If you feel helpless, he says the most important thing is to tell everyone what is happening. You can also donate to MAP here: <https://www.map.org.uk/>

Diary.

Tuesday 17th December 4-6 pm APG Christmas Party at St Ethelwold's House.

Wednesday 15th January 7pm on zoom. US Spy Drones out of Fairford, Glos (see overleaf)

Saturday 25th January 1pm protest at USAF Fairford. Buses from Oxford. (see overleaf)

Tuesday 18th February 8pm on zoom. APG meeting: Lakenheath - another Greenham? (see above)

Saturday 5th April 3pm in St Ethelwold's garden - celebrating 1 year of our Peace Pole.

14th-25th April Lakenheath Peace Camp, Sat 26th direct action at Lakenheath.

Corrections and contributions to this newsletter are very welcome.

Abingdon Peace Group is run by a small "Forward Planning Group" and is looking for help. All who are interested in peace and campaigning for it are welcome to take part, and people with IT skills are urgently needed! The Group has no party political affiliations.

Contact us on abingdonpeace@gmail.com , 07786 055195 or (01235) 526265.