MAW booklets have a FWW significance

Two of MAW's booklets have special relevance in this centenary year. Firstly, *From War to Peace - Thoughts on the end of Warfare* - an inspirational collection of quotations and illustrations. Secondly, *We Will Remember Them* - services, reflections, prayers, songs and readings for Remembrance Sunday.

As we commemorate the tragedy of the First World War, they remind us that in honouring the dead and caring for the living, our task is to work for the elimination of war - and what we say in remembrance should reflect this. Visit the MAW shop at [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk)

| MAW members are encouraged to check out an initiative which calls on schools to involve children in peacebuilding and for Remembrance for Peace events in local churches on Friday, 9 November. [www.oasisinspire.org](http://www.oasisinspire.org) |

For electronic versions of this newsletter email Gillian Hurle, gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk

The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published on August 1.

Waging peace with Caroline Lucas: MP to give 2018 talk

We are thrilled to announce that in this anniversary year, 100 years since the end of World War 1, Caroline Lucas MP, pictured above, will give the 2018 MAW Remembrance Lecture. Her talk, *Active Remembrance & Waging Peace Together*, will take place at 2pm Saturday, 3 November at St John’s Waterloo, Waterloo Rd, London, SE1 8TY.

Ms Lucas is co-Leader of the Green Party and has been MP for Brighton Pavilion since 2010 when she became the Green Party’s first MP. She is well known as a campaigner and writer on green economics, localisation, alternatives to globalisation, trade justice, animal welfare and food. As a politician and activist, she has worked with NGOs and think-tanks, including CND, OXFAM and the RSPCA.

Tim Devereux, MAW chair, says: “Caroline is one of the most respected MPs with a wonderful track record. We look forward to an inspiring talk.”

This is a free event but ticketed - booking will open via the Abolish War website (www.abolishwar.org.uk) soon - and you can also download posters from the website for display. Note that the date and venue is different this year from previous years.
Conference studies
UN Peacekeeping

Registration is open for this year’s conference to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), Whitehall, London, SW1A 2ET on 23 May from 10.15am to 4.45pm. The conference fee of £25, with a special rate of £15 for students, includes related documents, morning refreshments and lunch. Tickets are available via https://rusi.org/

This annual conference, jointly organised by UNA-UK, UNA-Westminster and RUSI, is the UK’s most authoritative public review of UN peacekeeping. It brings together UN workers, diplomats, the military and the public.

The agenda features peacekeeping experts from around the world, including Diane Corner, former Deputy Special Representative in the Central African Republic; Oxfam’s Humanitarian Policy Adviser Emma Fanning; Chandrima Das, Director of peacekeeping policy at the UN Foundation; and HRH Princess Tessy of Luxembourg, UNA-UK Patron and a former peacekeeper.

Ian Martin, former Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the writer of Self-Determination in East Timor: the United Nations and International Intervention will be delivering the keynote speech - the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Lecture.

Let’s find better ways to spend money than on nuclear weapons

Bruce Kent, MAW President, outlines his opposition to the £205 BILLION next generation nuclear weapons, describing it as “bonkers”.

Here he outlines why.

1 They are not even independent. Britain has to borrow the missiles from the USA on which to put its warheads. You wouldn’t call your car independent if you had regularly to borrow the wheels from a neighbour.

2 They can’t deter suicidal groups or accidents from happening and there have been many. Senior US official Robert McNamara said, at the end of his life, that we have been saved only by “good luck”.

3 We promised, by signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, to work for total nuclear weapon abolition in good faith. To spend billions to keep us nuclear armed for another 30/40 years is not good faith.

4 There are far better ways of spending these billions - the NHS, housing, pensions.

5 We can’t tell other countries such as North Korea that they can’t have nuclear weapons but that we can.

6 They are immoral. Immoral to use and kill hundreds of thousands of people and pollute the planet. Immoral, also, to train service personnel to be willing right now, if ordered, to commit such crimes.

SPREADING THE MAW WORD

Law graduate Alemnew Gebeyehu sent us this photo of himself (right) donating copies of our booklet From War to Peace to Zewudalem Bitew of the the Geneme Mengesha Public Library in Bahir Dar City, Ethiopia. Let us know where YOU have seen or placed copies of our publications.

MAW has made a donation of £50 to the Alan Kreider Legacy Fund. Alan was a Mennonite leader who had global influence for peace and was very supportive in the early days of MAW.
Inspiring film shows how Costa Rica put faith in the rule of international law

MAW will be showing an inspiring film **A Bold Peace**, on Tuesday 15 May at 6.30pm in Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD (HQ of the NEU, formerly NUT, near Euston Station).

It tells the story of Costa Rica’s decision 70 years ago to give up its army. President Figueres (father of Christiana Figueres who led the UN climate change talks) decided that with limited resources expenditure on health, welfare and education was more important than military spending and that for internal law and order a police force was enough. When asked how he could ensure his country’s security he replied: “Through international law.”

Not surprisingly, things haven’t been all plain-sailing in the intervening decades and the film charts some of the challenges faced and looks at ongoing threats.

Writer, producer and director of the film, Matthew Eddy (pictured) will introduce the film and answer questions afterwards.

The screening is the result of the hard work of MAW committee member Hilary Evans. MAW believes that war is not inevitable and that better ways of resolving conflict are available and possible.

Come and find out about the Costa Rica model and be inspired.

Tickets, £6 (including booking charge), can be obtained from [https://maw-a-bold-peace.brownpapertickets.com/](https://maw-a-bold-peace.brownpapertickets.com/)

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**MAW has copies of the UN Charter Preamble which starts with ringing words about saving “succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”**

It is on one side of an A4 card and has on it both the MAW address and that of the UNA.

It is ideal for noticeboards at libraries, schools, churches and more.

We are offering the posters free of charge but a 58p second class stamp would be appreciated. Available from 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ.

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**The annual Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda ceremony will take place on 17 June, from 12 noon - 3.30pm and more details are available from 01908 663652. The London Battersea Peace Pagoda event will take place the day before - Saturday, June 16 at 2pm. All welcome.**

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**Annual event honours COs**

An annual event in recognition of Conscientious Objectors past and present is held on International CO Day, co-ordinated by the First World War Peace Forum, of which MAW is a member.

The 2018 event will be held on Tuesday, May 15 12 noon - 1.30pm in Tavistock Square, London WC1H and everyone is welcome. Bring your friends / family / a picnic!

This year’s speakers are **Selam Kidane** (on the military service situation in Eritrea) and **Hannah Brock** of War Resisters International (on the situation in South Korea and new laws in Sweden).

There will be special readings and MAW member Sue Gilmurray will provide music.

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Thanks to MAW member Hilary Evans for this photo - we think the dove improves the view of the Houses of Parliament!
MAW member and sculptor Alison Lochhead (pictured right) has produced work which is a reflection on the repetition and memories of conflict and war to mark the centenary of the end of World War I.

The installation, *Layered Memories of Conflict*, can be viewed in the south transept of Gloucester Cathedral (Gloucester GL1 2LX) from June 4 to 15 July from 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday and 12 noon - 3pm on Sundays.

Sculptor Alison sets her opposition to war in stone!

MAW member and sculptor Alison Lochhead has produced work which is a reflection on the repetition and memories of conflict and war to mark the centenary of the end of World War I.

The installation, *Layered Memories of Conflict*, can be viewed in the south transept of Gloucester Cathedral (Gloucester GL1 2LX) from June 4 to 15 July from 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday and 12 noon - 3pm on Sundays.

Literature from MAW will be available in the Cathedral. Alison says: “Why do we continue to think we can solve our differences through violence and conflict? Let us abolish war.”

Alison studied art and ceramics and works as a sculptor. She has lived in many countries, working for human rights and access to justice, especially for women. Her experiences are reflected in her artwork. Alison is a member of Sculpture Cymru, 56 Group Wales, the Royal Society of Sculptors and the Sculpture Network.

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