



MAKING THE LINKS,  
WAGING PEACE



# PEACE & JUSTICE NEWS

APRIL 2015

**In This Issue:**

**Entrepreneurship & Peace Building**  
**Scrap Trident & the Referendum**

**World War 1 Women's  
Peace Conference**

**Geoffrey Carnall: A Man of Peace**

**Bill Bichsel & the Call to  
Civil Resistance**



# **Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre**

**Nonviolence ♦ Conflict Resolution ♦ Alternatives to War**

**Human Rights ♦ Environmental Responsibility**

*Advocating for peace & disarmament in Scotland*

*Providing analysis of the causes of war and.*

Conflict Resolution Programme for Primary Schools

Conflict Resolution Facilitation & Nonviolence Education Training Programme

Conscientious Objectors Memorial Edinburgh Campaign

Counter Recruitment Campaigning

Campaigning for Nuclear Disarmament

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*Organisational affiliations open to groups which share our values.*

**Opening hours:** Tuesday – Saturday, 10.00am – 4.00pm.

*Peace and Justice News is the monthly publication of the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre. While individual contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Centre, we encourage contributions which support and explore our aims and values relative to contemporary events.*

*Submissions by email to [news@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:news@peaceandjustice.org.uk) by 5pm on the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. We may need to edit for length.*

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**The EP&JC is a member of the Scottish Peace Network and the Scrap Trident Coalition.**

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## Editor's Introduction

We dedicate this issue to peacemakers and especially Geoffrey Carnall, who played a vital role in the Peace and Justice Centre for many years and is our Unsung Hero for this month, his obituary kindly written by Chris Booth. Another recent death was that of the American anti nuclear weapons activist, Bix Bichsel, who carried out many actions at military bases and founded the Tacoma Catholic Worker Community.

In this issue we focus on peacemaking. Peace activism never seems to stand still, and after the Blockades of Burghfield by ActionAWE, which we report in News from Around the Movements, comes the Scrap Trident Demo and Blockade on the 4 and 13<sup>th</sup> of this month. Both vital events in the struggle against Nuclear Weapons.

Andy Jamieson discusses the issue of Trident and the pivotal role Scotland will play after the General Election (if the London Based media panic about the SNP proves to be correct).

William Duncan continues with the second part of his article from the February edition on the role of social entrepreneurs in building peace. He quotes: *"a pluralist state, access well-paid jobs... food security and a healthy environment, these factors (known as HUGES for Human, Gender and Environmental Security) invariably create the context for a peaceful community."* A message our own leaders appear to neglect as they cut benefits and impose sanctions on the weakest in society.

Marking the Centenary of the International Women's Peace Conference at the beginning of the First World War Helen Kay tells of the women who risked their lives to promote peace. As war fever grew and grew these women were branded as misguided troublemakers.

Also in News from Around the Movements is the report of the second uninvited performance of the Trident Oratorio at Westminster Abbey. I remember singing in the first performance which was in 2004 at the Parliament Hall in Edinburgh.

It was composed as a reply to the Lord Advocates Judgement that Trident was not illegal in International Law.

In Centre News read about and then please sign the petition to Edinburgh City Council calling for a Memorial for Conscientious Objectors. There will a fundraising concert 20 June at the Pleasance. Let's place a Memorial for Peace amongst all the war memorials to the casualties of war.

*Douglas Shaw*



## Contents

Editorial-Redirecting Military Spending	4
Centre News	5
Social Entrepreneurship and Peacebuilding Pt 2	6
Scotland and the End of Trident	9
WW1 and Women's Peace Conference	11
News from Around the Movements	12
Take Action	17
Unsung Heroes – Geoffrey Carnall 1927-2015	20
Reflection - Bix Bichsel and the Call of Resistance	22

## Editorial

In 2013 worldwide military spending topped \$1.7 trillion, down slightly as a result of cuts in military spending by European countries, including the UK in a time of austerity. UK military spending was fifth highest in the world. But several African, Middle Eastern and Asian countries had increased spending on weapons, helping struggling arms companies to stay in business. African countries increased imports of major weapons (not including small arms) by 45% from 2005 - 2014 and spent an estimated \$44.9 billion on weapons and war in 2014. Russia and China are also increasing military spending with the US directing more of its resources toward the perceived threat from China. Japan too is increasing military spending.

Meanwhile the amounts governments contribute to global humanitarian aid are a small fraction of military spending. According to Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2014 <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/> UN-coordinated appeals targeted 78 million people for assistance in 2013 and called for \$13 billion in funding.



Photo credit : Speakupfor change.ca

Only 65% of this appeal was met. This number should be seen against global military spending of \$1.75 Trillion, more than 130 times humanitarian aid.

At the same time the US and NATO is pressing the UK and other states to increase military spending to 2% of GDP.

US army chief of staff General Raymond Odierno has expressed concern about GDP investment [on defence] in the UK cautioning that diminished British military resources may no longer be able to operate alongside the US as they have done in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The next government will have to make decisions about what kind of power the UK will be. Will it aim to meet the 2% target to satisfy the US and continue as its principal ally in endless global wars? Will it continue to spend on increasingly sophisticated useless weapons like Trident and aircraft carriers? No doubt the Conservatives and Labour will push in this direction. But, as an island nation that faces no threats to its territory, the Greens proposals make more sense: deep cuts in military expenditure, a small defensive territorial army of volunteers, ready to help with domestic and international crises, and training areas decommissioned and used as nature reserves. The Edinburgh CAAT vigil outside Scottish Parliament 16 April and the Big Blockade at Faslane 13th of April are part of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. We will be asked to vote on a People's Budget. We urge supporters to say what they would use the money for. Cognisant of the crises in Syria and South Sudan and the threat of climate change we would redirect the bulk of the money to humanitarian aid, in these regions and invest a large portion in renewables, which would in turn put those currently in the military to work building the infrastructure for a sustainable energy policy.

*Brian Larkin*

## Centre News

### P&J Initiates Campaign for a Conscientious Objectors Memorial in Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre has brought together a number of groups to campaign for a memorial in Edinburgh to Conscientious Objectors and Opponents of War. A petition calling on Edinburgh Council to establish the memorial is now open for signing on the City of Edinburgh Council website. Please show your support for all those, past and present, who have refused to participate in or opposed wars by signing the petition at: <http://bit.ly/1FSYdlr>

The Petition states:

*With respect to the life and death choices of all those who have taken part in or supported wars we the undersigned therefore call upon the City of Edinburgh Council to grant the use of a permanent public space within the precincts of Princes St Gardens and to provide material and financial support for a memorial to Conscientious Objectors and those who oppose wars. We ask that this be facilitated by February 2016 to coincide with the centenary of the passage of the Military Service Act which led to conscription in 1916.*

*With the Centenary of the First World War there is a feeling that there should be a memorial in Scotland's capital city to conscientious objectors and opponents of wars which would henceforth provide a public focus for those who wish to gather to remember all those, past or present, refusing to participate in or opposing wars.*



Photo Credit : news.bbcimg.co.uk

*Taking this stance meant considerable hardship for those who refused to participate in or support the First World War and their families, that over 300 British "Deserters" were shot, and Conscientious Objectors were subjected to harsh treatment by the military, in prison, and in their communities and 73 First World War conscientious objectors died in or following imprisonment; their courageous stance cleared the way for improved recognition of the right to oppose war and to refuse to take part in wars and helped lay the foundations for the promotion of peaceful means for the resolution of conflicts and for achieving a just peace.*

Please sign the petition. And please Share it. We only need 200 signatures, but let's get 2000!

The campaign for a memorial was initiated by the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre and Fellowship of Reconciliation Scotland and is backed by Iona Community, Edinburgh Stop the War, Edinburgh CND, Scottish WILPF, Muslim Women's Association of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Central Friends Meeting, Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland, St Mary's Cathedral Pax Christi, St Mary's Cathedral Justice and Peace Group and the Religious Society of Friends Scotland.

## Fundraising concert for the Conscientious Objectors Memorial

There will be a fundraising concert for the CO Memorial at **the Pleasance Cafe** on the **20th of June at 7:30pm**. This evening is being organised by local peace and justice singer songwriter Penny Stone and should be a great evening. Please save the date!



## International Conscientious Objectors Day Vigil

**5 - 6:30pm. Friday 15 May.**

**On The Mound**

**With Protest in Harmony.**

Last year's vigil was a memorable occasion with family members of First World War conscientious objectors sharing the stories of their grandfathers and singing from Protest

in Harmony. We will again gather in the same spirit. We'll read the names of Conscientious Objectors from Edinburgh, Scotland and beyond and hear more stories. Anyone with stories of conscientious objection, poems, songs or reflections is welcome to contribute. Contact us at the Centre to arrange to be included.

## Second Annual One World Peace Ceilidh

**Edinburgh Steiner School, 60 Spylaw Rd. (No. 10 Buses run til midnight).**

**29 May. 7:30pm - 12 midnight. Tickets £10 / £7**

The Peace and Justice Centre and the One World Shop once again bring you a great Ceilidh with the **Clapshot Ceilidh Band**, performances by **Voice Box Theatre**, **slam poets**, a fabulous **raffle** with **Fair Trade prizes** and superb **food & bar**.

Tickets available online at Brown Paper Tickets at [peaceceilidh.bpt.me/](http://peaceceilidh.bpt.me/) and from the P&J, One World Shop and from New Leaf Coop. Book early. Last year we sold out!

## Social Entrepreneurship and Peace-building Pt 2

Two months ago, I wrote about social entrepreneurs and their contributions to peace-building. Examples abound of individuals pursuing innovative ideas that address needs which have had expensive or unscalable solutions. An example given was Apopo, where the founder developed a less expensive method of detecting and defusing landmines. Another example I wrote about was Indego, an organization which advances woman-owned cooperatives to enhance their economic independence. It is interesting to look more closely at how social entrepreneurs interact with their communities, what they can offer that is not offered from a social service or private enterprise, and whether the impact promised is actually realized over the years. I



would like to dig more deeply into how this works, and explore how the ideas behind social entrepreneurship so closely coincide with ideas of peace-building. Some in the social enterprise space have become interested in documenting the impact these organizations are having as a sector, rather than assessing the impact organization by organization. This type of broad analysis is required to make arguments about impact when speaking in the general sense. In a post written to the University of Michigan's Urban & Regional Planning Economic Development Handbook, William McElnia endeavors to make a documentation of the role of social enterprises in Economic Development. His examples are mostly limited to the United States and, therefore, the insight can be limited. He argues that social enterprises contribute to the overall skills of the workforce in the region, thereby building human capital. This results in improved productivity as social enterprises invest in the skills of their labourers. While other organizations may do this to a varying degree, social enterprises often target marginalized populations, resulting in reduced social exclusion. McElnia states that social enterprises can cause a reduction in unequal access to healthcare and reduce the number of people on welfare programs through the reduction of social exclusion. This saves governments various expenditures, and has the added benefit of increasing tax revenue.

While McElnia focuses a great deal on the benefit for the employees of social enterprises, there are also broader consequences to consider. Writing for the World Bank Institute, Thane Kreiner, director of the Center for Science, Technology and Social Benefit, argues that social entrepreneurship offers a “bottom-up model of socio-economic development”. In doing so, Kreiner looks particularly at the alleviation of poverty through economic development, specifically sustainable economic development. Kreiner suggests three sector categories are the most relevant. These categories include social enterprises that provide access to public goods when governments fail, social enterprises that provide innovative services, and social enterprises that create jobs and inclusive market opportunities through market linkages. The approach used by the centre involves an analysis of the regions’ geography, technology alternatives available to the market, business model innovations, and enabling or constraining public policy considerations.

One example I found where the Center for Science, Technology and Social Benefit put this framework into practice was in the water sector. Here they had a strategy to identify alternative social venture models for addressing the specific challenges of access to clean water in thousands of villages across India. For this particular project, the Naandi Foundation leveraged a technique called Reverse Osmosis using membrane



Photo Credit : Naandi

technologies. This approach was particularly effective because the Reverse Osmosis technologies were experiencing large cost reductions as a result of expiring patents. The combination of cost reductions with innovative subscription-based business models provided a scalable solution that helped numerous communities on a path to sustainable development.

In addition, the strategies' approach combined the strengths of an entrepreneurial business with strong industry partners and local governance to provide the basis for ongoing political support. Without political support, maintenance of projects is often neglected. Here, then, we are able to see the many facets of social entrepreneurship bring multiple stakeholders into the process of sustainable development.

The last point I feel should be emphasized is the link between sustainable development



Photo Credit : Naandi

and peace-building. First, let us establish that the approach of social enterprises is to address the three basic attributes of sustainable development: satisfying human needs, creating communities that establish norms, rights and collective behaviour as a prerequisite for participating in social and economic development, and translating the more abstract needs of future generations into action today.

The United Nations, in a workshop on Sustainable Development and Peacebuilding, argues that these topics are interconnected. It is through the contribution of sustainable development that social entrepreneurs mitigate conflict drivers, improve local perceptions of security, and yield tangible dividends that increase the social contract between stakeholders in the community. If we define peace-building as an enterprise supporting structures that strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflicts, it is hard to ignore social enterprises as a powerful mechanism in any peace-building process.

When citizens participate in a pluralist state, access well-paid jobs, feel food security and encourage a healthy environment, these factors (known as HUGES for Human, Gender and Environmental Security) invariably create the context for a peaceful community.

*William Duncan*



## Scotland and the end of Trident

For the first time in a generation the future of Trident – Britain's nuclear weapon system – is uncertain thanks to the rise of the SNP and Greens in Scotland. Both parties firmly oppose Trident. The SNP is expected to gain control of as many as 52 seats in Westminster at the general election. If it does it will hold the balance of power. The Labour Party insists that it will go ahead and replace Trident if it is able to form the next government. But, given that it is likely to lose some 35 Scottish constituencies it will not be in a position to form a government without the support of the SNP. And Nicola Sturgeon has made it absolutely clear that the SNP will not support replacing Trident if it supports the Labour Party in a confidence and supply arrangement. So it is an important time to know the arguments that surround Trident. Requiring a huge amount of taxpayer generated funding to be replaced within the next few years, Trident is made up of four nuclear submarines, each submarine carries 8 missiles and each missile carries 5 nuclear warheads. Each of these warheads is around 8 to 10 times more destructive than the ones deployed in Hiroshima in 1945, killing over 140,000 civilians. Replacing Trident will cost over 100 billion pounds, with the running costs estimated at around 60 billion pounds. To put this in context the average cost of building a new school is 14 million pounds.

One of the key reasons stated by the Conservative and Labour governments in favour of Trident is that it is a necessary defence. However, as CND point out 'no country in the world is threatening to use nuclear weapons against us, North Korea doesn't have a deliverable nuclear warhead, and Iran doesn't have anything but enriched uranium'. Furthermore, it seems paradoxical that such an obvious target and dangerous operation could be justified in terms of public safety.

In the run up to the Scottish Referendum Trident was one of the key campaign issues, and an increased awareness of what Trident is and how expensive it is become apparent. As Simon Jenkins pointed out in the Guardian at the time, Westminster politicians - discussing

where to relocate Trident in the event of Scottish independence – seemed primarily concerned with losing the prestige of being a world nuclear power. This is significantly different to the 'defence' justifications used for funding it. It became apparent that perhaps even worse than being an incredibly dangerous and misguided attempt at defence, Trident is perhaps just another attempt by the elite to conserve



British imperialism and muscle. In the panic to potentially relocate Trident, some unsavoury information came to light, including the fact that ‘the defence minister has the right to ‘waiver safety requirements’ in the interests of urgent national security’. Of course Scotland did not become independent and policy concerning the future of Trident is still decided by Westminster parties who are in favour of replacing it and perpetuating its infamous legacy. So, what does the future hold and what can the public do?

The anti- Trident movement is stronger than ever with record numbers of people opposed to Trident and increasing numbers of young people getting involved. Politics have become fashionable again, and acceptable to publicly discuss, and it is thankfully clear that not only the flower power generation oppose nuclear arms. Following the referendum the biggest demonstration against Trident in a decade took place. There was a very big Wool Against Weapons demonstration at the MOD in January, and Action AWE shut down the Burghfield nuclear bomb factory in March. The Green Party and SNP membership have risen exponentially, strengthening the political voices of the anti nuclear movement.

With a general election coming – and politicians needing to appease the public - there has never been a more vital time to get involved with the Scrap Trident movement.

There are huge amounts of information on the Scrap Trident website

<http://scraptrident.org/>

Both Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland and Patrick Harvie Co-Convenor of the Scottish Green Party will speak at a mass Scrap Trident march and rally on Saturday the 4th of April in George Square in Glasgow at 12 noon. And on Monday



Photo Credit : BBC

13th of April hundreds of people are expected to blockade Faslane where the UK's Trident nuclear weapons are based. As many people as possible are needed to fill George Square on the 4th and to shut down Faslane on the 13th in order to insure that the people's opposition to nuclear weapons is heard loud and clear.

This issue requires public pressure and is far too vital to be left in the hands of the political elite, as the anti nuclear campaigner Daisaku Ikeda stated ‘Japan learned from the

bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that the tragedy wrought by nuclear weapons must never be repeated and that humanity and nuclear weapons cannot coexist.’

To read the blockade briefing, register for NVDA Training on 12 April or to book a place on a bus from Edinburgh, Glasgow or the Borders and for lots more information go to <http://scraptrident.org/> today.

*Andy Jamieson*

## WW1 Women's International Peace Conference

This article was first published in Peace and Justice News November 2013.

In April 1915, amidst the carnage of surrounding warfare, 1200 women from 12 countries met at The Hague for three days to discuss how the war, and all wars, could be ended. War fever was still rampant, the press ridiculed the women as misguided 'peacettes', and travel restrictions meant that getting to The Hague was problematic.

No French or Russian women could attend, and only 25 of the 180 British delegates were granted passports. These 25 reached Tilbury to find all shipping had been halted. Only three British women did succeed in reaching The Hague, Chrystal Macmillan, Kathleen Courtney and Emmeline Pethwick-Lawrence.

The International Women's Congress was organised by women, active in the well-established International Woman Suffrage Alliance, who wanted to show that their ability to sustain international cooperation was stronger than patriotic war fever. They protested 'against the madness and the horror of war' and produced 20 resolutions on how to avoid war in the future. (See attached photo of platform party in 1915) The Congress elected five delegates to take their appeal to European and US Governments to end to the war by negotiation.

Chrystal Macmillan was the British member of the international team who travelled back and forward across Europe and to the USA, visiting 14 countries and meeting 21 Heads of State during the summer months of 1915.

The women urged the political leaders to set up continuous mediation by neutrals to end the war, but not one would take the first step, although the statesmen

declared themselves sympathetic. However, US President Wilson adopted many of their proposals in his 'Fourteen Points' which laid the foundations for the League of Nations.

In 1919 a second International Congress of Women met in Zurich just as the Terms of Peace were published by the Versailles Peace Conference. The Women's Congress elected delegates to take directly to Versailles their prophetic critique of the Terms which they noted would 'recognise the rights of the victors to the spoils of war, and create all over Europe discords and animosities which can only lead to future wars.'



Photo Credit : Wikipedia



At the Zurich Congress the international women's peace movement which had grown out of Congress at The Hague in 1915 was formalised with a constitution; and the international organisation and the national committees united under the name of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The legacy of these brave women continues to be acknowledged today. Current members of WILPF - the oldest women's international peace organisation - are making plans to return to The Hague in 2015 to review their current work and celebrate 100 years' of women's peace activism.

For more information about WILPF and the current campaigns: please contact Scottish Secretary/UK Secretary Anne Scott at [scottishwilpf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scottishwilpf@yahoo.co.uk), or see the International WILPF website, [www.wilpfinternational.org](http://www.wilpfinternational.org) and the UK website <http://www.ukwilpf.org>.

Further reading:

Gertrude Bussey and Margaret Tims, *Pioneers for Peace: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom 1915-1965*, London: WILPF, 1980

Anne Wiltsher, *Most Dangerous Women: Feminist Peace Campaigners of the Great War*, London: Pandora, 1985

*Helen Kay*

## News from Around the Movements

### Burghfield Atomic Weapons Establishment Blockaded



Burghfield AWE, where the UK manufactures its nuclear weapons, was shut down 2nd March 2015 by people coming from England, Wales, Scotland, France, Spain, Sweden, Germany and Finland. Hundreds of police had been drafted in from many parts of Britain, including Devon and Wales. The majority of the AWE Burghfield staff had been given the day off and construction vehicles had been told not to come that day.

By 5am both the Construction Gate and South Mearings were blockaded. At around 5am the first minibus arrived at the Construction Gate. Despite aggressive police attempts to prevent them five Yorkshire folk managed to lock-on with their arms in plastic or metal tubes and clipped together inside, right in front of the gate. Other people were manhandled over to the other side of the public road and prevented from joining the blockade until later. A video of this can be seen at: <http://bit.ly/1xeyoeh>. A group of Spaniards managed to avoid police notice and join them. This meant that the gate was fully blocked. Soon 15 people locked on. A social and good atmosphere

was soon established and as it was a cold day, people were covered to keep them warm.

There were to be no arrests. This suited the protesters as their aim was to shut down the normal activities at the base, which the whole action did very effectively. A brass band arrived and provided a great atmosphere and dancing started up. Later people joining the blockade brought hot drinks and food.

The blockade at South Mearings started at around 5am with London and Welsh groups jumping out of their van to blockade. Police did not attempt to stop the protesters. Although it began cold and dark, dawn soon came, the bird song was lovely and the sun cheering. There was a very good atmosphere and the refreshments appreciated. They were joined by the Bristol group, dressed in day-glow yellow nuclear waste barrels which reminded people of the effects of nuclear weapons. A monk and nun from the Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda joined in with their characteristic drumming. A group of “scientists” in white lab coats came by too, in a funny old car with a drooping missile that they suspiciously claimed was a peace missile which was spreading little bits of paper with words like peace and love.

After 8 hours blockading in the cold there was an inspiring circle with singing and in and out “dancing” that playfully surrounded passing police vans. The crowd at that point was nearly 100 strong and they joined hands to sing “Gonna lay down my sword and shield”, filling the country lane with a circle of peace.



The French group of 12 people blockaded half of the top of the North Mearings from around 8am and this remained half blocked until everyone left around 3pm. At one point there were 56 police personnel. They pushed anyone who attempted to blockade the open left hand side of the road or lifted them out of the way. Some workers for AWE arrived by foot, bicycle. Very few heavy vehicles gained access into Burghfield.

There was singing, an uplifting band and dancing. The faith groups, including Quakers, Pax Christi, Christian CND and the Anglican Fellowship, held the right hand side of the verge (as you enter the North Mearings) with banners, music, and songs. Sue Gilmurray and her keyboard were joined by the local vicar who personally supports nuclear disarmament and our nonviolent actions despite some of her congregation being employed at the base. The closing ceremony was a circle with singing in French, Japanese and English which was both touching and rousing.

Read the full report and see lots of photos from the Lockdown and reports of ongoing actions at <http://actionawe.org/>

### **Singing Lobby at Westminster - Singing Trident Out!**

Camilla Cancantata updated her 'Trident is a War Crime Oratorio' for singers with Action AWE to lobby their MPs in the House of Commons,

Westminster on 11 March. 14 singers from England and Wales gathered in the House of Commons calling their MPs to the central lobby hall. The singing began with a compelling sustained chord which gathered the singers together in a semi-circle with Camilla conducting. Andy Sawford MP (from Corby) had come down and stood and listened to the whole of the oratorio. He was joined by the secretary of Joan Ruddock MP and Mark Williams MP for Ceredigion.



Police officers were called and one strode up to the singers and shouted at them to 'STOP SINGING'. The singers continued with their tuneful questions, such as 'Who is the Criminal, What is the Law, Who decides..?' Supporters explained to various groups of police that the singers were merely using their right to lobby, by singing rather than speaking, and that the oratorio would only last 15 minutes and then they would be speaking to our MPs, some of whom had already gathered. Some of the police were heard saying that the singing was very good. Another said, 'It's the f...ing cradle of democracy – let them sing'. One said it was the best protest she had ever been to.

The lobby was very powerful and innovative. We hoped to move by song what words on their own did not seem to be able to do. The acoustics were great. There is also a short video at <http://actionawe.org/>.

### **Lockheed-Martin Californian Demonstration**

80 activists held a colourful and lively demonstration on Monday, March 2 at Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale, California, protesting nuclear weapons work and other weapons for war. After sharing poetry, litany, dancing and songs, twelve of the protesters spread across the entrance roadway with a 50 foot banner that read "Lockheed Weapons Terrorize the World" to stop traffic going into the weapons plant. The twelve were arrested. Lockheed is one of the largest military contractors and maker of the Trident II D-5 submarine launched (thermonuclear armed) ballistic missile. No Lockheed employees or police were arrested. <http://bit.ly/1ab8BJV>



## Fly Kites Not Drones

On 21 March, Afghan New Year (Now Ruaz) people were out all around the UK flying kites in solidarity with all those who live under the ominous and continuous presence of drones. From Afghanistan to Gaza to Somalia and on the Thames drones increasingly being used for surveillance and in the so-called war on terror. But the use of drones is terrifying for children and vast numbers of innocent civilians. And their use has been shown to result in a higher proportion of civilian casualties in conflict.

Voices for Creative Nonviolence called for people to fly kites in a creative and joyous protest against this increasingly pervasive threat to the most vulnerable. Groups were flying kites in Liverpool, London, Bournemouth, Bristol, Manchester and at RAF Waddington where UK pilots operate drones used to kill in Afghanistan. There are lots of great photos at:

<https://www.facebook.com/flykitesnotdrones?fref=ts>



## 34 Anti-Drone protesters Arrested in Nevada

Anti-drone protesters who said they wanted to spotlight war crimes and connect with pilots were arrested on March 6 after trying to block the entrance at a US Air Force base in southern Nevada. More than 100 people were assembled outside the Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs near Las Vegas. The protesters attempted to block



Photo Credit : Ellen Grady

the entrance and stood or lay down on the road in front of the two access gates. 34 people were arrested and cited misdemeanour charges. Base commander Col. Jim Cluff defended the operation in a statement, saying its mission was to provide life-saving intelligence and surveillance. Seven activists arrested closing Hancock drone base gate with giant books

from Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars

On March 19, the 12th anniversary of the U.S.' illegal invasion of Iraq, seven members of the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars shut the main gate of the Hancock Drone Base (near Syracuse, New York) with a giant copy of the U.N. Charter and three other giant books – Dirty Wars (Jeremy Scahill), Living

Under Drones (NYU and Stanford Law Schools), and You Never Die Twice (Reprieve).

The nonviolent activists also held a banner quoting Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution, stating that every treaty signed becomes the supreme law of the land. They brought the books to Hancock to remind everyone at the base of the signed treaties that prohibit the killing of civilians and assassinations of human beings. One of the giant books, *Living Under Drones: Death, Injury, and Trauma to Civilians from U.S. Drone Practices in Pakistan*, states that such missions are responsible for the deaths of hundreds of non-combatants, including women and children, in that region. Read the full account at: <http://www.nukeresister.org/2015/03/19/seven-activists-arrested-closing-hancock-drone-base-gate-with-giant-books/>

### 500,000 trees may be saved in Mahan, India

The Indian Ministry of Environment recommend saving the ancient forest where they live and work from becoming a giant, open coal mine after Greenpeace supporters from the UK jumped into action last year. 80,000 people in the UK sent emails to the Indian Minister of Tribal Affairs to ask that he stop the coal company Essar bullying and intimidating local people into voting to support the coal mine.

It looks like that helped – the vote didn't go ahead. The local Mahan community kept up their inspiring organising to stop the mine, supported by Greenpeace in India. Shortly after, the Indian Supreme Court came to a judgement – which all coal mine licences granted since 1993 are invalid – including Mahan! The Indian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has now recommended that the coal mine in Mahan does not go ahead. Now campaigners are waiting for the Ministry of Coal to say if they'll accept the decision.



### International Women's Day 2015: Afghan men wear burqas to campaign for women's rights

*From the Independent.*

<http://ind.pn/1Bbp2yz>

A small group of Afghan men wearing sky-blue burqas marched through Kabul earlier today to draw attention to women's rights in the country. The group of roughly 20 men walked through the capital of Afghanistan to draw attention to the rights of women

ahead of international Women's Day on 8 March. With muddy trainers just visible beneath the burqas, an item of clothing that became synonymous with oppressive Taliban rule in the 1990s, the march drew some attention from onlookers.

"What is the point of this?" Asked traffic policeman Javed Haidari, 24. "All of the women in my family wear burqas. I wouldn't let them go out without one." But 29-

year-old activist Basir, who goes by one name, claims the march – organised by a group called Afghan Peace Volunteers – takes women’s rights “to the streets.” “One of the best ways to understand how women feel is to walk around and wear a burqa” he explained.

## Take Action



### Why Bairns Not Bombs?

When I first laid eyes on my children seconds after they were born I fell in love with them and I finally understood that when my parents tried to restrict or interfere in my life it was out of that same desire to protect me from all harm that I knew I would feel for my sons even when they were adults. Terrible things can be done to children but for most of us we want our children to be safe, healthy and happy and not only that, whether we have children of our own or not we have that urge to protect all children from harm even ones in far flung lands. When children are injured or

lose their lives we mourn not just their loss but the unrealised potential of all that they will now never get to do. Bairns is the Scottish word for children and by adopting the Bairns Not Bombs slogan for the upcoming demonstration in Glasgow and blockade at Faslane we call upon that desire to never see our children or anyone else’s face the unimaginable horror of the detonation of even one more nuclear warhead. But it’s about more than that. It’s about all future generations and the vision of the world we know is possible and the potential of all those unborn children. There are many challenges facing us and none of them can possibly be met by the use of nuclear weapons and some of them can be at least partly helped by better use of the £100 billion that is earmarked for a new generation of Trident submarines.

So in George Square on April 4<sup>th</sup> and at the gates of Faslane on April 13<sup>th</sup> let’s stand up (or possibly sit down!) for all the bairns yet to come and show that right here, right now in Scotland we reject weapons of mass murder and demand that we SCRAP TRIDENT!



*Jane Tallents*



**Glasgow Demo George Square, Sat 4 April**  
**Assemble 10.30am, March 11am, Rally 12 noon.**

**Speakers: Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland; Patrick Harvie MSP, Co-Convenor, Scottish Greens; Katy Clark MP (Labour); Cat Boyd, Radical Independence Campaign; Sasha Callaghan, Disability History Scotland; Nuala Watt, Human Beings on Benefits; Ann Henderson, Assistant Secretary, STUC; and singers Karine Polwart and Penny Stone.**

**Big Blockade Faslane Naval Base, Monday 13 April, 7am.**

**Blockade Training Workshops** in Glasgow 21 March and 12 April. Details & sign up and to register for Accommodation in Glasgow Sun April 12<sup>th</sup> Book your place on a bus to Faslane go to the [www.scraptrident.org](http://www.scraptrident.org)



**DON'T BANK  
ON THE BOMB**

**P&J and Scottish Medact Launch Scottish  
Don't Bank on the Bomb Campaign**

£18 billion is invested by 35 UK financial institutions in companies producing nuclear weapons. Stop these investments. Stop Trident.

By lending money and purchasing shares and bonds in companies like the RBS, BAE Systems and Lockheed Martin which build or operate the components for Trident, banks and financial institutions like RBS are making a killing. It's a

lucrative investment. But they are taking a risk with our lives. If these weapons of terror are used again there will be catastrophic humanitarian consequences and unprecedented devastation to the planet.



The "Don't Bank on the Bomb" report provides detailed information on financial institutions that invest in the nuclear weapons globally. It is a powerful tool for putting pressure for disarmament at the root – on the banks that provide the money. Download the report at [dontbankonthebomb.com/](http://dontbankonthebomb.com/)

We're campaigning to get universities, local government and trade unions' pension funds to divest from those banks. We need creative ideas and people who are experienced or new to campaigning to get involved.

**Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland meeting 5<sup>th</sup> of May 7 – 9pm.**  
**Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, St John's Church, Princes St. EH2 4BJ**  
**Contact 0131 229 0993 or email [contact@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:contact@peaceandjustice.org.uk).**



## More Centre News

### Report on P&J Conflict Resolution for Primary Schools Facilitators' Workshop

Ten people participated in the our Conflict Resolution for Primary Schools Facilitators' workshop aimed at both enhancing participant's understanding of conflict and educative tools to integrate conflict resolution when working with children. The group was very enthusiastic, participative and reflective. They engaged with practical activities and theoretical content throughout the workshop. This active participation allowed the group and facilitators to explore conflict resolution in a constructive and cooperative manner. For instance, we had discussions on how the limitations that current educational system has when working with and through emotions, or when including some cooperative games.

The first part of the workshop was aimed at (1) exploring practical activities to promote children's interaction with peers, enhance children's self-esteem as well as sense of empathy and (2) exploring theoretical contents on conflict dynamics and the psychological processes involved in the escalation of conflict. The second part of the workshop was aimed at exploring communication skills, responses to conflict and the importance of active listening. These contents were mostly delivered through games and group dynamics that facilitated participant's reflection about the educative tools they can use with children and allowed a degree of experiential group work on the difficulties of applying active listening when addressing conflict. The third part of the workshop was agreed with participants to focus on the impact that different communication styles can have in conflict. This part involved role plays and group discussion.

### Participants' evaluations

Most of participants agreed that the workshops needed to be longer (2 days) to allow a more in-depth insight on conflict resolution and to learn more games and activities to work on conflict. Some also expressed needing a more specific connexion between the relationship between the theory and the activities carried, for instance more activities and examples on how certain games can enhance children's communication skills or anger management. Group discussions were highly rated by most participants. All participants agree that they had an enjoyable day and the workshop was informative.

Some of the comments are:

- Thanks guys overall I really enjoyed it and found it useful.
- Interesting and stimulating day, informative and enjoyable.
- Facilitators were lovely, lively and open to challenges.
- Exercises were good, fun and stimulated discussion.
- I enjoyed the day and would like to do more.

- I enjoyed all the activities; they provided opportunities to practice and skill-build.
- The course content allowed me to explore through play and discussion how it feels to be in social groups and how conflict can arise with children.
- Really good and well organize, well directed, fun and helpful.

## Unsung Heroes: Geoffrey Carnall 1927 - 2015

Geoffrey Carnall, one of the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre's most long-standing and strongest supporters, died on 20 February in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary at the age of 88.

Geoffrey began reading Peace News as a teenager in 1939, and when mainstream distributors refused to handle the paper during the second world war, he cycled round Cambridge delivering bundles of PN. He was still delivering PN to the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre until a few weeks before his death. He served on the PN Board during Hugh Brock's editorship, and his numerous letters and articles have added historical perspective and considered political analysis to the debates in these pages.



Geoffrey speaking at International Peace Day at the Peace Pole outside the Peace and Justice Centre

Geoffrey gained a scholarship to Magdalene College, Oxford to study English Literature in 1945. There he was active in politics and peace activism, and founded a branch of the Socialist Christian Group. His tutor CS Lewis reportedly commented: "Carnall is first rate scholar. We call him Knowledge."

He had registered as a conscientious objector in 1944, and after his studies served in the Friends Service Unit in India from 1948 – 50. In Calcutta he met, and worked with, Horace Alexander, a British Quaker who had been a close associate of Gandhi. At the time of the civil upheaval brought by partition, and with India and Pakistan on the brink of war, he was greatly impressed by Alexander's practice of nonviolence and mediation. It was at this time that he turned from Anglicanism to Quakerism.



Returning from India, he continued his studies at Oxford, and then obtained lecturer posts at Queen's University, Belfast, and in 1960, at Edinburgh. Although he was proud of organising an influential teach-in on the realities of the use of weapons of mass destruction in 1968—the Americans' use of chemical warfare in Vietnam was surfacing at the time—he was perhaps prouder of the court case he won the following year. Police had tried to put a stop to a picket distributing anti-war leaflets to audiences leaving the Edinburgh Military Tattoo under a by-law prohibiting the distribution of commercial flyers. Backed by the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties, he had no difficulty in convincing the magistrate that the leaflets were political, and therefore exempt from the by-law. Although alarming to his more staid colleagues, the episode did his career no harm, and he was subsequently elevated to the University Senate, and appointed Reader.

Geoffrey was a key figure in the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre. I first met him when I was working as a volunteer there in the early 1980s. Many of us gained from his wisdom, his knowledge of history and politics, and the sense of perspective he had gained from working for peace for so many years. This was deeply grounded in the theory of nonviolence (he was always the academic) but never divorced from practice. The Centre remained a key part of his work for the rest of his life – he served as secretary for over 30 years. He particularly valued it as a physical place that people could come across, and he relished those occasions when he could talk to people who dropped in – particularly when their views differed from his!

Renowned for his bread making, whose various pauses fitted well with his academic marking, and whose practicality surely recalls Gandhian spiritual practice, Geoffrey is survived by his wife Elizabeth, whom he first met at Edinburgh Friends Meeting in 1960, three children: Douglas, Jane and Rosemary, and two grandchildren: Stanley and Martin.

*Chris Booth*

(with contributions from Rosemary, Jane and Douglas Carnall)

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Geoffrey's book, *Gandhi's Interpreter: a life of Horace Alexander* is published by Edinburgh University Press.

There will be a memorial meeting at the Friends' Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, on Saturday 25 April, to enable family, friends, and colleagues to commemorate his passing. All are cordially invited. RSVP to his daughter Rosemary: [rosiecarnall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosiecarnall@yahoo.co.uk). The family has suggested that donations be made to the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre in Geoffrey's memory.

The family plan to publish a booklet in Geoffrey's honour with a selection of his writings, a bibliography, and other's memories of him.

Please email contributions, including photos, to Douglas Carnall, [dougie.carnall@gmail.com](mailto:dougie.carnall@gmail.com), by Friday 10 April. The booklet will be available at the memorial meeting.

## Reflection: Bill Bichsel and the Call to Civil Resistance

I first met Fr Bill 'Bix' Bichsel when he came to Scotland with the Footprints for Peace Walk in 2007. It was during the Faslane 365 year long blockade of the Trident nuclear weapons base. Bix was already 77 years of age and was taking part in the peace walk from Dublin up to Faslane and down to London. I joined their walk from the Coulport nuclear weapons depot about 8 miles to Faslane. They walked straight to the gate and sat down in a tight circle blocking the entrance. I remember having a very strong desire to sit down there with them but my role was support for the ongoing blockades. Bix was arrested that day, and again the next because there were others in the group who felt moved to take direct action the second day and Bix wanted to be with them. I had a guitar, which I played not too well at that point and remember Bix singing "We shall not be moved" so strongly as he lay there in the road. That day I felt so strongly drawn to him. Partly I suppose because of the fact that he was an older Jesuit Catholic "Peace" priest. I had attended a Jesuit University in the States where I met another "Peace priest" Richard McSorley who famously said "It is a sin to build a nuclear weapon" and, as Bix quoted "Nuclear weapons are the taproot of violence in America today".

I had taken McSorley's "Nonviolent Revolution for Peace" class where I read Gandhi, watched the PBS series "Eyes on the Prize" documentary of the life of Martin Luther King, and met Dan Berrigan, also a Jesuit, who a year earlier had been among the first to enter a nuclear weapons factory and hammer on the (unarmed) nose cone of an MX missile. It was formative.

Two years later, in November of 2009 we received word that Bix had been arrested breaking into the Trident nuclear weapons base in Washington state as part of the Disarm Now Plowshares group. He was 79. The five carried hammers, again enacting the prophecy of Isaiah to "Beat swords into plowshares" they symbolically and in a small way began to dismantle that huge nuclear weapons installation hammering on a fence that surrounded the bunkers where hundreds of nuclear weapons 30 -40 times the size of the Hiroshima bomb were stored. When detected after many hours inside the base the five were forced face down on the cold tarmac and hooded for four hours. After being convicted in a trial in which they were not allowed to present a defense based on international law Bix was imprisoned for a year and a half, during which time he was held in extremely cold conditions and not allowed long underwear or even an

extra blanket despite the fact that he had a health condition that meant he suffered from the cold.

I next met Bix when we travelled to Tennessee to be present in court when he and other anti-nuclear activists were to be sentenced for trespass at the Y12 facility where the Hiroshima bomb was made and where the US still makes its nuclear bombs. We spent several days together and it was a joy, singing outside the courthouse, visiting Guy Carawan who, with Pete Seeger wrote the words to “We Shall Overcome” at the Highlander Centre where MLK and Rosa Parks met to plan the Montgomery bus boycott, and sitting around in a restaurant while Bix and David Dwyer told jokes for an hour one day. Bix was always laughing and singing and just had a way of connecting with everyone he met. Maybe it was part of the spirituality of “personalism” that he’d gotten from Dorothy Day. He had founded the Tacoma Catholic Worker Community and provided hospitality to homeless and poor people, putting into practice the gospel call to put into practice the “works of mercy” and protesting the works of war which are the cause of so much suffering especially in America today.



Bix was a regular guy. He always wore blue jeans with a Native American beaded belt buckle, maybe a flannel shirt or his No More Hiroshimas T-shirt over that, and his trademark Greek fisherman’s cap. You wouldn’t know he was a priest if you didn’t know it.

Later he returned to visit us in Scotland in 2012 on his way to Norway for the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony. He had been nominated for the Peace Prize by a group in his home town of Tacoma Washington in honour of his persistent campaigning for nuclear disarmament. While in Scotland he spoke at the Peace and Justice Centre and we travelled with him to visit Faslane Peace Camp and to interview Cardinal O’Brien and Rev Alan Macdonald the former Moderator of the Church of Scotland. Bix said that he believed Scotland was leading the way to a nuclear free world. He had a film crew following him and he was on a mission. He asked each person he interviewed, “How important do you think civil resistance is in the struggle for nuclear disarmament?” and then, “Would you do civil resistance against Trident?” Maybe these are questions each of us should be asking ourselves as we approach the Bairns Not Bombs Scrap Trident Blockade of Faslane on the 13th of April.

*Brian Larkin*





*Jesuit Fr Bill "Bix" Bichsel passed away in March at the age of 85. Bix was arrested for civil resistance actions at nuclear weapons installations many times. Here is Bix just 6 months before his death keeping faith with his friends at Jeju Island in South Korea concelebrating mass with a group of priests, surrounded by police. They are blocking the entrance to the construction sight of the Gangjeong Naval Base where US nuclear armed warships will be based just 300 miles from China.*

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