

PEACE STRATEGY GROUP Report Area Meeting July 2016

'War & Conscience Exhibition' and related events

Reports have been sent to Cheshire East Council and Macclesfield Town Council, being required as part of the condition of the grants awarded to the Peace Strategy group of ECAM.

A separate document accompanies this Report with the final breakdown of income and expenditure. The balance is £1495.09. This will fund the following:

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| Further schools' poetry workshops | |
| Fallibroome Academy 2 sessions @ £150 each | £300 |
| Kings Boys and Girls divisions 4 sessions @ £150 each | £600 |
| Total cost for sessions in the 2 schools | £900 |

This leaves a balance of £595.09 to go towards the anthology of the pupils' poems from these schools plus the two others - All Hallows and Tytherington High - whose work has already been shown at the Choices Exhibition.

John Lindley, poet, has offered to compile and produce this anthology. It would result in a very professional publication.

The breakdown of costs is as follows

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| Cost of compiling the anthology | £500 |
| <i>(Includes selecting, editing, typing & sequencing of poems, initial proof-reading, general page layout, writing and introduction, bar coding, ISBN, liaising with cover designer proof-reader & printer and finally ensuring print deadline is met)</i> | |
| Front & back cover design | £50 |
| Printing, assembling & trimming x 200 copies | £188 |
| Final professional proof-reading | £140 |
| <i>(But hopefully this could be done by Friends within ECAM.)</i> | |
| Maximum total | £878 |

There would be an opportunity for PSG / ECAM Friends to add a quote, passage or something appropriate.

Although the figures indicate a shortfall of just under £300, selling 200 copies of the anthology at £5 each would raise £1,000

Taylor Giacomini has offered to put some of the poems to music. Hopefully this would be performed by an all-age choir.

Exhibition

An exhibition to commemorate the formation of the No Conscription Fellowship will be held at Marple Library 7-26 November. The exhibition will then go on to Stockport Central Library. Phoebe Spence is coordinating this work along with Stockport for Peace.

Developing Peace Building Skills

Currently it is rare that schools in North

West England can support their students to learn peer mediation, conflict resolution and peace building skills. By contrast schools in the West Midlands, Sheffield, London or Mid Wales can enlist the help of Quaker peace education projects to come and work with classes, groups or the whole school. Many young people in North West England don't know that you can learn skills in how to resolve conflicts and build peace, and that you can even study Peace Studies as a degree. With this in mind, Gill Alcock recently met with the Head teacher and another senior manager at her daughter's school Bridgewater High in Appleton, Warrington to discuss whether they might develop some kind of peace building skills approach within the school, using an outside provider, as part of how the school is responding to the Government's requirement on all schools to foster SMSC (the spiritual, moral, social and cultural values of the students) and Fundamental British Values (democratic process, the rule of law, separation of powers within the state, freedom of choice over faiths and beliefs, toleration and anti discrimination). She also expressed concern over the access the military have had to the students.

The school has shown some interest and the Head teacher is going to discuss it further with the Governors. This is clearly at an early stage. Frandley Friends have offered support for Gill in trying to develop this initiative with the school. She is also talking to Warrington LM about it. It is likely that if it goes ahead it will involve an outside provider such as West Midlands Quaker Peace Education project or CRESST in Sheffield, but could instead possibly involve Warrington Peace Centre. As a complementary move, QPSW Peace Education (Izzy Cartwright and Ellis Brooks) have also offered to run a 2-3 day course in the North West in 2017 training adults in how to train young people to be peer mediators, if we think we can get a number of Friends in this and neighbouring AMs to take it up.

White poppies

We would like to ask all LMs in ECAM to consider asking the appropriate organisation to place a wreath with white poppies at their local War Memorials.

Name Change

At the last meeting of the PSG it was agreed a change of name for the PSG which reflected a more ongoing witness and working for peace in our area. Friends suggestions invited; ECAM Peace Action?