

# Update

## November 2015

### NFPB meetings

Northern Friends Peace Board has met three times during 2015. Its fourth and final meeting of the year will be in Lancaster on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Previous meetings have been in Perth, Leeds and Glasgow. After our meetings in Scotland NFPB members joined with Scottish Friends for Meetings for Worship at the Faslane naval base (and home of Trident nuclear submarine). In Leeds we joined Leeds Friends in a public witness for the non-renewal of the UK nuclear weapons' system, Trident. This concern will also be on our agenda at our Lancaster meeting.

Interested Friends and Attenders are welcome to join us at our meetings to consider these and other areas of concern. Contact the NFPB office (see overleaf) for further information.



### Challenging Militarism, then and now.

As well as the Meetings for Worship at Faslane mentioned above, there are regular Meetings at **Menwith Hill** and at **Fylingdales**. Our website calendar has information about these.

NFPB has been part of a working group of peace bodies that have worked together to promote and produce resources for the **Global Day of Action on Military Spending**. This will be taking place again in mid-April 2016 and it could be

timely if readers want to begin planning for that.

NFPB Members and other Friends have been busy developing resources that mark the centenary of the first world war, with a particular focus on the introduction of conscription in 1916. Events and resources are publicised via our website calendar and social media sites.

### Building Peace in Diverse Britain

We ran a second young people's event earlier this year, bringing teenagers together for a day of workshops and discussion on the theme of '**Young people, peace and community**'. This brought our most recent phase of work on this concern to a close and a **report** of the last five years' work was published at the end of September (see <http://bit.ly/20tuHwQ>).

NFPB members have expressed a strong hope that we can continue to develop this strand of our work and we are currently looking for new members to join the project group. We were pleased to be able to share this work at the recent conference in London on Interfaith Peacebuilding, organised by the Quaker Committee on Christian and Interfaith Relationships.



## Alternative approaches to building security

Before the UK General Election we produced and distributed a short leaflet encouraging candidates to engage in thinking around building security through non-military means. Using the title '**Security for the Common Good**', we have subsequently adapted the leaflet for Friends and others to use with sitting MPs, and with members of the Government. Copies are available to download from <http://nfpb.org.uk/genel2015> and in printed form from the NFPB office. At our NFPB meeting in Perth we considered the 'Ammerdown Invitation' document and encourage others to explore and respond to these issues. The text can be found at: : "**Security for the future: in search of a new vision**" - <http://bit.ly/ZdILQ2>

Our project group on Sustainable security is planning a spring conference to give support to Friends and others in engaging with **media** around these concerns. We shall publish details of that event in due course.

## Gathering, networking and sharing information



We are keen to support small and informal **regional NFPB gatherings**, for Friends and Attenders to spend time sharing concerns and information, engaging in some joint activity, in worship and over a shared lunch ... or whatever else Friends would find helpful. If you would like to discuss hosting one of these, *please contact Philip Austin at the NFPB office.*

Our **website and social media pages** are regularly updated and we are always happy to

hear from Friends with news and information that we can share with a wider audience using these tools.



<http://www.facebook.com/nfpb1>  
<http://twitter.com/nfpb1>

We have for **sale** posters and postcards, as well as tea-towels, that were initially produced for our NFPB Centenary in 2013. Follow this link - for an order form (<http://bit.ly/1Mco6Ny>) - or phone the NFPB office for information. If you would like some of these for an event on a sale or return basis, we would be happy to supply these.

## NFPB Trustees review

Our Executive Committee, which acts as the trustee body of NFPB, had a short residential meeting at the end of October. They considered current and anticipated priorities and challenges. They also, since they were meeting at Swarthmoor Hall, took the opportunity to meet with local Friends. This was a chance to hear and explore a range of peace concerns, with the issue of Trident submarine production at neighbouring Barrow in Furness being particularly high on the agenda.

We sometimes appoint as trustees Friends who have not been NFPB representatives. If you are interested in possible service in this or other capacities (including Clerking) with NFPB, please do get in touch.

**Thank you Friends for your continuing support.**

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### Northern Friends Peace Board

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