Mid-Somerset CND & Peace Group

Monday 2 September 2023

7.30 pm, City Arms

1. Present: Bevis, Donnie (not quorate)

2. Apologies: Jacky, Nina, Paul, Julia, Helena, Bea, Lee

3. Minutes of last meeting, 8 July 2024

 Matters arising:

1. Tolpuddle Festival

Commiserations to James who wasn’t able to come, he’s broken his collar bone.

Bevis and Jacky went for the weekend and set up the stall.

Nina and Paul attended and helped on the Sunday.

The new SumUp machine enabled them to sell £90.00 worth of t-shirts, with card payments.

**Action:** Bevis will finish setting up the SumUp account.

1. Hiroshima Day

We agreed they were successful events.

Exhibition on Cathedral Green – we interacted with about 100 people.

We enjoyed seeing the Wells Pride parade at the Green, and we had positive reactions from them.

Lantern float – a good attendance of 35 people, including our MP Tessa Munt, and the mayors of Wells and Glastonbury.

The minutes were accepted.

There was an issue with the Bishops Palace to do with Health and Safety and permission. Bevis had communicated with them and pointed out that we had been doing it for more than 20 years and that it normally involved the mayor of Wells and the local MP. Bevis sent them a picture afterwards.

4. Treasures report

We have a healthy bank balance.

Our payment from this year’s Glastonbury Festival has been applied for, though not yet received.

We have donated £500.00 to national CND’s London tube campaign. Very bright posters will be displayed at major stations.

6. Membership

We’ve gained 4 new members. The system is working well.

However, we discussed that our position with festival Information can be disappointing, when people have no interest in nuclear disarmament and join only to work at the Festival. This was brought up due to 2 emails recently received. One came from a couple who said they no longer wanted to be members as they no longer wanted to work at the Festival. The other was from someone who was only interested in how he could get into the Festival.

7. Future Activities

 1) Strode Freshers Fair Thursday September 5

Bevis, Jacky and Julia will do our stall.

The new organiser of the fair is Amy Pope, head of Student Services

1. International Day of Peace, Harry Patch memorial, Wells Museum

Saturday September 21

Agreed we should use the plastic wreath plus poppies again. Bevis and Jackie are unable to attend this year.

**Actions:** Julia, would it be ok for you to take lead?

 Donnie will inform the other groups we work with about the event

1. One World Fair Saturday November 9, Wells Town Hall

**Action**: let Donnie know nearer the time if you’re able to come, and a rota will be made

1. Carol singing Saturday December 14 or 21?

**Actions:** make a decision about the date

 decide which charity to support. Possibly Medical Aid for Palestinians.

 could someone come forward to take the lead?

1. Other events on our calendar – Glastonbury Frost Fair, Street Festive Fair, Somerset Solidarity Day

**Action**: discuss these at the next meeting – shall we do any of them?

1. Vigil for a Ceasefire in Gaza

As participation in these has faded away, we felt perhaps people have moved on from this form of action. We could support Mendip Friends of Palestine, who have an active schedule of very relevant events.

**Action:** Donnie will contact Cathy Salisbury, from that group, to ask to be on their email list, in order to inform our group about their events.

8. Any Other Business

 1) Bevis – he received an email from Sarah Medi-Jones of National CND, suggesting we go to Lakenheath air force base to support the protests there against American nuclear warheads. She suggested doing so with the Bristol and Bath groups.

**Action:** Bevis will forward the email, so we can discuss our individual or group support for this.

1. Donnie – a couple of months ago Paul emailed us about a Guardian article on anti-war illustrator Bill Kennard. I have an ICAN poster using one of his pieces. We found the same image also appears on t-shirts which can be seen on the CND website. Otherwise, his work seems to be available as expensive works of art!
2. Donnie – Sue Jones, who lives in Wells, has recently spent 3 months in East Jerusalem as an observer with an ecumenical organisation (she was not near Gaza). She’s interested in doing talks about it, if anyone is looking for a speaker.

9. Date of next meeting – Monday October 7, 7.30pm, The City Arms, Wells