



Mid-Somerset CND & Peace Group
Monday 2nd December 2024
7.30 pm, City Arms

1. Present: Bevis (chair), Donnie, Lee, Bea (minutes), Julia, Jacky, Nina, Paul
2. Apologies: Quinn, Helena, Rex
3. We had a talk from Sue Jones, who is an 'Ecumenical accompanier' (for the EAPPI) who went for three months observing and reporting on human rights in the West Bank. Sue and her team were based in East Jerusalem, there was also a team in Jericho and one in Bethlehem. Their task was to:
 - Monitor human rights abuses and report them.
 - Deter human rights abuses by their presence.
 - Visit vulnerable communities who are harassed by settlers and/or the Israeli army.

Sue gave an interesting, illuminating and highly upsetting talk about her experiences in Palestine and Israel, she gave us a comprehensive overview of the recent history of the Jews and the Muslims from the 1930's to present day. Sue talked about a vulnerable community; the Bedouin and particularly about the leader of the community Abul Hammas. Sue described the levels of harassment that the Bedouin community have suffered from settlers, including the destruction of their property, disruption of health care checks, intimidation, bodily harm to Bedouin teachers and pupils and destruction of school property, poisoning of water supplies,, thefts of livestock. The list goes on – and all with no protection or anywhere/any authority to report the atrocities to. The Police are on the side of the settlers who are normal Israeli people living in illegal communities on Palestinian land.

We can find out more : eyewitnessblogs.com

What we can do: Contact our MP and tell them about the atrocities, forced displacement and harassment and ask them to lobby.
The International court of Justice ruled that the occupation of Gaza should end and 140 countries voted in agreement, the US voted no and the UK abstained from the vote!

The group thanked Sue for her presentation.

4. Minutes of last meeting, 4.11.24 were accepted as true and correct.

5. Matters arising:

'Oxfam one world fair' in Wells - Donnie thanked everyone that helped at the fair. The Fair was well attended and we had at least 55 people who stopped and signed the petition and made positive comments about the work of CND.

The committee thanked Donnie for organising.

'The Frost Fair' Glastonbury- Julia reported that the stall location in the United Reformed church was far from ideal, in an awkward spot and difficult to communicate our message to people passing by. However £50 of merchandise was sold and people signed the Lakenheath petition.

4. Treasurer's Report : Jacky reported that we have a healthy balance.

5. Membership – Bevis had no news to report.

6. Future Activities:

'Street Festive market' – we are not taking part and indeed the event may be cancelled due to the weather.

Carol Singing in December: We are going to raise funds for 'Medical Aid to Palestine' hopefully Saturday 21st December, 11.00am to 1.30pm, outside the Library in Wells. License has been applied for but not yet approved. Lee will follow this up and put pressure on council.

PLEASE let friends and other groups know and invite to join us.

Action: Lee to chase license and Donnie will inform partner groups.

10. Any Other Business –

8th December 6-9.30pm film 'Gaza' organised by the Mendip Friends of Palestine. Entrance and refreshments by donation. That morning they will be holding banners on the relief road.

Paul informed us that at the Frost Fair someone mentioned that there is a CND charity shop in Exeter.

We discussed holding a workshop for all members to inform everyone about the issues we face, this will be opened up to all members.

Bevis spoke on Quinn's behalf to inform that he will be holding a zoom meeting about participation in next years Glastonbury Festival.

If interested email Quinn directly.

11. Date of next meeting – Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.30pm at the 'City Arms', Wells.

