

# **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

**UK Section**



**Annual Report 2015 –2016**  
**101st Year**

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**Secretary** Anne Scott– to be co-opted

**Membership Secretary** Sheila Triggs

**Treasurer** Paula Shaw

### **WILPF International Board Members job share**

Ros Brunt, Keely Khoury

**Executive Committee** Anne Scott, Jenny Engledow,  
 Khedijah Ali, Mama Khadija Hussain, Lydia Meryll,  
 Orla Sheridan, Clare Walker, Lorraine Mirham - ex-officio  
 Co-Convenor of International Environment Working Group

## Section Report

This Centenary year has been an extremely busy and exciting one for UK WILPF. The year started with the AGM on 14 March 2015. This AGM took a different format with the business in the morning and the showing of the UK WILPF centenary film "These Dangerous Women", together with a showing of the exhibition banners in the afternoon. For further details of the 20 places where the film and exhibition have been seen in the



Members at WILPF UK AGM March 2015

UK to date, see page 12 +13 and for all the international places see page 13. The UK WILPF History Project film, associated exhibitions, and the "These Dangerous Women" booklet and research have taken up a lot of members' time and energy this year, as the reports indicate, and have brought our current work to a wider public. Additionally, the Cornwall Branch was formally established at the AGM.

In April, nine delegates from UK WILPF attended the Congress in The Hague, along with our two Excom members Martha Jean Baker and Lorraine Mirham, whose term of office finished in The Hague. We would like to thank Martha and Lorraine for their long service and dedicated work for WILPF.

Cynthia Cockburn, who wrote the new WILPF Manifesto, was also present in The Hague. Our experiences at the Congress were shared with members in a special Centenary Peace and Freedom Congress and Conference Update which was sent to all UK WILPF members. If you did not receive a copy, please email the office and ask for a copy to be sent to you.

The following week, the Centenary Conference took place with another 30 women members from the UK joining those who were already in The Hague. Three days were filled with one inspirational and high quality speaker after another, and high quality discussions, leaving us all full of enthusiasm for future WILPF work. The experience of participating gave us all memories that we will never forget.

In May, WILPF members participated in, initiated and spoke at a variety of events on Conscientious Objectors Day including Tavistock Square, London, and the Mound, Edinburgh.

In August, members attended, organised and supported Hiroshima day vigils and events.

Branch Reports include what members were doing over the year. Please see pages 21 - 33.

In September, WILPF presented a joint seminar in London with Pax Christi titled Women as Peacemakers: personal and political.



WILPF exec. on the Streets Sept 2015

On 14 November, see page 28, Orpington branch on behalf of UK WILPF, organised a very successful Autumn Seminar on Climate Change, Environment and Militarism.

The UK Executive, which carries forward the work of the Section and meets five times a year, has seen a number of changes this year. We would like to thank the following: Debbie Payne, who due to changing jobs had to stand down as UK WILPF Treasurer in September 2015. Debbie had the difficult and time-consuming job of dealing with the Finances for

Congress and Conference. Thank you also to the Finance Committee who helped Debbie with this arduous task and who to date have been assisting with Finances until the bank recognises our new Treasurer. We are also grateful to Stella Hermiston, who produced some wonderful e-newsletters and the Centenary Congress and Conference Peace and Freedom, who took magnificent photos at Congress and Conference, and helped raise the standards of our Communications. Stella is off to new ventures and we wish her well. London Branch Convenor and London Branch representative Alex Murrell has left to pursue further career development studies. Alex made a great contribution to both the London Branch and the Executive.

One problem which we have kept encountering is a lack of funds for our campaigns. We had a struggle to source funds to support members in attending Congress and Conference as few funders support transport costs and we know from previous experience that few funders support peace activities. We would like to thank the UK WILPF Trust, see page 33 for its report, and the Lush Fund Charity Pot for their grants and support for Congress, the WF Southall Trust for a grant for the Autumn Seminar, see page 20, and the Heritage Lottery Fund for their grant to the History Project, see pages 10 - 15.

Branch Representatives have commented upon increased costs in hiring rooms for meetings and transport to attend UK WILPF Executive Committee meetings. Many Branches supported their members financially to help them attend Congress and Conference, which has left some very short of funds. The UK WILPF Executive is currently looking at how to provide support to enable all Branches to participate fully in Executive meetings.

WILPF members who are not in Branches can continue to support the work of WILPF in 2016. With the main gate decision about the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system taking place in the UK Parliament, we are asking all members to

continue writing to their MPs to oppose the renewal of the weapons. Reaching Critical Will has a new leaflet Sex, Gender and Nuclear Weapons, which is available from the UK WILPF office, as are our new colourful campaign postcards. Members not in Branches may also wish to consider joining the UK WILPF information email list and one or more of the Campaign groups.

As I write this the UK Government continues to bomb Syria, sell arms to countries with poor human rights, and does not fulfil its obligations under UNSC Resolution 1325. For resources to help you with your letter writing, please see the UK WILPF website: <http://www.wilpf.org.uk/resources/campaign-materials/>.

If you would like to start a new group in your area, please contact Sheila Triggs, the UK WILPF Membership Secretary. A group in Norwich re-started in 2015.

If you would like the History exhibition in your area, please contact the office on 020 7250 1968 and [ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com](mailto:ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com).

A big thank you to all the women who have helped WILPF behind the scenes to campaign in this Centenary year. Please remember to regularly check the UK WILPF website for WILPF events and updates.

Anne Scott  
UK WILPF Secretary

## **Further details and resources:**

**Congress:** <http://www.wilpf.org.uk/history/2015-centenary-congress/>

**Conference:** <http://www.womenstopwar.org/>

**WILPF Manifesto:**

<http://wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/WILPF-2015-Manifesto.pdf>

**UK WILPF:** <http://www.wilpf.org.uk/history/uk-wilpf-highlights-from-1915-2015/>

**“These Dangerous Women”:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0a2xYvXwGiw>



## **International Board**

Keely Khoury and I were confirmed as the new joint International Board (IB) representatives for the Section at our 2015 AGM. As we had other responsibilities, it seemed to make good sense to do a job-share that brought together Keely's wide communications skills and my experience of both European WILPF and the European Women's Lobby (EWL). Fortunately, both UK and International WILPF agreed.



We first met our fellow IB members at the Hague 100th Anniversary Congress last Spring. Each national WILPF section is entitled to an IB member. The UK membership is the only job-share so far, but we've always stressed we still have only one vote between us.



Group from the UK at the Hague

The Congress IB meeting was mainly concerned with choosing coordinators and members for the many standing committees and working groups that report to the IB and to the international Executive Committee (Excom) comprising the Secretary-General and elected officers, including President and four Vice-Presidents elected at Congress. When the Congress Report is published it will indicate the key policy directions of the movement for the next three years. Then the very strong support that Congress demonstrated for a new and urgent emphasis on

environmental campaigning should be clearly identified. So it is good news for the UK that our previous IB representative, Lorraine Mirham, is now chairing the dynamic Environment Working Group. The Group was quick off the mark to send out an initial survey - which the UK section completed last summer - and it has since published substantial findings and alerted members to the implications of the recent Paris climate change talks.

The Section has raised a number of issues with Excom since last summer. For instance, together with WILPF Norway we have sought clarification about an international policy on prostitution, following Amnesty International's controversial vote on decriminalisation. The Excom response was to take a 'no position' view in the light of very different social and political beliefs and practices worldwide, whilst stating that individual Sections may form their own perspectives. The Scottish branch of the Section has recommended to Excom that all sections in NATO countries be brought together to discuss how best to campaign against NATO's nuclear policy. And at our first executive meeting in 2016, we will be raising international issues on Syria, illegal arms sales and the Climate Justice and Peace Campaign.

One of the first decisions of the new Excom was to create a regional policy whereby individual Vice-Presidents would liaise with particular regional sections to help strengthen the international links that too easily get neglected between congresses. We are lucky to have Vice-President Margrethe Tingstad, a keynote speaker at our autumn seminar, to represent the European and Nordic sections. She has already proved very conscientious in ensuring that our concerns are both outlined and discussed at Excom meetings - which mainly take place via Skype and of which she is a most assiduous

contributor. The first face-to-face Excom meeting is taking place in Geneva at the end of January and will doubtless set out key campaigning guidelines for the rest of 2016.

In the meantime, we have already been alerted to the fact that the Hague Congress and Conference, despite its huge success, has made a substantial financial loss. New donors and campaigning partners are being sought and Sections and Branches will be asked for their advice. Kerry McGovern, the newly elected international Treasurer, comes from a business background and has already demonstrated energetic leadership on the movement's behalf. In the new year, the international Communications team is looking to set up an online membership discussion forum - possibly through crowdfunding. Keely Khoury, who edited and put online Helen Kay's fascinating and extensive interview with Secretary-General Madeline Rees, has also posted a WILPF International page on the UK WILPF website. It explains how WILPF is structured and also signposts people to the various Wilpf newsletters of activities members may be interested in: <http://www.wilpf.org.uk/about-us/wilpf-international/> . And see page 9 in this report.

Finally, we would encourage all members with concerns about international policy that they wish to raise with the UK Executive and communicated to Excom to do so via their branch representative, by coming to an Executive meeting themselves (as all members are most welcome to) or by contacting the Section secretary.

Rosalind Brunt  
Joint IB representative



## **Climate Change, Environment and Militarism**

### *UK WILPF Annual Autumn Seminar*

With COP21 opening in Paris in December 2015, UK WILPF held a national seminar on *Climate Change, Environment and Militarism* on 14 November. It was hosted, at the invitation of the Section, by the Orpington Branch.

The day was introduced by an excellent DVD produced by the UK Movement for the Abolition of War: *Conflict and Climate Change*.

**Margrethe Tingstad**, International WILPF Vice President from Norway, focussed upon how military activity is itself a major contributor to climate change and environmental degradation.

For an idea of scale: the amount spent on armaments each year would fund the entire UN projects budget for 615 years. These weapons all need to be tested – regularly. The environmental damage caused by military exercises and weapons testing during peacetime exceeds that of wars themselves. On impact, a conventional artillery shell generates temperatures around 3,000°C. Not only does this obliterate all surface life, but it can take the subsoil up to 1,500 years to recover.

**April Humble**, from the Earth League of Climate scientists, spoke on *Climate Change and Global Instability*. She outlined how global warming was among the causes of the conflict in Syria. Five successive years of drought (75% livestock death, 50% crop failure) were significant in creating the tensions sparked by that country's Arab Spring. She defined the exodus of four million people from Syria as the "biggest climate-induced migration the world has so far seen".



Autumn seminar

**Jenny Marklew**, from UK Green Party Women, concentrated on engaging with the public in campaigning.

**Janet Fenton**, from UK WILPF, facilitated the day and guided the committed audience in a

high level of discussion in the afternoon workshops. The participants showed real

appreciation for the day, and we were able to supply them with power point slides from the two main speakers after the event.

## **Women and Peacemaking: personal and political**

*Joint seminar in London: WILPF and Pax Christi*

The WILPF film "These Dangerous Women" and a discussion introduced the day, and our centenary exhibition was on display. We provided Marie Lyse Numuhoza as one of four speakers. Pat Pleasance represented WILPF throughout the planning process with Pax Christi, and Pat and Sheila Triggs introduced parts of the day and facilitated workshops. We paid £100 towards the cost of the event. One of the outcomes of the event is an International Women's Day postcard to use in campaigning.



## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2015**

In the centenary year of UK WILPF, we have been able to develop a high profile in the peace movement and beyond. Young members joined WILPF in anticipation of attending our International Conference in The Hague in April, where there were around forty UK participants. This included platform and workshop speakers and entertainers.

In the course of the year, our centenary exhibition of WILPF's history on colourful pull-up banners has been on display at more than 20 libraries, conferences and events across England, Wales and Scotland. In some places, such as the National CND Annual Conference, this included a public showing of our film of the British WILPF pioneers "These Dangerous Women" and an introductory talk. The film has also been shown as part of presentations and discussions on the significance of our history. UK WILPF has used the opportunity of our centenary to raise public awareness beyond our usual contacts and so recruit new members.

There are further bookings of the film and exhibition for 2016. This year is another significant date as it marks the centenary of the introduction of compulsory military service and the significant WILPF work in supporting conscientious objectors.

In addition to this centenary outreach work, and with the work of branches, WILPF has held stalls at national events like the Feminism in London Conference and stalls at various outdoor events across London.

UK WILPF also put on a national seminar and a joint seminar with Pax Christi.

All this has given rise to a significant increase in UK WILPF members. In spite of the deaths of a few long-standing members this year, we ended 2015 with 286 members, a 16% increase on the total in 2014.

In 2015, Cornwall became our newest branch and its membership has nearly doubled to nineteen by December. Brighton, our largest branch, has recruited five new members in 2015, and Scotland six new members. Our eight Norwich members have been re-grouping and we hope that they will want to become a branch again.

# **2015 Communications Annual Report**

## **Overview**

This was a busy and productive year for the Communications team. We updated the website with new content and additional functionality, including the ability to donate and join online; and promoted events through press releases and information in other organisations' newsletters. We also provided speakers for events, including the Feminism in London Conference in October; and produced several new campaign materials for use at events, actions and by Branches.

## **Social Media**

Stella Hermiston managed UK WILPF's newsletter, producing fantastic updates on actions across the UK with links to additional reading material, including a special edition newsletter all about WILPF's Centenary Congress and Conference in The Hague. Stella was our main photographer at events throughout the year, and she also managed the UK WILPF social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook and Flickr), substantially increasing the numbers of followers of each account. Twitter: @UKWILPF; Facebook: UKWILPF

Flickr is a fantastic online image library, and in the UK WILPF account, members have access to images taken at events throughout the year and across the UK. Images are organised into albums (generally, one album per event), and are free to access and use.

## **Website**

One of the most substantial communications resources we have is the UK WILPF website: <http://www.wilpf.org.uk/>

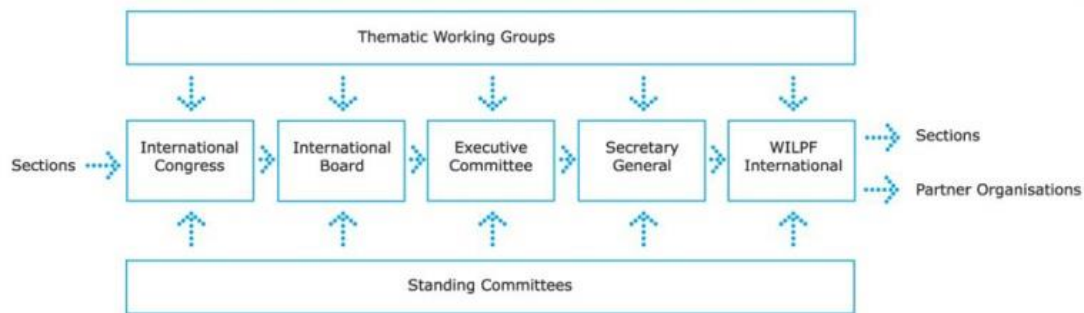
The HISTORY section of the website was organised by Katrina Gass, as part of her work on the International History Working Group. Stella took Katrina's notes and content and translated them into easily accessible sections for the website.

<http://www.wilpf.org.uk/history/>

The RESOURCES section is continually growing as we add material we think would be useful, interesting or relevant to UK WILPF members and their work. We are looking into making this section more easily explored by adding a search function to the page.

To reflect WILPF's collaborative nature of working, we have included a PARTNERS page on the website. If you have a contact or organisation to add, please do let us know.

Additionally, to clarify the somewhat complicated relationships between WILPF International, staff in Geneva and New York, WILPF's international programmes, and national Sections, the website now includes a WILPF INTERNATIONAL page that lists the members of the Executive Committee, thematic working groups and provides links to a variety of newsletters members can sign up for depending on their areas of campaigning interest.



Branches have an individual page listing meeting times and places and forthcoming events. These Branch website pages are under the GET INVOLVED navigation tab.

## Printed materials

There are a substantial number of documents available to members in the UK WILPF Dropbox account, and the communications team updated several of them in 2015. To access the Dropbox folders, please contact your Branch Representative who will pass the request on to the relevant Executive Committee member.

A short list of recently updated materials is below:

- UNSCR 1325 leaflet (double-sided A5) – in Dropbox here: *Communications >> Leaflets >> 1325 leaflets >> 1325 leaflet\_Aug 2015*
- Membership leaflet (four-page A5) – in Dropbox here: *Communications >> Leaflets >> Current membership leaflet and inserts >> Membership leaflet\_FINAL\_Aug 2015\_wo print marks*
- Press release template – in Dropbox here: *Communications >> Press and publicity >> Press releases >> WILPF press release template*
- Statements for various international days and events – in Dropbox here: *Communications >> Library of statements*

There are also four campaign postcards available for use. They can be posted out to members and cover UK WILPF's four main areas of work – Disarmament; Human Rights; Women, Peace and Security; and Environment and Militarism.

## Other news

Towards the end of 2015, Stella resigned from the Executive Committee and Communications Team. We thank Stella for her sterling work and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Lydia Meryll and Keely Khoury continue as the communications team members.

Lastly, contributions to the website are always welcome, with material for the resources, partners and blog sections particularly desirable. Please email Keely on [keelyk@commonknowledge.org.uk](mailto:keelyk@commonknowledge.org.uk) with content.

## **Report of International History Working Group**

In December 2013, a small group of WILPF women interested in the history of the organisation met online with a team of staff in Geneva office, led by hardworking Emma Burgisser, to prepare a commemoration of 100 years of WILPF history for the Centenary in 2015. [I was going to say 'celebration of herstory' but I guess WILPF cannot celebrate till we have world-wide peace].

I had no idea that it would be so difficult - we all came with different national perspectives, and various degrees of knowledge, on how the WILPF history should be portrayed. The Working Group contacted every section, inviting representatives from every corner of the world to join the group. But even deciding what time to meet was problematic – when it is lunchtime in UK, it is bed-time in Japan and before breakfast in USA. Two UK members joined the group, Katrina Gass and Helen Kay.

When we started to talk about the commemoration of 100 years of active campaigning in so many countries, you can imagine how easy it becomes for each person to want their favourite bit of WILPF history put into the global project! However, the task of resolving differences of opinion was made easier by the feelings of anticipation and excitement when speaking regularly with women living at the other side of the world - in Japan, in USA and in Europe. Sometimes, the internet connections were so bad that communication was difficult, or a crucial participant could not get online. But in the end, we achieved agreement and Emma took the ideas and had them translated into posters for display at the Centenary Conference.

The Working Group drew up a list of possible campaigns to commemorate but then we had to check out whether we had enough visual material to portray the story and how we could inspire sections to participate in the 'WILPF Herstory'.

Emma and the Geneva team put together the WILPF Timeline on the Women Stop War website as the background context for an understanding of 100 years of activity leading up to April 2015 and the Centenary. They asked Sections to contribute information to fill in the gaps.

The Working Group decided to focus their work of collecting and editing material on five subjects

### **1. 1915 Congress**

- a. Photo of the participants
- b. The photo of the Platform Party showed 13 women, each from a different country. The Section in each of the 13 countries was invited to write a short biography of 'their' woman to be added to the display.
- c. The 20 Resolutions from 1915 Congress, many of which remain relevant today, were displayed.
- d. A map of journeys undertaken by participants and the five envoys

## **2. Gallery of photos ‘Honouring our Foremothers’**

- a. WILPF UK collected photos and wrote up biographies of five women who had contributed to the work of WILPF UK:
  - i. Agatha Harrison 1885 – 1954
  - ii. Kathleen Lonsdale 1903 – 1971
  - iii. Catherine E. Marshall 1880 – 1962
  - iv. Ruth Osborn
  - v. Cornelia Weiss 1898 – 1986

## **3. World Disarmament Petition 1932**

- a. This displayed the six million signatures gathered by WILPF worldwide what was presented to the Disarmament Conference meeting in Geneva in 1932.

## **4. 1995 Peace Train from Helsinki to Beijing**

- a. WILPF UK contributed the beautifully embroidered banner from Thalia Campbell, made by women on the journey.
- b. Video of journey and Conference discussions, made by Robin Lloyd whose great grandmother had been at The Hague in 1915.

## **5. History of Nuclear Disarmament Campaigns**

- a. This project was bigger than we expected, with fewer photos than expected. Susie Snyder, former Secretary General of WILPF wrote an outline, bringing together information about campaigns from many countries.

When members of the International History Working Group arrived at the Conference Centre, we all rushed to look at the exhibition to see the results of our work and the many online deliberations. We agreed that the work had been worthwhile and hoped that the exhibition would be enjoyed by all those who attended the Centenary Conference.

Helen Kay  
25 January 2016

## **“THESE DANGEROUS WOMEN” BOOKLET OF BIOGRAPHIES**

In October 2014 a group of enthusiastic WILPF and non-WILPF volunteers assembled outside the London School of Economics, where the UK WILPF archives are held. Inside, Anna Towlson, the Archivist, had prepared an exhibition and introduced us to the skills of researching our history. Touching the actual documents made it all very real.



Katrina Gass took the lead for WILPF, and soon each of us had been allocated one of the women who had been granted a passport in 1915 to travel to The Hague.

The volunteers set to work, using our own WILPF archives and searching for other sources. Soon they had produced a set of fascinating stories, illustrating how women from different backgrounds had joined together in 1915 in a common cause.

Then there was the task of assembling and putting everything together ready for publication in a 62-page illustrated booklet, which was quite a sizeable amount of work.

This was only part of the project. Each volunteer who had researched a particular woman was then invited to take part in the film, playing the part of the woman she had researched, and dressing in period costume.

Hundreds of booklets were given away to the public at a number of venues where we had our travelling exhibition and were showing the film, and we had a very favourable response to it. Amongst other events, copies were taken to the Women's History Group Conference, and we were quickly out of supplies. One of the principal speakers quoted from it in her plenary address!

The booklet will be part of a school education pack, which is in course of preparation, and we have a grant extension for a second edition of the booklet, which is now being planned.

Copies of the booklet are available (free of charge except for postage) from the office while stocks last. You can also find a full copy on the website. Search under "These Dangerous Women", and choose the option "Home - Voice".

PAT PLEASANCE

## **Showings of the UKWILPF Film "These Dangerous Women" and the history exhibition 2015**

The work of the UK WILPF History Working Group who produced the booklet "These Dangerous Women", the pop-up exhibition banners and, in conjunction with Charlotte Bill of Clapham Film Unit, the film "These Dangerous Women", was financed by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to whom we would like to express our thanks.

### **London**

14 March preview of the film at the 2015 UK WILPF AGM

25 March UK launch of "These Dangerous Women" film and history exhibition

26 March "These Dangerous Women" film put on Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0a2xYvXwGiw>

## **The Hague**

27 – 29 April the film was shown on a continuous loop as part of the International History Exhibition at the WILPF Centenary Conference

## **Branches**

### **Brighton**

2 – 8 March Jubilee Library

14 April film showing at the Dorset Garden Methodist Church

16 – 30 September Friends Meeting House

22 – 29 December part of the exhibition at the Jubilee Library as part of Heritage Commission exhibition

### **Cornwall**

5 – 10 October exhibition in Marazion

13 – 16 October exhibition in Penzance Library

### **Orpington & Bromley**

11 – 18 April exhibition plus film at Bromley Museum

27 May – 3 June Bromley Central Library

14 November seminar

### **Scotland**

7 March International Women's day history photos exhibition

11 March International Women's Day talk and exhibition banners at the National Library of Scotland

18 May Scottish launch of film and exhibition with banners

4 – 23 September Out of the Blue Drill Hall, Edinburgh, exhibition with banners and film shown on Monday 14 September

30 October – Radical Book Fair showed the film

20 – 27 November Edinburgh University Chrystal Macmillan Building exhibition with banners. Film shown on Monday 23 November

### **Sheffield**

27 – 28 March Winter Gardens exhibition with banners



Exhibition at the Winter Gardens, Sheffield, March 2015

## At events and conferences

**Manchester Archives** 30 March exhibition with banners, film and talk

**Newcastle University** 20 April exhibition with banners, film and talk

**Peace Palace, The Hague** June 2015 Forward into Light: 2015 Bertha von Suttner Master Class with Helen Kay speaking about the Congress in 1915

**Women's History Conference** Canterbury 4 – 6 September film and exhibition with banners

**Pax Christi Conference** 26 September film and talk

**Manchester** Peace History Conference 10 October exhibition with banners and film

**UK CND** 17 – 18 October exhibition, film and talk

**Cardiff** One World Week 18 – 25 October exhibition with banners at two venues

**Tindelemanor** exhibition, film and talk

**Norwich** 24 October film and talk

**Harringay** CND film and talk

**Lewisham Stop The War and CND at New Cross** film and talk

**Hackney** Frampton Park Methodist Church 14 December film and talk

## In schools

**Edinburgh** St Thomas Aquinas High School

**Hackney** Urswick Secondary School

Bookings have already been received for 2016 for the film and exhibition. To book, contact UK WILPF office via email on [ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com](mailto:ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com). For bookings in Scotland, please contact [scottishwilpf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scottishwilpf@yahoo.co.uk).

## Clapham Film Unit Report

*Clapham Film Unit/WILPF UK documentary funded by Heritage Lottery Fund*

The film was broadcast on 28 April by the Community Channel and received 11,000 views. It was also shown at the Bertha Von Suttner building in The Hague, Netherlands, on 28 April to invited European historians.



'These Dangerous women' in Brussels at the end of January

In 2016, the film was shown at the Festival Elles Tournent Dames draaien in Brussels on 31 January 2016 in the strand Vive Feminisme. The filmmaker Charlotte Bill and WILPF member Helen Kay were invited to attend. The programme showed films made by women directors, all giving strong feminist messages. WILPF is very grateful to the organisers of the festival, all

volunteers, who put French and Dutch subtitles to the film and who are planning to add Spanish soon. This will allow it to be shown in many other countries and to be archived at The Peace Museum in The Hague.

Forthcoming in 2016, the film will be shown to students by History Professor Cait Beaumont at South Bank University, London, and Professor Lucy Bland at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.

It will also be shown as part of an exhibition at the Hackney museum in London in March 2016. This is a result of the work done by Paula Shaw and Sheila Triggs in raising the profile of WILPF through participation in the Well Street Common Annual Festival in Hackney for the second year in a row. People signed up to say that they were interested in seeing the film.



WILPF stall at Well Street common

The film has already been invited to be shown at the Gendering Peace Conference on 18 – 19 January 2017 with a Q & A with the director and Helen Kay. And on YouTube, the film has had 3250 viewings in 55 countries.

Charlotte Bill, Clapham Film Unit



## **WILPF report from the Network of Eritrean Women (NEW)**

The Network of Eritrean Women (NEW) is a global Eritrean diaspora women's movement that has affiliated membership with WILPF.

The members of NEW are active within the WILPF Voices of African Women (VoAW) project. In April, representatives of NEW participated in WILPF's Centenary Conference in The Hague from 27-29 April 2015. NEW was given an opportunity to participate in a panel discussion titled Responding to Violence Against Women and Strengthening Access to Justice in Conflict and Transitional Contexts. Our presentation focussed on raising awareness of the present situation of Eritrean women inside Eritrea and in the

refugee camps of the Sudan and Ethiopia. In addition, it allowed us to highlight the socio-political and economic situations that have put Eritrean women in vulnerable situations prone to trafficking, and all forms of violence including rape and death.

The Centenary was also a great opportunity to meet many inspirational women as well as enabled members of NEW to create links with other sister organisations. Many of the attendants of the session were keen to learn more about the situation of Eritrean women; however, the allotted time was not enough to answer all the questions that were being posed.

The Network of Eritrean Women was also invited to a seminar organised by WILPF and hosted by Baroness Jenny Jones of Moulsecoomb at the House of Commons on 9 June 2015. The presentations highlighted the plight of Eritrean women inside Eritrea and in the refugee camps outside. The young Eritrean girls experience abuse and violence, including rape, from the moment they join the indefinite military service. Their assignments are always gender biased and they are sent to serve ranking officers. There they are physically abused and raped. Many deliberately get pregnant to evade this and become mothers way before they are psychologically and financially ready. In their desperation to provide for their children, many work in menial jobs as housemaids, hawkers and prostitutes. Women in Eritrea live with continuous stress as they line up every day for food supplies, including rationed bread, sugar, gas, kerosene, coupons and water. At the end of the day, many return empty handed as supplies are limited. Most women look after their family single handedly as their children and husbands (16-60 years old) are in the indefinite military service. It is obvious that the stress and frustration of the men finds expression and manifestation in violence against women both at home and in refugee centres.

At the meeting in Parliament, it was stressed that the lack of the rule of law is the main reason for the exodus of Eritreans. This includes forced conscription, political repression, forced labour and arbitrary detention. Eritreans go through horrifying situations in their journey in search of safe haven. They are sold like commodities, beaten, raped, killed and even beheaded by ISIS.

The presentation concluded with a heart wrenching poem read by Dr Ribka Sibhatu, a NEW member from Italy, that captures the tragedy of the Eritrean nation and the agony of the Eritrean people. She recited it in memory of the October 2013 Lampedusa victims.



## **Voice of African Women (VoAW) Campaign**

### **VoAW at WILPF Centenary Congress and Conference**

Marie Lyse Numuhoza, Khedija Ali, Dahabo Ahmed and Marie-Claire Faray attended the WILPF Centenary Conference at The Hague, April 2015. Khedija spoke in a workshop, and Marie Lyse and Marie-Claire were UK WILPF Congress delegates where they networked with other WILPF Sections. They lobbied the International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor about war crimes in the DR Congo.

WILPF Congress passed a resolution on Sudan originally drafted by Mama Khadija Hussein and submitted by the UK WILPF Section.

### **VoAW Actions**

- WILPF and UNA held a meeting in Parliament for Network of Eritrean Women. Khedijah Ali and Helen Kidan spoke about violations of women's rights in Eritrea.
- Marie Lyse Numuhoza spoke at the WILPF/Pax Christi Seminar as a Woman Peacemaker.
- Helen Kidan attended an International WILPF meeting in New York for the anniversary of UNSCR 1325.
- VoAW wrote to the new Director of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the African Union.
- Sahar Mediha Al-Naas spoke in Parliament about women in Libya at the GAPS meeting with the APPG on Women Peace and Security.
- VoAW is taking on a new volunteer assistant Tekie Quale who will help plan for our Train the Trainers event on Violence Against Women.

### **VoAW Meetings and work**

Our work for women in Sudan, Darfur, Somalia, Rwanda, Eritrea, DR Congo, Chad has continued throughout the year.



VoAW Meeting with some London WILPF members

## Annual Accounts –

### UK SECTION WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

#### MAIN ACCOUNT

£		£
2014	INCOME	2015
4552.40	Membership subscriptions	4732.00
1661.05	Donations - general	2428.08
2250.00	Grants	3100.00
	Funds raised for Congress/Conference 2015	1205.32
405.10	Meetings and seminars	246.00
455.21	Sales T-shirts	827.10
1196.55	Sales other items (bags cards diaries poppies leaflets badges etc.)	752.63
6.16	Current Account Interest: Main Account	2.72
30.04	Deposit Account Interest: Triodos	32.50
10556.51	TOTALS	13326.35

#### EXPENDITURE

297.00	Donations and Affiliations	410.00
361.55	UK Travel	324.70
1057.04	UK Meetings and Seminars	2015.02
1014.82	Postage, Stationery and Printing	1905.19
2090.14	Campaigns	1202.49
341.57	Website, internet and phone	329.20
319.95	International Travel - Conference (2014)	
426.52	International Travel - Conference and Congress (2015)	3705.60
3565.81	Geneva Payments - Section fees	3720.94
142.79	WILPF Europe fees	
470.40	Purchase of T-shirts	595.20
982.88	Purchase of other items for sale	183.28
1300.00	Sudanese Mothers for Peace - Khartoum Conference	
50.00	Stalls at events	65.00
65.00	Sundry expenses	50.00
	Members' donations to WILPF Trust	310.00
	CND reception sponsorship	100.00
	Transporting exhibition banners	178.02
	Banner insurance from Maypole grant transferred to Office Ac	160.00
4.82	Paypal fees	18.48
12490.29	TOTALS	15273.12

#### EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE/ (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)

-1933.78		-1946.77
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**OFFICE ACCOUNT**

£		£
2014	INCOME	2015
1877.07	Individual donations	176.00
1698.00	Standing Orders/Regular donations	1809.00
1396.67	Clapham Film Unit contribution to office running costs	2220.00
	Autumn seminar office expenditure (from grant)	100.00
	Insurance refund & transfer from Maypole grant	213.00
0.44	Interest	1.31
4972.18	<b>TOTALS</b>	4519.31
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
3352.00	Licence fee (i.e. "rent")	2514.00
207.69	Computer, repairs and supplies	
185.99	Phone	194.49
445.20	Insurance (including exhibition banners)	729.00
196.90	Volunteer Expenses	11.70
21.42	Electrical check	
4409.20	<b>TOTALS</b>	3449.19
562.98	<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE/ (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)</b>	1070.12

**UK SECTION**  
**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015**

£		£
2014		2015
	<b>ASSETS</b>	
	<b>CURRENT ACCOUNTS</b>	
3410.73	Co-operative Bank Main Account	3191.64
366.00	Less uncleared cheques	30.00
3044.73		3161.64
2245.36	Co-operative Bank Office Account	3315.48
96.18	Paypal Account (in 2015 transferred to Main Account)	
	<b>RESERVE ACCOUNT</b>	
7373.39	Triodos Bank	5405.89
12759.66	<b>TOTALS</b>	11883.01
	<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>	
14130.46	Surplus b/fwd 1 January	12759.66
-1933.78	Main Account Excess of Income/(excess of expenditure)	-1946.77
562.98	Office Account Excess of Income/(excess of expenditure)	1070.12
12759.66		11883.01

## NOTES:

GRANTS: We gratefully acknowledge grants received from:

Lush Charity Pot (£1380) for registration fees for delegates to Congress and Conference.

WILPF Trust (£1000) to support the UK delegation to Congress and Conference

Maypole Trust (£720) for Voices of African Women "Train the Trainers" to take place in 2016

W.F. Southall Trust, via WILPF Trust (£990) for our autumn seminar 2015, (which will be shown in the 2016 accounts).

Also our thanks for the many individual generous donations from members in 2015, all of which helped to make this a very special centenary year.

## WILPF OFFICE

Clapham Film Unit paid £2220 in 2015 towards the office costs out of the Heritage Lottery Grant for "These Dangerous Women" but this has now expired.

Only 3 quarters' rent was paid in 2015, as one invoice was received in 2016, so 5 quarters will be paid in 2016. The 2015 surplus is overstated by £838.00.

## WITHDRAWAL FROM RESERVES

£2000 was withdrawn from reserves this centenary year, when we incurred extra costs but also, as a result of our higher profile, increased our membership.



Anne Scott, Marie-Claire Faray, Marie Lyse, Heidi Meinzhol  
@TheHague April2015



President Kozue + UKPeace train banner WILPF @TheHague  
April2015

## **Branch Annual Reports**

### **Brighton Hove and District Branch**

This year has been another busy time for us, as it has for most peace people with the on-going wars, centenary celebrations and exhibitions. We started the year with our fundraising party with a speaker from CAAT who was very good - she knew quite a lot about WILPF, had some good clips to watch and was inventive in her presentation. Her message was of course very strong and undeniable - stop the arms trade and the wars will at least slow up and enable time for new ways to proceed towards peace. The shameful trade in weapons was of course highlighted when the trade fair was in London and many people were involved in demonstrations against it.

For the week including International Women's Day, we had an exhibition in the central library based on the work done by Katrina Gass, [Thank you so much for all of the work you did Katrina], and had information of some local peace women from the turn of the last century. We had a new banner to display along with our original one and a section on current local WILPF activities. We were extremely busy throughout the week. Executive member Sheila Triggs and Pat Pleasance, who was assisting the treasurer, came to the opening as did the local mayor.

During the week of display, over 100 people asked to have the whole script emailed to them and several came along to a meeting we organised to introduce WILPF a bit more and show the film "These Dangerous Women". Once again Sheila came, this time to talk about WILPF and we were lucky enough to have Charlotte, the director of the film, to talk about it and answer questions. Many of us branch women had written our peace histories and they had been put together in a book - we still have some copies if anyone would like one - please contact me. We gained a few members and some others who remain in contact and came along to the Hiroshima event in August and other events we organised during the year.

At our local AGM, we had one of our members talking about women's roles in feasts and festivals in Victorian Sussex. That was very kind of her as we had been so busy with the exhibition and follow-up meeting that we didn't have time to sort out a speaker from outside.

During May, we had a stall at a Brighton and Hove Palestine Solidarity Campaign event and many people were interested in what we do and why we do it, so the day was long but useful and we enjoyed the entertainment.

On the International Day for Child victims of war, 4 June, we had a stall and vigil at the clock tower in central Brighton with a banner declaring what the international day was.



We were facing up the hill to the station so were very visible. We placed some flowers and a small child's clothing on a cloth on the ground, which was very effective and caught peoples' attention and several stopped to talk to us.

Our garden party at member Baroness Joyce Gould's home was a success [despite the cold rain] with a speaker from War on Want talking about TTIP. He gave a brilliant and concise explanation of what effect it will have and he knew so much about the topic that we were able to ask many questions to get a clear understanding of the issues. We have been trying to attend meetings on this topic in the town to keep ourselves informed with how it is proceeding in order to use in our letters to MPs.

On Hiroshima Day, we were together to mark the 70th anniversary. By coincidence, 70 people were present to walk silently around the lake and listen to a few speakers. We shared two minutes of silence around the candle-lit Peace Tree planted 30 years ago and remembered all people killed or harmed by nuclear bombs or their development.

The exhibition that we had previously shown in the public library was on display at the Friends Meeting House in Brighton for two weeks in September and brought forth new members and interest. We were present for a very quiet Saturday afternoon but it seems that the regular Quakers and the diverse groups that use the premises were drawn to look at the exhibition.



This year for the first time we placed a White Peace Poppy wreath at the War memorial in the town centre. We did this in the afternoon as we didn't want to clash with the official one and be caught up in their traditional ways but rather to develop our own way of doing it. It was a success with about 20 people attending, some members, friends from like-minded groups,

passers-by and some people who had seen the leaflets we had put out. The wreath remained in place, tied to the railings beside the red poppy wreaths, until 11 November.

At our Branch meetings we continue our current affairs discussions, for example about Syria and how we reply to supporters of bombing, and another meeting focused on how we can support the refugees of Calais. This led to our having a speaker who works with refugees at the fundraising lunch in the new year.

Part of our exhibition was again at the library as the Brighton and Hove Heritage Commission asked if it could be included in their exhibition about WW1. They will

display it until 2018 in various venues including the library.

We had a stall at the Labour Party Conference where many women chatted and took leaflets and bought merchandise at the start of the day. Later in the day however, the position that had been allocated to us was little visited during the lunch break but was good for the stall minders to hear what was going on.

Now we have come full circle back to our 2016 New Year fundraising lunch at which we had two speakers talking about the appalling situation of the refugees in Calais. We raised funds to make a contribution to one of the charities trying to help the increasing number of people escaping the horrors of wars and living in tents in rain, mud and chilly winds.

We were sad to learn of the death of George Farebrother, who had worked hard for peace for many years, and on the illegality of nuclear weapons and been a great supporter of WILPF. Some of our members were able to go to his funeral in Eastbourne, and they represented those of us unable to attend. Jean, his widow, has sometimes attended our events and continues to do so.

Jenny Engledow  
Branch Secretary

## Cornwall Branch

Our Branch's active year started with some of us participating in a flash mob dance in Penzance, in February, as part of the global movement 'One Billion Rising', highlighting domestic violence against women. Other members distributed flyers and asked men to distribute information about the 'White Ribbon' campaign.

Before 13 April, we wrote letters to political candidates concerning their standpoint on Trident and asking them to take part in our action on 13 April. We distributed flyers and information about the planned action beforehand in Penzance on a busy Saturday and again during the action.

We invited members of the public to a demonstration to 'link arms against the arms race' outside Lloyds Bank in Penzance on 13 April in solidarity with the blockade at Faslane on the Global Day of Action Against Military Spending. We had a good turnout of approximately 45 people, plus some local candidates for the pending General Election (Green, Liberal Democrat and Labour).



Global day of action against military spending

Members, together with other peace campaigners including Quakers, joined a Global Wave in Penzance on 27 April saying goodbye to nuclear weapons.

Brigitte travelled to The Hague (the branch paid for her entrance fees) for the Centenary Congress and Conference and came back impressed and inspired, full of enthusiasm and even more convinced than before that WILPF is the perfect organisation for her and every woman in our branch.

We organised an Anti-Austerity Demo on Saturday 20 June in Penzance (coinciding with the National Anti-Austerity Rally in London). Amazing Leftie Women, The Cornwall Anti Cuts Alliance, Cornwall Against the Tories and Unite were all represented at the protest. It was a great turnout and the local press coverage in The Cornishman was very satisfying.



Protesting against Austerity

For fundraising purposes, we collected unwanted items from members and went twice to car

boot sales, which was fun and brought some money into our kitty.

We had a well-timed feature article (one week before our centenary celebration) about our Branch and WILPF's Centenary in our local Newspaper (half a page!).

On 5 October we held a Centenary Celebration at the Quaker Meeting House in Marazion. This was well-attended, in fact packed to capacity, and included the opening of the "These Dangerous Women" exhibition which was on display for a week before moving to the Morrab Library in Penzance where it was viewed by many people.

On the evening of 5 October, Brigitte read the poem 'A Hundred Years for Peace and Freedom' by Carmen Magallon Portoles, President WILPF Spain. We showed the film "These Dangerous Women", appreciated an inspiring talk given by Sahar Al-Naas on the plight of Libyan women, sang 'Songs for Peace' with Pip Wright and her choir, were impressed and moved by anti-war poems from poet Vivienne Tregenza, had refreshments of course... all in support of raising funds for our local branch of WILPF and spreading our message of freedom, hope, equality and non-violence.

The previous evening members had the opportunity to meet Sahar informally. Everybody enjoyed a lively and thought-provoking discussion, over a delicious meal.

In October, on five consecutive weeks, we showed the films, 'Women War and Peace' that covered Liberia, Bosnia, Columbia, Afghanistan and War Redefined. This was an important experience as we learned that people other than those who would normally join our actions came and got involved in quite controversial and lively discussions. We have decided to repeat this in autumn 2016. It also boosted our finances in the form of donations from the people who attended.

Throughout the year we planned our final action for 2015. The first ever Penzance Reclaim the Night Walk. We chose the term "walk" in preference to the usual "march" as we wanted something conspicuously less martial and military- sounding. Although initiated by us, it was organised together with different women's groups throughout Cornwall, including West Cornwall Women's Aid – WCWA; Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre – WRSAC; Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre – CRSAC; and Survivors Empowering Educating Domestic Abuse Services – SEEDS.

On a damp and windy evening, we assembled with lanterns, candles, banners and whistles, still unsure how many women would turn out, especially given the soggy weather. We had organised a Guiser and a samba band to lead the Walk and make loads of noise to announce our arrival and presence in the town. Approximately 80 women and a few male supporters danced through the streets to the samba band, chanted and sang songs. We stopped at the Arcade steps (where a woman had been previously assaulted by five men) for a candlelit vigil, listened to speeches, and sang a poignant song of solidarity (Remember Me). We then resumed our Walk, finishing with a Spiral Dance, and celebrations with food and drink at a very supportive establishment called The Mill. It was a great turnout and we had a whole page about the event in our local newspaper.

We always care very much about being visible and flyers and press coverage (before and after actions) have been really effective.

For next year we are planning many different events and are delighted that our number of members keeps rising. With our meetings moving to the Redwing Gallery in central Penzance in February 2016, we are hoping that they will be even more accessible to a wide range of women.

Our initial outreach has been very successful. We have made connections with different women's groups, peace and political action groups such as Stop the War Coalition and others, including Falmouth University, the local Quakers and the White Ribbon Campaign. We see this as an essential part of our work in spreading WILPF's message of Peace and Freedom and intend to pursue this during next year's activities.

For Cornwall Branch: Brigitte Morrigan, Keri, and Vivienne



## Leicester Branch

After a period of concerted fundraising, in the late Mary Alys's name, to support travel costs to assist WILPF Sections in need to attend the Centennial Congress and Conference in The Hague, six from Leicester, four members and two 'friends' of the Branch, settled to prepare their own attendance at the long awaited events.

Just prior to the Congress, Lorraine Mirham visited WILPF Albania and made links in the hope of hosting a cultural visit to Leicester in the future. In The Hague, she had international duties as Vice President and co-convenor of the Environment Working group plus tasks relating to WILPF personnel matters which tied her up for the whole of Congress. At the Conference, having finished her role as VP, she chaired two events, the Militarism and Environment seminar and a mock UN peace negotiation developed by young women from The Netherlands, which brought out the excellent role playing abilities of a wide range of Conference participants.

During the Conference, a letter was drafted calling for the cessation of the transfer of arms to Yemen and all military actions by all actors inside and outside the country. It also called for the initiation of an inclusive peace negotiation. Leicester members Caroline Freeman and Clare Walker took the letter to the British Embassy.



Lisa Stone's and Mary Alys's son, Michael, joined us in The Hague to assist a band of young musicians who provided excellent entertainment during the Conference. The band, led by Asha Parkinson, a sax player and WILPF member from Kent, were helped with a grant from the Mary Alys Trust after Branch members saw Asha in Leicester perform a poignant piece about Syrian children.



We continue to meet regularly. Leicester is a small city and as such, members join other activists in a range of protests and events locally and aligned with WILPF's concerns. In 2015, we participated in the Climate Justice March, demonstrations and vigils against the bombing of Syria, anti-nuclear actions and awareness raising events including on climate injustice, asylum seekers and FGM. Members also use their paid and voluntary work to promote WILPF's principles and these include the fields of domestic violence, trade unions, religious groups and community, health, and education statutory and charitable organisations.



An area that we hope to work in this year is around opposition of the militarisation of young people including recruiting children to UK armed forces. In collaboration with Forces Watch, we are keen to develop a peer support project for parents facing the reality of a son or daughter who wishes to or has joined up. One of our members was able to reach out to a parent during the year in this way. It is a very delicate area requiring trust and confidence together with targeted advocacy and highlighting of the issues.

Thankfully, the Zinthiya Trust in Leicester continues to host the WILPF (UK Charitable) Trust and one of our members assists with that work.

## **London Branch**

We started the year with several members attending WILPF's Centenary Congress and Conference in The Hague. They included Cynthia Cockburn, Andree Duguy, Jane Grant, Keely Koury, Khedijah Ali, Dahabo Ahmed and Martha Jean Baker.

In the spring, most of our energy in April and May was spent organising a meeting in the House of Commons for the Network of Eritrean Women (NEW). The meeting was hosted by Baroness Jenny Jones of the Green Party and centred on discussion around the reasons for the mass exodus of people leaving Eritrea, with a focus on the situation of women and children in Eritrea.

Fundraising discussions were held in September with a group Somali women about trying to help keep their local groups going in different London boroughs.

We also went through the process of changing bank details to enable Catherine Pluygers to take on the role of treasurer of London Wilpf.

Alex Murrell  
January 2016

## **Orpington Branch**

Orpington branch has had a busy centenary year.

### **Events**

On 8 March 2015, International Women's Day, new member Asha Parkinson, and her jazz group gave us *Jazzy Vibes*, a very successful and enjoyable fundraising event where we also introduced our centenary to the public.

In April, eight members, one third of our branch, went to The Hague for WILPF's Centenary Conference and Congress. This included Asha playing music with her

friends to entertain Conference attendees, and the branch supporting Stella Hermison as a Congress delegate.

July brought our successful annual Garden Party. In addition to being a fundraiser, we book speakers, and this year WILPF member Marie Lyse Numuhoza told her personal story, *Genocide Survivor to Peace Activist*. It was very moving and well received.



Orpington Garden Party

Orpington was chosen as the venue for UK WILPF's national annual seminar, *Climate Change, Environment and Militarism*. This involved a lot of work for a small group of active branch members who promoted the event to local organisations and among our

national members. Some members made, donated and served high quality refreshments, which helped offset the cost of the event, and they also provided home stay for three of our speakers who had travelled considerable distances.

## Meetings

We continue to hold monthly branch meetings for nine months of the year. Financial considerations caused the branch to change venue twice in 2015, but we now meet in Orpington Library, which is convenient for transport.

This year we have drawn on the expertise of several WILPF speakers. In January, Ann Kramer talked about her book on conscientious objectors of the First World War. Lydia Massimango told us about her charitable work with women in the Eastern Congo, and Ellen Judd from Canada, whom we met at the Hague, gave us a fascinating talk about the changes she has seen in China over thirty years of research. In November, Deirdre Leask introduced the Branch to the subject of Restorative Justice.

## Activities

A joint street stall was held with Orpington CND before the parliamentary election, and we balloted the public's views about the replacement of Trident Nuclear Weapons.

In August we took the opportunity of a free stall at Lower Road Allotments open day. This turned out to be a very wet day, but we still raised some funds and gave the Lady Mayor a "Dangerous Women" booklet!

Orpington Branch had a stall and spoke at the Bromley Peace Council Annual Event on Peace Day, 21 September.

The proximity of Orpington to London enables some of our members to get to and contribute to national events such as running a stall at the WILPF joint seminar with Pax Christi in September.

As a result of Branch discussions, we wrote a letter to David Cameron, Theresa May and Michael Fallon about the situation in the Middle East and the refugee crisis, and individuals wrote to their MPs about bombing Syria.

## **Centenary Exhibition**

We were very pleased to be given free space in April for two weeks at the Bromley Museum in Orpington for the exhibition. We then discovered how few people visit the Museum. So in May we paid for space in the Bromley Central Library for a week. We were able to have a rota of members sit with the exhibition, interact with the public, and give away “These Dangerous Women” booklets throughout the time it was on display in both locations.



History Exhibition in Orpington

## **Scottish Branch**

The Scottish Branch has had a very busy Centenary Year. We continue to meet the second Monday of the month. The core/working group meetings take place at the Engender Office, 1A Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AE. Many thanks to Engender for their continued support. We held these meetings in January, February, March, May, August and November. In the other months, we organised events or participated in events as invited speakers.

## **Events**

### **History**

In March at the National Library of Scotland (see page 13); Scottish May Augustine Centre Edinburgh (see page 14); and November at the University of Edinburgh (see page 11) the work of the UK WILPF History Working Group was highlighted and included the UK WILPF exhibition and showing the film “These Dangerous Women”.

## **International Women’s Day**

Penny Stone organised an early 100th birthday celebration for WILPF with 100 women’s songs for 100 years. This Singathon raised money for several good causes, one being

to contribute to the costs of the Network of Eritrean Women going to The Hague.

## Nuclear Disarmament

On 4 April 4 Bairsns not Bombs, a Scrap Trident Rally, was held in George Square, Glasgow. WILPF members acted as stewards, and Penny Stone, who finished the rally



Hiroshima Day

with a song, had the honour of sharing the stage with Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, a prominent anti-Trident campaigner. On 9 April, with Engender, we held the Scottish Women Can Disarm the UK Government event and had Angie Zelter as the keynote speaker.

On 13 April, the Global Day of Action Against Military Spending, some members rose at a very early hour and went to take part in the Blockade of Faslane Naval Base.

Hiroshima Day Commemoration was held with Members of the Scottish Parliament at noon in a vigil outside the Scottish Parliament. Janet Fenton gave one of the readings. Later on in the day, we joined Edinburgh CND to organise a vigil at the Mound.

On International Peace Day in September, we provided speakers (Mia Gandenberger from Reaching Critical Will and WILPF member Claire Duncanson of Edinburgh University) for the Scottish Parliament event Towards a Global Nuclear Weapons–Ban. That event was sponsored by Bill Kidd MSP. Our WILPF speakers spoke alongside Alexander Kmentt, the Austrian Ambassador who was instrumental in organising the Humanitarian Pledge against Nuclear Weapons, and Rebecca Sharkey from ICAN.



Mia Gandenberger reaching Critical Will, Scottish Parliament

Scrap Trident Coalition Skill share Days were held in October in Glasgow and early November in Edinburgh. At those Days, members took part as workshop facilitators. The aim of the Days is to attract campaigners from other areas to improve their anti-nuclear campaigning skills. Both events were well attended and positive feedback was given.



Two members, Anne Scott and Helen Kay, were delegates to the WILPF Centenary Congress and were joined by others to attend the Conference. Megan Bastick and Claire Duncanson spoke at Conference events and Penny Stone sang at the Moving the Money Manifestation.

At the Edinburgh World Justice Festival, we held a joint event with Amnesty called Women Surviving Violence in Conflict Zones.

As part of a series of Edinburgh University events to celebrate the WILPF Centenary and Chrystal Macmillan, we took part in a charity knitting event making blankets for refugee camps. This was connected to the Wool Against Weapons Exhibition and involved university staff and student knit societies inviting people to join them to sit and knit for charity. Women came along to knit, crochet and meet other crafters and view the exhibitions. All contributions that were made went to refugee camps in Calais. In the evening, Madeleine Rees attended a formal Principal's Dinner. On 25 November, Madeleine was presented with an honorary doctorate by Edinburgh University.

A screening of film "The Whistleblower" took place on 25 November. Leshu Torchin, of St Andrews University, hosted a Q&A with Madeleine after the screening. Leshu's research interests include Film and Human Rights Advocacy.

Also as part of Madeleine's visit to Edinburgh, the university held a panel and roundtable on Human Rights, Women, Peace and Security. Session one covered research agendas and was presented by University staff. Session two was a roundtable discussing contemporary challenges, and the participants included Madeleine Rees (WILPF), Megan Bastick (Democratic Control of Armed Forces and WILPF), Anne Scott (WILPF Scotland) and Claire Duncanson (University of Edinburgh and WILPF). Over 50 staff and students attended.

Madeleine also gave the Chrystal Macmillan Lecture, and on a wet, windy and generally unpleasant night, one of the largest lecture theatres in the University was full. Her lecture is available for viewing online here:

[http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/about/chrystal\\_macmillan/chrystal\\_macmillan\\_lectures/2015/myths\\_and\\_realities\\_what\\_is\\_the\\_women,\\_peace\\_and\\_security\\_agenda](http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/about/chrystal_macmillan/chrystal_macmillan_lectures/2015/myths_and_realities_what_is_the_women,_peace_and_security_agenda)

The evening and Madeleine's visit ended with Edinburgh University taking the speakers from the roundtable and other invited guests out for a meal with Madeleine. We



Workshop Edinburgh University

would like to thank the team at Edinburgh University for organising the week, particularly Professor Fiona Mackay, Claire Duncanson, Helene Fossling Mattsson, the events officer and her team.

In early December, we took part in vigils to stop the bombing of Syria. Throughout the year, we lobbied MPs and MSPs on all relevant issues. We are in an unusual situation in Scotland where 57 of our 59 MPs are anti-Trident and voted against the bombing of Syria.

In early 2016, we will be building towards the UK CND national London demonstration on 27 February and will continue to campaign against the bombing in Syria.

Anne Scott

## Sheffield Branch

This has been a busy year with ups and downs. We had a well-attended meeting in January when two of our members spoke - Chrissie Hinde gave an update on the work of Double Joy, the school in Kenya for HIV orphans; and Rinella Cere led a discussion on the refugee and migrant crisis, which was then just beginning to develop.

Our AGM in February agreed to forward a resolution to the UK AGM to amend the Section's constitution to require every branch to hold an AGM to ensure accountability. Ros Brunt retired as our Executive Committee Representative and was replaced by Rosie Horsley.

In March, we showed the centenary exhibition for two days in the Winter Gardens, with two people in two-hour shifts covering the days. Being in a prominent position, it attracted many passers by.



Exhibition at the Winter Gardens, Sheffield

In May, Ros Brunt and Rosalie Huzzard reported on their visit to The Hague to the Congress (Ros) and Conference (Rosalie).

After a summer break, in September we held our annual Garden Party in Faith Rodger's and Margaret Lawson's garden. Rosie Horsley

read and Lucy Huzzard played her melodeon for us.

Later in the month, our first meeting of the autumn heard Louise Haigh, newly elected Labour MP for Sheffield Heeley and a WILPF supporter, speak on "Being a Feminist MP" and Afrah Alkhelli, one of our new members, told us about the conflict in her country, the Yemen.



In October, we showed the centenary film “These Dangerous Women”. In November, we ran our usual stall at the Sheffield Peace and Craft Fair where we gave out information and sold crafts to help our much needed funds. Finance is always a concern as our room hire costs and rail fares for the Executive Committee Representative continue to increase.



Sheffield Annual Garden Party

At our branch meeting later in the month, long-standing member Nicki Speakman reported on her visit to Vietnam with a fair trade group. We finished our year with a Christmas meal in December at a community restaurant in the city centre.

We have made some very welcome new members in 2015, although we have also lost some and the long-term future of the Branch continues to be uncertain. However, we will carry on promoting WILPF as much as we can here in Sheffield and South Yorkshire.

Rosalie Huzzard



## **WILPF TRUST REPORT**

The Trust benefitted this year from donated membership to **Just Giving**, which raised £18 each month. **Just Giving** enables easy fundraising for anybody or any project, however large or small. For example, a trustee asked for donations through Just Giving for her birthday presents and raised a considerable sum. We also benefitted from the wisdom of our newly trained treasurer, Monika Beutel, who attended a course in charitable finance and book keeping.

Our income remains low and is maintained by the bedrock of **Give As You Live**, which is a method of earning internet shopping donations. It is possible to shop ethically on the internet. Ethical, taxpaying businesses are usually signed up with GAYL. We were delighted that Sheila Triggs' fundraising application to the Southall Trust for the WILPF Autumn Seminar was successful and that the Trust was able to fulfil its role as a conduit for funds. Please keep using us for this! If donations or legacies are channelled through the Trust, there can be enormous Gift Aid or tax benefits. **Gift Aid adds 25% to your donation** if you are a taxpayer and only involves completing a simple form or ticking a

box online. The Trust can always ensure that donations and **Gift Aid** are earmarked for use as the donor requests.

The Trust was able to make small grants on three occasions in 2015 - £1,000 to WILPF UK for participation in the Centenary Conference at The Hague; £1,260 to the struggling Israeli WILPF Section to enable attendance at The Hague and £200 towards a Haldane Society Conference, 'Women Fighting Back: International and Legal Perspectives', focussing on more effective use of Human Rights legislation to reduce violence against women.

Trustees would like to thank WILPF UK for ongoing efforts to 'make the most of us', in what is often, and possibly has to be, for Charity Commission compliance, an uncomfortable relationship. Please keep buying flowers from **Charity Flowers**, fundraising through **Just Giving** and shopping using **Give As You Live**. Please donate using us a conduit and claim your Gift Aid!

We can offer help or advice with any of these fundraising tools. Contact us at [wilpftrust@gmail.com](mailto:wilpftrust@gmail.com)

Deirdre Leask  
WILPF Trust Secretary  
January 2016



Hon women WILPF @TheHague April2015

## **Obituaries**

### **Astra Blaug**

1927 – 2015

I remember exactly my first meeting with Astra, although exactly when it was I couldn't say. We were both volunteering at the Feminist Library sometime in the early 1970s, and she promptly recruited me to the Older Feminist Network. Astra was full of energy and creativity. She was a dedicated crusader for feminism, expressed through the OFN and the Greenham Common Peace Camp. She wrote and published poetry – some of which was read at her funeral on 16 May 2015. She was also a brilliant and sensitive photographer. Her life was full and useful. She is much missed.

Josephine Negro

### **Lois Evans**

1925 – 2015

Lois was born in Bolton, Lancashire. Her family were Quakers, and her father had been imprisoned as a conscientious objector during the First World War. His experiences gave him the opportunity to meet a number of well-known pacifists, and after the war the family was involved in peace campaigning. Even from very early childhood, Lois remembered talking to other children about disarmament. This background often made her feel different from other people, but it also gave her some very good friends.

After completing her University education at the Royal Holloway College, she became a teacher and moved to Liverpool where her husband was a senior lecturer at Liverpool University. Continuing her earlier campaigning activities, she was involved with a number of organisations in Merseyside working for peace and human rights, and eventually Ethel Dransfield persuaded her to join the Liverpool branch of WILPF.

As well as attending WILPF executive meetings, she used to enjoy meeting other members from all over the country in the WILPF annual residential weekends. Eventually, she became an International Vice-President, and during this time she was able to pursue her special interest in peace education. With a United Nations group in Geneva, she organised a children's competition on the topic "A World Without War" in which children gave their own thoughts on what such a world would be like. One entry by a disabled boy was on display for a time in the UN headquarters in New York. Locally, she organised sixth form conferences on UN topics, as well as supported a peace umbrella group for like-minded organisations. There was a Liverpool "Ban the Bomb" group long before CND!

Lois dedicated her whole life from earliest childhood to working for peace and spreading this message wherever she could through peace education.

Pat Pleasance

## **George Farebrother**

1937 – 2015

George had been someone whose peace work filled a very large part of his life, campaigning endlessly on The World Court Project, working to abolish nuclear weapons through the law because they violate our human values, and travelling around the south east collecting signatures and promoting peace wherever he went. He would organise transport to demonstrations that could involve very complicated arrangements, he took part in organising events in the Sussex area where he lived with his wife Jean, and he printed leaflets that were often designed by him even while he was having dialysis - he didn't want to waste any time! Both George and Jean came along to demonstrations in Brighton and to support our WILPF branch, and Jean continues to come when we are having speakers at fundraising events. He kept the Sussex Peace Alliance together for many years and to a lot of people and peace groups, his help and support has meant continuity and sound thinking. His contribution has been so much over the years and his dedication to peace unsurpassed.

Jenny Engledow

## **Sheila Ward**

Died 2015

In the early 1980s, after a series of lectures on Mary the mother of God, Sheila formed a small group to celebrate the stages of women's lives, from birth, menarche, marriage, childbirth, menopause and death. At the end of the sessions, there was a strong sense of unity amongst the women and pride in the important contribution they give to society, often with little recognition.

Sheila became a member of WILPF in the late 1980s and although she was not an active member, her support for the organisation was strong. She believed in women's strength and her main purpose was to encourage women of all ages, and especially those in the second half of life, to develop old and new skills to improve the quality of life.

Sheila and her husband bought a lovely country house in Ellsmere where they established The Grange as a retreat centre for individuals or groups.

Sheila ran workshops which would focus on women's experiences in the second half of life. She also started a Natural Therapy Centre in the grounds where expert osteopaths, counsellors and reflexologists came to work. The Grange became a sanctuary where possibilities could emerge and life could take on new significance and direction.

Sheila died on 14 February 2015 and will be missed by many. She was a wonderful woman who took us several steps forward towards a womanly world.

Glenys Lee

2016 Annual general Meeting will take place on  
Saturday 16th April 11am to 1 pm  
at Tindlemannor  
52/54 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT

The programme for the AGM is as follows

10.20 – 10.50 Registration and welcome  
11.00 Welcome and arrangements for the day  
11.10 Minutes of the 2015 AGM  
11.20 Annual report and Questions  
11.40 Financial Statement and Questions  
11.55 Obituaries  
12.05 Resolutions  
12.35 Thanks to retiring Executive  
12.40 Introduction to new Executive  
1.00pm Lunch

The cost for lunch will be £5/£4 please book lunch in advance  
by emailing the office [ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com](mailto:ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com)

AGM Seminar  
Saturday 16th April 2 pm to 5 pm  
at Tindlemannor  
52/54 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT

**Peace and Security : Where are Women on the Agenda?**

Keynote speakers:

Laila Alodaat International WILPF , Crisis Response Manager

Raie Sow, Make Every Woman Count and UK WILPF Rep on Gender  
Action Peace and Security (GAPS) .

All women welcome Cost £5 / £4

Book by emailing the office [ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com](mailto:ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com)

Women's International League  
For Peace and Freedom  
Tindlemanor  
52/54 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT



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