

FIRST WORLD WAR **PEACE** FORUM

SUMMARY OF JOINT ACTIVITIES 2012 – 2019

The coalition was formed following a PPU initiative in February 2012 with the objective of presenting the story of resistance to the First World War and challenging the militarist bias of Government commemoration of the Centenary. The Forum eventually included 11 organisations: Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Conscience, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Movement for the Abolition of War, Network for Peace, Pax Christi, Peace News, Peace Pledge Union, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Right to Refuse to Kill Group, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

2013

Publication of our 14-page information briefing for event organisers and media.

March - Meeting with Jennie Shaw at the Department of Culture Media and Sport

Opposing World War One: Courage and Conscience

*An information briefing about
conscientious objection and peace
activism in the First World War*

6 June

We held a meeting at Friends House hosted by Network for Peace to share and map ideas and plans for the FWW centenary. About 60 people attended from all parts of Britain. We created a calendar/planner.



2014

15 May International Conscientious Objectors' Day

Speakers: Sam Walton (QPSW) Mary Dobbing (CO grand-daughter) Christine Schweitzer (WRI) and Lord John Maxton (son of a FWW CO). We gathered about 150 descendants of 70 or so FWW COs and of a few women peace campaigners. Families named their relatives, bringing photographs and laying flowers, and enjoyed lunch at Friends House afterwards. Our two new banners have been used each year since. Nationwide media coverage for CO Day was huge.



4 August

No More War – silent vigil on the steps of St-Martin-in-the-Fields to mark the centenary of the start of the FWW.



Mia Tamarin

2015

15 May

Speakers: Sheila Triggs (Wilpf) Mia Tamarin (Israeli CO)

September

Letters were sent to 40 groups round the country encouraging them to plan events for the 2016 anniversary of conscription, and offering speakers from the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO)

2016

14 May

Evening meeting and reception for visiting delegates of EBCO. One visitor went to speak at a CO Day event in Oxford.



Siw Wood



Alexia Tsouni

15 May

Speakers: Siw Wood (niece of Walter & Alfred Llewellyn Roberts)
Jill Gibbon (grand-daughter of Bert Brocklesby) Hannah Brock (WRI)
Alexia Tsouni (Association of Greek COs) Holly Wallis (Conscience)

2017

10 March Vigil at High Court on centenary of the Wheeldon Trial

15 May Speakers: Sir Mark Rylance with
Patrick Walshe McBride
and Nick Jeffrey (US draft resister to Vietnam war)



2018

15 May

Speakers: Selam Kidane (Eritrea)
Hannah Brock (WRI)



Selam and Hannah

Remembrance Day 11 November

We commissioned a special logo and made a new banner for the occasion. Remembrance and Peace Ceremony in Tavistock Square - Speakers: Marigold Bentley (QPSW/ Forum) Michael Mears (reading Clifford Allen's 1918 speech) Festival in Friends House with films, music, speakers, children's activities and stalls from 26 peace organisations.



2019

15 May Speakers: Lois Bibbings (University of Bristol)
Jay Sutherland (Scotland against Militarism)



Jay Sutherland



Lois Bibbings



Over the period 2014-2019 CO Day events have also been held in the following locations:

Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carlisle, Chesterfield, Dartmoor, Deptford, Derby, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Haringey, Hereford, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Norwich, Oxford, Penzance, Portsmouth, Rochdale, Sheffield, Tavistock, York.

Across the country, peace observance of the FWW centenary has been rich and imaginative. In addition to events held jointly by the FWWPF individual member organisations have been involved in countless projects during the centenary: publications, exhibitions, conferences, art, sculpture, poetry, music, film, drama, walks, websites, petitions, CO research and campaigning.