

# Network for Peace



Continuing the work of the National Peace Council

March 2026

Dear Friends

Sorry this March newsletter is a little late.

If there is a sub renewal letter with this newsletter, please make sure the person who pays the bills gets it. If you would like to pay by standing order, contact me and I will send you a form (or you can download one from the website). If you would like to receive the

newsletter by email please let me know. **If you are not renewing, please let me know.**

Thank you for your continuing support.

In peace

*Claire Poyner, Co-ordinator*

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## Events

**Are you organising an event to commemorate CO Day? Let us know asap!**

### 21 March

**WORLDWIDE.** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/eradism-day>

### 26 March

**ONLINE.** Conscience Supporter's Panel. The Supporters' Panel is a new initiative that brings together individuals committed to Conscience's vision of shifting UK taxes away from war and towards peacebuilding. It's an informal group – no legal responsibilities, no required donations – just a willingness to contribute time, thought, and feedback. 6.30pm. [campaign@conscienceonline.org.uk](mailto:campaign@conscienceonline.org.uk) 020 3515 9132 <https://tinyurl.com/23thjdr9>

### 28 March

**LONDON.** March Together Against the Far Right. Assemble 12noon on Park Lane. <https://www.togetheralliance.org.uk/>

### 1 – 6 April 2026

**LAKENHEATH.** Lakenheath Action for Peace peace camp. More information avail-

able soon – sign up here for updates: <https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/signup/> Email [info@lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk](mailto:info@lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk) with any queries.

### 11 April

**LEYTONSTONE.** Brightening from the East. Speaker: Ken Worpole. Writer & social historian Ken Worpole attended Davies Lane primary school before his family moved to Canvey Island. He & his wife, Lorraine, have been community activists in Hackney since the 1970s. Ken's written several influential books on architecture, landscape & public policy. He'll be talking about the key influences on his life: the early writings of John Berger, the anarchist journalism of Colin Ward & key figures in the History Workshop movement like Sheila Rowbotham & Raphael Samuel. Meetings start with a buffet at 7:30pm followed by a talk at 8:00pm, then discussion at about 9:00pm. Church Hall of St. John the Baptist, Leytonstone, High Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 1HH (next to Aldi). All meetings are free of charge. Voluntary donations welcome. No need to book. If you can, please bring some vegetarian/vegan food and drink to share. Info: [roskane@btinternet.com](mailto:roskane@btinternet.com) <https://newsfromnowhereweb.wordpress.com>

### 13 April – 12 May

**WORLDWIDE.** Global Days of Action on Military Spending. <https://demilitarize.org.uk/global-days-of-action-on-military-spending-2025-join-us/>

### 19 April

**LONDON.** Jazz on a Spring Day. A Musicians for Peace and Disarmament Concert. With ne of the UK's leading jazz bandleaders, Peter Long (saxophone and clarinet). He will be joined by fellow musicians of the highest calibre and artistry—

Juliet Lewis (tenor sax and oboe), John Watson (piano), Jonny Gee (bass), Matt Skeaping (drums), and Shelley King (vocals)—to provide a concert of well-loved jazz classics and songs from the Great American Songbook. Tickets: Standard £20; Concessions (Over 65s, Students, Unwaged) £15. 7pm at Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, N6. <https://mpdconcerts.org/>

### 22 April

**WORLDWIDE.** Earth Day. <https://www.earthday.org/>

### 24 – 26 April

**MILTON KEYNES.** 'Healing From Conflict' Conference. Joint peace conference with Fellowship of Reconciliation, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, CHIPS, Christian CND and Church and Peace. Kent Hills Park, Conference Centre Milton Keynes. <https://tinyurl.com/ywxsh3ee>

### 26 April

**WORLDWIDE.** Chernobyl Day. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/chernobyl-remembrance-day>

### 27 April – 22 May

**NEW YORK CITY.** 2026 NPT Review Conference. <https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2026>

### 9 May

**LEYTONSTONE.** Spoken Word Poetry: A powerful, visceral, verbal art form. This talk by performance poet Max Terry Fishel offers an insight into the world of spoken word poetry. Max will describe a typical open mic spoken word event, and talk about his own journey in this form of poetry. He hopes that he will inspire audience members to seek out open mic events, and even try their hand at writing and performing! See 11 May for venue and times.

## Network for Peace still needs bodies!

We still need some people to join the Exec. There's not a lot needed to do other than being a general advisor (is X a good idea, why not try Y as well, etc). Thank you to Nik from Housmans who has agreed to be a bank signatory, we could do with one more person. Contact me on [mail@networkforpeace.org.uk](mailto:mail@networkforpeace.org.uk)

**15 May**

**EVERYWHERE.** International Conscientious Objector's Day. In **London** there will be the annual event in Tavistock Square at 1pm. <https://www.ppu.org.uk/>

**16 May**

**WORLDWIDE.** International Day of Living Together in Peace. The UN General Assembly, in its resolution 72/130, declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/living-in-peace-day>

**24 May**

**WORLDWIDE.** International Women's Day for Disarmament. <https://www.womenpeacemakersprogram.org/>

**4 June**

**WORLDWIDE.** International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression <https://www.un.org/en/observances/child-victim-day>

**5 June**

**WORLDWIDE.** UN World Environment Day. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day>

**13 June**

**LEYTONSTONE.** The rise and decline of Lit and Phils. Speakers: Drs Heather Ellis & Martha Vandrei. This talk explores the extraordinary rise & inexplicable decline of Britain's literary & philosophical societies, which between the late 18th & early 20th centuries functioned as key institutions of civic education, public debate & scientific dissemination. See 11 May for venue and times.

**YORK.** Living our peace testimony – a gathering for Quakers. To register an interest, contact: [nfpb@gn.apc.org](mailto:nfpb@gn.apc.org) 07730 070167. Or complete the form here: <https://forms.gle/d6RbrvrcKs8TW1mx8>

**20 June**

**WORLDWIDE.** World Refugee Day. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/refugee-day>  
Week covering World Refugee Day: World Refugee Week. <http://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

**26 June**

**WORLDWIDE.** International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/torture-victims-day>

**11 July**

**LEYTONSTONE.** My AI therapist lives in my pocket and knows me inside out. Vi Gostling Memorial Lecture. Speaker: Paul Atkinson. AI is in the news every day, celebrated as the answer to every problem, & feared as an existential threat to our jobs & our control over our own lives. Talking Therapies for the NHS are using recordings of millions of NHS sessions to teach AI 'conversational agents' how to be therapists, independent of human supervision. See 11 May for venue and times.

**6 August**

**WORLDWIDE.** Hiroshima Day.

**8 August**

**LEYTONSTONE.** Designer Babies and how to stop them. Speaker: Dave King. Technologies in the pipeline will turn making babies into an industrial production process that will make Huxley's Brave New World look primitive. If we don't want to go quietly into that future, we need to build a coalition led by those targeted for elimination by eugenics: disabled people, black people & the working class. See 11 May for venue and times.

**9 August**

**WORLDWIDE.** Nagasaki Day. Anniversary of the execution of Franz Jägerstätter

**29 August**

**WORLDWIDE.** International Day against Nuclear Tests

**12 September**

**LEYTONSTONE.** Towards 'Smart' Prisons and E-Carceration? Speaker: Mike Nellis, Strathclyde University. The Ministry of Justice anticipates a minimum daily prison population in England & Wales of 95,000 by 2029, up from its present 88,000. More people go to prison, increasingly for longer. 'Prison outside prison' & 'incarceration without walls' are recent government watchwords involving even greater uses of electronic monitoring, delivered by the private sector & risk turning probation into a surveillance agency, more closely involved with the police. See 11 May for venue and times.

**21 September**

**WORLDWIDE.** International Day of Peace. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

**26 September**

**WORLDWIDE.** The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/nuclear-weapons-elimination-day>

**2 October**

**WORLDWIDE.** International Day of Nonviolence. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/non-violence-day>

**10 October**

**EVERYWHERE.** Anniversary of the 1957 Windscale Fire.

**LEYTONSTONE.** Dulwich Picture Gallery: The original gallery, unlocking art for all. Speaker: Angela Diamond. Dulwich Picture Gallery has the enviable distinction of being the world's first public art gallery. Angela Diamond will tell the absorbing story of how two immigrants from humble backgrounds took the art collection of a king and donated it to ordinary people. See 11 May for venue and times.

**2nd to 3rd Sunday in October**

**COUNTRYWIDE.** Week of Prayer for World Peace. <https://weekofprayerfor->

[worldpeace.co.uk/](http://worldpeace.co.uk/)

**24 October**

**WORLDWIDE.** United Nations Day. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/un-day>

**24 – 30 October**

**EVERYWHERE.** Disarmament Week. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/disarmament-week>

**11 November**

**COUNTRYWIDE.** Remembrance Day. Nearest Sunday is Remembrance Sunday.

**14 November**

**LEYTONSTONE.** International Bodies: Are they toothless tigers? Speaker: Douglas Saltmarsh. Douglas Saltmarsh's professional activity has led him to engage with many situations related to conflict & development. In this talk he draws on his experiences in Afghanistan, the Middle East & elsewhere to illustrate the value of the tools, that is the frameworks & institutions, that we've developed to address these issues. See 11 May for venue and times.

**25 November**

**WORLDWIDE.** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. <http://www.unwomen.org/en>

**29 November**

**WORLDWIDE.** International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-of-solidarity-with-the-palestinian-people>

**1 December**

**EVERYWHERE.** Prisoners for Peace Day. <http://www.wri-irg.org/co/01dec.htm>

**10 December**

**WORLDWIDE.** Human Rights Day. The Day marks the anniversary of the Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>

**12 December**

**LEYTONSTONE.** The Spycops Scandal – Exposing England's secret political police. Speaker: Dave Morris. Fifteen years ago, campaigners began to uncover a secret unit in the Metropolitan Police which had been infiltrating left wing & progressive organisations and movements since 1968. Up to 1,000 groups were targeted. Shocking tactics included engineering sexual relationships with women, acting as agents-provocateurs, hoovering up personal information on many thousands of people to send to MI5, & adopting the identities of deceased children. Come & hear how campaigners fought back, turned the tables & put the Police on trial in what has become the longest Public Inquiry in UK history. See 11 May for venue and times.