

## **Saddleworth Peace Group(SPG)**

### **Activities since September 21<sup>st</sup> 2017**

#### **Holocaust Memorial Event**

This was held on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm. Young people from Oldham Youth Council and Oldham Theatre Workshop, together with their parents and siblings joined the silent vigil of remembrance outside the Methodist church in Uppermill. The Mayor, Cllr Shadab Kumar, gave a short address and then we said the Statement of Commitment together. We then went into the Methodist coffee lounge and the young people, who had just returned from a visit to Auschwitz, read poems and stories that they had written about their recent experiences and performed a song. After the young people left, Liz, a member of our group read out the story of Seden, who was a young boy when he had to flee from Srebrenica, and has since made his home in this country. Everyone was invited to send a postcard to him.

#### **Peace Reading**

This was held in Uppermill Library on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Dr Ali Ronan( and two researcher colleagues, Sheila Goodyear and Dorothy Bintley) talked about her book called 'The Women's Peace Crusade 1917-18' and read extracts. She was a very lively speaker and pointed out the relevance of the women's' actions for today. Her book concludes with the statement 'The determination of the women crusaders in East Lancashire in 1917-18 still echoes down the years in contemporary campaigns for peace and social justice. The 'ordinary' crusader is not forgotten.'

#### **Stall at Saddleworth Show**

This was held on July 1<sup>st</sup>, a fine but windy day. Our main activity was to encourage children to make badges with a peace message and to tell their parents about the Peace Group and what we did as they were waiting for their children to make their badges. The mayor, Cllr Javid Iqbal, visited the stall and made a badge which said 'Strive for Peace'.

#### **Hiroshima Day**

A silent vigil was held outside the Methodist Church in Uppermill on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm to remember those who were killed and injured by the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in August 1945 and to pledge to work to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The Mayor gave a short speech and a number of our members read poems. Following this we read the Community Affirmation together. We then went into the coffee lounge where Katy, a SPG member, read us the story of Sadako and the paper cranes. We were then invited to write on a label a personal pledge about how we would work for peace, and hang it on the Peace Tree.

#### **Peace Stories in Primary Schools**

Kathryn, another group member, has had discussions with the deputy head of Holy Trinity Primary School, Dobcross and has arranged to address an Assembly this month. She will also work with Years 2 and 5 later in the year around the subject of Peace.

### **Oldham Peace and Justice Group**

This is a new group that has just been set up in Oldham with encouragement from Greater Manchester and District CND. The present focus is to include people from as many like minded local groups as possible. The main campaign is against a local factory that manufactures components of weapons for the Israeli Government. A street theatre and protest march was held in July and a stall in August. The group plans to meet monthly. Saddleworth Peace Group has sent representatives to their meetings and actions.

Phillida Shipp (Secretary SPG)

September 2018