

PRET

Annual Report 2019-2020

'Be bullied, be outraged, be killed, but do not kill' – Wilfred Owen

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

It has been notable this year that so many pacifists have been working for peace in their local areas, including students and teachers speaking out against militarism in their schools. The Peace Research and Education Trust (PRET) supports projects and resources for teachers, parents and students, believing young people need access to information that shows that neither violence nor threats of violence are the means for achieving a just or lasting peace.

An independent poll commissioned by the Peace Pledge Union (PPU) in October, showed that 85% of people agree that remembrance should carry a central message of peace. PRET supports peace research, believing that to build peace without the use of violence, all need to understand the conditions for its growth and to develop the skills to overcome obstacles to peace.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY PRET THIS YEAR

The Men Who Said No project, funded by PRET and run by Project Coordinator Jan Melichar, has continued to make the experiences, motivation and values of conscientious objection in the First World War more widely known. The Men Who Said No website is the portal to the material the project produces - primarily about British WW1 conscientious objectors. Its central purpose is to record and remember the men and



www.menwhosaidno.org

some women who challenged not only the state's monopoly of violence but also its right to coerce men to become killers of unseen strangers during the First World War. It is at the centre of the work done during the year.

Current assumptions puts the number of WW1 conscientious objectors at around 20,000. However it now looks likely that this number may rise through continuing research in archives around the country and contacts with relatives. Most of the work done during the year has, one way or another, been to record something of the life and experience of these men, to reclaim them from the anonymous statistics and better understand their motivation to resist the draft often at considerable cost to themselves, family and friends.

The period of the latest PRET grant ended in June 2019 and Jan Melichar retired from the PPU staff, but he remains involved as a volunteer and the work continues, including on development of the contextual and educational sections of the website.

The Trust also provides regular support to the internationally renowned **Conscientious Objection Resource Centre** at the Peace Pledge Union office. The Centre contains books, audio and visual recordings and a database including 14,000 (so far) of conscientious objectors' biographical details, original documents, letters and photographs.

This Centre is open by appointment to students, members of the public and the media and increasing numbers of enquiries are also being received by Honorary Archivist Bill Hetherington and the Men Who Said No Project Coordinator. Many of these are from the relatives of conscientious objectors, researching their family history. The current exhibition in the PPU office, on conscientious objection in WW1, was sponsored by PRET and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This year, PRET supported the distribution of independent filmmaker Sema Basharan's **documentary Unknown Ravens**. Unknown Ravens is the story of faith and pacifism through the lens of one family in rural Oxfordshire during WW2, who refused to consider any person their enemy.

Unknown Ravens has been screened at a number of film festivals, including Cyprus International Film Festival, where it was awarded Best Short Documentary, and the Oxford International Short Film Festival, where it was first runner up in the 'Best Oxfordshire Film' competition. It was also a finalist in the Faith category of Carmarthen Bay Film Festival.

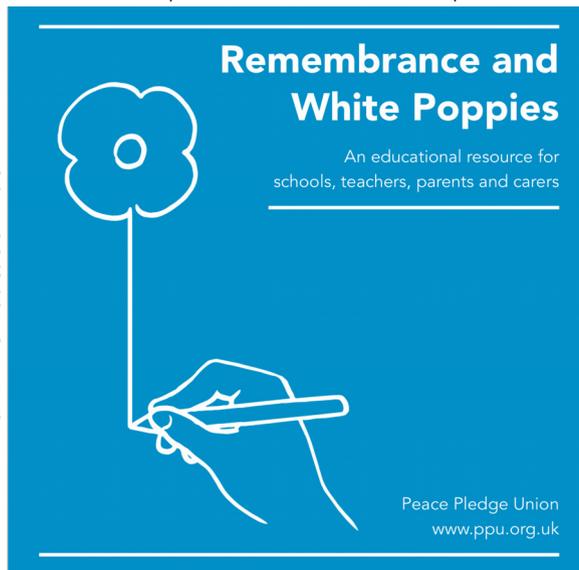
'There's no such thing as neutral education. Education either functions as an instrument to bring about conformity or freedom.' Paulo Freire

PUBLICATIONS

The PRET Annual Report for the year 2018-19 has been printed and circulated.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME OF THE PEACE PLEDGE UNION

In January 2020, Saffron Gallup joined the PPU as Education Service Manager. This is the revival of a post that has existed in the past and PRET has awarded funding for this



From: PPU Education Pack

post for the next two years. Part of Saffron's role is working with the Peace Education Network, as well as developing educational resources and providing input and advice to schools/colleges, parents/carers and educators. In January, PPU representatives attended a drop-down day at a school in Birmingham, and delivered a lesson on Conscientious Objection titled: For which principles would you be prepared to go to prison?

For most of the year in review, the former Education for Peace project officer, Peter Glasgow, continued, on a voluntary basis, to contribute to the activities of the Peace Education Network having found it a very worthwhile forum for the sharing of ideas. The Network, which has 25 members and consists largely of education workers from national peace groups, meets four times a year for a business session and a practical workshop. Among many things this year, the Network was introduced to Disarm the Base, a board game for young people about nonviolent direct action, and started work on a new education resource pack which will include the aforementioned PPU lesson on Conscientious Objection.

FINANCIAL REPORT

This year PRET'S income was £36,705 and expenditure was £30,343. At the end of the year PRET had £109,440 available in cash and bonds.

PRET received extremely generous donations of £32,922 from our longstanding supporter Douglas Draper, the final donations from the estate of his parents Arthur and Truder, for which we are immensely grateful. The Trustees would like to thank all donors especially those committed donors who give regularly.

PRET approved grants totalling £89,213 during the year:

1. £82,613 to the PPU to employ an Education Service Manager for two years from mid-January 2020 to mid-January 2022.
2. £3,000 to PPU as its annual contribution to the cost of the maintenance of the archives.
3. £3,000 to PPU as its annual contribution to the running costs of the CO Resource Centre.
4. £500 to Sema Basharan as a contribution towards the research costs for her new film about peace activist Emily Hobhouse.
5. £100 to the PPU Archivist for attending a conference on Conscientious Objectors in Bristol in April 2019 and attending the dedication of the Alice Wheeldon Room in Derby in June 2019.

FUTURE WORK

The PPU's Education Service Manager is focusing this year on continuing to develop resources available online through the PPU website. So far, the Education section of the website has been updated and a range of activities for different educational stages have been added (these consist of existing PPU resources as well as new activities). There will be a focus on multi-modal resources and activities (e.g. using videos on the PPU YouTube channel) in order to support home learners and schools who may be limiting the amount of visitors due to Covid-19. The Remembrance Pack for Schools is also



From: PPU Education Pack

'If animals could vote they would be against nuclear war' Mark, aged 7

being updated this year. Increased membership participation and engagement will be an additional area of focus, for example through promoting the PPU Education Network Facebook page.

The valuable work of the Honorary Archivist and the Men Who Said No Project Co-ordinator continues on a voluntary basis as described above.

Sema Basharan will continue online screenings of Unknown Ravens, and has been working on educational resources to accompany the film. She will also continue research for her new film about peace activist Emily Hobhouse, towards which the Trust has made a grant, once this is possible in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - year ended 31 March 2020

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	TOTAL FUNDS	Year ended 31.3.20
RECEIPTS				
Legacies	0	0	0	4558
Donations - general	36231	0	36231	4360
Tax reclaim on donations	0	0	0	0
Bank interest	474	0	474	626
TOTAL RECEIPTS	36705	0	36705	9544
PAYMENTS				
Direct charitable expenditure				
Grants - Peace Pledge Union	20753	0	20753	18168
Grants - Others	0	0	0	500
Grants - Peace Pledge Union annual	6000	0	6000	4500
Trustee expenses	230	0	230	160
Other expenses	0	0	0	72
Subtotal	26983	0	26983	23400
Management & administration of charity				
Secretarial expenses	3000	0	3000	0
Independent Examiner's fee	360	0	360	420
Subtotal	3360	0	3360	420
TOTAL PAYMENTS	30343	0	30343	23820
Net Income To Funds	6362	0	6362	-14276
Total Funds Brought Forward	149165	0	149165	16344
Total Funds Carried Forward	155527	0	155527	149165

The annual accounts are subject to an independent examination by the accountancy firm of Evans & Evans Ltd with whom there is a good working relationship.

OBJECTS OF THE TRUST

The objects of the Trust are:

1. the advancement of education for the public benefit, by the provision of advice and information, on the causes and effects of war and violence and their peaceful resolution;
2. the conduct of research into the causes and effects of war and violence in society and into the history of peace-making, and the publication of the results of such research.

TRUSTEES

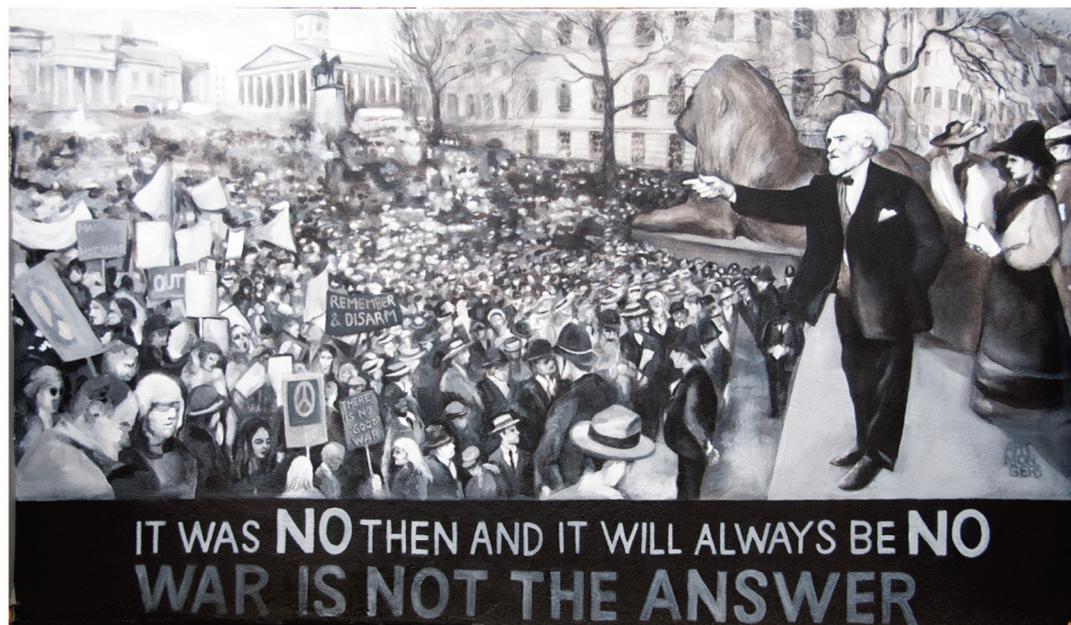
Albert Beale (representative Trustee nominated by the PPU), Lucy Beck, Ed Evans and John Morris continued to serve as Trustees throughout the year. John Morris served as Chair and Lucy Beck as Treasurer. Gordon Thomas will join the board as a new Trustee in November 2020.

ADMINISTRATION

The Trustees wish to record their continuing appreciation for the resources and facilities provided for them by the Peace Pledge Union.

Kathryn Busby has handled the Trust's administrative work, including donations, mailings and meetings, since joining the PPU in May 2019. For this essential administrative work the Trustees pay the PPU £2,000 per annum.

Jan Melichar updated the website and designed the PRET Annual Review for 2018-19.



Mural outside of CO Project offices. Story of the mural.

BUILDING PEACE

The PEACE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TRUST supports peace research, believing that to build peace without the use of violence, all need to understand the conditions for its growth and to develop the skills to overcome obstacles to peace.

PRET supports projects and resources for teachers, parents and students, believing young people need access to information that shows that neither violence nor threats of violence are the means for achieving a just or lasting peace.

PRET supports the production of a balance of easily accessible materials on issues related to peace and war, which will, as appropriate, be matched to the requirements of the National Curriculum and other curricula. PRET supports research into ways in which teachers and students themselves are dealing with issues of war, violence and peace.

PRET believes that the history of peace-making can be an important educational tool for teachers, students and researchers, and supports a peace archive at the Peace Pledge Union.

PRET welcomes the support of those willing to help to develop and expand this work and make resources available to a wider audience.

We are a charity set up to provide advice and information on the causes and effects of war and violence and peaceful resolution.

