

PEACE RESEARCH & EDUCATION TRUST



Annual Report 2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

DURING THIS YEAR, the continuation of the Covid pandemic still brought some difficulties for the education work supported by PRET but work continued throughout. Towards the end of our financial year the war in Ukraine brought into sharp relief the consequences of war in Europe once again, and the added importance of promoting education for peace.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY PRET THIS YEAR

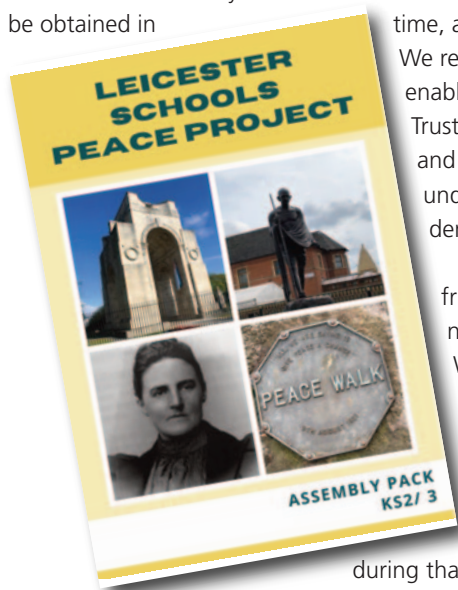
Education programme at the Peace Pledge Union

PRET supported the work of Saffron Gallup in her role as Education Service Manager throughout the year. Effort was put into fundraising for grants from other trusts to continue the work beyond the end of her contract, but in the end funding could not be obtained in

time, and she left for another job in April 2022. We regret that we didn't have enough funds to enable the extension of her contract. The Trustees are grateful for her work and reports, and for what she managed to achieve working under difficult conditions throughout the pandemic.

During this year one major project came to fruition in November, after months of planning - the Leicester Schools Peace Project. Working with a local PPU member and retired teacher in Leicester, the project was developed to coincide with the centenary of Leicester University. The university was built as a 'living memorial' after WW1.

12,000 men from Leicestershire died during that war, and they are commemorated on an



Arch of Remembrance in Leicester. The Medical Officer in charge of the military hospital where many soldiers were treated during WW1 (the building is now part of the university) made the first donation in 1918 towards the creation of a new educational institute. University College was opened in 1921 as a 'palace of peace' in remembrance of all those who had served, died or endured during the war. Women were included from the start of the university and 10 of the first 11 students were women. The University of Leicester are advocates for Citizens of Change, this year offering scholarships to equip 100 graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to peace and a better world.

Leicester has a Peace Walk, opened in about 1981, leading from the Arch of Remembrance, with memorial plaques and stones among the flower beds commemorating those who died in various wars and causes, including a memorial to conscientious objectors. Working with the University, a Peace Tour has been created, and a Leicester Peace Tours booklet was published in time for the anniversary events. Saffron visited to take part in the events and meet with University colleagues and students. She helped to prepare assembly and lesson plans and worksheets for primary and secondary schools, and sent a letter to all schools in Leicester and the county including a copy of the PPU's Remembrance and White Poppy education resource. Donations from local peace groups were obtained for this mailing, which are much appreciated. Towards the end of her time with the PPU, Saffron was helping to organise a teachers' conference in Leicester to develop further work in relation to citizenship, following on meetings with RE and Citizenship teachers in Leicester.

It was hoped the unique work carried out in Leicester could act as a pilot project to encourage similar close working with local peace activists in other areas of the country.

Saffron met with the Peace Education Coordinator for the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, and as a result the PPU's Remembrance and White Poppies resource has been translated into Welsh, updated with links to the Welsh curriculum, and circulated to 47 peace schools in Wales. She attended an event on the new Welsh curriculum to explore opportunities for peace education.

She continued to answer enquiries about peace education particularly on social media where she had built up contacts with young people and teachers. Some face-to-face engagement with schools became possible as Covid restrictions eased, for example meeting local school students in London's Tavistock Square by the stone

commemorating conscientious objectors, to discuss conscientious objection. She gave advice to young people about setting up peace societies in their schools and colleges.

She provided advice on GCSE educational materials developed by Sema Basharan for her film, *Unknown Ravens*, (previously supported by PRET). She wrote notes to encourage research on conscientious objectors drawing on the *Men who Said No Website*, which was added to the PPU and TES websites. She prepared a reading list on peace issues for parents and students linked to different ages and topics.

In addition, Saffron participated in coalitions with other organisations such as *Our Shared World* and the *Peace Education Network*.

An additional grant of £1490 was made to PPU for attendance of PPU staff and volunteers at the National Education Union Conference in Bournemouth from April 10 - 14, 2022.

MEN WHO SAID NO project

PRET supported the progress of this project through the volunteer work of Jan Melichar.

To the extent that much of the project's work is desk-based, we were able to continue our work as usual during the lockdown period. It was, however, a relief when the British Library, local archives and other institutions began opening their doors in the spring of 2021. Apart from the essential access to archives, there is a particular pleasure in anticipating what new information may lie in long unopened archive boxes that online digital files so easily accessed cannot match. Deciphering handwritten notebooks and letters does, however, dampen the pleasure somewhat.

As in previous years, most of our work consisted mainly of researching and preparing biographical notes on WW1 COs and adding these to our online data. The aim is to give some sense of individual identity - who these men were, what they thought about the war, what happened to them - to as many of the 20,000 plus COs. We also continue to add contextual information relating to conscientious objection in WW1; this included biographies of women whose work and support were crucial to challenging the war and providing support to conscientious objectors, particularly those in prisons.

We continue to expand our teaching resources, including graphic posters that provide an easy entry to a poorly explored aspect of social history for teachers and pupils. Why did thousands of men and women, despite the prevailing mood in the country,

object to the war, challenge its prosecution and, in many cases, spend years in prison for their beliefs?

Who were these people, and why did they see the war differently from their neighbours?

We have now also added a section on WW1 poetry with helpful annotations for pupils and casual readers alike; this links to further wide-ranging material on 20th-century war and peace poetry.

To help new visitors to the site and people with a general interest in WW1 conscientious objection, we have developed and continue to update an interactive map of CO-related issues around the UK and beyond. Via the map through images, text, and links to additional material, a visitor can easily access a wealth of information at the click of the mouse.

We continue to respond to enquiries from the general public, CO relatives, students and researchers, amongst others. We are particularly grateful to CO relatives and well-wishers who supply us with information and documents that enable us to add or enhance the short biographies we prepare. Sometimes we are sent rare and precious items which we add to our archives. Visitors to the site sometimes send us a donation, other times they send us a message: ***"Thank you for all that you do: so important, as otherwise, this information just gets lost with the passage of time. V N"***

For the future, we are preparing a section on objection to war in WW1 Germany and would welcome more help in translating contemporary material. We are also look-



Detail of coal bunker cover representing part of Gertler's famous Merry-Go-Round painting outside, Gertler's home. Gertler's painting inspired a scene in Joan Littlewood's play *Oh What a Lovely War* and became well known through Richard Attenborough's hit, anti-war film *Oh What a Lovely War* in 1969. More <https://bit.ly/44sSEcV>

ing for voluntary technical assistance to extend some website functions. We are also seeking funds to digitise some particularly delicate archives, and any support would be welcome.

Conscientious objection continues to be a live issue in many countries, and today compulsory conscription is returning to countries that have only recently abandoned it. Because of this, we feel it appropriate to provide contextual information about conscientious objection worldwide and links to organisations providing up-to-date information.

Fellowship of Reconciliation 'testimonies of peace' project.

A grant of £500 was agreed towards this project to record and make available the memories of FOR WW2 conscientious objectors.

Local projects

The Trustees agreed to launch the idea of making small contributions to local educational peace work around the country (up to a total of £1000 per annum). This idea was launched via the Peace Pledge Union's magazine and e-mail newsletter. To date one application has been received and a grant of £200 was made towards a group in Kent, Pavement Pounders CIC, who collect spoken war-time memories of life in Dover, Folkestone, Margate and Ramsgate, and visit schools using these recordings to discuss issues of war and peace.

“Mere praise of peace is easy, but ineffective. What is needed is active participation in the fight against war and everything that leads to it.”

Albert Einstein

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - year ended 31 March 2022

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	TOTAL FUNDS	Year ended 31.3.21
RECEIPTS				
Legacies	0	0	0	0
Donations - general	3728	0	3728	5899
Tax reclaim on donations	349	0	349	1653
Bank interest	150	0	150	537
TOTAL RECEIPTS	4227	0	4227	8125
PAYMENTS				
Direct charitable expenditure				
Grants - Peace Pledge Union	32411	0	32411	41507
Grants - Others	700	0	700	476
Grants - Peace Pledge Union annual	6000	0	6000	6000
Trustee expenses	144	0	144	0
Other expenses	252	0	252	72
Subtotal	39507	0	39507	48055
Management & administration of charity				
Secretarial expenses	2000	0	2000	2000
Independent Examiner's fee	420	0	420	360
Subtotal	2420	0	2420	2360
TOTAL PAYMENTS	41927	0	41927	50415
Net Income To Funds	-37700	0	-37700	-42290
Total Funds Brought Forward	67210	0	67210	109500
Total Funds Carried Forward	29510	0	29510	67210

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, John Morris and Gordon Thomas continued to serve as Trustees throughout the year. John Morris served as Chair and Lucy Beck as Treasurer. The Trustees have agreed an updated procedure for appointing new Trustees, and are actively seeking to find some.

ADMINISTRATION

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

Kathryn Busby handled the Trust's administrative work, including donations, mailings and meetings, from May 2019 when she joined the PPU until March 2022. The Trustees pay the PPU an annual sum for this essential administrative work. They are immensely grateful for Kathryn's hard work, efficiency, care and commitment to improving PRET's systems as well as her personal kindness to the officers and Trustees, and fellow PPU staff members. We welcomed her replacement, Jonathan Maunders, in May 2022.

We are grateful to Jan Melichar who designed the PRET Annual Review for 2020-21.