

The Oldham Peace Times

Issue 11 - June 2017

News from the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum

Editorial

Welcome to this eleventh issue of the Oldham Peace Times, newsletter of the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum. This is a regular publication to inform people and organisations with an interest in working for peace about the Forum and its work.

Tragically May was tinged with great sadness as Manchester was the location of the most appalling terrorist atrocity – the suicide bombing on 22 May at the MEN Arena in central Manchester which left twenty two innocent people dead.

The Council's Champion of Peace, and until this month Oldham Mayor of Peace, Cllr Derek Heffernan, forcefully conveyed his feelings on hearing the news in a letter to the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Cllr Eddy Newman, and the elected Mayor of Greater Manchester, Mr. Andy Burnham. Here are his words:

As Oldham Council's Champion for Peace, and last year's Mayor for Peace, I offer my deepest condolences to the victims of this dreadful attack and their families.

I hope that the injured recover fully and quickly.

Last year, Cllr Newman we shared a platform for Peace in Oldham. Today we must stand together and face this terrible tragedy with strength and dignity.

I am appalled to hear about this callous, cowardly attack on our young people enjoying a pop concert; the young at their most vulnerable.

In contrast to this cowardice we hear about the generosity of those who helped the victims; opening their homes and shops to offer people a safe environment.

Taxi drivers gave people a free escape. Our heartfelt thanks to them.

My thanks to the Emergency Services. Their courage and professionalism can always be relied upon.

The cowards who committed this atrocity cannot be allowed to win. Our City, and especially our Borough, must return to normal as quickly as possible.

The City of Manchester and the Borough of Oldham will continue to strive for worldwide peace.

Oldham is a leader in the worldwide peace movement.

The young people that I spoke to during my year as Mayor will continue to show these cowards that they cannot win. We are too strong and our young people too dedicated to give the cowards' victory.

Greater Manchester will, I am sure, join together and face this tragedy. We will recover and be stronger.

Contents

- Page 2 An Introduction to the Pledge to Peace
- Page 3 Moving Vigil to Manchester Bombing Victims
- Page 4 A Special Presentation to Oldham's First Mayor and Mayoress of Peace
- Page 5 A Hat-Trick of Oldham Schools Sign for Peace
- Page 10 Dunwood Walks as One at 1 to Mark World Labyrinth Day
- Page 11 People Power: Fighting for Peace
- Page 13 15 May is International Conscientious Objectors' Day
- Page 14 Oldham's Forty Year Secret Nuclear Legacy
- Page 16 Shkoder Regional Council seeks 'Co-operation and Friendship'
- Page 17 Hull Council asked to sign 'Pledge to Peace'
- Page 17 More News from Todmorden and Warrington Councils
- Page 18 Hold the Dates Two Prestigious Speakers on Peace to Visit Oldham
- Page 20 Take the Path to Peace

Introduction to the Pledge to Peace



The Pledge to Peace initiative, also called the Bruxelles Declaration, was established at the "Peace and Prosperity - Founding Values of the European Union" conference held on November 28, 2011 at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The initiative was the brainchild of then First Vice President of the European Parliament, Mr. Gianni Pittella MEP, the former President of the European Parliament Senator Emilio Colombo, and the Associazione Percorsi.

The Pledge to Peace was sponsored by Mr. Prem Rawat, an authoritative and international speaker on peace, who was the first signatory. Mr Rawat was later appointed 'Ambassador to the Bruxelles Declaration - Pledge to Peace'.

Institutions and organisations are invited to sign the Pledge to help create a "culture of peace" across Europe by carrying out practical actions for peace in their communities.

Each signatory is asked to submit a report of these activities to the initiative's secretariat, the Percorsi Association, by the UN International Day of Peace, on 21st September each year.

More information about the Pledge can be found at: http://www.pledgetopeace.eu/ and <a href="http://www

Article and photo courtesy of the Percorsi Association

2 The Oldham Peace Times Issue 11 – June 2017

Moving Peace Vigil for Manchester Bombing Victims

The new peace pole in Alexandra Park was the backdrop to a very sad and moving occasion when on Tuesday 30 May a vigil was held to remember the twenty two people, including two ladies from Royton in Oldham, who lost their lives in the 22 May terrorist bombing at the MEN Manchester Arena.

Organised at short notice by Maria Ellis, founder and Chairperson of Peace Talks Oldham, invitations were sent to several civic organisations.

The event was attended by 28 people, including representatives from Luna Friends, the Indian Association, UKEFF UK, the Police, and Oldham Council's Parks Department, as well as the former Mayor of Peace and now Council Champion of Peace, Cllr Derek Heffernan, and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councillor Louie Hamblett.

Fittingly the assembly included members of Oldham's main faith communities, Christian, Muslim and Hindu.

After a two minutes silence held at 11am, Maria read from Splitting the Arrow by Mr. Prem Rawat and recited the moving poem 'And the Bees still Buzz' by Ryan Williams. She also led everyone in singing 'Imagine' by John Lennon and 'Don't Look Back in Anger' by Oasis.

Cllr Heffernan also spoke emotionally at the event about the importance of continuing to work for peace and not letting terrorism win, nor evil prevail. He said: "It was a horrible deed. The perpetrator has not gone to paradise, he has insulted the Muslim world."

Pink flowers were laid at the peace pole and twenty two pink balloons released in remembrance of each of the victims (**below - the former Mayor and Maria on the right**). Pink balloons were released at the Ariana Grande concert, where the terrible tragedy took place.



With thanks to Les Owens from Luna Friends for the photos.

A Special Presentation to Oldham's First Mayor and Mayoress of Peace



Immediately after the vigil, the party reconvened in the Alexandra Park Conservatory where a special presentation was made by Maria to the former Mayor of Peace.

The presentation was of a photo montage that Maria, who is also a visual artist, created especially for him (**above**). The montage consists of photographs of the majority of peace events that Derek and his wife, former Mayoress Di Heffernan attended during their most momentous year in office.

Maria also presented Derek with a peace lily as a personal gift for Di as she was unable to be with us as she is still recovering from a most unfortunate accident last year.

The special presentation was particularly fitting as during Derek's amazing twelve months in office, we have achieved so much:

- A four-fold growth in membership in the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum to almost 50.
- A seven-fold increase in schools and colleges signing the Pledge to 20. In this issue, we feature the last three schools to host the Mayor of Peace at their signing ceremonies.
- A new peace book section in Oldham Library.
- A refurbished peace garden in central Oldham seen by every Metrolink tram passenger
- Peace poles springing up in parks everywhere!
- New links with towns and cities pledged to peace in Albania, Japan, Israel and Italy.

The venue was also especially poignant as this was the location for Derek's meeting with the Hibakusha A-bomb survivors in April; something he described as the 'highlight' of his year.

The new Mayor, Cllr Shadab Qumer, paid tribute to Derek and Di at his recent inauguration: "The role of Mayor is extremely hard work and it takes dedication, commitment, love, humanity and so much more. Since I can remember this has not been exemplified more than in this last year. We will not see another Derek and Di Heffernan."

A Hat-trick of Oldham Schools Sign for Peace

In the final fortnight of Cllr Derek Heffernan's term in office as Oldham's first Mayor of Peace, he was able to witness three local schools signing the Pledge to Peace.



First to sign was St. Joseph's RC Junior Infant and Nursery School (http://www.st-josephs.oldham.sch.uk/) in Shaw on 3 May.

The Mayor joined Headteacher Gary Needle and pupils to celebrate the signing of the Pledge.

Unfortunately Maria and this editor were unable to attend the event and at the time of printing no further details were available.





Above Left: Pupils of St Joseph's talking with the Mayor in the School Hall.

Above Right: Pupils joining the Mayor to sign the Pledge in the school's peace garden.

Left: The lovely mosaic and peace pole.

Thanks to Gary Needle for the photos.

5 The Oldham Peace Times Issue 11 - June 2017



The second school to sign on the morning of Monday 12 May was Limehurst Primary School

(http://www.limehurst.oldham.sch.uk/) in Limehurst Village.

The Mayor of Peace and Maria Ellis met with Rachel Robertson, the teacher who is leading for the school on the Pledge; the Deputy Headteacher Mr Wilson; three school governors, including Chair Mrs Buckley; Rev. David Hawthorn from St. Margaret's Church in Hollinwood; and the school council, who asked the Mayor some questions in the staff room before the school assembly.

The Chair of Governors and the Rev. Hawthorn opened the assembly before a young girl reminded everyone that today's assembly was about "coming together to celebrate the peace that already exists in our school".

The assembly included the song 'A Wish for Peace' and a rendition of 'Peace Perfect Peace' by the pupils of Years 1 and 2 and poetry from the pupils from Years 3 and 4 who asked the assembly to remember that "peace doesn't just happen - it comes from your heart; it doesn't just happen - it is something you choose!" and "peace is something we need to protect and we need to respect".



Three children then talked about Jelly Babies being first introduced to the UK as Peace Babies at the end of the First World War to symbolise a new beginning.

This was a theme also covered in the signing by St. Martin's School in Fitton Hill (see Oldham Peace Times Issue 6, Page 6).

Later in the assembly jelly babies were distributed to the governors, staff and pupils.

The whole school was asked to recite the School's Peace Pledge which is now on display in the entrance hallway.

Left: Our Peace Pledge.

The Mayor of Peace, Cllr Derek Heffernan, then addressed the assembly. In his speech the Mayor asked the children to "help him spread the message of peace" as this was "better than him doing this on his own". He again stressed that he was "fed up" with people fighting, calling wars "useless affairs".



Left: The Mayor of Peace talking at the school assembly.

The Deputy Headteacher Mr. Wilson described the assembly as one "with a meaning".

The Mayor, Mr. Wilson and Ms. Robertson then joined the School Council (and their cardboard Jelly Babies) for the signing ceremony.

This is shown **below**.



With thanks to Maria Ellis for this article and to Rachel Robertson and Limehurst School for the photographs.



The final signing was at Holy Rosary RC Primary School, Fitton Hill (http://www.holyrosary.oldham.sch.uk/) where the Mayor of Peace and Maria went to a special assembly and signing ceremony in the afternoon of 12 May.

Holy Rosary was the twentieth, and latest, school in Oldham to sign the Pledge to Peace.

As part of the event, Maria gave a special reading of the Pot with the Hole, a book written by the Ambassador of the Pledge to Peace, Mr. Prem Rawat, and this was accompanied by a special slide show of illustrations from the book.

Poignantly, Cllr Heffernan made his final speech in his capacity as Mayor of Peace to a school assembly. During his year term in office, seventeen Oldham schools and colleges have signed the Pledge, roughly one every fortnight during the academic year.



Left: The Mayor of Peace, Cllr Heffernan, with Liz Dootson, Paul Devine, Chair of Governors, and Lucas and Ellie, two pupils who that very morning had been appointed School Peace Ambassadors.

Bottom Left: Cllr Heffernan countersigns the Pledge to Peace for the last time as Mayor of Peace.

Below: One of the peace posters produced at the school.



Thanks are due to Liz Dootson for these photos and the annotated version of the programme for this final event, which appears on the next page.

1.30pm	Assembly opening – Animoto and welcome guests We began the assembly by welcoming Mr Mayor, Maria and our Chair of Governors (Paul Devine). We then showed an animoto video on our big screen – this is a video/photo slideshow put to music. The photos were of the different classes taking part in peace activities throughout the week.
1.40pm	Maria Ellis – The Pot with the Hole Maria then came up and introduced herself and read The Pot with the Hole. She then asked some questions to the children, which they answered.
1.50pm	Year 6 – Adults who promote peace: Some children from year 6 then came up and introduced a power point presentation on Nelson Mandela. They talked about the work that he did in promoting equality and peace.
	Year 5 – Song: Year 5 sang Michael Jackson's song – Heal the World which was very moving. The words were very poignant and the year 5 children had looked in detail at the meaning of the words in class.
	Year 4 – Poetry: Four year 4 children then came to the front and read poems that they had written in class all about what peace means to them.
	Year 3 – Peace posters and solving disputes peacefully Year 3 had made peace posters in class that they came and showed at the front of assembly.
	Year 3 also had two small groups of children who acted out little scenarios about peace. One group acted out a group of children chatting in the playground about how they couldn't play with each other because they all worship at different places — one in a mosque, one in a synagogue and one in a Church. A child then explained to them how it doesn't matter where people worship, we can all still be friends and get along. The other group acted out a scenario about sharing with their friends.
	Year 2 – Art The year 2 class have made large whole class poster all about peace – detailing doves and different people from all cultures all around the world. This poster is going to be framed within school and will be the starting point for a school 'peace' display.
	Year 1 – Class peace pledges: Year 1 had written their own personal peace pledges in class, which a selection of children then read out to the assembly. They were about how they were going to try and be peaceful at home and at school. The children had thought really hard about their pledges!
	Foundation Stage – Peace Doves: The foundation stage children read the story of Noah's ark, and focussed on the dove at the end of the story, symbolising peace. The children all made their own peace doves in class, which they decorated in different ways. These are now displayed around our foundation stage classroom.
2.20pm	Mayoral speech: The mayor gave a lovely speech to the children all about his work towards peace.
2.25pm	Assembly close with hymn – Peace perfect peace
2.30pm	Signing the 'pledge for peace' with Lucas and Elle the two new school peace ambassadors

Dunwood Walks as One at 1 to Mark World Labyrinth Day

On Saturday May 6, fifteen local people joined Oldham's Mayor of Peace, Cllr Derek Heffernan; the Chairperson of the Shaw and Crompton Parish Council, Cllr Angie Farrell; Parish Councillor Louie Hamblett, and event organiser Carol Hughes at Dunwood Park, Shaw to mark World Labyrinth Day.



Left top: The Walk as One at 1 team. Carol Hughes in red (centre) and Cllrs. Heffernan and Farrell (front) holding up a rug with the labyrinth design from Chartres Cathedral.

Cllr Hamblett is holding up the Parish Council standard at the back.



Left below: On the walk itself, Carol leading.

Carol, a member of the Friends of Dunwood Park, was the driving force behind the creation of the labyrinth in Dunwood Park.

It is the only one in any public park in Oldham. The design is based on that in Chartres Cathedral, France (For more information on this please see the back page).

The annual World Labyrinth Day is organised by The Labyrinth Society (https://labyrinthsociety.org/world-labyrinth-day). The Society invites participants to mark the day by "Walking as One at 1" in the afternoon, joining others around the world to help "create a wave of peaceful energy washing across the time zones." This year there were over 250 events in 20 countries.

Thanks to Emma Howard and Maria Ellis for the photos of the event.

10 The Oldham Peace Times Issue 11 - June 2017



People Power: Fighting for Peace

The Imperial War Museum, London currently has on (until 28 August) a very special exhibition specifically about the growth of peace movements in the UK over the last century, and this Editor was privileged recently to see it.

People Power: Fighting for Peace draws upon the Museum's considerable archival collection to enable you to take a journey from the First World War to the present day, exploring how peace movements have influenced perceptions of war and conflict.



Above: A march of 2,000 anti-conscription protesters in London, May 1939.

11 The Oldham Peace Times Issue 11 - June 2017

From conscientious objectors to peace camps and modern day marches, Fighting for Peace tells the stories of passionate people over the past one hundred years and the struggles they have endured for the anti-war cause.



Above: 'Embrace the Base': 30,000 women link hands, completely surrounding the 9 mile perimeter fence at RAF/USAF Greenham Common, Berkshire in 1982.

Over three hundred objects including paintings, literature, posters, placards, banners, badges and music reveal the breadth of creativity of anti-war protest movements, reflecting the cultural mood of each era.

The Editor found the video of the soldiers from Veterans for Peace making a dignified protest at the gate leading to Number 10 Downing Street to be the most moving part of the exhibition.

Disavowing the despicable and shameful acts they had been ordered to carry out by the British state whilst serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, they each in turn discarded their army papers, their military caps and their campaign medals on the pavement. One of the former soldiers, who had served with the SAS Regiment, was clear that he had earned one of his medals for kidnapping men from their wives and families so they could be tortured.

On a less sombre note, I was particularly interested to find out more about the Quakers and actor Paul Eddington who had been a conscientious objector when called up in the last few weeks of the Second World War. When asked he said that he should like his epitaph to read: "He did very little harm" which is I think a fair assessment of his approach to life.

The exhibition is accompanied by a 246-page hardback book. For more information please go to http://www.iwm.org.uk/exhibitions/iwm-london/fighting-for-peace

15 May is International Conscientious Objectors' Day

This annual day was established by the International Conscientious Objectors' Meeting, a meeting of conscientious objectors and supporters held annually to exchange ideas and offer solidarity.

In 1985, at a time when compulsory conscription was still commonplace, it was decided to designate 15 May as an international day to focus the world's attention on conscientious objection. Although Britain no longer imposes conscription on its citizens, other countries still do and even now there are many individuals imprisoned for their refusal to fight.

In the UK, the main commemorative event takes place at the Conscientious Objectors' Stone in Tavistock Square in London. This was unveiled on May 15 1994 by British composer Sir Michael Tippett, President of the Peace Pledge Union, the British affiliate of War Resisters' International. Sir Michael was himself a conscientious objector.

Edna Mathieson took up a suggestion made at her uncle's funeral, conscientious objector Joseph Brett, that a memorial be established to all conscientious objectors. Camden Council agreed to make a site available in Tavistock Square and the Peace Pledge Union took on the responsibility for the design and for raising the finance via public subscription.

The stone, a 400 million year old, naturally shaped piece of grey-green volcanic slate, was sourced from Cumbria by the design team of Hugh Court and Paul Wehrle.

This year's London event on 15 May was addressed by actor Sir Mark Rylance, who placed flowers on the stone **(right).**

In Manchester, an event to mark the day also took place in Lincoln Square, site of a future peace garden.



The inscription reads - around the left, top, and right edges:

TO COMMEMORATE MEN & WOMEN

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO MILITARY SERVICE

ALL OVER THE WORLD & IN EVERY AGE

In the centre:

TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE

ESTABLISHED AND

ARE MAINTAINING

THE RIGHT TO

REFUSE TO KILL

Their foresight and

courage give us hope

Along the bottom edge:

THIS STONE WAS DEDICATED ON 15 MAY 1994

INTERNATIONAL CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS' DAY

Oldham's Forty Year Secret Nuclear Legacy



The Oldham Civic Centre, **above during construction**, opened forty years ago as the offices for a new unitary authority for the borough, but it is only recently that we have discovered that for four decades it has held a sinister underground secret.



In January 2016, the Mirror asked 'Where are the best places in the UK to survive nuclear war?'

And the newspaper's number one answer was Oldham. Why?

The article revealed the presence deep below the Civic Centre of a secret nuclear bunker incorporated within the building's construction. Designers Cecil Howitt and Partners built the bunker of reinforced concrete and brick to provide shelter from fall-out for a select few civic leaders - senior councillors and officers, police chiefs, engineers, doctors and communications experts. Now the subterranean corridors and rooms are used for storage.

However in May 2015, then Oldham Council Leader, Jim McMahon OBE **right**, had revealed the truth to the Manchester Evening News when the paper printed a selection of photographs:

"I think it's fair to say not many of our residents realise there is a bunker underneath the building.

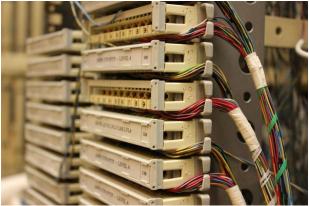
"It is quite strange and shocking to think that this is where some of the survivors would have ended up, effectively being entrusted to help run what was left of the country.

"Thankfully the bunker never had to be used but hopefully these images will give people a look at what it would have been like living and working underground."



14 The Oldham Peace Times Issue 11 – June 2017









A selection of the photos published by the Manchester Evening News in May 2015.



In other parts of the UK, former nuclear bunkers have been turned into cold war museums open to the public.

But in Oldham, we want to look to do something unique - to explore the possibility of using all or some of the space for an innovative purpose - as the venue of a peace centre and a peace museum for the Borough.

This would probably be the first of its kind anywhere in Europe.

More updates as we have them.

Shkoder Regional Council seeks 'Co-operation and Friendship'

In a reply to the letter sent to her by Oldham's former Mayor of Peace, the President of the Regional Council of Shkoder in Albania, Mrs. Greta Bardeli, has responded seeking "the esteem of a relationship of friendship".

President Bardeli suggests that such a relationship "will continue to be of help not only for carrying out concrete activities with common goals, but also for strengthening co-operation and friendship among our peoples". Mrs. Bardeli also believes the link between Shkoder and Oldham will help create "a favourable and fruitful climate for building a society based on the ideals of dignity, peace and solidarity."

President Bardeli is a Professor of Law at the University of "Luigj Gurakuqi" Shkodër, and also serves as a member of the Congress of the Council of Europe.

The Shkoder Regional Council became a signatory to the Pledge to Peace in March 2016.



Left: Piero Scutari, President of Percorsi (left) at the signing ceremony with the President of the Regional Council of Shkoder, Mrs. Greta Bardeli (second from left).

The Region comprises the principal towns of Shkoder, Malesia e Madhe and Puka, and lies on the north west border with Montenegro. Noted for its beauty, being rich in rivers, lakes, mountains and forests, as well as for its Adriatic coastline and Shkoder Lake, the region is known for its fishing industry, craftsmanship, cross-border trade and, more recently, tourism.

Below left: Shkoder town centre and **right:** Lake Shkoder





Hull Council asked to sign 'Pledge to Peace'



The Leader of the Opposition at Hull Council has asked for the Council to sign the 'Pledge to Peace'. Councillor Mike Ross **above** in a letter to the Council Leader, Councillor Steve Brady, asked if he would sign the 'Pledge to Peace' on behalf of the Council.

Mike said: "To date Oldham is the only Council to have signed the Pledge in the UK. It would be great if Hull in the 2017 City of Culture year could be the second one.

"Signing the pledge reinforces Hull's positive work to promote peace, for instance, the assistance it has offered to refugees from the Syrian crisis.

Mike added: "While it would be one small step, I think the objectives of the pledge match our City's culture of equality, openness, peace and tolerance."

With thanks to Tom Clay for this story.



News in Brief from Todmorden and Warrington Councils



Following an initial introduction by then Chair of Shaw and Crompton Parish Council, Cllr Angie Farrell, we have been invited to make a presentation about the Pledge to Peace to the General Purposes Committee of Todmorden Town Council on Wednesday 12 July 2017.

Former Mayor and Councillor, Geoff Settle, has also tabled a question he will be asking at the next full meeting of Warrington Borough Council on Monday 19 June 2017: "Will the council include as part of the 2021 City of Culture (or earlier) the promise to use the 'Pledge to Peace' pack and make Warrington a town Pledged to Peace?"

Hold these Dates - Two Prestigious Speakers on Peace to Visit Oldham

Over coming months, the Performance Space in Oldham Library will be the venue for two very special events where we will be privileged to hear from two of the UK's foremost peace activists.

As part of our Second Oldham Peace Week, at **6pm on Monday 26 June**, Greater Manchester and District CND will be showing the BBC documentary film Threads about the consequences of an imaginary nuclear attack on Sheffield **below**.



The film showing will be preceded by a talk by Dr Kate Hudson, General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. She has held that post since September 2010, having previously been Chair of the campaign since 2003. She is a leading anti-nuclear and anti-war campaigner nationally and internationally. She is also author of 'CND Now More than Ever: The Story of a Peace Movement'. Kate will introduce the film and discuss the nuclear threat in the 1980's and the present.

It is intended that a new Oldham Peace Group to campaign for peace and disarmament will also be launched at the event. **ALL ARE WELCOME**.



Left: Dr Kate Hudson speaking alongside Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn MP, who is also a Vice-President of CND.

At **6pm on Thursday 21 September**, the UN International Day of Peace, the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum will be hosting the first annual Peace Day Lecture in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

Author and peace activist Vijay Mehta has kindly agreed to be our first guest lecturer. Vijay is the Chair of Uniting for Peace and founding Trustee of Fortune Forum Charity. His books include "United Nations and it's Future in the 21st Century" (2005), "Arms No More" (2005), "The Fortune Forum Code: For a Sustainable Future" (2006), "The Economics of Killing" (2012) and "Peace Beyond Borders" (2016).

The Sunday Times described him as a "longstanding activist for peace, development, human rights and the environment, who along with his daughter Renu Mehta has set a precedent for striving to change the world" (The Sunday Times, February 01, 2009).

In 2014, Vijay Mehta's bio "The Audacity of Dreams" appeared in the book form "Karma Kurry" published by the Jaico Publishing House, India, with a foreword to the book by the former President of South Africa, His Excellency the late Nelson Mandela.



In the inaugural Peace Day Lecture, Vijay Mehta **above** will explore why the world today is more unstable than at the height of the Cold War.

Vijay will argue that the 'war on terror' has been unsuccessful, with military interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and Syria displacing more people worldwide now than any time in history, and that the rise of populism, nationalism and racism has resulted in 'Trumpism', Brexit and the formation of right wing parties across Europe, all instrumental causes of the First and Second World Wars, in which 100 million people perished.

With this turmoil and chaos around the world, Vijay Mehta will explore how to counteract the onslaught of the culture of militarism and what actions we need to take for building a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

Vijay will also honour us by signing the Pledge to Peace on behalf of Uniting for Peace, the organisation that he founded, at this event.

AGAIN PLEASE DO COME AND JOIN US.

With thanks to CND and Vijay for the article and photos.

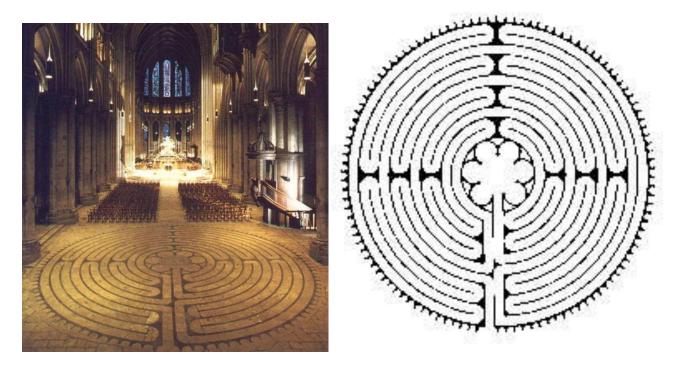
19 The Oldham Peace Times Issue 11 - June 2017

Take the Path to Peace



The design of the labyrinth at Dunwood Park, Shaw (see page 10) is based on that in Chartres Cathedral in France (**below left**), which was built in the thirteenth century.

You can trace the path to the centre of the labryrinth with your finger (**bottom right**) following the example of our former Mayor of Peace, Cllr Derek Heffernan, who did it for real at Dunwood Park (**above**).



20 The Oldham Peace Times Issue 11 – June 2017