

British
Pugwash

Pugwash
conferences
on science and
world affairs

Join us in British Pugwash



www.britishpugwash.org

What is Pugwash?

Pugwash is an international network of scientists and others concerned about the social impact of science, particularly the threat posed by nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. It shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 with the founder of British Pugwash, Joseph Rotblat, for its work during the Cold War era.

The network's success has depended on its reputation for impeccable scientific integrity and lack of bias. Today Pugwash has national groups in over 50 countries and the British Pugwash Group plays a major role in both UK and international activities.

Origins

Pugwash was born on 9 July 1955, when Bertrand Russell released the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, calling on world leaders to "learn to think in a new way". Joseph Rotblat chaired the launch and convened the 1957 conference in Pugwash, Nova Scotia that set up the British Advisory Committee for Pugwash. The British Pugwash Group was formed in 1963, with Sir Neville Mott as the first Chair. Other scientists, including Cecil Powell, Rudolf Peierls and Dorothy Hodgkin have guided British Pugwash over the years.



Joseph Rotblat
(right) with
Bertrand Russell

"The quest for a war-free world has a basic purpose: survival. But if in the process we learn how to achieve it by love rather than fear, by kindness rather than by compulsion; if in the process we learn to combine the essential with the enjoyable, the expedient with the benevolent, the practical with the beautiful, this will be an extra incentive to embark on this great task. Above all, remember your humanity."

Last lines of Joseph Rotblat's Nobel Acceptance Speech, December 1995

British Pugwash

The British Pugwash Group, linking with experts from Pugwash's international network, uses the best scientific expertise to inform the government and public on issues relating to weapons of mass destruction – especially nuclear weapons and nuclear power – matters of war and peace, the environment and the social responsibility of scientists.

British Pugwash activities range from private meetings with officials to regular public discussion meetings, and from in-depth reports and books to letters to newspaper editors. Up to date information on all our public activities and publications can be found on our website at www.britishpugwash.org

Areas of work include:

- UK leadership for a Nuclear Weapons Free World
- Strengthening independent scientific advising on policy making
- Creating an effective Disarmament Institute
- Advising on the disposition of Fissile Materials
- Engaging in the debate on sustainable energy sources
- Promoting public outreach and education
- Training the next generation of responsible scientists



Professor Johan Rockström of Stockholm University explains the concept of 'Planetary Boundaries' to a British Pugwash meeting in July 2011

Join British Pugwash

Membership is open to everyone in the UK qualified by profession or experience to contribute to the work of Pugwash. Many of our members are scientists, engineers and technologists, including quite a number who are Fellows of the Royal Society, but the participation of other professionals (for example, economists, sociologists and experts on international affairs) in our work is becoming increasingly important. We particularly welcome participation from young scientists concerned about the application of science in world affairs, who can also work with the youth arm of the international organisation, International Student/Young Pugwash.

Members are encouraged to suggest and participate in studies and activities at both national and international levels. They receive an annual report and newsletter, and have full access to reports through the British Pugwash website, which provides up to date information on Pugwash activities and publications. Members also receive priority information on upcoming public discussion meetings.

Minimum subscription: £25 a year

Please see overleaf for the application form.

"We scientists, young and old, must nurture a vision of a better world... a world without war, a society based on care and equity, a community that will protect the environment. And we should make it our task to turn this vision into reality."

Professor Joseph
Rotblat, 1996



The Peace Crane, supporting Nuclear Disarmament, at Glastonbury 2011

Membership application form

I wish to apply for membership of British Pugwash

Full name/title

Academic and professional qualifications

Occupation

Areas of interest related to Pugwash activities

Mailing address

Telephone number(s)

Email

If you would like to subscribe by standing order, please tick here to request a form

This information will not be used for any purpose other than to inform you about Pugwash activities.

Governance

The British Pugwash Group is governed by an Executive Committee of elected and co-opted members, with elections every three years.

For details of the current British Pugwash Group Executive Committee and the British Pugwash Trust Board of Trustees, go to www.britishpugwash.org/governance.htm

British Pugwash Trust: Registered charity number 297539

Contact

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Executive Committee members (2012): Carol Naughton (Vice-Chair), Dr Nick Ritchie (Hon. Secretary), Dr Christopher Watson (Chair) and General Sir Hugh Beach

Front: Professor Robert Hinde (former Chair), and Jayantha Dhanapala (President of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs) with young Pugwashites in Cambridge

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