

# British Pugwash Group

## Annual Report of the Executive Committee 2010

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The British Pugwash Group is the UK arm of the [Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs](#), an international network of scientists and others concerned about the social impact of science, with particular emphasis on abolishing weapons of mass destruction and war.

With its reputation for absolute integrity and lack of nationalistic bias, Pugwash helped to make possible agreement on issues such as the Partial Test Ban Treaty, the NPT, the ABM Treaty, the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty and the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions. In addition to its work to help create the conditions for, and to encourage progress towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, Pugwash is also engaged in dialogue to build bridges between the US and Iran, in the Middle East, North Korea, Afghanistan and Kashmir. Together with one of its founders, Joseph Rotblat, it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995.

British Pugwash activities range from private meetings with officials to regular public discussion meetings; and from in-depth publications and books to letters to newspaper editors.

In the past year, British Pugwash has continued to focus its resources on nuclear weapons-related issues, with particular emphasis on the UK position. Having worked in a number of ways to encourage the UK Government to deliver practical steps consistent with its avowed aim of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world,

we welcome both the reductions in the UK warhead numbers announced in the October 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, and the postponement by several years of the Main Gate of the Trident renewal programme. However, we remain concerned that the UK Government's intention to proceed with renewing its submarine-based Trident nuclear weapons system seriously undermines its position in calling for movement towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

This report summarises many of the activities of British Pugwash during the calendar year 2010. More details can be found on the website: [www.britishpugwash.org](http://www.britishpugwash.org)

### Projects

**Advancing UK and European leadership in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.** As reported last year, International Pugwash President, Amb. Jayantha Dhanapala, who chaired the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), led this project, which aimed to promote European dialogue for progress in the May 2010 NPT Review Conference. In 2010 he continued informal discussions with policy makers and influential experts.

The resources developed as part of this project, which received generous support from the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, the Ploughshares Fund and

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### British Pugwash Group

Ground Floor Flat, 63A Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3BJ

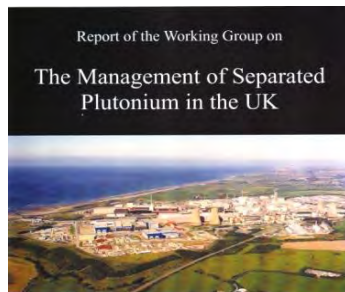
Tel: 020 7405 6661; Email: [office@britishpugwash.org](mailto:office@britishpugwash.org); Web: [www.britishpugwash.org](http://www.britishpugwash.org)

## British Pugwash Group Annual Report 2010

St John's College Cambridge, did indeed have a major impact both before and during the NPT Review Conference.

The project's most important and unique contribution was to the very significant progress made in implementing the Middle East Resolution\*, on which Amb. Dhanapala had specifically worked during his time in Cambridge. Jayantha was widely published and cited in the media during Spring 2010, and many of the insights he shared in the run-up to the NPT Review Conference were developed during his time in the UK in Autumn 2009.

**The Management of Separated Plutonium in the UK.** This November 2009 British Pugwash report addressed three possible options for the disposition of the UK Plutonium stocks. It concluded that a robust conclusion could not be reached because relevant technical and commercial information was publicly unavailable for security or commercial reasons. If a decision is to be taken that would command public support, the debate needs to be opened up by making relevant information available. The report was widely circulated at the NPT Review Conference, and to delegates from some 47 countries who attended the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington DC in April 2010.



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\* The convening of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the appointment of a Facilitator to consult and prepare the conference, with responsibilities after the conference.

**The Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group.** Convened in 2008, this group of experts from academia and NGOs has continued to meet monthly to coordinate interactions with decision makers and officials on UK nuclear weapons issues, in particular in relation to the renewal of the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system. New funding during the year from the Network for Social Change, together with continuing funding from the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, has enabled us to appoint a Parliamentary Liaison Officer, a position which is proving particularly valuable with the change in government.

**Realising the Disarmament Laboratory.** This project, started in 2009 with funds from the legacy of the late Professor John Ziman, aims to explore the potential of a proposed UK Disarmament Institute. If we are ever to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, many technical and political difficulties will need to be overcome. One way to approach these problems would be to establish a UK Centre of Excellence which would bring together the UK expertise on the nuclear non-proliferation, arms reduction and disarmament implementation problems that need to be tackled on the road to a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Interestingly, in July 2009, then Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced that the UK would establish a „National Nuclear Centre of Excellence“ (NNCE). Although that proposal's scope was more limited than the Pugwash concept, it was important that the Pugwash project went forward in a way that was not inconsistent with the NNCE. Accordingly, a number of very useful discussions took place during 2010 with many of the potential stakeholders in both the NNCE and the proposed Disarmament Institute in order to plan the best way to proceed. The cancellation of the NNCE in the autumn Comprehensive Spending Review has clarified the situation, and the project will be proceeding in 2011 with a scoping workshop involving the major potential stakeholders.

## British Pugwash Group Annual Report 2010

**Mapping Disarmament in the UK.** In response to a high-level request for an overview of UK non-governmental work on nuclear disarmament, British Pugwash produced a directory of the UK-based NGOs and individual experts that have a focus on the non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. This directory, which we hope will be of use both to Government and others interested in accessing the expertise catalogued, was updated during 2010 and will go live on the British Pugwash website in early 2011.

**The Role of Independent Scientists in WMD Threat Assessment.** In 2008, British Pugwash co-sponsored with the Croatian Pugwash Group a NATO Advanced Research Workshop. Senior scientists and policy advisors from NATO, Partner, and Mediterranean Dialogue countries explored ways to strengthen the advice which governments receive on weapons of mass destruction. This project formally concluded in early 2010 with the publication of a book based on the contributions and the workshop discussion (see Publications below).

**WMD Awareness Programme.** This Pugwash-led collaboration with other NGOs (see [www.wmdawareness.org.uk](http://www.wmdawareness.org.uk)), funded generously by the Joseph Rowntree and the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trusts, aims to reach out to the public on nuclear weapons issues. A series of events organized throughout the year all carried the message that nuclear abolition is possible, and that we have right now a unique opportunity to progress towards this goal:

- 1 February **Visions for the New Century** – WMD Awareness supported BASIC in the launch of this new public conversation on nuclear disarmament.
- 9 February **FCO Seminar on shaping the UK's approach to the NPT Review Conference 2010** – WMD Awareness organized this jointly with BASIC, the FCO and UNA-UK.
- 1-4 April **NASUWT Conference** – WMD Awareness had a stand to promote educational materials.

- 31 May **Guardian Hay Festival, Annual Joseph Rotblat Memorial Lecture** with Basharat Peer, John Finney and Jon Snow (see also p.4).
- 27 June **Glastonbury, Get Up Stand Up! show.**
- 29 July **Women in Defence of Nations** – joint event with Women in Public Policy.
- 9-29 August **Edinburgh Festival, Get Up Stand Up! show**
- 19 September **Liberal Democrat Conference Event: Trident – what next?** – joint event between British Pugwash and Greenpeace UK.
- 8-12 September **Bestival** – first trial of our new format to attract, intrigue and capture a younger generation. This format will be used for other festivals and universities in 2011.

The programme is shifting its focus to concentrate more on developing outreach to a younger generation, following advice from the professionals we engaged. We recruited Luke Tredget to develop this work and he has made great strides in devising and field-testing an approach that we will be using throughout 2011. We have commissioned a series of three short films to use in a variety of settings.

We continue to attend regular consultative and planning meetings with other key NGOs, participate in a range of conferences and seminars and liaise with MPs and Peers, FCO, and with MoD and DECC staff at different levels.



*Ranking Roger of The Beat in „Get Up Stand Up!“ at Glastonbury 2010*

## British Pugwash Group Annual Report 2010

### Discussion Meetings

#### Armed robots and military

**nanotechnology.** On 26 May 2010 Prof. Jürgen Altmann of the Faculty of Physics, Technische Universität, Dortmund reviewed the military uses of robots, particularly uninhabited vehicles (UAVs), their potential future role in, and influence on warfare and the possibilities of their preventive limitation. He raised the question of how these technologies, which frequently have dual-use implications, could be controlled in the military arena, and advocated developing a system of preventive limitation, where possible banning systems before implementation.

**Joseph Rotblat Memorial Lecture at the Hay Festival.** On 31 May 2010, this [annual lecture at the Guardian Hay Festival](#) was given this year by Basharat Peer, author of *Curfewed Night*, a memoir about the struggle for justice in Kashmir.

**What did the NPT Review Conference achieve?** On 16 June 2010 British Pugwash held its Annual General Meeting and a Public Discussion on *The 2010 NPT Review Conference: consequences for the future of disarmament and non-proliferation*. Speakers included Ambassador Peter Jenkins, Geneva Centre for Security Policy and previously UK Ambassador to the IAEA; Carol Naughton, Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy; and Prof. John Simpson, Mountbatten Centre for International Studies.

The three speakers provided an overview of the NPT Review Conference process and an analysis of its outcomes. The tone of the conference was more positive than in 2005 and there was progress on all three pillars – non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Although the final document (action plan) was seen as less coherent than the one produced in 2000, a key outcome was the last minute agreement to take action on the 1995 resolution to seek the establishment of a zone free of nuclear

and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

**Rethinking Nuclear Weapons.** On 4 November 2010, Ward Wilson, Senior Fellow at the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies, Monterey Institute, addressed the pragmatic question of whether nuclear weapons are effective and of economic or political value, setting aside the many moral arguments that can be made. He argued that six mistakes made by different groups at different times have led to a false picture of nuclear weapons: belief in the nuclear “revolution”; equating nuclear war with apocalypse; the idea that bombing Hiroshima won the war; belief that H-bombs are “thousands of times bigger”; faith in nuclear deterrence; and the belief that nuclear weapons keep the peace. He argued that these mistakes have interacted to exaggerate the pragmatic usefulness of nuclear weapons and concluded that there are serious reasons to doubt that nuclear weapons make sense either militarily or diplomatically.



Ward Wilson

#### A Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone.

On 25 October 2010, the Fifth London Conference on this important and difficult issue was again organized by the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS, and co-sponsored by British Pugwash. The day conference featured, among other speakers, the head of the FCO’s Counter-Proliferation Department Dr Liane Saunders, and the US President’s Special Representative on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Ambassador Susan F. Burk. The Secretary General of International Pugwash Prof. Paolo Cotta-Ramusino and



## British Pugwash Group Annual Report 2010

Prof. Steve Miller of the Pugwash Council also spoke.

**Addressing Current Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues.** On 29 November 2010, British Pugwash co-sponsored, with the International Institute of Strategic Studies, the inaugural UK discussion of the [International Network of Emerging Nuclear Specialists](#) (INENS). This organisation, which was founded following the 2010 NPT Review Conference, aims to bring together emerging specialists from the political, scientific, technical, legal, advocacy and academic strands of the nuclear field to further dialogue amongst emerging specialists across the different fields.

### Publications

Jayantha Dhanapala, “Planning for the 2010 NPT Review Conference: A Practitioner’s Overview”, *Pugwash Issue Brief*, March 2010. This was a major piece of writing that Jayantha undertook during his time in Cambridge. One of the contributions to the NPT briefing book (see next item) was an extract from this Issue Brief.

International Pugwash, [Perspectives for Progress: The 2010 NPT Review Conference and Beyond, May 2010](#). This briefing book for delegates at the NPT Review Conference, edited by Sandra Butcher, included important contributions from Amb. Dhanapala, who also worked during his time in Cambridge to shape its structure and content. It was well-received by diplomats and experts in New York.

Nick Ritchie and Paul Ingram, “A progressive nuclear policy. Rethinking continuous at-sea deterrence”, *RUSI Journal* **155:2**, 40-45 (April 2010). The article argues that the rationale for continuous deterrence has been based on several pillars that are no longer relevant. Rather than a need for a continuous deterrent, there is instead a great opportunity for Britain to

take the lead as the most progressive of the nuclear weapons states by reducing the readiness and size of its strategic force.

Nick Ritchie, “Relinquishing nuclear weapons: identities, networks and the British bomb”, *International Affairs* **86: 2**, 465–487 (2010). If Britain did not currently have nuclear weapons it would probably not set out to acquire them. What are the drivers that keep the UK in the nuclear weapons business and what can these drivers tell us about the prospects for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons?

John Finney and Ivo Slaus, *Assessing the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Role of Independent Scientists*, IOS Press, 2010. This book includes contributions from some of the world's leading experts on independent scientific advising on WMD issues. It is the outcome of the British Pugwash-Croatian Pugwash workshop in Zagreb, November 2008.

Sir Hugh Beach, with Field Marshal Lord Bramall, General Lord Ramsbotham and Major General Patrick Cordingley, the *Times*, 21 April 2010. [“Money spent on Trident can’t go on troops.”](#) This letter questions the value for money of the UK nuclear deterrent. While welcoming the proposed Strategic Defence and Security Review after the May general election, they expressed deep concern that the question of the Trident replacement programme was to be excluded from the review. They wrote: “Any genuinely comprehensive review needs to weigh up all of these issues and answer the question: „Is the UK’s security best served by going ahead with business as usual; reducing our nuclear arsenal; adjusting our nuclear posture or eliminating our nuclear weapons?””

*“War is not inevitable: Aggressiveness can be tamed”*. In the late eighties Robert Hinde was a signatory to the [Seville Statement on violence](#). The statement was taken up by UNESCO and widely disseminated.

## British Pugwash Group Annual Report 2010

The message was that violence was not in our genes and therefore not inevitable. Understanding of gene/environment interaction has in any case moved on since then. With two colleagues who have done a great deal of work on human violence, Robert has produced a [new statement](#) which focuses on the social issues involved.

### International Pugwash Activities

#### International Pugwash Responsibilities.

John Finney is a member of the Pugwash Council and Executive Committee. Julian Perry Robinson is one of four coordinators for the International Pugwash steering committee on CBW issues, which organized an International Pugwash workshop on these topics in December 2010. Robert Hinde serves as a trustee of the Geneva-based Pugwash Foundation. Sandra Ionno Butcher is Director of the Pugwash History Project.

**International Pugwash Discussions.** Two of these took place in the UK during 2010, engaging current and former policy makers in discussions. A Round Table in January 2010 on Nuclear Weapons Policies and the NATO Strategic Concept Review was co-sponsored by Des Browne, convener of the Top Level Group of UK Parliamentarians for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. A Pugwash Consultation in October 2010 brought together 33 current and former officials and other experts from 14 countries to generate ideas on steps that might be taken to create forward movement on a Middle East WMD free zone.

**On 29 January 2010 Pugwash** released the "[Milan Document on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation](#)" which was issued following a [Pugwash NPT Roundtable Discussion](#) in Milan. This document highlighted specific points relevant to progress at the May 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Jayantha Dhanapala played a pivotal role in the Milan meeting, which engaged senior current and former policy makers from around the world in discussion of issues related to the NPT Review Conference. This meeting directly built on Dhanapala's activities as part of the *Advancing UK and European leadership* project summarized above.

### Other Meetings and Conferences

Hugh Beach (who is a signatory to the "Getting to Zero" declaration) attended the [Global Zero](#) Summit February 2-4 2010 in Paris. This meeting convened 200 eminent international political, military, business, civic, faith, and student leaders to launch the next phase of the Global Zero campaign.

John Finney gave a briefing on *United Kingdom Initiatives for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament* to German officials, parliamentarians and others in Berlin on 17 March 2010.

The following day, John Finney participated in the Physics and Disarmament sessions at the annual meeting of the German Physical Society in Bonn on 18 March 2010, where he gave a talk on *Renewing, reducing and abolishing the British nuclear deterrent: Technical opportunities and obstacles along the road to zero.*

Hugh Beach participated in a meeting at Lancaster University on 28 March 2010 at the invitation of one of the Global Zero young entry. His double act with Paul Ingram of BASIC on *Getting to Zero* was captured on [You Tube](#).

John Finney took part in the 18<sup>th</sup> Amaldi Conference on *International Security and the Role of Scientific Academies* in Rome 13-15 November 2010, where he gave a talk on the recent reductions to the UK nuclear weapons system.

## British Pugwash Group Annual Report 2010



(L to R) BPG Chairman John Finney, John Holdren Director US Office of Science and Technology Policy, Catherine Kelleher (Brown Univ.) and Götz Neuneck (Hamburg Univ.) at the 18<sup>th</sup> Amaldi conference

### The Pugwash History Project

The Pugwash History Project, run by the International Pugwash secretariat, brings information about the organization's history to a wider audience. Project director, Sandra Ionno Butcher, maintains a [blog](#) that posts relevant material.

Restoration is underway at [Thinkers' Lodge](#) in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, with Sandy Butcher serving as an informal advisor to the project. In July 2010, she gave a presentation on [The Women of Pugwash](#) at a conference co-organized by the Pugwash Peace Exchange and the Pugwash Parks Commission. Sandy also gave presentations on Pugwash and Pugwash history 7-10 July 2010 at Mount St. Vincent University's conference: *Being the Change: Building a Culture of Peace*. She was joined for a workshop with Ru Ling Susie Chou, daughter of Chou Pei Yuan who participated in the first Pugwash Conference and Eric Bednarski, director of *The Strangest Dream* – see below. Please check [this link](#)\* for a blog entry on "Peace and Pugwash: The 1957 Conference" by Adele Wick.

Sandy and another UK-based analyst, Gordon Jones have been researching an issue of the Pugwash history series that will

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\* [www.centermovement.org/topics-issues/defense/peace-and-pugwash-the-1957-conference/](http://www.centermovement.org/topics-issues/defense/peace-and-pugwash-the-1957-conference/)

explore Pugwash's role as a back-channel during the Vietnam Crisis.

In November 2010, the Canadian Gemini Award went to Eric Bednarski and Barry Cowling for best writing in a documentary programme about Joseph Rotblat, *The Strangest Dream* by the National Film Board of Canada. The film is now available [online](#) free of charge.

### Other Public and Educational Outreach

**PeaceJam.** PeaceJam UK is a voluntary peace education programme devised and led by Nobel Peace Laureates ([www.peacejam.org.uk](http://www.peacejam.org.uk)).

Its March 2010 conference for young people was headed up by the Nobel Peace Laureate and President of East Timor, President José Ramos-Horta. He described his long struggle for the freedom of his people to an audience of students, academics and local people. Over the week-end he took Q&A sessions, talking to around 200 young people, their teachers and youth workers from many parts of the country. For the first time students and teachers from Norway also took part. Projects and a wide range of workshops gave participants the opportunity to explore the issues of reconciliation, violence, and poverty; to fundraise for natural disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti; and to look at how rap and music could be used to question and raise issues in our society.

In November the university hosted a follow-up one-day conference at which the young people returned and described the projects on which they had been working, participated in a number of skill-based workshops, compared experiences and discussed how to organise practical work in their schools and communities.

## British Pugwash Group Annual Report 2010



At the end of November, in an initiative supported by the British FCO Conflict Prevention Pool, PeaceJam was invited to give a two-day training session on its programme to the Civil Society Institute in Armenia. A number of young people from Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan and their teachers will attend the March 2011 PeaceJam conference with a view to initiating a PeaceJam programme in their own areas.

Throughout the year PeaceJam UK has been consolidating and augmenting its work and continuing to develop partnerships with like-minded organisations. The partnership with the University of Bradford is much appreciated as is the support from the Co-operative Movement in the North and North-West, the Rotary Movement, the Dulverton Trust, the Calderdale Foundation, PeaceJam in the USA and all its teachers, supporters and volunteers.

**Rotblat Essay Competition.** British Pugwash runs this annual essay competition in honour of Professor Joseph Rotblat. Closing shortly after the general election of May 2010, the competition asked what advice should be given to the next Government on a science and technology topic of the entrants' choosing. New to the competition was an additional video category. This year's winners were: Masamichi Minehata and James Revill from the University of Bradford, Department of Peace Studies for their essay on

"Preventing the development and use of Biological Weapons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Ethics, Life Scientists and the Role of Next British Government"; and Oliver Carefull and Troy Edige's *Sustainable UK* video.

### British Student/Young Pugwash

On 25 October 2010, British Student/Young Pugwash co-hosted a student conference with the Youth division of Soka Gakkai International (SGI-UK) at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Over 100 students and members of the public came to listen to a number of speakers, including International Pugwash's Secretary General Prof. Paolo Cotta-Ramusino and WMD Awareness Programme's Carol Naughton, and to participate in dialogue on ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

#### Executive Committee 2010

**President:** Prof. Robert Hinde CBE, FRS, FBA

**Chair:** Prof. John Finney FInstP, FRSC

**Deputy Chair:** Dr Christopher Watson

**Hon. Secretary:** Dr Nick Ritchie

**Hon. Treasurer:** Prof. C. R. Hill FInstP, FIEE

Prof. Alan Allport

General Sir Hugh Beach, GBE, KCB, MC

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Prof. John Simpson OBE

**For PeaceJam:** Sally Milne

**For WMD Awareness Programme:**

Carol Naughton

**For Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison**

**Group:** Ben Moody

**For British Student/Young Pugwash:**

Poul-Erik Christiansen