

# The Hexham Debates

## Series 5

Organised by Northumbrians for Peace and  
Hexham Quaker Meeting

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**Tim Wallis**

*Executive Director, Nonviolent Peaceforce*

**'Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping: an alternative to military intervention?'**

We should not shy away from responsibilities to protect civilians and keep the peace in countries ravaged by war and bloodshed. But should we always expect troops to undertake these tasks? Around the world, unarmed civilians are doing this work very effectively. Perhaps the time has come to challenge the assumption that, even for UN peacekeeping, military forces are the only option.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Chris Cole**

*Secretary, Drones Campaign Network*

**'Rise of the Drones: The growing use of armed drones in remote warfare.'**

The use of armed unmanned drones allows military attacks to be made at great distances with little or no risk to the aggressor. Chris Cole will detail how drones are changing the nature of warfare, explore how the military industry is developing drones for the future and share news of how legal scholars and human rights experts are challenging their use, both here and around the world.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Hexham Abbey 7.00pm**

Inter-denominational Service  
for Justice and Peace. *Preacher:*

**The Very Revd Dr Alan McDonald**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Greg Muttitt**

*War on Want Campaigns & Policy Director*

**'Lessons from Iraq on oil, war and democracy.'**

In 2003, it was clear to many that oil was part of the strategic rationale for the Iraq war. The US and UK governments publicly denied any interest in Iraq's oil, but what did they think in private? What happened to the oil during the occupation? How did such strategic concerns shape the process of nation-building? Was the conflict in Iraq the first of many resource wars of the 21st Century?

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**Cathy McCormack**

*Campaigner on housing, health, poverty and the environment*

**'The war against the poor in Britain: reclaiming our stolen humanity.'**

Cathy McCormack will argue that a psychological and economic propaganda war is being waged against the poor in Britain as elsewhere in the world, fought not with bullets but with briefcases. She will suggest that a social disease like poverty cannot be cured without first diagnosing the root cause.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**John Christensen**

*Tax Justice Network*

**'Globalisation's achilles heel: how tax havens wrecked the global economy.'**

Tax havens are not just about tax dodging. They also provide a toxic combination of secrecy and lax financial regulation, and have played an important part in incubating our current economic crises. With politicians largely unwilling to take effective action, ordinary citizens must now take the lead in tackling tax havens.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012

**Paul Rogers**

*Professor, Bradford University Department of Peace Studies*

**'Conflict, Climate Change and Food.'**

Economic and environmental trends continue to contribute to difficulties with sharing global food resources equitably. Will present-day issues eventually be seen as markers for even more serious problems in the coming decades?

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**Frank Boulton**

*Chair, Medact ('Challenging barriers to global health')*

**'Is there a place for new nuclear build in generating energy for civilian use?'**

In the face of climate change, even environmentalists now advocate nuclear power as an essential part of a low-carbon future. This talk will explore some of the pros and cons of this option, and discuss the inevitable technical links with nuclear weapons of mass destruction. It will also look back to the events at Fukushima a year after the earthquake and tsunami on March 11th 2011.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012

**Paul Brannen**

*Christian Aid campaigns manager*

**'Death, Taxes and Development: why aid is not the answer but taxes might be.'**

The developing countries of the global south need an exit strategy from aid, if they are ever to 'stand on their own feet' in the long term. Certain aspects of the international tax system play a role in perpetuating global poverty, but paying taxes could be the key to ending poverty – for good.

**Dr Tim Wallis** was present at the Hague Appeal for Peace in 1999 when Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) was first conceived, and is now its Executive Director. NP undertakes unarmed civilian peacekeeping roles that would formerly have been done by the military. NP is currently invigilating a truce in Indonesia and recently received \$1 million from the UN to do work in Southern Sudan. He led an exploratory peace team to Chechnya and has been involved in setting up a number of other peace team projects. He holds a PhD in Peace Studies from Bradford University.

**Chris Cole** has been researching and campaigning on the issue of armed drones since 2008. He is a former Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and co-ordinator of Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT). He is co-author of *'Convenient Killing: Armed Drones and the Playstation Mentality'*, and is the secretary of the Drones Campaign Network. He speaks regularly on drones and the growth of remote warfare and maintains the Drone Wars UK blog.

**The Very Revd Dr Alan McDonald** is the guest preacher at the inter-denominational Service for Justice and Peace, to be held in Hexham Abbey. A former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Alan McDonald has taken part in many acts of worship at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Faslane, witnessing to a shared faith in Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace, and underlining a belief that nuclear weapons are morally and theologically wrong.

**Greg Muttitt** is Campaigns & Policy Director at War on Want. His book *'Fuel on the Fire - Oil and Politics in Occupied Iraq'* draws on hundreds of previously unreleased US and UK documents, as well as dozens of interviews with government officials, oil company executives and Iraqi civil society. In his previous job with the campaigning charity 'Platform', Greg worked both in Iraq and internationally to publicise the secret plans for Iraq's oil. He has visited there three times.

**Cathy McCormack** lives in Easterhouse, Glasgow. A long term campaigner on housing, health, poverty and the environment, she has worked for the last 25 years with Community Critical Psychologist Professor David Fryer. Widely known as a popular social commentator, her writings and broadcasts have received international acclaim. Her biography, *'The Wee Yellow Butterfly'* was published in 2009.

**John Christensen** is co-founder of the Tax Justice Network and directs its London-based International Secretariat. An experienced auditor and economist, for 11 years he was economic adviser to the government of Jersey. As well as working in a variety of the world's poorer countries, he has also advised a range of NGOs, and published and broadcast widely. John lives with his wife and two sons in the Chiltern Hills between London and Oxford.

**Prof Paul Rogers** studies trends in international conflict, developing an analysis of the linkage between socio-economic divisions, environmental constraints and international security. Since 9/11, his focus has been on western military responses to political violence and the problems arising from the 'war on terror'. A regular commentator on global security issues in both the national and international media, he is also openDemocracy's International Security Editor.

**Dr Frank Boulton** is the current Chair of the Board of Medact. He was Consultant Haematologist and Senior Lecturer at the London Hospital, Royal Liverpool Hospital, and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. He has served as Medical Director of Wessex Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, and as Honorary Civilian Consultant Advisor to HM Armed Forces in Blood Transfusion. Until 2011 he was a Board Member of the Oxford Research Group.

**Paul Brannen** is Head of Advocacy and Influence at Christian Aid, with responsibility for policy, campaigns and media work. Currently his focus is on the growing problem of climate change in the developing world, and also the scandal of tax avoidance by some unscrupulous multinational companies, which robs poor countries of much-needed funds. Paul spent 5 years on Newcastle City Council and has twice stood for the Westminster Parliament, including Hexham in 2001.

**Hexham Debates contact:**  
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# Hexham Debates

Series 5      Justice  
Peace  
Democracy

**Programme 2011 / 12**

**Sat 29 October**  
**Sat 19 November**  
**Tues 10 January 7.00pm**  
**Sat 28 January**  
**Sat 18 February**  
**Sat 24 March**  
**Sat 21 April**  
**Sat 19 May**  
**Sat 9 June**

**Saturdays 11.00am - 12.30pm**  
**The St Mary's Centre**  
**St Mary's R C Church**  
**Hencotes**  
**Hexham**

**Admission Free – Retiring Collection**

The Hexham Debates seek to carry on the tradition of active, radical debate essential for ensuring freedom and justice for all. We hope that this programme will demonstrate ways in which a government's legitimate power depends on the consent of its citizens, and reveal how far we have moved away from that ideal.

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