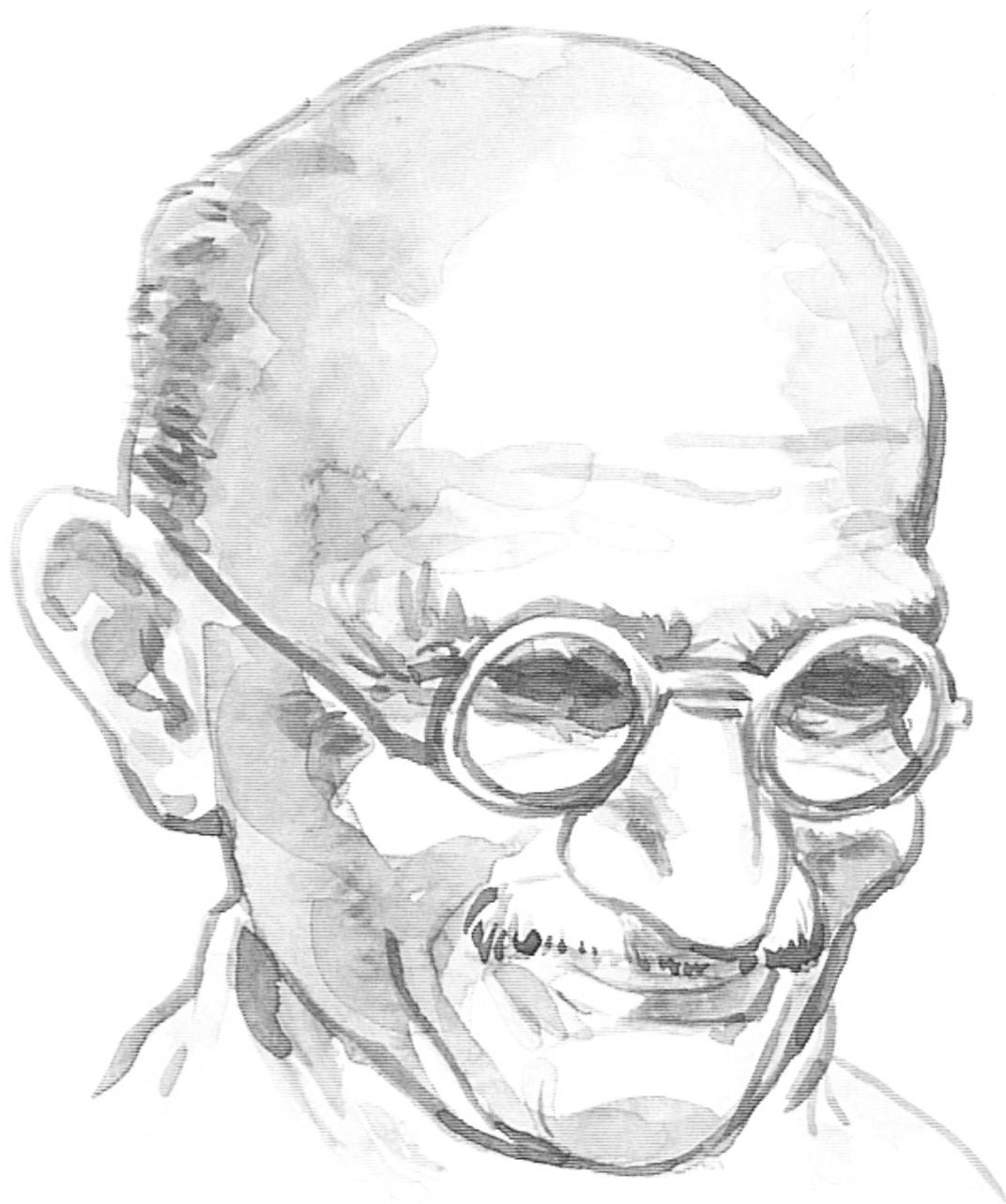


The Gandhi Way



Newsletter of the Gandhi Foundation
No.157 Autumn 2023 ISSN 1462-9674

Gandhi Foundation Annual Lecture 2023

Paul Bazely on 'Becoming Gandhi'

Thursday 19 October 2023, 18.30-20.00

in the Nehru Centre, 8 South Audley Street, London W1K 1HF

The Nehru Centre will also host Khadi London's

Natural Fibres Exhibition from 16-20 October

Book tickets at - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-annual-gandhi-lecture-tickets-681641316527?aff=oddttdcreator>

The above event may be available online also. If so, the link will be sent later.

More details about the play, which starts its second run on 8 September
can be found at <https://events.nationaltheatre.org.uk>

Gandhi Foundation Multifaith Celebration 2024

Unity in Diversity

Saturday 3 February 3pm-5pm

Golders Green Unitarian Church, 31 1/2 Hoop Lane, London NW11 8BS

Further details in next issue

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Becoming Gandhi

In his lecture, actor Paul Bazely will explain how he ‘Became Gandhi’ for the National Theatre’s production of ‘The Father and the Assassin’.

Paul will explain the play and what it has tried to achieve by setting out the perspectives of both Mohandas Gandhi and his assassin, Godse.

Paul will then explain what playing Gandhi has meant to him as an actor, and a person growing up in Britain with Indian heritage. He will set out how seeing the Attenborough film as a child, and then learning about nonviolence in more depth, and how to spin (from Asha Buch, from Khadi London) was key to him preparing for, and performing, the role of Gandhi on stage.

Paul will also reflect on the importance of Gandhi and his philosophy today, particularly Khadi. He will explain how the play and also the work of Khadi London – who also provided all the fabric used in the play on stage – and its partners in India is vital to keeping Gandhi’s life and message relevant, particularly for young people, in a world where consumerism and throw away fashion dominate.



Photo is Courtesy of the National Theatre, and photographer Marc Brenner

Graham Davey

1935-2023 A Life

Graham Davey was born in Bristol and attended Bristol Grammar School and Bristol University where he studied mechanical engineering. He served a graduate apprenticeship with Rolls-Royce Aero Engine Division at Derby and continued to work with the firm for another two years before leaving to train to be a teacher at Birmingham University. He taught mathematics at a school in Derbyshire before marrying Valerie in 1966.

They then went to Tanzania where they taught in the newly independent country for over two years. They found this was a considerable learning experience and returned to Bristol much more conscious of the need to educate people in this country about the ways in which Britain continued to exploit people and resources in developing countries.

On returning home in 1969 Graham taught mathematics and computer studies at two schools in Bristol. He also joined the Society of Friends in the early 1980s and was an active member for the rest of his life. Valerie was initially fully occupied bringing up their twin daughters but then became active in politics serving as councillor and leader of the Labour group on Avon County Council and then went on to serve for eight years as MP for Bristol West. Graham took a one-year postgraduate course in development studies before retiring in 1988.

In 1990-91 he spent five months in India based at Rasulia, the Quaker Rural Centre near Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh. As with the period in Africa Graham found this a great learning experience. It included a seminar on the life and teaching of Gandhi and when he returned he attended the Gandhi Foundation Summer School in 1991 thus starting a long association. In 1996 he joined the Foundation's executive committee and became treasurer in 2003. Graham rarely missed a committee meeting or one of the GF's public events.

Other interests of Graham included peace (CND, Campaign Against the Arms Trade), the environment (Lifestyle Movement, the Green Party), adult education and libraries. He also enjoyed playing music – piano, cello and particularly playing in a recorder group.

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Graham Davey (R) with (L) former Chair of GF Cecil Evans, wife Isabel, and Brian Parker



Graham with Jeremy Corbyn (GF Peace Award 2013) and Bruce Kent

## **Tribute to Graham by Jane Sill**

When recalling Graham, an image immediately comes to mind of a very upright man both in terms of physical appearance as well as character. My earliest memories of Graham go back to the Gandhi Summer School as they were called then in the 1990s. Ever the 'happy camper', Graham would appear early in the morning from his simple tent which he pitched whatever the weather, clad in khaki shorts and short sleeved shirt with maybe a baggy jumper if conditions were inclement, ready to start the 'bread making'. Graham would be up before anyone else, around 6 am, to get the process ready in time for breakfast. He would be joined at various intervals by others who would appear sleepy eyed, including often very enthusiastic children whom he would initiate into the age old art of bread making. One particularly memorable batch of small rolls in the shape of an assortment of animals and other wildlife, including hedgehogs, cats, mice and a large rectangular artistic masterpiece, greeted us at one summer school held at Moultsford in the Oxfordshire countryside. The aroma of freshly baked bread lingers on in the memory.

Graham was one of those people who were 'always there', seemingly immune to the passing of years and fashions. Everything he engaged in was done in a quiet, careful way, always attentive to detail and never cutting corners. He was a born teacher and whether it was practical skills like bread making or calligraphy, or offering in-depth analyses of current issues such as ecology and caring for the planet's finite resources and well researched biographies of pioneering figures during our Summer Schools' sharings, he never tired of sharing his knowledge and experience while being careful not to impose his views. His meticulous and transparently clear presentations were nowhere to be seen more clearly than in the annual accounts for the Gandhi Foundation which Graham prepared each year. Presented on a single side of A4 paper, they could easily be understood by even the most numerically illiterate amongst us.

Graham was always very careful with resources and finances, while being at the same time very generous, offering a welcome 'taxi service' for those who arrived at Summer Schools by train and supporting Indian friends such as Shailendra who always referred to him as 'Uncle'. Well into his 80s, Graham would take the coach to travel to London for the regular Executive Meetings at Kingsley Hall and, while in London, would make good use of the time and fare to visit old friends who were sick or no longer able to travel.

Graham was also good fun and enjoyed taking part in the various activities at Summer Schools, such as children's games and circle dancing. He was also apparently not averse to taking risks in his youth, with his bike riding skills down steep Bristol hills being recounted at his service of remembrance.

Active until the very end, Graham was riding his bicycle the weekend before he passed away and had been to a recorder class taken by his daughter, the evening he was taken ill. He will be very much missed by us all.





Graham with Trudy Lewis and Mark Hoda, Summer Gathering 2019



Games at The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay





At Gandhi Summer School 2014





# **Gandhi's Religious Beliefs**

**by Graham Davey**

Read by Mark Hoda at the GF Multifaith Commemoration 21-1-2023

This event has been held almost every year since 1985 on or near the 30<sup>th</sup> January to commemorate Gandhi's assassination in 1948 by a Hindu extremist. It provides an opportunity to reflect on Gandhi's attitude to his own and other religions and to advance our own appreciation of the literature and traditions of the religions represented in our increasingly diverse society.

Gandhi was brought up in a relatively well-off family in Gujarat. His mother was a devout Hindu strongly influenced by Jains. This led Gandhi to argue throughout his life for the humane treatment of animals and to condemn vivisection in the strongest terms.

When Gandhi came to London to study law in 1888 he had promised his mother he would eat no meat and this led to him becoming active in the London Vegetarian Society where he met a number of English intellectuals. One was Sir Edwin Arnold who introduced him to the Bhagavad Gita so Gandhi read this for the first time in an English translation. From this he gained the conviction that ends and means are inseparable, that one is never justified in doing evil with the purpose of achieving a greater good. The Gita also teaches that emotions must be controlled and that there is no place for anger in personal relationships. The Bhagavad Gita became for Gandhi the essence of Hinduism and was a moral guide to him for the rest of his life.

In London he also started to read the Bible and was inspired by the Sermon on the Mount, particularly the teaching of Jesus on nonviolence and by his willing acceptance of suffering and death.

On his return to India in 1891, Gandhi failed to establish a career as a lawyer and two years later he accepted a contract to represent a Muslim businessman who was engaged in a dispute in South Africa. From the time of his arrival in South Africa, Gandhi experienced the discrimination and oppression that was the common lot of the Indian community. Soon after the dispute was settled he founded and became leader of the Natal Indian Congress and began to put into practice his ideas on achieving social justice by nonviolent means. He set out to study all the main religions of the world and during his first year he read some 80 books, being particularly influenced by the writings of John Ruskin, Henry David Thoreau and Leo Tolstoy.

Gandhi sought a word to describe his evolving philosophy and came up with the term Satyagraha. The word has been used to describe nonviolent activists as satyagrahi but for Gandhi it had a much deeper meaning. The Sanskrit words from which it is derived mean seeking, grasping and holding on to Truth and for Gandhi, Truth was almost synonymous with God. He believed that every religion was a valid means of approaching the same God and therefore opposed attempts to persuade people to convert to another religion. A Christian should try to be a better Christian, a Hindu, a better Hindu etc. He was looking for those universal principles which transcend individual religious beliefs but take account of the practical problems of everyday life and are consistent with common sense and one's innate sense of morality. He believed it was his right and duty to point out the defects of his own religion, but to desist from doing so with other's faith.

Gandhi resisted some gentle pressure to become a Christian by citing the impression given by Christian missionaries that their religion was superior to all others and therefore justified proselytising. He also could not accept the doctrine that Jesus was the only Son of God. Gandhi was equally critical of Hinduism and condemned the caste system, particularly untouchability which he said was Hinduism's greatest plague. He was strongly opposed to child marriages, the dowry system, the treatment of widows, the low status of women and animal sacrifice. Gandhi set up four ashrams in South Africa and India and his religious beliefs were expressed in holding two prayer meetings every day comprising readings from the literature of various religions and their songs or chants.

Gandhi's charisma came from his being seen as a man of God rather than as a politician. He was not a theologian but as a Hindu, he would be described as a follower of karma yoga, a person of action believing that political action and religion were connected. He said, "Those who say that religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion means."

Gandhi freely associated with members of other religions throughout his life but his close collaboration with Muslims was of special importance in his attempts to quell the fighting which accompanied the Partition of the subcontinent in 1947. Abdul Kalam Azad was a brilliant scholar who worked with Gandhi in the struggle for independence and opposition to communal violence.

Abdul Ghaffar Khan came from the Pashtun area of North West India and because of his total commitment to nonviolent action, was known as 'the Frontier Gandhi'. His close association with Gandhi from 1919 onwards



contributed to what success was achieved in securing justice under British rule and reducing the communal slaughter in 1947.

Gandhi had no difficulty in justifying these collaborations, he said, "I hope it is not necessary to demonstrate why it is the duty of a Hindu to march abreast of their Muslim compatriots. The essence of true religious teachings is that one should serve and be friends with everyone."

Much of the conflict and abuse of human rights in the world today is caused or exacerbated by two related problems – religious extremism and nationalism. India's current prime minister, Narendra Modi, leads a right-wing government that has created a hostile environment for Muslims in India which does not bode well for the future. Gandhi's assassin, Nathuram Godse, is now being seen as a hero by BJP members and some want statues of him to be set up in Indian towns, presumably distant from statues of Gandhi.

It's easy to feel helpless in the face of so much warfare and abuse of human rights in the world and it's true that as individuals we have virtually no influence with regard to the policies of governments other than our own. We can, however, encourage our MPs to put pressure on the appropriate ministers when the UK is promoting trade and strong diplomatic relations with undemocratic and ruthless regimes. In addition, Gandhi's example shows the need to learn more about the beliefs and practices of religions other than our own, to engage with members of other faith communities and to counter prejudice whenever we see it.

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A message from Valerie Davey

Many thanks for the messages of support I have received, with a special thank you to Omar Hayat and Jane Sill for coming to the Quaker Meeting for Graham. Although we were not expecting people to travel to Bristol, it was very good to have GF members there. All your memories of Graham, including bread making at summer gatherings, are appreciated and be assured that the respect and affection for him you expressed was mutual – he greatly valued your friendship.

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Probably the last talk that Graham gave was to a Quaker group in Bristol entitled '**Who started the war in Ukraine?**' This video can be found on Google under 'Graham Davey Quaker' and is a very informative and balanced view of this highly important issue.



Plant bug



Red soldier beetle



## Jane Thomas's Photos



Winter Trees

## Meeting Kasturba actress and acolytes

*Mark Hoda*

In recent weeks, I had the honour of meeting Rohini Hattangadi, the Indian actress who played Kasturba in the Attenborough film, as well as Padmavathi Vempali from the Kasturba Trust in India.

Rohini Hattangadi was performing in a play in the marathi language in the Shaw Theatre in Euston. I was able to go backstage to meet her before a performance. I'm so grateful to Kishore Shah from Khadi London, and Siddharth Mukne from the UK India Business Council for arranging for me to meet Rohini.



Rohini Hattangadi, Siddharth Mukne and Mark Hoda

A few weeks later, I met two people who are championing Kasturba Gandhi's legacy in India.

Padmavathi Vempali works for the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust (KGNMT) in India. She came to my home with her son, Krishna, with some beautifully crafted products made by the women and girls that the Trust was established to support.

The KGNMT was established by Mahatma Gandhi himself, in memory of Kasturba after she passed away, for women and child empowerment. The organization, headquartered in Indore has branches across India which have evolved over time and now are delivering a range of support in local communities in rural India.



Padmavathi is in charge of the Trust's work in Telangana state. The products in the photograph are all hand crafted by women who were once victims of abuse, trafficking and traumatized and now are successfully rehabilitated by the Trust through their livelihood projects. Thanks so much to Prof. Prasad from the Gandhi King Trust for putting me in touch with Padmavathi.



Padmavathi and her son, Krishna

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## Meeting with Khadi London and Tushar Gandhi

*Jane Sill*

A warm welcome awaited Tushar Gandhi who visited the London Peace Pagoda for the first time on the auspicious date of the summer solstice and who was greeted by Rev G Nagase, the monk in charge of the Pagoda, along with Sister Marutasan from Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda and Rev Asami, the head monk of Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda who happened to be visiting

fortuitously and who had acted as attendant for the Most Ven Nichidatsu for many years. The meeting had been requested by Kishorbhai and Ashabhai representing Khadi London which Reverend Nagase generously hosted in the small temple nearby following a short prayer and sutra recitation. Reverend Nagase was very honoured to be able to welcome the great grandson of Gandhi Ji. There are close and longstanding links between his order, Nipponzan Myohoji and Mahatma Gandhi. Their founder, the Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii stayed some time at Wardha when Gandhi Ji was alive and the subsequent dedication of his life and that of his followers for the cause of peace was greatly informed by his experience there.



Revs Asami and Nagase welcome Tushar Gandhi, also Kishorbhai and Ashabhai

A lively discussion ensued over tea and cakes, including a very delicious French macaroon cake kindly brought by Tushar Gandhi. Also present were a young Chinese couple who were both studying in the UK, appropriately in artistic fields, and who had happened to be at the Pagoda for the first time that afternoon. They were able to offer a young person's perspective to the dialogue.

The relaxed, friendly atmosphere lent itself to a rich exchange of ideas and possibilities which hopefully will lead to a creative collaboration bringing



Khadi and the concept of Satyagraha as well as the foundational principles upon which Wardha Ashram had been based, including the involvement of cottage rural industries to a wider audience in the West, through a series of events, competitions and a possible Festival. Many seeds were sown – hopefully to grow and bear fruit in the coming months and years.



During the meeting, Tusharbhai shared a copy of a recently published diary written by Gandhi Ji's wife which he had translated. He had initially been skeptical when shown the small notebook but, on reading it, realised that the diary had been composed in the colloquial style of his great grandmother which gave it an authentic voice. The book, *The Lost Diary of Kastur, My Ba* was published by Harper Collins, India, in 2022, :ISBN-13: [9789354898945](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9789354898945) and is available from the on line independent booksellers: [www.alibris.co.uk](http://www.alibris.co.uk).

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## Scilla Elworthy receives the Goi Peace Award

In 2001 Dr Scilla Elworthy gave the Gandhi Foundation's Annual Lecture. Scilla has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times, an indication of her life-long effort to 'prevent and transform conflicts and build sustainable peace throughout the world'.

Born in Scotland, she was 'shaken by the violence she witnessed on the news at the age of 13 during the suppression of the Hungarian Revolution. Since then her passionate desire to do something about the world's suffering people has led her to engage in activities to support refugees and war orphans, and to lead a nutrition organisation in South Africa, among other activities to help the socially vulnerable around the world.'

Scilla founded the Oxford Research Group in 1982 to develop dialogue between nuclear weapons policy makers worldwide and their critics. In 2002 she founded Peace Direct to support and learn from peace-builders in conflict areas. She has also promoted a feminine approach to peace building.

In recent years she has developed a Business Plan for Peace showing how 25 tried and tested strategies for preventing war could be scaled up and extended over 10 years, with the aim of preventing armed violence worldwide. The total cost of the Plan came to as little as two billion dollars.



## David Graham 1932-2023

Although David Graham was never an active member of the Gandhi Foundation he led a remarkably Gandhian life. David died in April this year aged 91.

David's adult life began by his refusing National Service and when he refused alternative service he was sentenced to a year in prison where he read about Gandhi. On release he decided to go to India to meet Vinoba Bhave. David also worked in a leper colony in India called Anandavan in the later 1950s. On return to the UK he married Jane and they had five children. Now settled in Bromley, Kent, David was involved in helping US deserters from the Vietnam War. In 1968 the family moved to Manchester and he worked with the Centre for Group Studies in deprived areas of the city instilling the ideas of social justice in schools and in the community.

While doing a degree at Manchester University in Politics and Economics, David formed a group called Community Research Action Group which set up a Free School and campaigned against corporal punishment. He was also instrumental in securing legislation requiring local authorities to set up permanent sites for travellers. Later, he worked with the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.



Increasingly, however, David's main area of concern was the suffering of animals. All his adult life he had been vegetarian but, in the late 70s, he became a strict vegan, equating the lorries and train wagons that carry animals to slaughter with the way many of his family members were taken to be murdered in Germany's concentration camps. (His parents had been immigrant Jews from eastern Europe and the name Graham was an adopted one.)

In 1996, David formed a charity, the Vegan Organic Network (VON), whose aims are to produce vegan food by enriching the soil using only methods that do not require artificial fertilisers or the remains of animals. Their magazine, *Growing Green International*, is read in many parts of the world.

David was a fortunate man in that his wife and children keep to the same values he lived by with their son Daniel and his partner carrying on the work of VON. More about his admirable life can be read on [www.veganorganic.net/DavidGraham](http://www.veganorganic.net/DavidGraham)

## Arun Gandhi 1934-2023

Arun Gandhi, grandson of M K Gandhi, died on 2 May 2023 in India. He was the son of Manilal, the second son of Mohandas, and his wife Sushila Mashruwala who lived mainly in South Africa. Arun was born in Durban but lived with his grandfather from 1946 at Sevagram, returning to SA just weeks before the assassination.

Arun was married to Sunanda, a nurse, in India in 1957 intending to settle in South Africa but Sunanda was refused entry to the country and so they remained in India where Arun worked as a journalist for the *Times of India* for 30 years. The couple also started social projects in villages of Maharashtra.

When Attenborough's film *Gandhi* was released in 1982 he criticised it due to the fact that it was subsidised by the Indian government by \$25 million. However when he saw the film he changed his mind and thought it a worthy representation of Gandhi and the independence movement.

In 1987 the family moved to the USA and Arun founded the M K Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence in Memphis, Tennessee. It was hosted by the Christian Brothers University, a Catholic establishment. His own beliefs were universalist. In 2007 it moved to the University of Rochester, New York. Arun travelled widely in the US and to other countries giving talks on nonviolence.

He was critical of Israel because of its treatment of the Palestinians and on one occasion also, perhaps unwisely, said that Jews talked too much about the Holocaust and looked to the past. As a result he was forced to resign from the Institute. He had earlier proposed a peaceful march of Palestinians across the Jordan to return to their homeland.

Arun wrote a number of books including *The Untold Story of Kasturba: Wife of Mahatma Gandhi* (2000) which he wrote along with Sunanda. He felt that his grandmother had been neglected by historians. One of his later books was *The Gift of Anger* (2017) about lessons learned from his grandfather.

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### ***Journal of Pacifism and Nonviolence***

The first issue of this new journal, edited by Alexander Chrystoyannopoulos, the GF's lecturer for 2022, is now available to view online. This can be done for free until the end of 2024. There are ten essays in this first edition.

See <https://brill.com/view/journals/jpn/jpn-overview.xml>.

## Miscellaneous

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### **Circular Economy**

A circular economy is a means of bringing about a more sustainable economy which is essential for the future survival of life on earth – one that is counter to the ever expanding economy that we are all familiar with. It is a model of production and consumption which involves sharing, reusing, repairing, and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.

At present in Scotland (and it would no doubt be similar to the rest of the UK) an average of 18.4 tonnes of materials per year or 50kg per week is used per person. This is estimated to be the equivalent of 3 Earth planets' resources.

Travelling and housing are obviously major sectors but food waste is around 25% of total carbon emissions, and textiles, although consisting of only 4% of household waste, contributes 31% of carbon impacts. In fact 80% of the carbon footprint is from products we manufacture and services we supply.

I can't guarantee the accuracy of these figures because I have seen different figures in different places but the general picture is clear and we all see the reports of the effects of global warming and the assurance from climate scientists that it is human activity that is the cause. So we need to change our own lifestyle as well as expecting governments, businesses, scientists and engineers to play their role.

The circular economy would lead to a reduction in waste, a reduction in international supply lines, an increase in local employment opportunities, and an increase in small businesses.

### ***Not to be overlooked***

Like most human activity, digital society has its environmental impact. However, just like military activities, it has been largely ignored until recently.

Our mobile phones and computers and related hardware are believed to be responsible for around 4% of all human-induced CO2 emissions, which is about double that of the aviation industry. Vast warehouses of computers are necessary to process the data generated by our leisure and work activities.

In the UK, photos alone taken on smartphones create about 800,000 tonnes of CO2 in a year. But academics at Loughborough University have recently created a tool called Data Carbon Ladder which will allow businesses to measure the CO2 output of their digital data.

### **UK Government and boycotts**

Among one of the Bills working their way through Parliament at present is the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill. Its aim is 'to prevent public bodies from being influenced by political or moral disapproval of foreign states when taking certain economic decisions'.

If the Bill gets passed by Parliament it will be unlawful for any public authority to take decisions on procurement, investments and pensions which are informed by 'political or moral disapproval of foreign state conduct'. Thus local authorities,



universities, banks, cultural bodies, will be unable to divest from fossil fuel corporations (as quite a number do at present) or armament producers (as some do at present and others are considering). The Treasury will be given new powers of monetary penalties for those defying the rules. Going further, the minister Michael Gove would also like to stop public authorities from publishing statements indicating they intend to divest.

But there will be a list of countries that can be sanctioned and boycotted and so the Government will include Russia in that. In contrast Israel will not be on the Government's boycott list in spite of its occupation of Palestinian territory.

Opposition to the Bill has been expressed by many groups and unions, including CND, CAAT, Stop the War and Quakers, but Labour Party members abstained in the Commons so that it passed the first stage 286 to 70. This was in spite of contrary legal advice which the Labour Party had commissioned from Richard Hermer KC.

This Bill would remove one of the routes available to citizens in a democracy to have political influence. [Information derived from Andrew Tickell, *The Herald on Sunday* 25/7/23 and *Peace News* Aug-Sept 2023]

## **UK military Spending**

This year's Spring Statement revealed an increase of £7.1billion in military spending from £45.9bn in 2021-22 to £53.1bn in 2022-23 or 15.7% increase. This percentage increase was greater than for any other Government department, eg health or education or climate.

The amount spent on the nuclear weapons programme in 2022 was £5.4bn.

## **The Causes of Hunger Are Manipulation of Food Prices and Corporate Land Grabbing. *Manlio Danucci***

Headline: "Russia starves the world, Italy's Meloni confirms it." *The accusation that Russia is starving Africa by blocking Ukrainian grain shipments, falls in the face that almost all of the grain from Ukraine went to EU countries, not to poorer nations, to which **only 2 ships out of 87 were sent.***

31 July 2023 – At the United Nations Food Systems Summit, Italy's President Meloni confirmed the West's accusation against Russia:

*"Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has exacerbated food insecurity in many African nations, had a major impact on the distribution of grains around the world exacerbating the global food security crisis. This would be the cause of the fact that 30 percent of humanity, 2.4 billion people, do not have access to adequate food, that more than 700 million people (according to official default estimates) are chronically undernourished, i.e., condemned to premature death from starvation."*

What the real causes are is indicated by the World Bank's own data: while wholesale prices of agricultural products and cereals have fallen by 4 percent and 12 percent respectively in one year, food prices have risen worldwide, often by 10 percent or more, affecting low-income countries the most. What the real causes of hunger are is shown by the growing phenomenon of 'land grabbing': the grabbing of arable land in Africa and other regions by large speculative groups. The same ones that speculate on all commodities, including grains: more than 6 million commodity buying and selling contracts are entered into daily at the Chicago Commodity Exchange for speculative purposes.

The accusation that Russia is starving Africa because it is blocking Ukrainian grain shipments falls in the face of the fact that almost all of the grain sent by Ukraine went to European Union countries, not to poorer nations, to which only two ships out of 87 were sent.

At the Second Russia-Africa Summit it was announced that Russia exported more than 11 million tons of grain to Africa last year and nearly 10 million tons in the first six months of 2023. All this took place despite illegal sanctions imposed on Russian exports. In the coming months Russia will supply 50,000 tons of wheat each to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, Central African Republic, and Eritrea, delivered at no cost.

***Manlio Danucci** is a research associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization, a geographer, and geopolitical scientist. He was Executive Director for Italy of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.*

This article appeared in Transcend Media Service 7 August 2023

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## **Hiroshima Day Commemoration Ceremony Milton Keynes 2023**

### **NAMUMYOHORENGEKYO**

This year marks the 78th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. This year, 9th August also marks the 80th anniversary of Blessed Franz Jägerstatter's execution in 1943 for refusing to serve in Hitler's army.

NATO is afraid of Russia, seeing it as a tiger, while not recognising itself as a wolf. Russia is afraid of NATO, seeing it as a wolf, while not recognising itself as a tiger. The real fear should be for the teeth of a tiger and the teeth of a wolf. Whoever has such 'teeth', is living in the law of the jungle.

Both the ordinary citizens of NATO and Russia are wonderful, peace loving people.

In 1951, The Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii in his writing, 'Nihon-Bunka no Sekai-Toitsu' or 'Unification for World Peace', introduces the 15th century

Bohemian Christian spiritual leader and author, Petr Chelcicky who influenced Leo Tolstoy with his nonviolent pacifism. In his writing, our Teacher introduced 'The Net of Faith' by Petr Chelcicky.

The famous Czech artist, Alfons Mucha (1860-1939) created a great work, 'The Slav Epic' consisting of 20 large canvases which he painted between 1910 and 1928. The 12th in the series is entitled, 'Petr Chelcicky at Vodnany' with the subtitle, 'Do not repay evil with evil'.

In September 2000, Sister Maruta and I walked from Prachatice through Chelcice, the village where Chelcicky lived, and on to Vodnany where there was a terrible massacre of civilians referred to in the epithet to his painting, finishing our journey in Prague.

The spirit of nonviolence lies at the heart of Slav nations and this spirit of nonviolence is the only way of bringing peace to the world.

Let us pray for peace in Ukraine.

With palms together in prayer, Bhikhu G. Nagase

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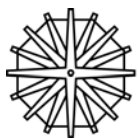
### **Raja Rammohan Roy**

(1772-1833) was a pioneering figure and precursor of Indian Independence and the struggle for democratic rights and justice, as well as equality in terms of race and religion. To mark 50 years of Indian Independence in 1997, a statue was erected in 1997 on College Green, Bristol where Rammohan died following a short illness. Rammohan had travelled to the UK in support of a Bill to ban *sati*, widow immolation, which was achieved. An article on this remarkable man will appear in the Winter issue of *The Gandhi Way*. The photo was taken after Graham Davey's Memorial Service when I had an opportunity to visit the statue for the first time.

*Jane Sill*







# The Gandhi Foundation

The Foundation exists to spread knowledge and understanding of the life and work of Mohandas K Gandhi (1869-1948). Our most important aim is to demonstrate the continuing relevance of his insights and actions for all of us.

Founder President: Richard Attenborough

President: Bhikhu Parekh

Patrons: Navnit Dholakia, Denis Halliday,  
Diana Schumacher, Mark Tully, Sandip Verma

Members of Executive Committee:

Shaheen Choudhury-Westcombe, Omar Hayat,  
Mark Hoda (Chair), Trevor Lewis, George Paxton, William Rhind, Jane Sill

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## The Gandhi Way

Articles, book reviews and letters of a specifically or broadly Gandhian nature will gladly be received by the Editor. Maximum length 2000 words.

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**The deadline for the next issue is the end of October 2023**

Printed on recycled paper using vegetable based inks and 100% renewable energy  
by [www.hillingdongreenprint.co.uk](http://www.hillingdongreenprint.co.uk)  
Tel: 020 8868 7852