The NCC and staff (from left to right): Tim Foxon, Stuart Parkinson, David Hookes, Georgina Sommerville, Paul Marchant, Jan Maskell, Alasdair Beal, Philip Webber, Martin Bassant, Harry Tsoumpas

SGR staff and National Co-ordinating Committee

STAFF

Executive Director
Dr Stuart Parkinson

Office Manager
Kate Maloney¹
Serena Mansfield²
Georgina Sommerville³

Researcher
Barnaby Pace MSc⁴

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (NCC)

Chair
Dr Philip Webber

Vice Chair
Dr Jan Maskell⁵

Treasurer
Alasdair Beal CEng

Secretary
Dr Harry Tsoumpas

Committee Members
Martin Bassant
Martin Cobley⁶
Dr Tim Foxon
Dr David Hookes
Dr Paul Marchant
Dr Jan Maskell⁷
Prof Tom Woolley⁷

¹ Until 30 April 2013
² From 1 March until 31 August 2013
³ From 27 August 2013
⁴ Until 30 April 2013
⁵ From 16 November 2013
⁶ Until 2 March 2013
⁷ Until 16 November 2013
Introduction

SGR has had an exceptionally busy year. From publishing new in-depth research on the militarisation of science to the upheaval of moving our office across the country to a new eco-development, we have continued to work hard on a wide range of activities to promote more ethical science, design and technology.

This year’s key achievements included:

- Revealing extensive new data on the scale of UK military R&D in an in-depth report, and comparing this to much lower levels of spending that help to tackle the roots of conflict.
- Completing the move of our office to Halton Mill, a community-run low-carbon building, supplied by local renewable energy.
- Continuing to feed our latest briefings on nuclear weapons into new intergovernmental negotiations.
- Helping to produce a new DVD on climate change and conflict, aimed at schoolchildren.
- Starting a new research and education project on shale gas and fracturing.
- Gaining high levels of media coverage, including in New Scientist, The Guardian, Engineering and Technology, and Professional Engineering.
- Contributing to debates and campaign work on issues such as sustainable energy, armed drones, corporate science, climate change and emerging technologies.

Finally, we thank our membership, our trust funders, and individual donors – all have been essential in SGR’s successes. We also especially thank Kate Maloney, who stepped down as SGR’s office manager in 2013, having worked so hard behind the scenes for so many years.

Dr Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director
Dr Philip Webber, Chair

Projects

MILITARY INFLUENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: SGR published its new in-depth report, Offensive insecurity: the role of science and technology in UK security strategies, in September. The report presented new data – obtained via freedom of information requests – revealing unprecedented detail of UK military R&D programmes. It highlighted the priority given to developing military technologies with major ‘offensive’ capabilities – especially nuclear weapons. The report also compared the military spending to publicly-funded civilian R&D which helps to tackle the roots of conflict, such as poverty and climate change. Unsurprisingly, this spending was found to be much lower. Research for the report was carried out by project worker, Barnaby Pace and the full report was authored by Stuart Parkinson, Barnaby Pace and Philip Webber. We carried out lots of dissemination work, including six SGR-authored articles in publications such as New Scientist (see pp.2-3), eight lectures around the UK and beyond (see p.2), and media work (see pp.2-3). Nearly 300 copies of the full report were downloaded by the end of the reporting period, with dozens of printed copies mailed to key policy-makers and opinion-formers. Hundreds more copies of the executive summary, presentations and related documents were also downloaded from our website. Our materials were also used in new campaign work (see p.4). Meanwhile about 2,000 copies of SGR’s three previous reports in this area were also downloaded.

THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS THREAT: We continued to disseminate the new SGR briefings on the threat from nuclear weapons. These briefings had been published in February 2013 (at the end of the 2012-13 reporting period) to feed into a new series of intergovernmental conferences on the catastrophic ‘humanitarian impacts’ should nuclear weapons ever be used again. Printed copies were given to delegates at these conferences and UK policy-makers, while hundreds more have been downloaded from the SGR website and that of the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to which we are affiliated. Our publications have helped drive international
momentum for a new global treaty to completely
ban nuclear weapons – despite the resistance of
nuclear weapons states, like the UK, which prefer
the status quo.

OTHER PROJECTS:
• SGR helped the Movement for the Abolition of
War produce a short film entitled Conflict and
Climate Change, which included interviews
with leading scientists and campaigners. The
film was aimed at school children and released
on DVD in October.
• Our 2009 report, Science and the Corporate
Agenda, continued to attract attention with
nearly 400 copies downloaded during the year.
It was also quoted in a new report by Platform
entitled Fossil Fuel Universities.
• SGR had stalls at ethical careers fairs at
Cambridge University and Leeds University.
About 1,800 copies of our ten briefings on
these issues were downloaded during the year.
• We began researching and writing a new SGR
report on shale gas and fracking. Gwen
Harrison led our work in this area and the
report will be published later in 2014.

Invited lectures:
13 invited lectures and talks
were given by senior SGR staff and members during
the reporting period. Nine of these focused on
military R&D and the alternatives, especially SGR’s
new report (see p.1). Especially notable were
presentations at Sussex University to a roundtable
group of military analysts, peace campaigners and
academics, and in Geneva to an international group
of diplomats. Other events were organised by
ForcesWatch (in London), Institution of Engineering
and Technology (York), Northern Friends Peace
Board (Kendal), the Council on Christian Approaches
to Defence and Disarmament (London), Department
of Sociology (Lancaster University), Campaign
Against Arms Trade (London), and Café Scientifique
(Leeds). Topics covered in other presentations
included nuclear weapons (in Manchester), climate
change and conflict (London), and armed drones
(Liverpool). SGR speakers were Stuart Parkinson,
Barnaby Pace, Philip Webber and David Hookes.

Communications

We had an especially good year in terms of media
coverage – mainly due to the release of our new
report, Offensive Insecurity (see p.1). We also saw a
continued increase in the number of followers on
social media, and interest in our website was also
very high.

Media: The launch of Offensive Insecurity led to a
great deal of media interest. SGR-authored articles
outlining our findings appeared in New Scientist, The
Guardian (Political Science blog), Engineering and
Technology, Open Democracy, and New Left Project.
These were written by Stuart Parkinson or Chris
Langley. The report also prompted coverage in
Research Fortnight, Professional Engineering, Peace
News, LBC Radio News, Media Lens, the newsletters
of the International Peace Bureau and Campaign
Against Arms Trade, and numerous other outlets.
The coverage in the science and technology media
was especially gratifying as they rarely cover such
concerns, and readership is often over 100,000. Indeed, the *New Scientist* article – which headlined the statistic that UK public funding of R&D on nuclear weapons is five times that on renewable energy – was shared about 1,800 times on social media. This was high even for *New Scientist*! Articles on SGR’s work on nuclear weapons appeared in *Nuclear Monitor* and *Mancunian Matters*. Another issue on which we received some good coverage was corporate sponsorship of science festivals (see p.4), including in *New Left Project*, *The Guardian*, *GreenNet* and *The Friend*. We were also interviewed by, among others, *The New York Times* and *The Stylist*.

SGR NEWSLETTER: In November 2013, we published another issue of our respected newsletter. This included articles on the rapid melting of the Arctic ice cap, nuclear weapons proliferation due to nuclear power, eco-housing, corruption in medical research, unsustainable use of fossil fuels, and our new report *Offensive Insecurity*. The newsletter was edited by Stuart Parkinson, Sophie Hebden, Georgina Sommerville and Kate Maloney.

SGR WEBSITE: We had another good year, with the total number of ‘visits’ reaching nearly 140,000 – just below last year’s record level. The popularity of the site was due to a combination of new material, such as *Offensive Insecurity* (and articles and presentations based on its main findings), but also older material, including for example a presentation on nuclear power from 2007. The website was maintained by Stuart Parkinson.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Our use of social media continued to grow during the year, helping us to reach new and younger audiences. We gained hundreds of new followers on Twitter and Facebook, and we also created a webpage on the LinkedIn network. We also maintained our two email-lists: sgrforum, for discussion among members; and sgrupdate, an announcements-only list for anyone. By the end of the year, we had a total of nearly 2,100 sign-ups to all our social media outlets: a 21% increase on the previous year. These media outlets were managed by Stuart Parkinson, Georgina Sommerville, Kate Maloney and Harry Tsoumpas.
**Other campaigning**

SGR’s other campaigning activities covered a range of issues during the year, mainly related to corporate science, sustainable energy and peace issues.

We challenged the influence of large corporations in science and technology in several ways. An SGR article criticising the national Big Bang science fair over its high profile sponsorship by major arms and fossil fuel companies received lots of interest (see p.3). We also wrote to the Edinburgh International Science Festival over its sponsorship by arms company, Selex. SGR also signed up to the AllTrials campaign supporting open publication of all clinical trials of pharmaceuticals.

In the area of sustainable energy, we worked with the Nuclear Consultation Group to challenge the huge subsidies being offered to new nuclear power in the UK. This including signing joint letters to the EU competition commissioner and the *Daily Telegraph*. We also spoke out in support of more subsidies for small-scale renewable energy.

On peace issues, we helped set up a new coalition to campaign for major reform of the UK National Security Strategy – as a government review begins. Stuart Parkinson had a chapter published in a new book, *Peace Engineering*. We also signed a joint letter to *The Guardian* protesting about the secrecy surrounding attacks carried out by UK armed drones.

Finally, we signed joint letters in support of an academic paper on GM crop safety which was retracted by the journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology* on very dubious grounds.

**Staff and volunteers**

**STAFF:** Our Office Manager since SGR was founded in 1992, Kate Maloney, retired in April 2013. We thank her for her dedicated service over the years, including much work beyond her paid hours. Serena Mansfield took over and upgraded SGR’s financial systems and membership database and then, in August, Georgina Sommerville took over. Stuart Parkinson continued as Executive Director – having been in the role for ten years. Barnaby Pace finished his contract in April as the research consultant on SGR’s latest project on military R&D (see p.1). We thank all our staff for their hard work.

**NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE:** The NCC – chaired by Philip Webber – provided oversight of SGR’s activities. At year end, there were eight members. At the AGM in November 2013, Jan Maskell was elected Vice-chair. Tom Woolley and Martin Cobley stood down during the year. We thank both Tom and Martin for their contribution to the organisation. A full list of NCC members is given on the inside front cover.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Thanks to the numerous other volunteers:

*SGR Newsletter:* Sophie Hebden, David Lowry, Kate Macintosh, Martin Quick, Alan Sloan, Vanessa Spedding and Peter Wilmhurst

*Staffing SGR stalls:* Alan Cottey, Hugh Hubbard, Richard Jennings, Harald Molgaard and Dave Webb

*Project work:* Gwen Harrison and Karena Kyne

*Philip Webber speaking at the 2013 SGR conference*
Financial review

Our finances for this reporting period (from March 2013 to February 2014 inclusive) remained healthy, despite an overall fall in income and much upheaval due to our office move.

A detailed breakdown of our income and expenditure is shown in the tables and figures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income (£)</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership subscriptions</td>
<td>£18,883</td>
<td>£18,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership appeal</td>
<td>£13,100</td>
<td>£8,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>£24,500</td>
<td>£13,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>£363</td>
<td>£1,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference fees</td>
<td>£209</td>
<td>£669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of publications</td>
<td>£16</td>
<td>£190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>£981</td>
<td>£4,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£58,052</strong></td>
<td><strong>£47,815</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income from membership subscriptions was stable, while donations to the annual appeal hit our target¹. We received grants this year from the Martin Ryle Trust (£3,700 for office move costs, and £5,000 for core activities) and the 1970 Trust (£5,000 for core activities). We are very grateful to these trusts. However, total grant income was markedly lower than the previous year. This was partially offset by over £4,000 (categorised under ‘Miscellaneous’) in a dormant account of one of our predecessor organisations, Architects and Engineers for Social Responsibility, to which SGR recently gained access. Other smaller areas of income also increased. However, total income was still significantly down from the previous year.

Expenditure (£) 2012-13  2013-14
- Core wages & NI £23,104  £22,012
- Rent, insurance and utilities £5,530  £5,346
- Recruitment £225  £875
- Newsletter £3,709  £2,411
- Conference and AGM £1,701  £2,375
- Other core costs £5,258  £5,016
- Military influence project £9,452  £4,925
- Loan repayments £850  £2,966
- **Total** £49,829  £45,926

Expenditure included completion of our military influence project (see p.1), moving the SGR office from Folkestone to Lancaster, and completing repayment of remaining loans to SGR. Despite the upheavals of the office move, staff changes and a new accounting system, spending has been successfully kept under control and total expenditure remained less than income. The new accounting system should allow better monitoring of SGR’s finances during the year.

As a result, for the first time in several years, SGR enters its new financial year with no debts and a reasonably healthy bank balance. However our finances depend on the success of grant applications and the generosity of donors and projected income and expenditure for the coming year are still only approximately in balance.

| Balance on 01.03.13 | £8,678 |
| Income              | £47,815 |
| Expenditure         | £45,926 |
| Income minus expenditure | £1,889 |
| **Balance on 28.02.13** | **£10,567** |

**Note**

¹ It should be noted that the very high figure of £13,100 in 2012-13 included a large fraction of the 2011-12 appeal due to the late arrival of some of that money into our bank account.