

CAMPAIGN WALES



CND CYMRU MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

No. 1 December '86 - January '87

(Extra copies 15p)

CND CYMRU "Wheels Around Wales"

On February 24th next year, Nuclear Free Wales will be five years old. CND Cymru's celebrations of this important event will last two weeks, with groups and individuals throughout Wales getting together to announce the birthday and to raise money for CND Cymru, War on Want and for Christian Aid.

Nuclear Free Wales has been a positive and challenging vision since we first realised the idea was possible and then saw it come to life in Clwyd County Hall in 1982. It has been an inspiration to anti-nuclear campaigners around the world as well as in Wales. But the eight counties and twenty two districts that made the declaration have come under pressure from the government and the Wales Forum of Nuclear Free Authorities is drawing up a common strategy in response. CND Cymru has an important role if we are to follow New Zealand's example in making Nuclear Free Wales a reality; we must gain the active support of organisations, political parties and the public, and to do that, we need money.

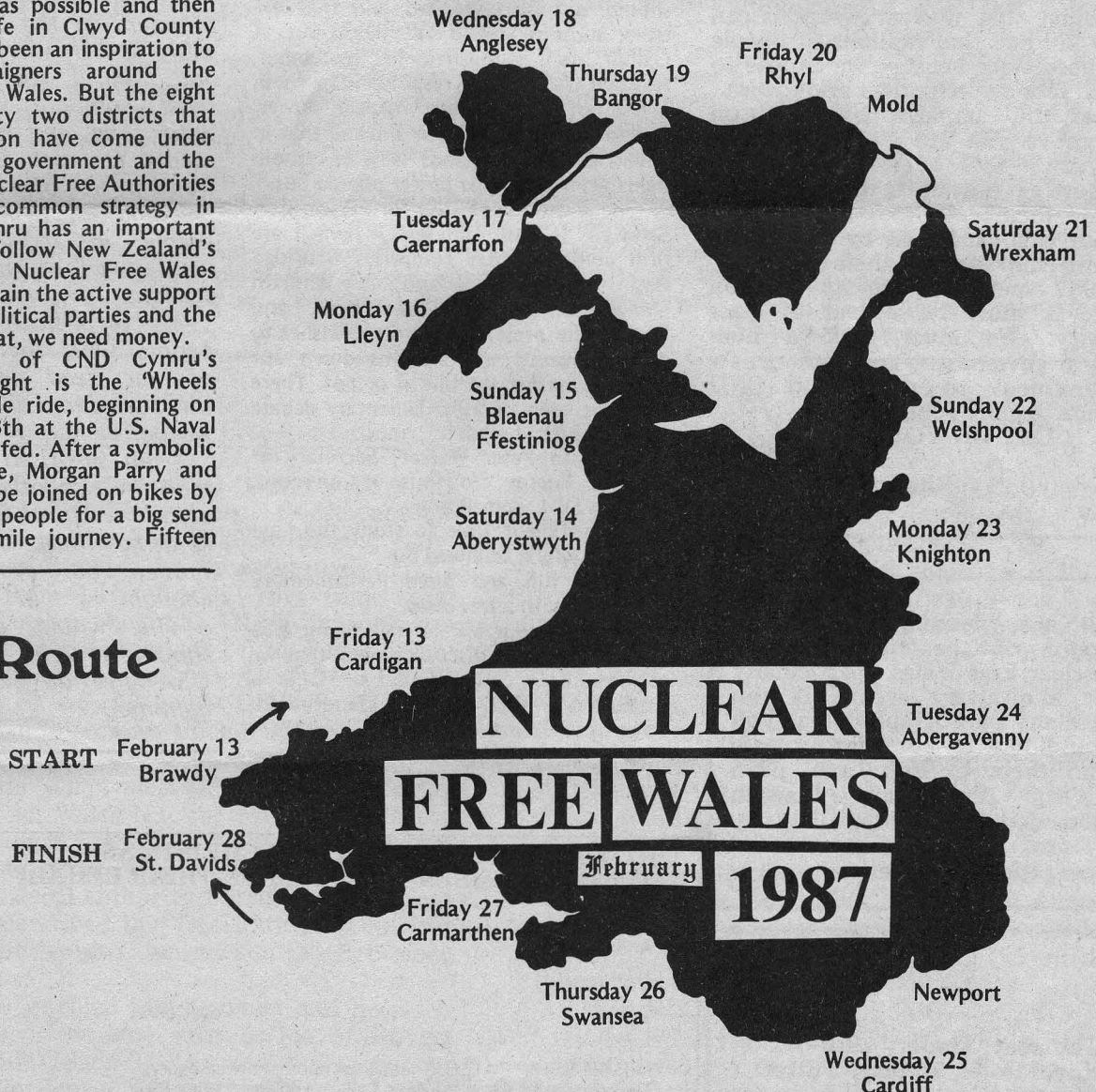
The 'backbone' of CND Cymru's Fundraising Fortnight is the 'Wheels Around Wales' cycle ride, beginning on Friday February 13th at the U.S. Naval Base at Brawdy, Dyfed. After a symbolic protest at the base, Morgan Parry and Martin Ashby will be joined on bikes by several well known people for a big send off on their 600 mile journey. Fifteen

days later, the two cyclists will arrive back in St. Davids to join a Christian CND rally on the eve of St. David's Day. The map on the right shows the dates and places of overnight stops, where local groups are now busy organising public meetings, performances and other events. Locally and nationally there will be two aims - to popularise Nuclear Free

Wales and to contribute to the biggest ever fundraising effort by the peace movement in Wales. There will be an all day festival in Mold on February 21st, where E. P. Thompson will be speaking.

There will be a corresponding event in Cardiff on Friday 25th and the final day February 28th will be in St. Davids and organised by Christian CND Cymru.

The Route



You will receive a copy of Campaign Wales every two months, with some of the news and views of CND Cymru. Please help us to make it as useful as possible by sending contributions to:- Editorial Group - Plas Bodhyfryd, Waunfawr, Gwynedd or contact Rhoda Jones, Ty Isaf, Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, Telephone - (076676) 2739 with enquiries or comments.

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS.

A warm welcome to the new 'Campaign Wales', which will now reach every individual member. Remember it is your 'Campaign'. Write and inform us of your views - send in reports about activities in your area.

May I also welcome all new members. Congratulations to Sue Pitman and Dafydd Ellis Thomas who were elected on to the British Council of CND. They are the first CND Cymru members to be elected direct from conference.

Best wishes to Martin Ashby and Morgan Parry as they prepare for their bike ride 'Wheels Around Wales'. They will begin on the 13th of February at Brawdy - sponsor sheets are available - meetings will be arranged and events will be held all along the route.

A special thought this Christmas for those people who live and die facing starvation and poverty. We are glad that Christian Aid and War on Want have joined with us to organise the 'Wheels Around Wales' a further reminder that nuclear weapons can only kill and that millions of people die needlessly because we choose to spend money on Trident and Cruise.

Yes, the campaign in Wales is on the move. We are a 'Nuclear Free Country', 48% of the population supporting our aims. But we need more members. Do someone a favour this Christmas by filling in a membership form on their behalf.

1987 may well be an election year. It must be a year of mass activity. We must elect a non-nuclear government and make a new commitment to peace and CND Cymru. As Mr. Tebbit would say - GET ON YOUR BIKE

Rhodri Glyn Thomas

We are planning a pictorial record of the five years of Nuclear Free Wales - particularly the anniversary events. If you have any photographs which you would like to contribute please send them to Bob Cole, Bryn Eltyd, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd. If you want them returned please enclose a s.a.e.

NOTICE

Cardiff CND A.G.M. Thursday, January 29th - 7.30 Royal Hotel, St. Mary's Street.

Nominations for officers to be forwarded to secretary c/o Peace Shop before January 1st, 1987.

WANA SOUNDS THE SIZEWELL ALERT

The Layfield report, which has been at the printers for the last month and according to the Department of Energy is to be published 'sometime before Christmas' is set to give the go-ahead to a PWR at Sizewell, opening the door to a programme of between four and six PWR's in Britain. That seems to be the consensus of opinion on Fleet Street, and would be in line with experience of previous nuclear power inquiries. Only one of eleven previous inquiries failed to give the green light to nuclear developments, and that exception - at Connah's Quay, was a recommendation not to proceed at that time.

The day before the Sizewell Inquiry started Nigel Lawson, then Secretary of State for Energy, stated that the inquiry was not interested to help him make a decision on the PWR, but was to convince the public that the PWR was both needed and safe.

The Sizewell 'B' inquiry failed to convince an anxious and sceptical public. Chernobyl has convinced the majority of the British public that nuclear power should not be expanded and that existing stations should be phased out. A Gallup poll, published in September, revealed that 56% of respondents were in favour of phasing out nuclear power. Gallup's regional analysis showed that in 'Wales and the Midlands' 88% of respondents wanted nuclear power phased out.

The short list of sites for PWR's after Sizewell 'B' and Hinkley 'C' (which are firm commitments) comprises Druridge Bay (Northumberland), Winfrith Dungeness (Kent), Trawsfynydd and Wylfa. The present Government wishes to ram nuclear power stations down our throats whether we like it or not. There may not even be a Parliamentary debate on the Layfield report.

Write to Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, c/o House of Commons, London SW1, demanding -

- (a) sufficient time to study the Layfield report, followed by- (b) a full and open Parliamentary debate with a free vote.

Write to your MP to make your feelings known, and discuss actions that we might take.

WANA - P.O. Box 1, Llandrindod, Powys - telephone (09824) 362 or 287.

Jessie Malone, Machynlleth.

Dear Campaign Wales,

People visiting the USSR must be impressed by the longing for peace there. At the failure of the Icelandic meeting my thoughts were with the many people whom we met in Moscow and Leningrad in July, who responded to the word 'peace' in Russian or English or even to the sight of my small peace-dove brooch. We remember the lady taking tickets at the entrance to one of the Kremlin churches who, at my greeting of 'Peace, comrade' in Russian stood up and, flinging her arms wide, replied 'Peace to all the world' in English. This was on our first morning in Moscow and it was followed by similar incidents throughout the next fortnight.

A lady with a small daughter, travelling on the Metro, gave us flowers.

At the beginning of an entertainment in the Summer Palace a short speech was made in Russian and English saying that countries must compete with each other with song and dance, not armaments. On each floor of our hotel was a poster of a woman and child pleading for peace and the same theme in mosaic covered the whole wall of one of the Metro stations.

My own heart aches for these people with their vast cemeteries of war dead and their country threatened on all sides by nuclear weapons.

I am surprised that they would take the risk of moving their own atomic weapons from Europe while ignoring those of the U.K. and France, but even this was not enough.

The whole peace movement should now be insisting that the USA give up its Star Wars programme.

DO SOMEONE A FAVOUR THIS CHRISTMAS - FILL IN A MEMBERSHIP FORM ON THEIR BEHALF

Name (Block Capitals)
Address
County Post Code (Important)

MEMBERSHIP RATES. (Please tick appropriate category). Two people at same address £12. Waged, adult £9. Unwaged adult or Pensioner £2. Student £3. Youth (21 or under) £1. Please find enclosed £..... for membership. £..... donation

Make payable to CND Cymru and send with completed form to: 2 Plastrton Avenue, Pontcanna, Cardiff CF1 9HH.



CND



CYMRU

International Year of Peace 1986

Acknowledging the great importance of meeting and talking to people and working together with other nations, CND Cymru sent three representatives to Europe, during October.

BRITISH CND INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE VISIT TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Olwen Davies, our representative on British CND's International Committee, recently returned from a visit to the German Democratic Republic where she had been part of a Welsh delegation invited by the GDR International Friendship League.

As well as having an opportunity to participate in discussions on topical issues relating to domestic and foreign policy, the delegation, through visits to schools, museums, theatre, were shown many aspects of the cultural and social life of the GDR.

Olwen was particularly interested in a visit to Banitzsch in the County of Dresden which is the centre of the Sorb population and culture, a people of Slav extraction with their own language and culture. On entering the Kindergarten school there to see an exhibition of Peace posters she was greeted with words 'Keine Euroshima' (No Euroshima). International Year of Peace was recognised throughout the GDR and World Peace Day celebrated by children drawing and writing essays on peace in schools. In the Underground in Berlin there is now a permanent exhibition of Peace posters.

Olwen writes of her visit - "We were given such a warm welcome and hospitality . . . we were not kept under surveillance as is the popular myth, and people were open and friendly and had a positive attitude to the future. The general theme that came from our talks was a genuine desire that no more wars would start in Germany, and we exchanged views on how together, we could make an active contribution to the development and maintenance of peace. We surely must continue to visit and become friends with people of different cultures and political systems. People to People - trying to bridge the gaps and understand the differences. It was a most wonderful and interesting visit".

Olwen gave away lots of Nuclear Free Wales badges and Peace Declarations which were received with enormous enthusiasm. The links are established but we must build on them now. If anyone would like to make contact with people in the GDR, or with organisations working for peace in other countries around the world please write to Olwen for further information at 34 Brynystwyth, Penparcau, Abersystwyth, Dyfed.

WORLD PEACE CONGRESS

We arrived at Copenhagen - all different - speaking different languages - different backgrounds - different political views. We were all Anti Nuclear and Human Rights campaigners. We were all seeking Peace and Justice.

We did not always agree — But we talked. Talk developed into dialogue. Dialogue developed into trust.

We soon realised that peace and justice are more than campaigns, more than policies, more than weapons. It is to do with the way in which we live, and the way in which we respond to other people.

We have to learn to tolerate each other and to co-operate with each other.

In the west we realised that we must give priority to the campaign against SDI and for a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We must commit ourselves to peace. We must educate people on the door step - so in 1987 let's get out on the streets. Knock on doors, talk to people, explain the non-nuclear policies. Explain the dangers of nuclear power and nuclear weapons - invite them to join CND Cymru.

Let's commit ourselves to dialogue, trust and peace - make 1987 a year of peace - that is the message from Copenhagen. Make every year a year of peace.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE Local man travels to Italian Nuclear Free Conference

Tony Simpson of Bridgend CND represented CND Cymru at the recent International Conference of Nuclear Free Zone Authorities held in Perugia, Italy. The conference was attended by representatives of 172 local authorities from 16 countries. They came from Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. There were many observers - from Peace organisations, from Greenpeace, from China and the USSR. The town of Perugia was decked with peace flags and doves, while Italian TV crews filmed the entire event in four languages.

Tony took with him a message of support for the Conference from All Wales Nuclear Free Zone Forum (which comprises local authorities from all over Wales) and this was read to the Conference. He contributed to a workshop on local authority initiatives on nuclear questions and he described the 'Declarations of Nuclear Free Zones' by the Welsh Counties and Districts since 1982.

The Conference enabled him to meet and hear the views of many civic leaders, such as Mayor Robert Reid of Three Mile Island (USA) and the mayor of Fujisawa, a city in Japan, where there are over 800 nuclear free zones. He also met peace movement organisers like Albert Donnay of Nuclear Free America and Larry Ross, the organiser of Nuclear Free New Zealand,

whose policies have now been accepted by their Government. Everyone seemed very interested in Wales and wanted to make more contacts here.

The Conference heard that there are 3,500 nuclear free towns and local authorities in the world and Nuclear Free Treaties have been introduced covering the Pacific, Latin America and Antarctica. In America, 46 of 100 NFZs were made nuclear free by legally binding referendums. Nuclear weapon industries can be compelled to convert to peaceful production or leave the cities, which can be ordered to put up nuclear free signs, as was the case in Chicago. New Zealand is introducing a Bill which will ban the manufacture, storage and entry of nuclear weapons, whilst East Germany has recently indicated that it would sign a Nuclear Free treaty, covering 100 miles, with West Germany. In Holland, some Nuclear Free councils insist on Peace education, whilst in Australia, all 105 nuclear free towns have NFZ signs at their boundaries.

THE NUCLEAR FREE MOVEMENT IS FAR STRONGER THAN MANY PEOPLE REALISE:

At the request of the Japanese delegation the Conference sent a message to Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev, asking that a Summit for Peace should be held in Hiroshima city.

DON'T SELL OUT TO CIVIL DEFENCE SALESMEN says West Glamorgan



Peace groups in West Glamorgan have mobilised to try to prevent the Council accepting a recommendation from their Public Protection Committee to draw up civil defence plans and to refurbish the West Cross bunker. Part of the reason for the recommendation is thought to be the apparent 'generosity' of the government grant for staff, which is about to be raised from 75% to 100%.

CND Cymru spokesman, Tony Simpson has said, that having failed to convince Welsh councils of the merits of civil defence, the civil defence adviser, Mr. Eric Alley, is now literally buying their support and acting as 'salesman' for war plans. In 1983 Mr. Alley said, "there may be some merit in selling civil defence to reluctant authorities. Most of us are using the 'all hazards' approach, but I would be interested to learn if anyone can 'sell' this solely on a war ticket".

It is hard to believe that a Labour Authority could allow itself to be bought in this way, when their NFZ policy - which implies that there is no possible protection from nuclear war - could be completely undermined. We are aware of the pressures being put on all Welsh Counties, but the way forward is to join together and promote a national planning study, as recommended by the All Wales Forum. The Government has not taken any Authority to court and it is unlikely that they would take any legal action at present, as they have had to admit that a Planning Study is a reasonable step to take.

As for the grant aided staff - the Government has made it clear that they must be mainly engaged in war planning activities. Is this what the voters of West Glamorgan or people in the other Welsh counties want? It is important that we all keep ourselves informed about what is happening in our own areas and how our own councils are coping. What is certain is that our sympathetic councillors need our support.

Other recent development which may affect many individuals as well as all local authorities in Wales include the following:-

A recruitment drive for civil defence VOLUNTEERS is to be launched.

The Civil Protection in Peacetime Act has become effective.

The ombudsman is to investigate Carmarthen Districts bunker plans.

Nuclear Free Zone Authorities are expected to discuss Emergency Planning implications for civil nuclear accidents.

Wales NFZ Forum has included nuclear power in its terms of reference and has co-opted WANA and SANA, as well as CND Cymru as 'observer participants'.

Local Government 'Access to Information Act 1985' can be used for civil defence, nuclear matters etc.

On November 21st the Wales NFZ Forum agreed to adopt a Common Format for Nuclear Free roadsigns for use in Wales. The design is based on the Peace Dove Symbol and will be available and hopefully, widely in use by Nuclear Free Wales week.



The three representatives who represented CND Cymru as delegates to European Conferences during October (see articles under International Year of Peace 1986 heading).

Diary Dates

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 12th - 14th.

'Confront the Fence' - the weekend for as many women as possible to support the Womens' Peace Camp and go to Greenham Common. We must not forget for a moment, that this is where Cruise Missiles - 96 of them - are stored and ready for 'use' at the press of an American button.

DECEMBER 22nd.

On the theme of 'Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Children', Wrexham Christians for Peace will be holding a day of demonstrations, starting at 10.15 with a service led by the Rev. Pryderi Lloyd Jones.

DECEMBER 25th.

**BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY
AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS DAY**

JANUARY 23rd.

Proposed blockade of the Ministry of Defence in London. This could replace some of the SNOWBALL activities, but to find out what is happening in Wales on that date contact: Bruce Watkins, Bwthyn-y-Nant, Trapp, Llandeilo, Dyfed SA19 6TR, or phone: Sonia Olsen (0558) 822359.

FEBRUARY 13th - 28th.

'Wales on Wheels' - Bike Ride (see details on front page)

FEBRUARY 21st - 28th.

Nuclear Free Wales Week, when we shall be celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Clwyd Declaration. Wales was the first country to declare itself nuclear weapon free, on a county by county basis, during 1981 and 1982. We still have a long way to go to make Nuclear Free Wales a reality, but this week should give all of us an opportunity to play a part.

MARCH 6th.

Proposed occupation of Parliament Square - organised by British CND.

MARCH 14th.

CND CYMRU A.G.M. at St. David's College, Lampeter. Information has already been sent to all groups and affiliates, but remember that nominations for officers and resolutions should be with the general secretary Bob Cole, Bryn Eltyd, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd (0766 831833) by January 1st. 1987.