

heddwch

spring 2005
number 35
free (or donation)



the magazine of CND Cymru



Are you responsible?*

bus driver, councillor, lawyer, security guard, consultant, farmer, painter, garage mechanic, student, bank clerk, builder, tinker, scientist, nurse, MEP, technician, tailor, driver, shop assistant, mechanic, shareholder, AM, hairdresser, teacher, electrician, soldier, entertainer, postal worker, dentist, MP, radio-operator, plumber, paramedic, courier, priest, sailor, police officer, lorry driver, designer, cook, steel worker, lecturer, doctor, machinist, firefighter, civil engineer, beautician, office cleaner, tool setter, publican, gardener, journalist, pilot, midwife, J.P., minister, submariner, waitress, cleaner, web designer, pensioner, d.j., surgeon, machinist, parent, carer, librarian, hospital porter, social worker, refuse collector, voter...

***Democracy means it's your finger on the button too.**



heddwch

is the magazine of the Wales Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND Cymru).

CND Cymru works to rid Britain and the World of all weapons of mass destruction, for peace and human and environmental justice.

Comment, letters and articles for consideration are welcome.

Editor:
Jill Stallard
(01550) 750 260

Translator:
Sian Edwards
sian@derwen.demon.co.uk

Printed and posted by
Redkite Print
(01591) 610 844
redkite@onyxnet.co.uk

Don't let your silence be taken for agreement

heddwch 2

cover

Are you responsible?*

There are more than 30,000 nuclear weapons world-wide nearly all of them in 'democratic' countries. That makes every one of us responsible for the conception, manufacture, deployment and use...or for their abolition.

There are enough nuclear weapons in the world to destroy all life on earth several times over. One bomb could destroy a city and its surrounding areas. The British Trident nuclear weapons system alone is capable of destroying all life on a whole continent and would scatter lethal radionucleides throughout the world.

*Democracy means it's your finger on the button too.

All Wales Peace Rally

The morning of the Peace Festival in Aberystwyth on March 19th this year was wonderfully sunny. The day of music and discussion began with a march through the centre of Aberystwyth, accompanied by the energising sound of the samba band. Weeks and nights of planning by the Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network paid off as the hand shaped placards took the theme of "Hands up for Peace" onto the streets.

The rally was a sweeping success and it was great to see that support for peace and justice was just as strong as on previous years, despite the fact that the event took place on the day of Wales's rugby triumph in the 'grand slam'!

Addresses at the end of the rally by the Peace Tax Seven were really inspiring. They emphasised the fact that 10% of our taxes go to military use, that anyone can campaign against this by refusing to pay this proportion of their taxes, and that no matter how small the gesture, we can all make a difference.

Milan Rai, Ken Booth, Jill Evans and Mrs Ahmed then spoke at the Old College. Professor Ken Booth's academic discussion of law and order in the international community was really interesting, and Milan Rai's energetic speech about the irresponsibility of the Iraq War was an eye opener. This particularly focused on the lies told by the Labour Government about 'weapons of mass destruction' in Iraq and claims that the continued occupation is 'a process of liberation'.

With the 'Iraq: uncovered' film shown at the Arts Centre the evening before the rally, the afternoon, the workshops and the evening of music and poetry with Patrick Jones and Mike Jenkins, there was plenty at this year's Festival for Peace and Justice for everyone. I hope next year's festival will be as successful, that we can encourage the cooperation between all of the peace groups across Wales and move more people to join the campaign for peace and justice and to 'hold up their hands for peace'.

Bethan Jenkins
Aberystwyth Network for
Peace and Justice



Photo: Emily Freeman

You are NOT powerless

If you want to influence the Government in Westminster or in Cardiff here are some suggestions.

TALK AND LISTEN

- to your friends and colleagues
- to your local clubs and societies about non-violence and alternatives to war
- in your school, college, workplace, place of worship, café or pub
- to your union or professional organisation and encourage public discussions about advocating long-term, non-violent solutions to the current situation and the addressing of the underlying problems which nurture injustice and conflict.
- keep informed

WRITE

- letters to your MP and AM – these are very important
- to government ministers
- letters and articles to your local newspaper
- to encourage those who advocate addressing the causes of war and violent conflict
- to world leaders and the United Nations

JOIN

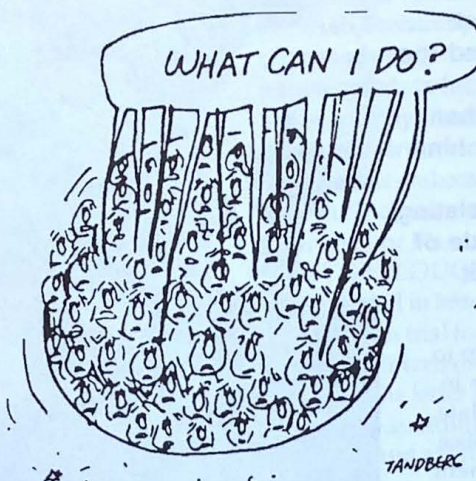
- with like-minded people, form a local peace and justice group
- your local peace and justice group, if you have one
- any local or national demonstration that supports the issues you care about
- CND Cymru and help campaign throughout Wales

HELP

- organise peace and justice events and meetings
- collect signatures on current petitions you support

PHONE

- any relevant radio phone-ins



VISIT

- your local MP and AMs surgeries

ENGAGE

In civil disobedience or train for and take part in non-violent direct action. See www.j-n-v.org and www.tridentploughshares.org www.nvda-uk.net and www.seedsforchange.org.uk

STICK UP

a poster – make your own or see the websites below

WEAR

A badge or display a sticker – from CND Cymru Trading (01792) 830 330 or elsewhere, or make stickers on address labels

COPY

This and give it to someone else

REMEMBER

You don't have to spend lots of time unless you can, or take part in major action unless you wish. Small personal actions count, so act now!

Peace and justice are goals to be strived for all the time, not just at times of crisis.

Contacts for Protest

Your Assembly Members:

(find out their names – phone (020) 7490 1555). National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA

Your MP: House of Commons, Westminster London SW1A0AA

Tony Blair MP, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A2AA (020)7270 3000

Jack Straw MP, Foreign Secretary, FCO, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH

Geoff Hoon MP, Secretary of State for Defence, MoD,

Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (020) 7218 2111 email: sofs-registry1@mod.gsi.gov.uk Or leave a message for any Government Minister with the switchboard: (020)7270 1500

US President George Bush,

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington DC20500 +1 202-456-6797

Useful websites: for information, tools for action, news and views:

www.peacenews.info
www.voicesuk.org
www.occupationwatch.org
www.stopwar.org.uk
www.maw.org www.gn.apc.org
www.antiwar.com
www.womeninblack.org.uk
www.cndcymru.org
www.cymdeithasycymod.org.uk

also see Wales groups list in this edition of *heddwch*

Thanks to Women in Black (London) - an inspiration

"Kids know, better than grown ups, that what we do is more important than what we say" Pete Seeger

'breaching the peace'

Ray of hope

Ray Davies, vice chair of CND Cymru, recently completed a prison sentence at HMP Cardiff for his nonviolent direct actions against nuclear weapons and the war in Iraq. He was at home in Bedwas, Caerphilly at lunchtime when two police officers called and took him into custody for failure to answer a summons from the Scottish court relating to his taking part in the Big Blockade of the British nuclear weapons base at Faslane, Scotland in August.

Ray was told that he would be driven up to Glasgow that day to face the magistrates in Helensborough on Saturday for a court date. Instead, he was taken to Blackwood police station. He was held in solitary confinement from Friday lunchtime until Sunday at 4:45pm in a concrete cell measuring about 9' x 12'. with only a barred window and a concrete platform with a thin mattress. He was given no proper hot food. The South Wales police were told repeatedly by Strathclyde police that the private security firm, Reliant, to which the prison service was contracted out, had a vehicle on its way. This continued from Friday until Sunday. As the deadline approached, when they would have to charge or release Ray, transport finally arrived to take him up to Glasgow for a court appearance on Monday.

Ray was transported in a Reliant van, handcuffed and locked for 8 hours in a cell 18" x 24", with only a hard plastic seat and an extremely small window. He was given no food or toilet breaks during this time, while the two private security guards took their 'comfort breaks'.

He arrived in Glasgow at 10 p.m. and was locked up in Clydebank police cells until the morning. At 6 a.m. he was called to go to Helensborough court, but en route he was delayed due to the heavy pressure of cases. Instead he went to a small private prison to await a special court in the afternoon.

He appeared before the stipendary magistrate who, when questioned why he didn't answer the summons, said he had been in Palestine at the time. The magistrate was very interested in his account of his peace work in the occupied territories. In view of what he had endured over the weekend, she gave him an admonishment and told him he was free to go, as he had already spent 4 days in custody.

Ray told the police when arrested:
"Nuclear weapons are evil and illegal. They threaten the lives of everyone on this planet, and our children's future. A new generation of these nuclear weapons are now being developed under the leadership of Tony Blair and Geoff Hoon, and these could be used in future conflicts with Iran or Syria. The World Court has already ruled the use, or threatened use of nuclear weapons to be illegal under international law. Why are we producing them if there is no intention to use them?"

heddwch 4

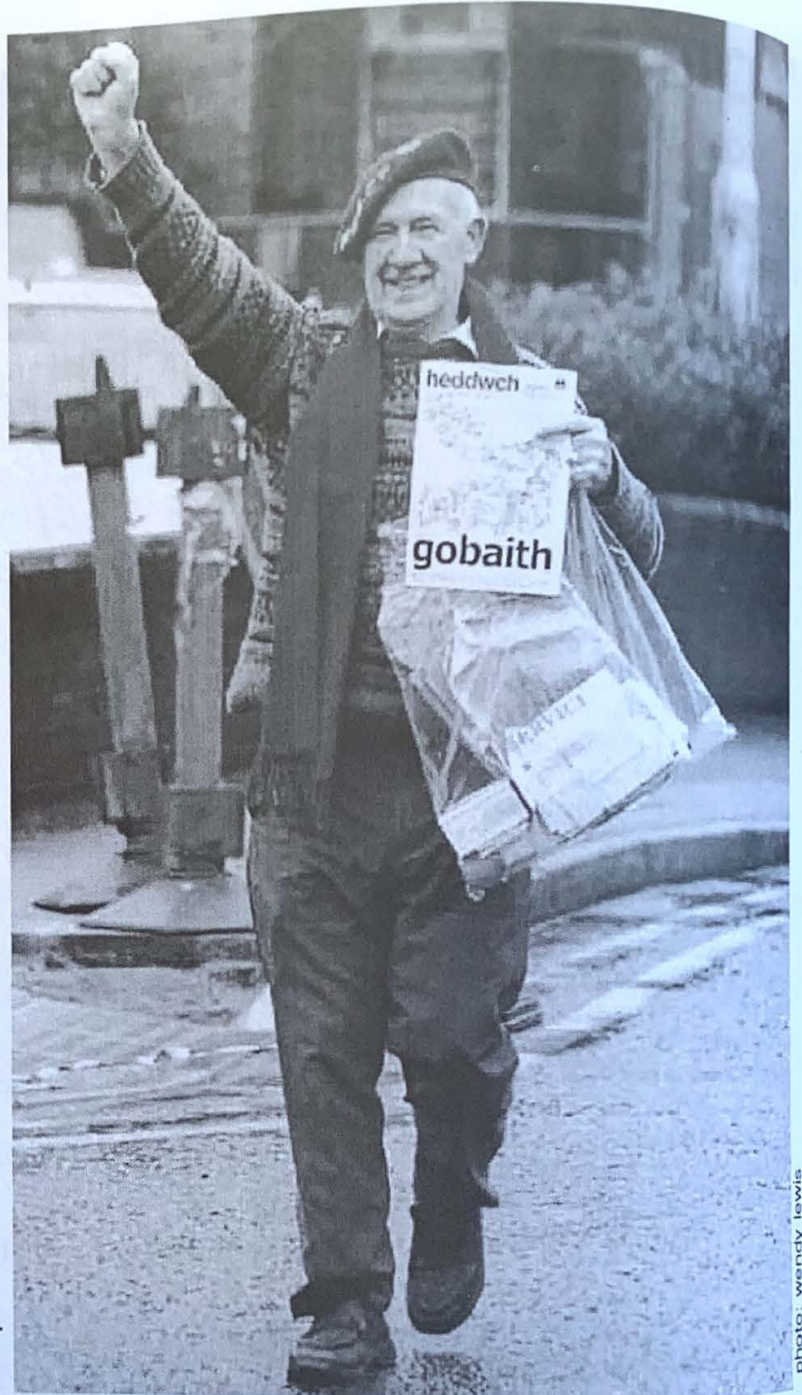


photo: wendy lewis

Ray leaves Cardiff prison in October 2004 gobaith:hope heddwch:peace

Although the charge of breach of the peace is not a criminal offence in Wales, in Scotland it is an imprisonable offence. Ray considers that those 4 days in solitary under such conditions are worse than a week in prison, and intends to complain to the Justice minister of the Scottish Parliament. Commenting on his four days in custody, he commented:

"The cost to the taxpayer for this weekend must be close to £10,000. The resources wasted in prosecuting me for peacefully protesting against an unjust war, are yet another example of the crazy priorities of our government. Millions are being spent on armaments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, thousands of lives continue to be lost, using our money which is so desperately needed for our country's health, transport and education. Being away from my wife Wendy and two children is heartbreaking, but I do it for them and wider humanity".

shannon airport - action in Ireland and England

Dubsky v Ireland

A judicial review of Ireland's participation in the US war in Afghanistan was heard in the Irish High Court in February. The case had been initiated over two years ago by Eoin Dubsky, who joined with many others to protest against the US military overflights and refuelling in Ireland.

The case concerns primarily the orders which were made by the Irish government without the assent of the Irish parliament (Dail Eireann), to allow US military flights pass through Ireland for the war in Afghanistan. An estimated 400,000 American troops have passed through Shannon Airport alone since September 2001. The true number of weapons and explosives which have passed through is unknown.

Eoin was arrested for painting peace slogans onto a USAF C-130 at Shannon Airport three days before initiating his case in the High Court, September 2002. In the six months that followed the airport was the sight of many protests and vigils, a peace camp and further direct actions.

Whether this judicial review will have an effect on US military over-flights and refuelling depends on what the peace movement can do with it. No court decision has yet been announced.

Mary Kelly and Pit Stop Ploughshares

Irish (and Trident Ploughshares) peace activist Mary Kelly who admitted to grounding a US Navy war plane at Shannon airport in January 2003 was in court in December 2004 for sentencing.

At an earlier court hearing, Mary had been found guilty because the judge ruled that the element of imminent harm was not present at the moment Mary damaged the war plane. The sentencing judge praised Mary's good character and the sincerity of her beliefs but in order to prevent what he called 'social anarchy' sentenced her to two years in prison. He then suspended the sentence with the proviso that she agree to four years of good behaviour and to stay away from Shannon Airport.

The judge also said that 'Mary's was an exceptional act which should not be repeated'. But of course it had been - just days after Mary's arrest in 2003, when the 'Pit Stop Ploughshares' inflicted even more damage to the same just-repaired warplane!

Vanunu and the bomb that endangers Israel

The Israeli authorities are still plaguing Mordechai Vanunu who was released from Israeli prison in 2004 having served 18 years for telling the truth about Israel's nuclear weapons programme. He has since twice been rearrested for violating restrictions imposed on his liberty but was released after being questioned extensively about the many broadcast, print and internet interviews he has freely given to foreign press. No new charges have been laid against him but his computers remain in police custody. Vanunu was also arrested on Christmas Eve for attempting to enter the Church of the Nativity for worship. Vanunu and his supporters are calling for his full freedom so he can leave Israel.

Anti war protestors occupy Irish embassy in London

On March 2nd, six British anti-war activists occupied the Irish Embassy in London in protest at the criminal charges brought against the Pit Stop Ploughshares peace activists facing a possible ten year prison sentence for physically disarming a US Navy Plane at Shannon Airport in 2003.

Just after the embassy opened for business, the protestors peacefully chained themselves together inside the building in Grosvenor Place, whilst others hung a banner reading, "PITSTOP PLOUGHSHARES: NOT GUILTY" outside. They handed in letter of protest to Embassy officials claiming that those on trial for damaging the US aircraft had been upholding international law and that the charges should be dropped. The letter also accused the Government of breaching its long-standing neutrality by allowing US military aircraft to land at Shannon airport.

Joss Garman, from Dolau in Powys, speaking on behalf of the demonstrators, explained, "*The Pitstop Ploughshares - who damaged the plane at Shannon airport - acted to uphold International Law, and to prevent Irish complicity in genocide. Far from breaking the law, they were upholding it, because the war in Iraq was clearly illegal. It just isn't right that peace campaigners should face years in prison, whilst Bertie Aherne remains at large.*"

"We wanted to add our voices to those of Desmond Tutu and Martin Sheen, in proclaiming, "Prevention of a war crime is not a crime." In many ways, the runway at Shannon airport could be compared to the railroad to Auschwitz, after all, 100,000 people are dead."

The Pitstop Ploughshares are members of the international Catholic Worker Movement - Karen Fallon, Deirdre Clancy, Ciaran O'Reilly, Damien Moran & Nuin Dunlop. They stood trial in Dublin from March 2003, on charges of two counts of criminal damage totalling €100 & \$2million and if convicted, they face a maximum of ten years imprisonment.

heddwch action: **Support of all kinds is always appreciated. See www.ploughsharesireland.org or www.warontrial.com**

Pit Stop Ploughshares Ciaran O'Reilly, 134 Phibsborough Rd., Phibsborough, Dublin 7, Ireland. www.ploughsharesireland.org Mobile +353 (0)87 918 4552 Trident Ploughshares: Joss Garman 07815 004 578 www.tridentploughshares.org . To contact Eoin Dubsky phone: +33 6 86789118, +353 87 6941060

He was recently elected Rector of Glasgow University. A few days later he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Irish laureate Mairead Maguire. A member of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) commented: "*Mordechai Vanunu is not a traitor, he is an Israeli hero. The nuclear bomb does not protect Israel. It endangers Israel.*"

heddwch action: **Write to Mordechai Vanunu at the Cathedral Church of Saint George, 20, Nablus Road, PO Box 19018, Jerusalem 91190, Israel email: vanunuvjc@hotmail.com**

weapons inspecting

Peter Burt and the CIA

In November, during the run up to the US military's attack on the Iraqi town of Fallujah, two peace campaigners entered the explosives storage area at the US Air Force base at 'RAF' Welford, in Berkshire, England as a protest against the planned attack.

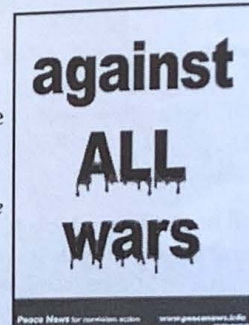
Juliet McBride and Peter Burt (late of Cardiff and well known to many Welsh peace activists) scaled fences to enter the base, near Newbury to spend nearly an hour in the explosives storage area where they chalked messages on bombs stored in the open air, entered a warehouse where contractors were working – and took photographs of their exploits. The two campaigners are from their local (strictly unofficial) weapons inspection team – the Berkshire Citizen's Inspection Agency, or CIA.

This CIA has a rather better record of tracking down weapons in places where they're not wanted than does their larger namesake. At one point a US soldier waved at the two as he drove past in a truck, but made no effort to stop them. They eventually handed themselves over to MoD police – responsible for 'security' at the site – and were escorted from the base without being arrested.

Peter Burt said afterwards – "Previous assaults on Fallujah left hundreds of innocent civilians dead and incensed members of both the Sunni and Shi-ite communities in Iraq, leading to a dramatic increase in violence against the US occupiers."

"We wanted to send a message that the world will not sit back and let George Bush get away with more war crimes in Fallujah. US forces don't only face resistance from Iraqis, but from anti-war activists like us who will take whatever non-violent action we can to oppose the assault."

Thanks to 'nonviolent action' (now incorporated into Peace News).



CAMPAIGN! the CND Cymru archive

CND Cymru has recently deposited 36 boxes of archives (letters, notes, campaigning material, publications, agendas, reports and minutes from meetings), along with posters, video tapes, leaflets and some banners with the Welsh Political Archive at the National Library of Wales. Some documents relate to the 1960s campaigns but

the main bulk of the collection is from the 1980s and 90s. If you want to clear out your attic and have any material concerning past anti-nuclear, peace and disarmament campaigns in Wales, the Welsh Political Archive would like to hear from you. We need to tell our own story - if we leave it to the authorities they will

only tell 'their' version.
Contact: Arwel Jones (01970) 632 873

heddwch action: contact Berkshire CIA Berkshire@hotmail.com

rights and responsibilities

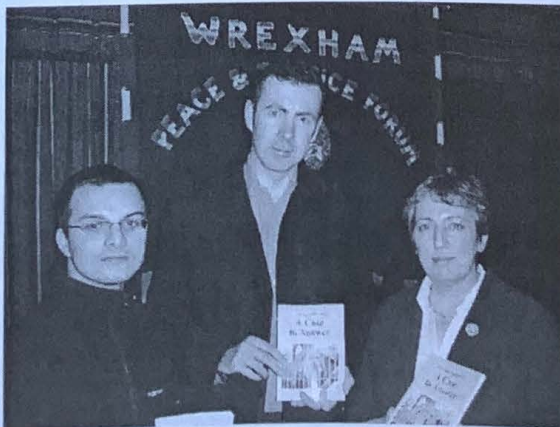
MP tells Wreccsam meeting – 'election will not halt impeachment process'

Adam Price MP has said that even another election win for Blair and New Labour would not end the impeachment process.

Speaking at a very well attended public meeting organised in conjunction with the Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum as part of the 'Impeach Blair' tour, he said:

"One of the unique features of impeachment is that it does not fall with the end of a parliament, but can carry on to the next. "Even if Tony Blair holds his Sedgefield seat and New Labour are returned as the next government, he is not immune from the impeachment process."

Mr. Price struck a chord with the audience when he said:
"Like many people I was horrified when George Bush was elected for a further four years. But I am filled with dread at the prospect of another four years of Blair AND Bush."



Mehdi El-Radhi, Adam Price MP and Janet Ryder AM
heddwch 6

Impeach Blair – the campaign

A group of MPs has declared an intention to bring a motion of impeachment against the Prime Minister for High Crimes and Misdemeanours in relation to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. A report commissioned by East Carmarthen and Dinefwr MP Adam Price entitled *A Case to Answer* presents evidence that the Prime Minister deliberately distorted the intelligence assessments available to him in order to deceive the public and Parliament over the case for war. It recommends that impeachment procedures are begun against the Prime Minister for this misconduct and maintains that the Prime Minister's actions have destroyed the British Government's reputation for honesty around the world; damaged and discredited the intelligence services; undermined the Constitution by weakening cabinet government and made a mockery of Parliament as representative of the people.

The Members of Parliament backing this campaign believe it is their duty to do all they can to hold this Prime Minister to account in order to restore the people's faith in the democratic process.

In December 2004 Adam Price, won two prestigious BBC Wales awards and was shortlisted for the Channel 4 2005 Political Awards under the category of "Campaigning Politician of the Year".

See www.impeachBlair.org for full details of the campaign.

bro emlyn for peace and justice

Building justice

A weekend of guest speakers, activities, workshops, films, music and displays celebrating human endeavours to create a fairer world and highlight the futility of solving problems by military force took place at the Red Dragon Hall, Drefach Felindre in early March.

The two days of activities held under the banner 'Counter Terror-Build Justice' linked to the month of similar events all over Britain, which include a rally in London and the 19th March Peace and Justice Festival in Aberystwyth.

Bro Emlyn Peace and Justice Group took the theme of 'Building Justice' for the weekend and explored positive examples and case studies from around the world such as Mahatma Gandhi in India and the Fair Trade movement. Issues closer to home such as the rights of pensioners and young people were also discussed, along with some personal perspectives on peace and justice. **Milan Rai the international best selling author and well known peace activist gave the keynote speech on 'Counter Terror-Build Justice' during the afternoon.**

Maggie Nichols and Pamela Gaunt facilitated street theatre and creative performance workshops, a civil liberties workshop focusing on proposed 'anti-terrorist' legislation and its effect on human rights. A practical NVDA (Non-Violent Direct Action) workshop was co-facilitated by Delyn Harris of 'Cynefin y Werin' and Pembrokeshire peace campaigner Dave Rolstone. The event concluded with peace dances from around the world guided by Sandra Sunfire and the films 'Rana's Wedding' from Palestine and 'The Bolivarian Revolution - Enter the Oil Workers' from Venezuela.



heddwch action: Bro Emlyn Peace and Justice group believe : "If humanity is to have a future, we must learn from history with all it carnage and casualties.

We strive for a one world family of diversity that embraces: peace and hope, freedom and justice, equality and fairness, truth, friendship and love. This requires in us a pathway of: listening, understanding, tolerance, acceptance and forgiveness.

In this cause, we organise appropriate actions that inform, educate and agitate." To get involved or for more information, contact: Celia Lang (01559) 370 991 lang@merlinslair.plus.com www.bepj.org.uk

nuns in jail

Force of habits

On July 25th, 2003, Sisters Jackie Hudson, Carol Gilbert and Ardeth Platte were sentenced in Denver Federal Court for their symbolic act of disarming nuclear missile silo N-8 in north eastern Colorado. The 'sabotage' took place as they poured their own blood, carried in plastic baby bottles, on the missile silo lid, doing so in the shape of six crosses. The fact that the date they chose was one day short of the one-year anniversary of America launching its bombing campaign in Afghanistan was not a coincidence. These US nuclear missiles are first-strike weapons that can hit a city 8,000 miles away in 30 minutes to wipe out the whole city and way beyond.

As they carried out what they called a "symbolic disarmament," and, as they were arrested at gunpoint and were carted off to jail, they continually chanted, "God, teach us to be peacemakers in a hostile world." There was nothing symbolic about the military's response.

The three women were convicted of sabotage and given long jail sentences. Jackie received 31 months, Carol 33 months and Ardeth 41 months for their non-violent act of civil resistance to protest against nuclear weapons. Each nun is doing well in her own right but of course, none is finding it easy. Prisons are variations of military installations and prefer violent criminals to non-violent protestors - especially to those who speak their minds and criticise the officers for their violence. Carol has been dubbed as having an attitude problem; Ardeth's whole visiting list was condemned by her raging "counselor" as being a list of criminals whom he didn't want in his visiting room; Jackie has had to make it clear that she will not and cannot walk several miles a day to the work initially assigned to her. The more they take such stands, and the more lovingly they do so, the more ire they arouse.

While in prison they are missioned by their religious sisters to engage in prison ministry.

Carol and Jackie have recently learned that upon their release in March and May they may violate their probation by simply going home as Federal rules require that probation be served in the state where the conviction took place, and unusually a request for transfer has been refused. Jackie intends to go home anyway. These three women have enjoyed huge support from all over the world.



Ardeth Platt, speaking from prison about her actions said that they had acted out of the same sense of obligation which would have justified any illegal acts by citizens in prewar Nazi Germany against Adolph Hitler and those he commanded. *"We're talking about a threatening of life, that is a genocide, that is an 'omnicide'. These nuclear weapons - it's a gun at the heads of God's people throughout the world. You cannot wait until the nuclear weapons are used. You must stop the crime beforehand."*

heddwch action: The three nuns would love to hear from us. If you would like to write to them, here is their current contact information:

**Ardeth Platte #10857-039
Danbury FPC, Route 37
Danbury, CT 06811**

**Carol Gilbert #10856-039
FPC Alderson-R1, Box A
Alderson, WV 24910**

**Jackie Hudson #08808-039
FPC Victorville, Box 5100
Adelanto, CA 92301**

**After March:
c/o The Nuclear Resister, PO Box
43383, Tucson AZ 85733 USA**

Further information from Jonah House, 1301, Moreland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21216 USA) +1 410-233-6238

The Effects of Nuclear Weapons

Most of what is known about the effects of nuclear weapons on human beings comes from the two atomic bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. There is also a lot of information from atmospheric nuclear testing and nuclear accidents. Although there are many different types of nuclear weapon with varying amounts of explosive power, the effects would be the same – only varying in scale.

US experiments on Japanese people

On 6th August 1945, just three weeks after the world's first nuclear test, conducted by the United States in the desert of New Mexico, a nuclear bomb was used against an enemy for the first time. The US exploded a uranium device, called 'Little Boy', approximately 2000 ft above the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing around 140,000 people. On 9th August a second nuclear bomb, this time a plutonium device called 'Fat Man', was exploded at the same height above the city of Nagasaki with around 74,000 deaths. The second world war was at an end and the nuclear age had begun.

The bomb that was exploded above Hiroshima was 15 kilotons (the equivalent of 15,000 tons of TNT). The Nagasaki bomb was around 21 kilotons. A single Trident warhead is 100 kilotons. Britain has 192 of these warheads.

So what happens when a nuclear weapon explodes?

It's important to remember that nuclear weapons are not just big bombs. They do not have the same make up as the sort of terrorist bombs or heavy artillery fire seen regularly on the television news. The effect on the human body is horrific but it's important for people to know what happens. The temperature of a nuclear explosion is several million degrees centigrade. The explosion creates a fireball of white heat. On exploding, intense heat and radiation is released in winds of around 1000 mph. This also creates huge pressure on the surrounding air. The mushroom cloud effect is produced by the powerful updrafts lifting debris from the ground into the air. The top of the cloud can be several kilometres wide.



Hiroshima August 1945

Only shadows and footprints

At Hiroshima, within a radius of half a mile, the only remains of most of the people caught in the open were their shadows burnt into stone. That's quite difficult to imagine. Nothing left of you but a shadow on the floor. If you are in a building or otherwise shielded you will be indirectly killed by the blast and heat effects as buildings collapse and all inflammable materials burst into flames.

Under these extreme conditions, the human body melts. Eyeballs, facial features, internal organs all melt. However, it could be argued that those who die immediately would be the lucky ones. Those not in the immediate area of destruction would suffer from non-survivable burns, would be blinded, bleeding from glass splinters and would have suffered terrible internal injuries. Even those with possibly survivable injuries would die since almost all rescue and medical services would have been destroyed and personnel killed. Most casualties would at best receive minimal treatment. The death rate among the seriously injured would approach 100%. The best they could hope for would be to die in as little pain as possible. The psychological effects would be permanent and horrific.

Fallout

As you would expect, your chances of survival are better the further away you are from the blast. However, survivors would soon suffer the consequences of radioactive fallout. The effects of the fallout vary. Exposure to high levels of radiation can cause bleeding from the mouth and gums, gangrenous ulcers, hair loss, internal bleeding and haemorrhagic diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, delirium and terminal coma. There is no

effective treatment and you would die within days. Although the chances of surviving for longer are better following a lower level of exposure, the death rate is still very high. The longer term effects include foetuses in the early stages of pregnancy being born with deformities and disabilities, damage to the immune system and major scars. Even if you do survive in the short-term, there is a serious risk that you will develop cancer. There is also a risk that your children would be more likely to have birth defects or leukaemia and other cancers, though this has not been reported in the children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors.

No boundaries

The amount of fallout depends on what sort of nuclear explosion occurred. For example, at Hiroshima it was an 'air-burst'. That means that the bomb was exploded in the air above the city. An air-burst increases the effects from the heat and blast. A 'ground-burst', where the bomb is exploded on the ground, causes much larger quantities of radioactive debris to be sucked up into the atmosphere. The area covered by fall-out is determined by wind speed and direction. The heavier particles of radioactive material will fall in the immediate or close vicinity. Finer particles will be wind blown over longer distances before they descend. Very

fine particles may be blown very long distances before they combine with water vapour and fall as radioactive rain. This was shown graphically in the aftermath of the explosion at the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl, Ukraine, in 1986. Although the radiation from such a nuclear plant is different from that released by a bomb, radioactive rain from Chernobyl fell across much of northern Europe, reaching as far as north Wales, Scotland and Cumbria. North Wales is over 1000 miles from Chernobyl.

WMD Awareness

Programme :

www.comeclean.org.uk



Nagasaki August 1945



Nagasaki August 1945

Act now to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons!

The five-yearly Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) takes place in May this year in New York. The NPT is the most widely supported disarmament treaty ever with 188 signatory States. It is vitally important that the Treaty should address both the development of new nuclear weapons by states which already have them (vertical proliferation), as well as the spread of nuclear weapons to countries which do not yet possess them (horizontal proliferation). Preparatory Committees have met over the past four years to set the agenda for the Review Conference, but most have ended in deadlock because the USA insists that there is no need to discuss vertical proliferation. There is a real danger that the Review Conference could result in the collapse of the NPT, leading to a nuclear 'free for all'. Already, reports suggest that the USA will attempt to invalidate the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference under which the five declared nuclear weapons states (China, France, Russia, Britain and the USA) re-affirmed their commitment to nuclear disarmament.

heddwch action:

It is important that we try and ensure that the Review Conference is a success for nuclear disarmament and for non-proliferation. Neither is possible without the other.

*Please write to your MP with your own message about nuclear disarmament and ask them to send a message to Dr. John Freeman, the British delegate to the NPT Review Conference, stressing how important it is that the British Government honours its disarmament obligations under the final document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, and wishing the conference a successful conclusion which should address **all** nuclear proliferation.

*Encourage your local Mayor and /or civic leader to join the 'Mayors for Peace' Campaign, which aims to demonstrate to the states attending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference in May the depth of international concern about nuclear proliferation. More information from: UK Mayors for Peace, Stewart Kemp, Room 6005, Town Hall, Manchester M60 3NY (0161) 234 3244 s.kemp@notes.manchester.gov.uk or Owen Hardwicke: (01978) 312 375

*Support the **Block the Builders** campaign at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston, non-violent direct action to impede the building of massive new facilities at the British nuclear weapons factory at Aldermaston, Berkshire. Contact: 07969 739 812 or btb@aldermaston.net

*Write to your local papers, listen out for radio-phone ins, make opportunities to talk about and publicise the Review Conference and its importance for the future of the world.

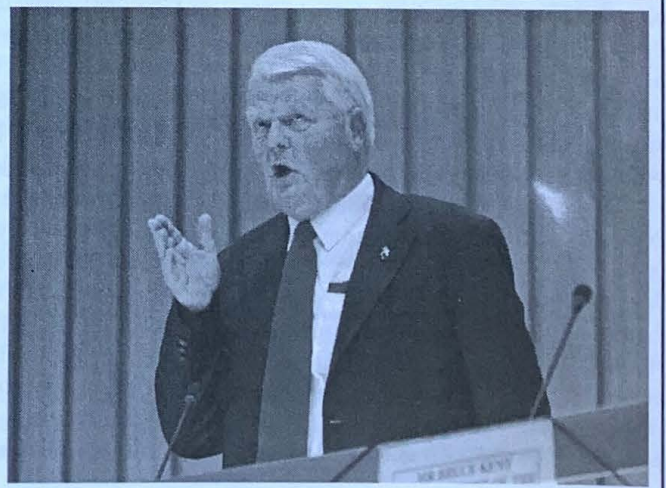
* In the lead-up to the NPT Review Conference everyone who wants to see the nuclear-armed states honour their legal obligations and abolish these terrible weapons forever can sign a 'Declaration'. These will be presented at UN headquarters in New York during the Conference and are another means of getting the Voice of the People into that 'high-level' event.

These Declarations have been initiated by the World Court Project which tries to utilise to the hilt, the 1996 Opinion by the International Court of Justice that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is illegal under International Humanitarian Law.

The Declarations available in English and Welsh, are not petitions but personal commitments, individually signed, intended to contribute towards the development of international law. If you have not signed a Declaration yet and want to, then you can do it on the web by going to the Home Page of <http://www.abolition2000europe.org/> where you can read more about the Declarations and how to sign one. If you are not on line please contact George Farebrother, World Court Project : (01323)844 269

In March, Bruce Kent spoke at County Hall Cwmbran where the Mayor of Torfaen Council, Councillor Yvonne Warren signed the Mayors for Peace Mayoral Statement in Support for the Commencement on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Photo: Bill Hart



Just when we thought it was safe ?

Over the last year a number of people have been promoting nuclear power as the 'answer' to global warming. And now, rumours that the Labour Party may launch a new White Paper on energy policy after the General Election have prompted campaigners in Wales to counter these 'noises off'. A new campaign was launched during the 23rd anniversary of Nuclear Free Wales at 'A Nuclear Free Future' Conference in Aberystwyth on February 19th - the first weekend after the Kyoto Protocol became a binding agreement.

Speakers at the Conference organised jointly by CND Cymru, The Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance (WANA) and People Against Wylfa B (PAWB) included Dr. Chris Busby of the Low Level Radiation Campaign, Hugh Richards of WANA, Rod Stallard Vice-Chair of CND Cymru, Neil Crumpton of Friends of the Earth Cymru and Dylan Morgan from PAWB. The event was chaired by Deilwen Evans of CADNO (Trawsfynydd). Messages of support included those from the Green Party, Labour MP Paul Flynn, and Jill Evans Plaid Cymru MEP, and Chair of CND Cymru who called for the total rejection of nuclear power:

"Nuclear power is not the way to halt global warming. It is dangerous and expensive, poses a threat to all living things, is environmentally unsustainable and is linked to the production of nuclear weapons. Nuclear technology has already created a lethal legacy for future generations and must be stopped immediately."

North Wales radiation risk

Chris Busby revealed systematic cover-ups of evidence that radiation risks have been massively underestimated. Cancer and leukaemia rates in children who live near the radioactively contaminated coast of North Wales are more than 20 times higher than the national average. He also talked about the terrible legacy of the Chernobyl Nuclear accident in 1986, especially the effects on children in Belarus, the Ukraine and Western Russia.

Renewables and energy conservation - not nuclear

Neil Crumpton spoke of the urgency of developing and promoting alternative non-nuclear and non-fossil fuelled (renewable) methods of electricity generation. The current plan is officially to replace nuclear with renewable electricity generation, so that by 2020, 'green energy' will account for 20 % of British electricity consumption - the so-called 20-20 target.

A recent National Audit Office report estimates that electricity bills would need to rise by 5% just to meet the interim target of generating 10% of the country's electricity from renewables by 2010. This could be interpreted as unabashed scare mongering.

There is too little serious consideration of wave, tidal and solar methods of electricity generation and of combined heat and power systems.

Energy conservation was seen as an important key to the future, but it was emphasised that covert threats of cuts in energy availability could frighten the public into accepting the nuclear option and the resulting 'fear' of power cuts could work as pro-nuclear propaganda into the wrong hands.

All links in the same chain

Rod Stallard outlined the seldom-reported links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. He explained how the nuclear power generation industry was originally developed to feed the nuclear weapons programme and that depleted uranium, a by-product of the nuclear generation industry is 'disposed of' by being used in the manufacture of 'conventional' weapons which then pollute war zones and far beyond.

Nuclear material is dangerous in anyone's hands. Radioactive material from nuclear power stations and reprocessing plants anywhere could fall into the wrong hands and be used to produce nuclear weapons or simply 'dirty' (radioactive) bombs. BNFL recently denied that enough plutonium to make 7 or 8 nuclear bombs has been stolen and blames 'an accounting error' for its loss. New nuclear power stations would also increase nuclear targets for any 'terrorist' strike. As a recent correspondent to *The Independent* commented: "No government that regarded the flying of large aircraft, full of fuel, into a nuclear reactor as a significant possibility could contemplate the creation of 10 potential Chernobyls on British soil."

Nuclear power - still no thanks

Dylan Morgan of PAWB who campaigns for the closure of Wales' last working nuclear power station, Wylfa on Ynys Môn, led a discussion on ways ahead for campaigning against potential new nuclear power stations. Nuclear reactors anywhere in the world are 'in our backyard'; those sites amongst the 8 listed as potential new nuclear reactor sites 'on our actual doorsteps' are Hinkley Point (North Somerset), Oldbury and Berkley (on the

River Severn in Gloucestershire) and Trawsfynydd and Wylfa on Ynys Môn. British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) is pretending that its new nuclear power station, a redesigned Pressurised Water reactor (PWR) - the Westinghouse AP1000, is 'ready for deployment' and that a new reactor program of ten plants will prove an economically attractive way for Britain to produce some of its electricity. The pro-nuclear lobby is vigorous. Lobbying by BNFL and its nuclear affiliates is partially fuelling the calls for a programme of new nuclear reactors in Britain. Tony Blair has also disclosed that the US Administration is pressing Britain to look again at this option.

Calling their bluff

Greenpeace and CORE (Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment) have joined with WANA (Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance) and CND Cymru and other groups in issuing a direct challenge to the nuclear industry to "Put-up or Shut-up". This challenges BNFL to back its claims about the technical and financial viability of its new reactor design by applying for a license to operate it in Britain and to set out the economic case for it in terms of costs of electricity production and capital funding arrangements. The anti-nuclear groups believe that the public and Parliament will be understandably wary about the cost-cutting motive behind the 'simplification' of PWR designs, while prospective investors are unlikely to be impressed by design innovation that does nothing of itself, to prevent accidents that in a very short time, could convert a huge investment into a huge liability.

To ensure that the public can trust the licensing procedure, the group is calling on the Government to guarantee that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate remains free from political interference. To ensure widespread acceptance of the licensing procedure it should be open and transparent, and allow public participation. Further, we insist there should be no new energy 'White Paper' without a further round of public participation in a new Energy Review.

The campaign starts here

It's all spin - and we're being had

If I say the name 'Professor Robert Winston, do you know who I mean? Can you visualise the man? He does telly programmes about how to go to sleep. I forget what else. But I won't forget this: As a teacher, I read the Times Educational Supplement. The following extract is from that paper published on 14th January 2005:

"TV PROFESSOR TELLS TEACHERS TO FIGHT FOR NUCLEAR POWER AND GM FOODS IN THE FACE OF IGNORANCE (bigger headline now:) STAFF URGED TO DEFEND TRUTH

Science teachers should be at the forefront of defending controversial technologies such as nuclear power, genetically modified food and experiments on animals, the Association of Science Education conference was told. Public fears over nuclear power, GM crops, animal testing, stem cell research and the MMR vaccine were unjustified and fuelled by an ignorance of science, he told the conference at Leeds University."

This has clear and frightening implications for the teaching profession and the young people who are to be the targets of such an education. It is neither scientific nor truthful, but instead is a clear indication of the highly political nature of the movement behind the current appeal to popular opinion that we must revert to nuclear power - or die.

This appeal has taken many fronts. A pupil tells me he has seen a television programme about global warming. "We have only 10 years left, unless we re-introduce nuclear technology", he says. I watch a different programme, in which Louis Theroux amiably wonders about our options in the face of global warming. He visits Chernobyl. He goes to the plant, measuring the dangerous extent of radiation activity. He eats the contaminated food offered to him by the people who have returned to farm the

irradiated land because they have nowhere else to go... And then he talks to Professor James Lovelock... and there is only one solution for the future of the planet. You've probably guessed it. We have not sufficient renewable energy resources and nuclear power will be *the bandage* to cover our deficiency and save the world.

This is what Lovelock had to say at a conference entitled *Keeping the Nuclear Option Open - What Will it Take?*

Now that we have made the earth sick, it will not be cured by alternative green remedies, like wind turbines and bio fuels alone. This is why I recommend instead the appropriate medicine of nuclear energy.

The use of imagery is interesting: nuclear power as *bandage* and *medicine*. Are they the images of nuclear power that spring naturally to mind? As little as I know about nuclear technology, I know that this is all spin, and I know that I am being had.

The following final extract was taken from the Guardian, dated 26th November 2004 under the headline Labour to Look Again at Nuclear Power. Support for new plants may follow election.

That is the point, unless we act, there *will* be a new nuclear power programme. And it will have nothing to do with answering the needs of the planet. We must look closely at the real reasons for the spin and discuss and act upon what is needed - truthfully.

It will be up to us to answer those needs. This May, or whenever the General Election is held: *vote for a future.*

Linda Rogers

Linda Rogers is a teacher, a mother and an activist with Bangor Peace and Justice Group, Peace and Progress and PAWB. She was key organiser of the Nuclear Free Future Conference in Aberystwyth on February 19th this year.

Nuclear Free Wales

On February 23rd 1982, as Margaret Thatcher allowed US nuclear armed Cruise Missiles to be based in Britain, nuclear waste 'dumps' were planned in Wales and a new nuclear power station building programme was announced, Clwyd became the last of the counties in Wales to support a Declaration of intent to make Wales a Nuclear Free Zone.

The signing of Declarations by County, District and Community Councils throughout Wales had followed extensive campaigning by individuals, groups and environmental, peace and anti-nuclear organisations throughout the country. Today, when the world is in an even more dangerous political situation than 23 years ago and we are more conscious of the fragility of the environment, the concept of nuclear free zones is even more pertinent.

Despite the terrible nuclear accident at Chernobyl nuclear power station in 1986 which tragically demonstrated that radioactive material respects no boundaries in time or space, the powerful nuclear lobby continues to press for the building of new nuclear power stations. 359 farms in North Wales alone are still suffering the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and an area of Belarus, Ukraine and Western Russia will remain contaminated for hundreds of thousands of years.

heddwch action:

Many would agree that the world is now an even more dangerous place than it was in 1982, yet fewer Local Authorities now belong to the Wales Nuclear Free Zones Forum. This is a cross party local authority group, which lobbies against nuclear weapons and nuclear power. The members of the group pay a subscription to fund its work. In the past the forum has been strongly supported by Welsh Local Authorities as it was widely recognised that civil and military nuclear processes pose a hazard to public safety and the environment as well as having adverse economic impacts on employment and in environmental contamination.

Local Authorities not currently members of the Wales Nuclear Free Zones Forum are: Wrecsam, Conwy, Ynys Môn, Powys, Carmarthenshire, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire,

If your Unitary Authority is not a member of the Wales Nuclear Free Forum, please write to your local county councillor asking them to put the issue of membership on the Council agenda. Letters encouraging positive action are more effective than critical ones. A sympathetic councillor should happily show such a letter to their colleagues and try to do what you have asked of them. Remember that your councillor may not be taking any action on the nuclear issues so dear to CND Cymru because no one has written to them about it ... yet. CND Cymru can provide further support if you need help and if possible please keep us informed of your successes or failures.

Specific issues affecting Unitary Authorities in Wales include the dangers posed by:

- Regular over flying of nuclear weapons material from Southern England over Wales to the USA.

- The rail transport of nuclear materials along the east border of Wales.
- The transportation of nuclear waste materials up and down the Irish Sea.
- The patrolling of nuclear armed nuclear submarines along the coasts of Wales.
- Radioactive waste 'disposal'.
- Terrorist threats to Wylfa, Oldbury and Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Stations.
- Possible plans to build new nuclear power stations in Wales.
- The radioactive legacy at Trawsfynydd.

All these issues are important to the present and future health and safety of the people of Wales and beyond.

Dominance, control and aggression all in one package



US National Missile Defense (NMD) has little to do with defence and a lot to do with offence, designed to give the USA an unrivalled military upper hand and the ability to attack and control as never before. According to the US Defense Department, NMD will employ a network of radars, satellites, 'interceptor missiles' and new high tech weaponry to detect incoming missiles fired at the USA and destroy them before they hit. Although this sounds like 'defence' it is contradicted by other claims from the US administration which has announced that it will use NMD for 'US power projection around the world', for 'dominance' and 'control' and to gain 'full spectrum dominance'. This would mean the complete military, and possibly economic dominance of the land, the sea, the air, space and information technology. As part of this scheme the US needs sites for radars and missile launch sites all over the world.

US NMD base in central Europe?

It has now been reported that the USA is negotiating with Poland and the Czech Republic with a view to position the biggest US 'National' Missile Defense (NMD) base outside the USA. The Polish Foreign Ministry has shown an interest in becoming 'a concrete part of the arrangement' which could not only include the siting of radar stations but the hosting of long range missiles intended to 'intercept and destroy' incoming rockets. The Polish Government is said to be keen to have a physical US presence on their territory. US officials have not yet confirmed this. Two missile interceptor sites are also planned for California and Alaska in the USA.

No US NMD base for Canada?

In February, it was announced that the Canadian Government would refuse any further participation in the controversial U.S. missile-defence shield. It is believed that the federal government were aware of the deep unpopularity of US 'missile defense' among Canadians. The Canadian decision came after months of equivocation by the Liberal government but interestingly came only days after Frank McKenna, the Canadian ambassador to the United States, set off a political storm by saying that Canada is *already* participating in the missile shield. He said that an amendment to NORAD, the continental joint air-defence pact, meant that Canada's de facto participation had begun. At the same time it the US ambassador to Canada announced that Canada would continue to contribute to the

expanded mandate of NORAD, the joint continental defence pact that will 'track incoming missiles, and an integrated response to maritime threats'. All this may be the contortions of internal politicking - the Liberals hold a minority of seats in the Canadian Parliament. We will have to wait and see.

USAF Menwith Hill spy station and Fylingdales radar base, Yorkshire

The British Government continues to offer its support for US NMD and the increased use of Fylingdales and Menwith Hill for these US military plans which undoubtedly represent one of the world's most important and potentially threatening developments. This support is being given without any consultation with the British people and by actively withholding information from them. The campaign against NMD is essential to stop what could spark off a new arms race, a space weapons race and an increase in US aggression. The waste of resources

and subsequent pollution would be an environmental disaster. The whole concept of NMD is fuelled by fear and by greed for complete domination of international markets and communications systems.

heddwch action: If the USA gains the ability to wipe out nuclear arsenals we can expect nuclear proliferation as a threatened state might want to increase its chances of a long range missile strike. Disenfranchised groups and states may resort to terrorism in frustration in a climate of international injustice. Find out more about the campaigns and get involved. These include: Yorkshire CND, (01274) 730 795 www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk **Womenwith Hill Women's Peace Campaign, (01943) 466 825** FlossieMintballs@aol.com The Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases, (01943) 466 405 The Fylingdales Action Network, (01947) 896 481 www.fylingdalesaction.org

Tribute to an anti-nuclear campaigner

Kath Williams of Llanymynech died at the end of January after a 2 year battle against cancer. Kath was for many years an anti-nuclear campaigner, beginning in the early days alongside Don Arnott in the anti-nuclear dumping campaign PANDORA. She campaigned for the closure of Trawsfynydd and helped to write a submission to the Hinkley Point Inquiry. As a member of Llanfyllin CND she protested against the government's possession of nuclear weapons. Although less active in recent years she was still one of the organisers of a walk each year in memory of Hilda Murrell, another anti-nuclear campaigner, who was murdered 20 years ago. As Kath was a great lover of the Welsh hills, it seems appropriate to remember her on a hillside above Maengwynedd.

June Row

population control

Guilty until proven British



The Government's proposed identity card (ID) and register scheme would completely change the relationship between the citizen and the government. Introducing identity cards will be difficult and expensive and will create more problems for society.

While the government's current proposal is for a 'voluntary' scheme, if you choose not to apply for an ID card you may not be able to leave the country, drive, get a job, access basic services like health care or work with children - i.e. it will be compulsory in all but name.

Increase the divisions

The Home Office's own figures recognise that members of ethnic minority communities are stopped and searched more often by police than anyone else. ID cards will only make this situation worse, as anyone who doesn't look 'British' may be singled out as a suspected 'illegal immigrant' and required to show their card every time they access public services to which they are perfectly entitled.

Costs

The Home Office claims that ID cards will 'only' cost £3billion to introduce. Two years ago they thought it would

be one tenth of that. Government information technology projects run notoriously over budget. The individual will no longer have the right to assert who she/he is without being checked against an approved list. Fines for failing to comply include £2,500 for refusing to submit personal details, £1,000 for failing to update your details and £1,000 for failing to renew an ID card.

NO2ID

A non-aligned, diverse group of people calling themselves 'NO2ID' is opposing the Government's plans to introduce this intrusive, expensive and ineffective control of personal identity. NO2ID believes that since Government is the servant of the people, citizens should not have to exist 'by permission of the government', and that it is our fundamental right to assert who we are without being checked against an

approved list. ID cards could have a serious effect on the freedom to protest and use civil disobedience in campaigns for peace and justice.

There is no case for a central identity database containing everyone's personal information that can be accessed by all branches of government, and that any such database would represent a gross invasion of privacy and provide a new target for, and most likely increase identity fraud. There is no 'safety from terror' in the ID scheme, instead terror is being used as an excuse for the control and monitoring of a 'compliant' and over legislated population.

heddwch action: Do something to help the campaign against the introduction of ID cards! Contact NO2ID, Box No. 412, 78, Marylebone High Street, London W1U 5AP . www.NO2ID.net

New Peace News Out Now!

On 1st February 2005 the new-look Peace News hit the streets. After five years of publishing a quarterly magazine with a distinct international focus, Peace News, a not-for-profit company has returned to its roots with a monthly tabloid, focusing on issues vital to the broad British peace and anti-war movements.

Peace News for nonviolent revolution

Published since 1936, Peace News has been produced in a range of formats and frequencies, but has always maintained its political commitment to nonviolence and radical social transformation in pursuit of a more peaceful and just world. The current move to monthly production is a direct response to the need to affirm and strengthen the British peace movement and to act as a truly independent space where the voices of our diverse and energetic community can be heard.

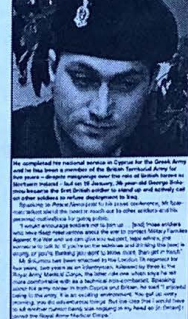


Work to start at UK WMD site

Green light for Block The Builders as planning applications reveal dates for work on new developments

Memory of Delaney planning application - A planning application for a new development at the site of the former RAF Bomber Command base at Aldermaston has been approved. The application, submitted by the Aldermaston Development Trust, is for a new residential development of 100 houses. The Trust is a non-profit organisation that has been working to regenerate the site since 1994. The development is expected to start in 2006.

'I am trying to act as a beacon for other soldiers'



The human cost of war - A young soldier from the British Army has been awarded the MBE for his bravery during a conflict in Afghanistan. He is the youngest soldier to receive the award since the war began. He has been praised for his leadership and courage in the face of danger.

UK's development plans for new weapons are stopped - The UK's plans to develop new nuclear weapons have been stopped. The decision was made by the Labour government in 2002, following a referendum on nuclear disarmament. The government has committed to maintaining the current nuclear deterrent and not to develop new weapons.

Non-violent alternatives

Speaking prior to the launch, PN editor Ippy D said: "Peace News is returning to its rightful place - at the heart of the British peace movement. And we will be working hard over the coming year to engage with the broad peace and anti-war movements and the wider community." "Peace News will appeal to people already involved in the peace movement and those people who are attracted by nonviolent alternatives and who are keen to hear more."

Peace News online

In conjunction with the launch of the tabloid, a new series of web features and a web subscription system went live on 1 February at PeaceNews online. As well as existing news, events and resources sections, a private area containing additional features and reviews is available to all subscribers and also as a standalone "web subscription". All subscribers also receive additional discounts in the PeaceNews online webshop and have access to private unmoderated discussion fora. Find "PeaceNews online" at <http://www.peacenews.info>.

Subscribe

Please ask for a sample copy, email admin@peacenews.info, or write to 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DY, Britain and/or subscribe: phone (local rate) 0845 456 5183 or 020 7278 3344 Fax: 020 7278 0444 Subscribe or buy bulk copies online at: <http://www.peacenews.info/webshop/> **The revolution starts with you**



low level radiation

CERRIE * Minority Report

There is strong evidence that current models of hazard from radioactivity activity inside the human body underestimate risks by at least 100 and possibly up to 1000 times. The Low Level Radiation Campaign (LLRC) brought this to the Government's attention and in 2001, Ministers set up CERRIE to investigate. The Minority Report was published in September 2004 because last minute intimidation by Government Lawyers excluded the LLRC's dissenting views from the Committee's final Majority Report.

Radiation 'dose' is meaningless

Safety Standards for radioactivity in the environment are in meltdown because the old idea of radiation 'dose' as a whole body average is now seen to be nonsense, like thinking that a cigarette burn couldn't hurt because a nice warm bath would transfer more heat to your whole body. Some types of radioactive substance, once embedded in body tissue, irradiate the few cells near them, threatening mutation, while the rest of the body gets no dose. Plutonium particles are an extreme example. The CERRIE Majority Report accepts that *dose is sometimes meaningless*. Even the International Commission on Radiological Protection admits it. This is a problem for official bodies like the Environment Agency because they depend solely on 'dose' to quantify risk. If dose is meaningless they cannot reassure the public about the risks of radioactive discharges, or recycling and incinerating contaminated materials, or the use of Depleted Uranium weapons.

Dirty business

The Minority Report of CERRIE provides evidence that radioactivity in the environment is much more dangerous than previously admitted. The persistent excess of childhood leukaemia near Sellafield where doses were 300 times too small to cause the number of cases of leukaemia is an example as accepted safety standards said that doses were 300 times too small to be the cause of the number of cases found. The sharp increase in infant leukaemia in several countries after Chernobyl demonstrates a similar error.

Nuclear technology – weapons production, deployment, power generation, reprocessing – cannot function without the freedom to dump and pollute. The LLRC believe that is the reason that the Government had to keep the LLRC statements out of the Majority Report. The Majority Report does however acknowledge scientific uncertainties mean that risks could have been underestimated. Ironically, CERRIE's 'uncertainties' are so big that even the 300-fold error looks quite modest.

Chernobyl fallout

In the short time since both Majority and Minority Reports were published, scientific journals have published even more evidence showing that cancer rates in north Sweden and Belarus have risen by 40% since the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. The conventional risk model says that any increase in cancer risk wouldn't happen until 2006 at the earliest and it would be undetectably small anyway. So the authorities ignore it.

heddwch action: the CERRIE Minority Report is essential reading for people campaigning against any aspect of the nuclear project. Special price for campaigners £5 Available from Low Level Radiation Campaign, The Knoll, Montpellier Park, Llandrindod LD1 5LW (01597) 824 771 info@llrc.org www.llrc.org

*CERRIE: Committee Examining Radiation Risks of Internal Emitters

heddwch 14

child victims of war

Linking Children's Rights with Environmental Rights

The grassroots organisation *Child Victims of War* is concerned with current and future generations of children whose lives and wellbeing are put at risk by high technology warfare. The group is particularly concerned about the use of uranium in weapons systems, the targeting of life support systems and the dangers of unexploded ordnance.

Since the use of the chemical weapon Agent Orange in the Vietnam War, most violent conflicts have resulted in a poisoned and lethal environment, which continues to kill and maim well after the hostilities have ceased. Many of the sick, malformed or dying children in South East Asia, The Balkans, Afghanistan and the Arabian Peninsula were not yet born when these wars took place. The effects are intergenerational.

Growing children are particularly vulnerable to poisoning and their cells are more susceptible to genetic damage. Many such children in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq also suffer from acute or chronic malnutrition, which creates an even greater risk of immune system breakdown. They receive accumulative doses of toxic and radioactive material through the air, their water and food. By targeting civilian infrastructure and effectively poisoning the water systems aggressors perpetrate a form of biological and chemical warfare against which young malnourished children have little resistance. Many children in war zones are tempted to play with spent bomb casings, on burnt out military tanks or with unexploded ordnance. This increases the risk of toxic and radiological poisoning, amputations and death.

Child Victims of War aims to provide medical help, education and training, equip children's hospitals and clinics, fund research into the long term environmental and health effects of war, help local communities campaign at an international level to clean up the environment and for adequate health care, and to take legal measures on behalf of individual children whose human rights have been breached.

Joanne Baker, a founder of *Child Victims of War*, who has been actively engaged with the humanitarian situation in Iraq since 1997, told *heddwch*:

"We believe that we, as ordinary citizens can play a leading role in safeguarding the future for all our children. By supporting communities, families and children in countries targeted by the military we hope to raise awareness of the environmental dangers of warfare and to improve or save the lives of individual children. We can also build bridges of peace and solidarity between our countries."

heddwch action: your ideas and action are vital.

A rehabilitation centre is being set up in Fallujah in Iraq, a city bombarded in 2004 by US missiles, cluster bombs, bullets, napalm and depleted uranium. The centre will deal with both physical injury and psychological trauma for children who have not only sustained and witnessed the most horrific injuries; thousands are now homeless and hundreds orphaned. To find out more about how to help contact *Child Victims of War*: 14C, Ecclestone Road, West Ealing, London W13 0RL (020) 8567 4237 info@childvictimsofwar.org http://www.childvictimsofwar.org *Child Victims of War* is registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1106587)

Eunice Fleet

by Lily Tobias



This 1933 novel has been recently reprinted as a HONNO Classic. It charts the tale of Eunice Fleet, the wife of a young Conscientious Objector (CO) in World War One (or the 'War of Exhaustion' as Tobias describes it). Following the death of her husband from ill treatment in prison, Eunice struggles with her guilt for her former rejection of his pacifist principles. A new relationship with a politician forces her to face up to a change in her developing beliefs. The tale begins and ends in London but the middle portion of the novel is set in wartime Cardiff. Since Tobias herself had brothers who were COs during the war she was well

aware of the system of tribunals and hearings surrounding the enlistment of young men into the military. She was keen that the optimism, courage and integrity of COs be recognised and that the story of the abuses they suffered is told. *Eunice Fleet* offers an interesting insight into the ordinary life of the middle classes of the 1930s. It is also an examination of the nature of war fought 'abroad' and its effect on civilians 'at home'. Tobias leaves us in no doubt that COs were sometimes innocent of the effects that their personal beliefs and values would have on the rest of their family and friends.

It is reassuring to read a book that does not praise war or even accept it as a fact of life. Tobias is critical of authority rather than individuals, yet sees the power for change with individuals. Tobias does not condemn, but pities those who did fight in the war. Commenting about the Armistice in November 1918:

"Neither tears nor laughter could touch the millions in each country who had died by foul means, the millions more hideously injured, the yet uncounted millions condemned to mental ills, broken homes, broken careers, broken lives."

"The hospitals were full of cripples and the gaols were full of COs. Fifteen 'absolutists' remained in strict confinement. Thousands of 'schemers' awaited in vain for their remission from penal routine. Men continued to hunger

strike, to be forcibly fed, to be released, re-arrested, and sent to 'rejoin units' with the prospect of a fourth court martial."

Eunice's conclusion is that only 'refusal' to fight will make war impossible, but her second message is that while our beliefs and principles are important to us personally, they affect our relationships and our ability to act, jointly and alone. Nothing we do happens in isolation.

Lily Tobias grew up in Ystalyfera in the Swansea Valley. Her parents were Jewish immigrants from Poland. Later she went to live in Cardiff. We learn from Jasmine Donahaye's excellent introduction to this reprint, that Rhiwbina in Cardiff, where Lily Tobias lived in the twenties 'was a vibrant intellectual enclave ...' and that the ambience at Tobias' home was socialist and pacifist, where there were strong sympathies with the early Welsh nationalist movement and the fight for women's rights. Tobias is known to have been active in pacifist and socialist activities in Cardiff and Swansea - she helped shield conscientious objectors, documented army abuses, promoted No-Conscription Fellowship and supported the Independent Labour Party.

Jill Stallard

Eunice Fleet by Lily Tobias with an introduction by Jasmine Donahaye
Honno Classics 2004
ISBN 1-870206-65-7 paperback £8.99

No change in over a century of war propaganda

The Loud Little Handful

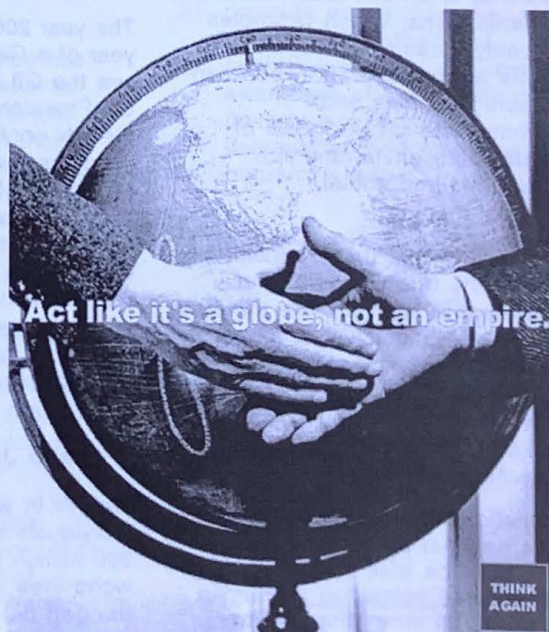
The loud little handful - as usual - will shout for the war. The pulpit will - warily and curiously - object...at first. The great big, dull bulk of the nation will rub its sleepy eyes and try to make out why there should be a war, and will say, earnestly and indignantly, "It is unjust and dishonourable, and there is no necessity for it."

Then the handful will shout louder. A few fair men on the other side will argue and reason against the war with speech and pen, and at first will have a hearing and be applauded, but it will not last long; those others will out shout them, and presently the antiwar audiences will thin out and lose popularity.

Before long, you will see this curious thing: the speakers stoned from the platform, and free speech strangled by hordes of furious men...

Next the statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting the blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self deception.

Mark Twain 1835 - 1910



An Invitation to support the Cynefin y Werin Manifesto 2005

As authors of the Cynefin y Werin 2005 Manifesto, we would like to invite you, your group or movement to add your name to the list of its supporters.

We wrote the Manifesto over two months, using a process of co-operation and consensus. We believe that the aims of the Manifesto are a good place to start to mobilise for the important events happening in 2005 and beyond.

The intention is to add to the Manifesto during the year - it isn't written on a tablet of stone, but is something to encourage groups to discuss, develop and use.

The Manifesto was launched in the National Assembly in January. We want to use it for the election in May, the G8 Summit in July, the British Presidency of the European Union, which runs from July to December, and other important meetings during the year.

For a copy of the Manifesto, or to add your name to the supporters, contact benica@gn.apc.org (word file - 50kb), phone: (01286) 882 134 or see www.cynefinywerin.org.uk/index.php?docid=161

Raoul Bhambra - Friends of the Earth
George Crabb - Wales Alliance Against Nuclear Weapons
Michael Green - Knighton Action for Peace and Justice Group
Ben Gregory - Wales Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign
Cathy Madge - Wales Youth Forum on Sustainable Development
James Maiden - Cynefin y Werin
David McKnight - Mold Social Forum
Clare Sain ley Berry - UNA Cymru
Jill Stallard - CND Cymru
Rod Stallard - CND Cymru



For copies of a calendar (word file), which lists all the crucial activist events for 2005, contact clare@wcia.org.uk or phone: (029 20) 821 055

Cynefin y Werin Manifesto 2005

Preamble

Cynefin y Werin (Common Ground) is an all-Wales network of organisations, which promotes equality, peace, justice, human rights and co-operation between nations, peoples and communities on the basis of sustainable environmental, economic and social development.

We believe that these principles reflect the true values of Welsh society and tradition. We therefore urge the National Assembly to find ways of expressing these principles within Wales and of advancing them globally through links with national and international bodies.

Cynefin y Werin believes that international peace and justice needs to be built on the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the strengthening and
heddwch 16

renewal of the UN, and the true democratisation of international institutions.

The year 2005 is in all probability the year of a General Election. It will also see the G8 Summit in Scotland, the UK Presidency of the European Union, the UN conference to measure progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals to reduce global poverty, as well as the Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto agreements. Cynefin y Werin believes that to ensure peace and global justice a radical agenda is needed, with co-ordinated international action to bring an end to conflict, economic exploitation and injustice.

1. Trade Justice

We live in world where the three richest individuals have more wealth than the 600 million poorest; where half the world lives on two dollars a day; where the gap between the richest and

poorest grows each year; and where many countries, including most of Sub-Saharan Africa, are poorer than they were twenty years ago, and have no hope of reaching the Millennium Development Goals in the next 100 years, let alone by 2015. These inequalities result from the policies of international institutions which work in the interests of the rich, policies which put business before communities, and an economic system which puts profit before people. In 2005 we call upon our elected representatives at a national, British and European level to work to:

- a) end export subsidies, particularly for arms exports, and reform the Export Credit Guarantee Department
- b) allow governments to decide their own trade policies, particularly those which protect and nurture indigenous agriculture and

local food production, and environmentally sustainable industries

- c) introduce international trade rules that prioritise the poor and the environment
- d) cancel all debt of the poorest countries, as a vital step to attain the Millennium Development Goals
- e) democratise global institution such as the IMF, World Bank and the WTO
- f) support the Fair Trade initiative
- g) encourage local production, provision and acquisition of goods and services wherever possible
- h) reverse the privatisation of public services such as water, electricity, health and education

2. Environmental Justice

We live in a world where 86 per cent of the world's natural resources are consumed by 20 per cent of it's population; where the richer countries are using up more than their fair share of resources like energy, water, timber and minerals, while leaving behind a world of health problems and depleted environments for local communities and wildlife. The root cause of our environmental problems – a skewed approach to economics (which does not consider the social or environmental costs of development) and business whose sole goal is profit – is also deepening inequalities. Across the world it's the people with the least power and money who are worst hit when the environment is damaged. Kofi Annan has said, "without controlling the environment and climate change, I don't think we stand a chance of achieving the Millennium Develop Goals." We call upon our elected representatives to:

- a) ensure full independent environmental and social impact assessments of proposed developments
- b) ensure that spending of tax-payers' money is transparent, and used for beneficial and not damaging developments
- c) tax the polluter, reward the non-polluter
- d) encourage local sustainability and self-sufficiency and support local communities.
- e) use resources with low or nil environmental impact

3. Governmental Justice:

Research continues to show growing support for the National Assembly, and for an institution with more powers, at the same time as voters become more disillusioned with politicians. In Wales we need a democracy in which our institutions are fully answerable to voters, where participative democracy encourages the involvement of citizens at all levels of government, and where civil society is fully recognised and included. If the National Assembly's goal of sustainable development is to be realised, its policies need to reflect its commitment. The National Assembly needs to use its voice on the international stage, as the elected institution, which reflects the will of the Welsh people. We call for the:

- a) full implementation of the Richard Commission report to give the National Assembly the powers it needs
- b) development of Welsh investment and procurement policies and promotion of local procurement for the benefit of communities and the environment
- c) end of the use of public money to subsidise armaments production or testing companies in Wales or to fund military research in universities and colleges in Wales
- d) promotion of the renewal of, and support for, the UN through regional democracy as the best decision-making forum for international affairs

4. Peace and Justice:

The culture of war and violence has been heightened by recent attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq. Remote forms of military killing mean that in such wars 90 per cent of victims are civilians and the majority of those are children and women. War and preparations for war and violence are unsustainable, a huge waste of valuable resources, cause permanent pollution, affect the health of people and damage their environment. War also undermines human rights and creates a sense of despair for all people in the world. Our increasingly fragile environment cannot support endless wars. The development of more and more 'sophisticated' weaponry means that we must reject violence now or perish. In a forward looking Wales,

we should be showing vision, setting an example by promoting the UN Decade of Peace and Non-Violence launched in 2000. We should work actively for disarmament, address the causes of war, promote peaceful conflict resolution and act in the best interests of generations yet to come. To this end, we believe our elected governments should:

- a) uphold Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and achieve the goal of nuclear disarmament in Britain as a step towards global nuclear disarmament;
- b) promote all moves towards attaining a Nuclear Free Wales;
- c) abandon the military policy of pre-emptive strikes;
- d) understand and deal with the causes of terror;
- e) end all British participation in the US 'National Missile Defense' program;
- f) stop all involvement in the production, sale and testing of armaments and related products in Wales;
- g) support all initiatives to bring justice and peace to all peoples in the Middle East;
- h) refuse to renew the Mutual Defence Agreement with the USA, which is in breach of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- i) remove all foreign military bases and facilities from Britain;
- j) resist the extension of state control and information gathering (e.g. ID cards, national DNA database)
- k) promote and encourage non-violent methods of conflict resolution and raise awareness of the threats of poverty, environmental degradation and breaches of human rights.



diary dates

April 16th Brussels Bombspotting XL. Just before the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2005 Trident Ploughshares are planning a massive international Bombspotting action at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, at SHAPE (NATO military HQ) in Mons and the military base at Kleine Brogel. There will be mass, international acts of civil disobedience. contact Gillian Sloan at gmsloan@yahoo.com.

April 24th Chester. Meeting on Palestine. Alexander's, Rufus Court, Chester. Doors open 8pm. Bar till 12.30am. entry £2 towards campaign costs. contact: (01244) 340 005. www.alexandersjazz.com

April 24th -25th
Centre of Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys An Introduction to Global Youth Work, 2-day residential training course. The aim of this course is to develop knowledge and skills to address global citizenship issues in working with young people.
Details:sophie.cooper@wya.org.uk

April 28th
N Wales Conference Centre, Llandudno
and May 3rd Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea OXFAM Live - an opportunity to see how your time, energy and money help people- through meeting Oxfam's international programme staff directors, volunteers and fellow supporters who are all working to help the world's poorest people. Details: www.oxfam.org.uk/oxfamlive

May 2nd - 28th New York Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Come along and lobby the Nuclear Weapons States, asking them to abide by their "unequivocal undertaking" to accomplish "the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament" as committed to by the Final Document at the 2000 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). See: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/nptindex1.html> for more on the NPT. Or organise an event in your area to raise awareness of the NPT. Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is working on a prayer campaign at the NPT: <http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/prayer%20campaign.htm>

May 4th London. British Aerospace (BAE) Systems AGM. Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ 020 7281 0297 <http://www.caat.org.uk/>

May 15th Worldwide. International Conscientious Objectors Day.

May 19th - 20th Devonport (Plymouth, England) Disarmament Camp contact Trident Ploughshares (0845) 458 8366 info@tridentploughshares.org <http://www.tridentploughshares.org>

May 24th Worldwide. International Women's Day for Disarmament. <http://www.nowar.no/peaceacademy/womenday.html> for ideas & information.

June 4th Worldwide International Day for Children as Victims of War

June 9th Bristol. Effective Meeting Skills - an introductory course to help you understand the role facilitation plays in creating participative and productive meetings, and to equip you with tools and techniques to be an effective facilitator. contact: matthew@seedsforchange.org.uk (0845) 458 4776

July 2nd Edinburgh. Make Poverty History Demonstration in advance of G8 Summit for transport from Wales contact James Maiden: (029) 2082 1058 jamesmaiden@wcia.org.uk

July 4th Faslane Scotland. Big Blockade Shut down Britain's nuclear weapons base before the G8 summit details: (0845) 458 8366 <http://www.tridentploughshares.org/>

July 6th-8th Scotland. Protests at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles contacts: www.agp.org www.dissent.org.uk Scottish CND <http://www.banthebomb.org/index.shtml> (0141) 423 1222 or Trident Ploughshares <http://www.tridentploughshares.org/> (0845) 458 8366 transport from Wales - see above.

July 22nd - 24th Y Tabernacle, Machynlleth A weekend of celebration and music inspired by Victor Jara and the Chilean New Song movement. Live Latino music with Quimanto and supporting groups exhibitions, street theatre, poetry, music and dance workshops and political discussion. Details: tonycorden@hotmail.com or 01654 702166.



photo: Emily Freeman



cnd cymru contacts

www.cndcymru.org

chair:

Jill Evans MEP
(01824)709 700
jievans@europarl.eu.int

vice chairs:

Rod Stallard
(01550) 750 260

David Bradley (North Wales)
(01824)709 700
tryweryn@tiscali.co.uk

Olwen Davies (Mid Wales)
(01970) 611 994

Ray Davies (South Wales)
(029 20) 889 514

membership & affiliations:

Monica Bradley
7, Brook Terrace, Mochdre,
Newtown SY16 4JG
(01686) 626 350
aelodaeth@cndcymru.org

trading

Jan Jones
(01792) 830 330

treasurer:

Jean Bryant,
16, Ty'n y Cymer Close,
Porth, Y Rhondda CF39 9DE

national secretary & heddwch editor:

Jill Stallard, Nantgaredig,
Cynghordy, Llanymddyfri
SA20 0LR (01550) 750 260
jill@cndcymru.org

If you have any queries or ideas or want information please contact your nearest CND Cymru vice chair.

For more information about joining CND Cymru, or how to receive 'heddwch' regularly please contact the CND Cymru Membership Secretary.

KEEP IN TOUCH online with peace and justice news and events around Wales by joining the JUSTPEACE e-list - send a blank email to
just-peace-subscribe@yahoogroups.com