

heddwch

spring 2006
number 38
free (or donation)



the magazine of CND Cymru

faslane 365

graphic: jill gibbon

**celebrate
the
possible**

faslane 365

**social forum
cymru**

**no nuclear weapons
- old or new**

keep wales nuclear free

don't attack iran





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
publication are
welcome.

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Stand up and reveal the hypocrisy

If it wasn't so incredibly dangerous and worrying, US and British Government reaction to the news that Iran is resuming uranium enrichment would be laughable. The condemnation of a country, whatever its situation, for developing the tools to create nuclear weapons is something we all agree with.

We would of course include Britain, US, France, Israel and others in this. But at the same time as trying to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons Britain is considering developing a new generation of nuclear weapons to replace Trident, the US and Britain are testing nuclear weapon components in Nevada, they are all blatantly ignoring their commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and France has declared that it would be prepared to use nuclear weapons.

The European Parliament criticised Iran's actions in a resolution in February. But it also criticised the complete failure of the NPT Review Conference and UN World Summit during 2005 to deal with nuclear disarmament.

And increasingly there is talk of a "military solution" in Iran. Articles in the US media indicate that planning is taking place there and options range from surgical strikes against installations to full invasion with a view to 'regime change'. Having witnessed the past few years in Iraq you'd have thought they'd have more sense.

Disturbingly, these discussions increasingly consider using 'tactical' nuclear weapons against Iran. Up until now France accepted the principle of 'no first strike' but in a speech at the L'Île Longue nuclear submarine base in Brittany last month President Jacques Chirac said that he would use French nuclear weapons; "In the face of the concerns of the present and the uncertainties of the future, nuclear deterrence remains the fundamental guarantee of our security". He went on to say that he saw France's nuclear weapons as "a core element in the security of the European continent", as part of the European Security and Defence Policy.

The current Austrian Presidency of the EU is traditionally thought to be anti-nuclear but an official working for the Austrian government has said that Chirac has put nuclear weapons back on the EU agenda and they should be talking about the use of nuclear weapons in the context of EU defence and setting rules on when they should be used. This would make all of Europe a nuclear zone, against the wishes of many member states and the vast majority of the population.

We've got to stand up and reveal this hypocrisy. It is unbelievable that using nuclear weapons is seriously being discussed as a realistic option in the world today. We've got to say that we won't accept it - not in my name, not in Europe, not in Nevada and not in Iran.

Jill Evans MEP, Chair - CND Cymru



iran and nuclear proliferation

CND calls for a Nuclear Free Middle East

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has reacted with great concern to reports that the US are officially drawing up plans for a military attack against Iran. Ignoring worldwide concern from both governments, pressure groups and individuals about the likely violent repercussions of attacking Iran, the Pentagon war planners are said to be selecting targets for military action.

Kate Hudson, Chair of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said, "This latest development in US policy in the Middle East is of great concern. Many governments and 'think tanks' have produced assessments of what would happen if Iran is attacked - widespread violence and instability throughout the Middle East. The British Government must immediately put

pressure on the Bush administration to scrap these military plans and put their full effort into finding a peaceful, fair solution to the question of Iran's nuclear programme. "In its Nuclear Posture Review of 2002, the US admits that US nuclear weapons may be used in a first-strike capacity "against targets able to withstand non-nuclear attack. Much has been made in recent months of Iran's secret nuclear facilities, allegedly buried deep underground."

"The US must realise that the only way to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East is through creating a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in the region. Instead of drawing up war plans with the possibility of using first-strike nuclear weapons, the US should draw up plans for all nuclear-armed countries, itself included, to disarm."

trident : britain's illegal nuclear killing machine

Faslane 365

not a day too soon

October 1st 2006 will see the beginning of an audacious civil resistance initiative to apply critical public pressure for the disarmament of Britain's nuclear weapons. Building on the success of previous mass blockades of the Trident nuclear base at Faslane, a year-long continuous peaceful blockade is being planned. To make this happen, groups and organisations from Scotland, England and Wales, and beyond are being invited to come and shut down the base for at least one 48-hour period each during the year.

Out with destructive

Faslane 365 hopes to bring people to witness and impede the nuclear base where Britain's nuclear weapons are deployed, and to enable them to express the range of serious concerns - from human rights to climate change - that people in the 'real world' consider to be the vital challenges for the 21st century.

To this end, Faslane 365 is asking a wide range of local, national and international groups from all sections of civil society to come to Faslane with at least 100 people committed to stay and make their visions for a just and peaceful future visible for at least one period of 48 hours. Smaller groups could join with others to make up the required number.

In with creative!

It is hoped that enough people will be prepared to blockade and disrupt the comings and goings of this nuclear base and that groups will consider creative and innovative ways to 'make the connection' between the issues that concern them, and the diversion of resources devoted to Trident. This could involve, for example, music, theatre, workshops, festivals or 're-decoration' of the base.

All groups will be expected to agree to non-negotiable guidelines that stress nonviolence and respect for all, and commit to the main demand: Trident must be taken out of deployment and the government should make a timetable for dismantling the weapons, together with a commitment not to develop any new nuclear weapons.



heddwch action:

Become part of this unique opportunity to make a vital difference! Faslane 365 expects to have 100 groups signed up for the first hundred days before giving the final go-ahead. There will be plenty of help and support, including nonviolence workshops, and a detailed briefing pack. If you are interested in getting together in an All Wales group of 100 please contact Jill Stallard (see CND Cymru Contacts page 16) or Del Harris: (01974) 831 575 coney@gn.apc.org Contact Faslane 365 for more specific information and to discuss any questions or practical issues: www.faslane365.org info@faslane365.org (01263) 512 049

Troops Home from Iraq! Don't attack Iran!

**Demonstration and Protest
London
Saturday 18th March 2006
Assemble 12 pm Parliament
Square**

Reasons to be there:

- Iraq is suffering - the occupation has cost more than 100,000 lives with no end in sight. Iraqis want British troops to leave their country.
- British troops are dying in Blair's war - nearly 100 so far, with hundreds more badly injured.
- The US and Britain are plotting new aggression - against Iran above all. The war could spread and it could become a nuclear war.
- We were lied to about the attack on Iraq - it is time Blair was held to account for his decisions, which have undermined democracy.
- Blair's foreign policy is making Britain a terror target, as the atrocities of July 7 last year proved.
- Freedom is under threat - civil liberties are being torn up by the government because of the so-called "war on terror".
- British Muslims are under threat. We must stand together to protect communities being targeted by Islamophobic racists.
- Billions are being wasted on the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan which could be used for pensions and public services in Britain.
- March 18th is an international day of action against the occupation. Protests are already planned across the world, including in Iraq.
- The world will be watching - let's show friend and foe alike that the British people are opposed to the Iraq occupation and the threats to world peace and our freedom.

Buses will be going to London from South Wales: Contact (01792) 526 405 to reserve your ticket. For transport from other areas see page 16.

Nuclear-free?

John Cox compares and contrasts CND campaigns and issues of today with those of 25 years ago, when the Polaris replacement and nuclear power were hot issues and Wales became a "nuclear-free" zone.

Wales became symbolically "nuclear-free" a quarter of a century ago, when the then eight County Councils of Wales all approved "nuclear-free" resolutions. This culminated of years of intense campaigning against NATO's plans to station nuclear armed cruise missiles, at Greenham Common and elsewhere in Europe, and British government plans to build bunkers, at Carmarthen and elsewhere in Wales to make nuclear war appear survivable.

The 'threat'

At that time we were told, Britain was threatened by a nuclear-armed Soviet Union that had superior 'conventional' armed forces that had to be countered by our 'good' nuclear deterrent. Although based on a big lie, it was a coherent argument.

Today the claimed 'threat' comes from so-called 'religious fundamentalists' who, not caring about their own personal survival, kill and maim innocent civilians. How or why such people can be deterred by nuclear weapons is not explained.

Having argued in CND, for nigh on half a century, that the destruction and misery created by nuclear weapons makes their use immoral, even in retaliation, it is clearly equally immoral to contemplate their use against a few individuals (whatever their religious persuasion). The moral case against such weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is easily as valid today as it was when CND was founded in 1958.

Proliferation

A secondary, but equally persuasive, argument put forward by CND from its 1958 inception was that, even if the nuclear weapons of the USA and Soviet Union created a mutual balance of terror that gave some assurance that neither dare start a nuclear war, this argument did not justify

British nuclear weapons. On the contrary, Britain's insistence on having an independent nuclear deterrent was the starting point for the 'horizontal' nuclear arms race between the minor nuclear powers. This in turn justified France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and apartheid South Africa all acquiring their own independent nuclear weaponry.

The primary 'military case' for the USA having nuclear weapons vanished with the Soviet Union. What Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) now fear most is that nations like Iran will join them in the 'nuclear club' and behave exactly as they have done for decades. Whilst the NWS turned a blind eye
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to the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Israel and apartheid South Africa, their allies, they don't want Iran and North Korea to follow the same path.

Given that there is no longer even a semblance of a military threat to justify our own nuclear weapons (there never was), there must be some other reason why Trident is to be replaced by an even more destructive WMD system. The momentum for Trident-replacement comes from the military-industrial-complex, which needs to build new and more profitable weapons systems irrespective of real or imagined needs and regardless of international law. The task of the client government is to create a climate of fear that justifies their purchase.

Nuclear power

Similar arguments apply to the related issue of nuclear power. As is well known, and belatedly now admitted publicly, the first generation nuclear power plants were never intended to be commercially viable: they were built to make plutonium and enriched uranium for nuclear weapons. Having served this purpose, the (military-led) case for new nuclear power plants stations evaporated.

The military already have more than enough weapons-grade material to satisfy their 'needs', but have now unfortunately created a new, powerful vested interest with its own agenda. To generate income, the nuclear industry has sold nuclear power plants and processing know-how throughout the world and, in Britain, is currently fine-tuning its case for building new and, it hopes, safer nuclear power plants.

Fissile material

Although not an immediate threat to humanity (as is the replacement of Trident), every new nuclear power plant increases the amount of fissile-material that can be used for new nuclear weapons and therefore makes it more likely that, somewhere, sooner or later, a new bunch of religious or political zealots will get hold of it.

It is important, in opposing nuclear power, to distinguish between arguments that are incontrovertible and others that are speculative. The certain and incontrovertible arguments rely on the fact that nuclear power necessarily produces fissile material in such quantities that, in the absence of a world order that eliminates warfare, injustice and conflict, make nuclear war more possible – and therefore more likely. The speculative arguments are those that claim that the existing unsolved issues of safety and nuclear waste disposal are technologically insoluble. Whilst, in time, this assertion might prove true, it is important that we recognise that the current





problems result from the too-hasty construction of nuclear reactors simply to produce weapons-grade fissile material. In time, technological solutions are likely to be found for nuclear waste disposal and operational safety issues – perhaps even for a commercially acceptable cost. There is, however, no technological ‘fix’ that can prevent the production of fissile material that could be used for weapons – so this must be our primary objection to nuclear power.

Given that the amount of fissile material existing today already exceeds the ‘needs’ of the military, it is inconceivable that the excess will not some day reach the hands of people who would use it. That is the inescapable danger from nuclear power.

Then and now

Although the current campaign against Trident replacement and nuclear power may appear to replicate those against Polaris (the precursor to Trident) replacement and nuclear power twenty-five years ago, the government has shifted its ground significantly.

Our moral case against possessing nuclear weapons is stronger today – insofar as the government admits that we have no nuclear-armed state to deter. This means that they must contemplate using nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear people – a very different scenario to that originally envisaged.

Also the Government has accepted the second of CND’s basic arguments – that horizontal nuclear proliferation is a threat to Britain and the world – hence their concern about Iran and North Korea. What they fail to do is to admit that Britain is responsible for horizontal proliferation.

The military case for new nuclear power stations also no longer exists – there is already more than enough fissile material around already to finish off all life on earth. So, if there are to be any new nuclear power plants, they must be built according to the same rules and regulations as any other commercial enterprise and satisfy health, safety and environmental requirements (including providing a complete restitution plan following their decommissioning) – just like everyone else.

Another major difference for us today is that the National Assembly for Wales is a new and more relevant focus for campaigning than the old County Councils. There is good reason to be optimistic about the strength of opposition in Wales to Trident replacement will be reflected in, at the very least, a Statement of Opinion from (most of the) Assembly Members opposing British Government plans.

John Cox is a Vice President and a former Chair of British CND. He has been active in the peace movement since 1949.



Act now to prevent Trident Replacement

The Government continues in its plan to update the immoral, wasteful, polluting and illegal British Trident nuclear weapons system. CND Cymru continues to keep the issue of Trident Replacement central to its work.

Friends and Relations, Colleagues and Strangers in the Street

Please persist in collecting names on our No Trident Petition. We would be delighted to send you more petitions which are available from the CND Cymru office (see Contacts Page 14/16/18).

Members of Parliament

It is never too soon or too late to write to Tony Blair, your MP or other of your elected representatives about this issue. More briefing sheets to help you are available from the CND Cymru office (see Contacts Page 16).

Early Day Motion 649

That this House believes there should be the fullest possible public debate on any replacement for the Trident nuclear submarine system; notes that the Government is in discussion with the US Administration on a possible successor to Trident which could cost up to £15 billion; further believes that, in the spirit of the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty and the need to reduce tension around the world, an open and public debate is necessary which should include a non-nuclear defence policy; and calls upon the Government not to conclude any agreements with the United States, or to engage in preparations to build a new generation of nuclear weapons, until after this debate and a clear decision made in Parliament.

Please write to your MP, enclosing the text of this EDM which was originally tabled by Jeremy Corbyn MP, and ask if she/he will sign it. If your MP is a Minister, or member of the Government, protocol prevents them from signing it, but do write anyway and ask them to tell you if they support the issue. If your MP has already signed up to EDM 649, congratulate them and express the hope that they will encourage their colleagues to do so as well.

If possible, please send copies of any replies you receive to CND Cymru. At time of going to press only 5 Welsh MPs had signed EDM 649: Nia Griffith, Albert Owen, Martin Caton, Mark Williams and Hywel Williams. Your MP’s address is, The House of Commons, London SW1A 1AA



around Wales

Cruel War, Unnecessary Deaths

Groups in towns all over Wales held vigils to mark the death, in January, of the 100th British soldier in Iraq.

Ray Davies, Vice Chair of CND Cymru said:
"One hundred soldiers and over thirty one thousand Iraqi civilians dead that we know of, is too much death and suffering. The carnage must stop and British troops brought back home. This war needs to end and it needs to end now."

Leanne Wood AM, commented:
"We campaigned against this war because it was illegal. We warned it would kill many people. Over, 100,000 Iraqi civilians have lost their lives since we started this campaign. And we have now lost 100 young men and women from the UK. We are against this war because we are against the killing. We will continue to campaign for a world where we don't need to kill each other to resolve disputes."

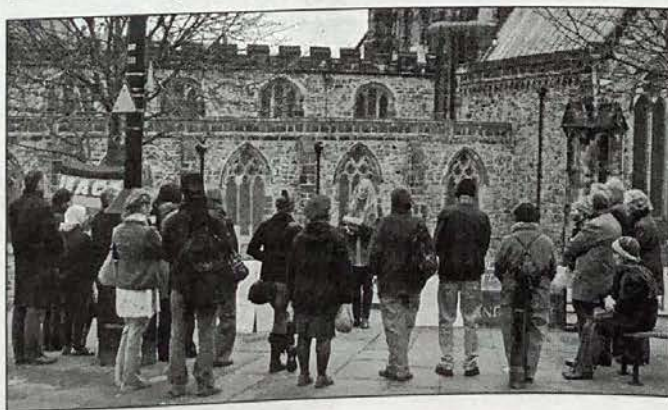
Wrexham

Members of WPJF demonstrated at Plas Coch roundabout. Tim White, of WPJF, speaking on behalf of the group said: "John Reid has said that it is 'an appropriate time to consider the courage and sacrifice of Britain's armed forces'. Members of the armed forces may well be courageous; as for making a sacrifice, these men and women are being sacrificed by Blair's government for its own purposes."

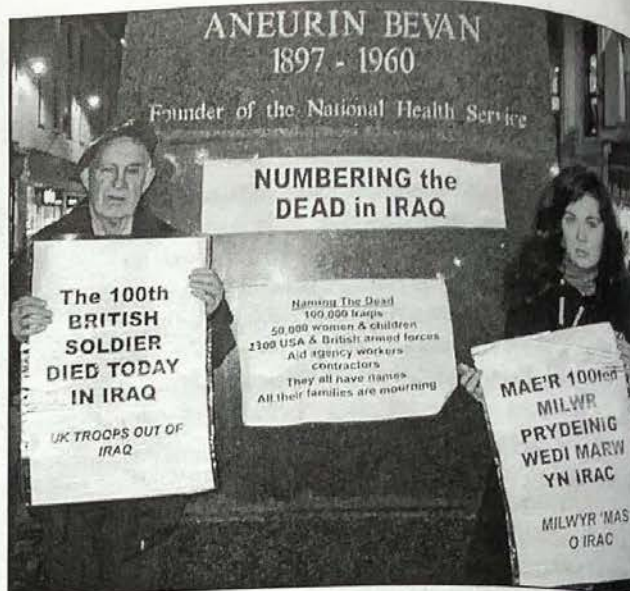
heddwch action: get involved with the campaign in North East Wales contact Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum 0845 330 4505 or wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com.

Bangor

It was a grey Sunday morning, - 5th February, when a group of people from Bangor and Ynys Môn met under the flag of peace, outside Bangor Cathedral, to mark the deaths of by then, 101 British soldiers in Iraq. The group was also marking the death of one little girl, nine year old Aya al-Astal, shot in the neck and stomach by an Israeli soldier because she had wandered too near to the security wall in Gaza. This tragic death happened on the day of the Palestinian elections. There will be no peace until the needs of all sides are recognised.



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Vigils in Cardiff were held by the Aneurin Bevan statue, Queen Street, Cardiff

The names of the British soldiers were read out. Linda Rogers, of the Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group explained later: "this was a task far harder than I had imagined. These were not merely names, but people who had spoken to us through their families and through the terrible circumstances of the war in Iraq." Importantly, we also remembered those many thousands of Iraqis whose deaths have gone without record. Our thoughts are also with their families".

heddwch action: The Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group continue to oppose illegal occupation and the destruction of the lives of innocent people. To take part in other events in North East Wales,

**contact them : (01248) 490 715
phil@tycerrig1.freemove.co.uk <http://www.bangorpeace.co.uk/>**

Brecon

On a very cold February 4th, Brecknock Peace and Justice Group stood in the garrison town and displayed placards which read:

**ALL HAD NAMES
ALL WERE LOVED
ALL ARE MOURNED**

Several members of the Brecon public stopped to say that they themselves had fought in Iraq or that they had family members who had been or are there now. The group also remembered the British christian peacemaker, Norman Kember, still held hostage after being abducted in Baghdad in November last year. Members of the vigil read a litany for him and others, published by Pax Christi.

**heddwch action: The group is planning to hold stalls or street ballots in Crickhowell and in Hay-on-Wye. Support is invaluable. Get in touch with Brecknock Peace & Justice Group: Mike Gatehouse e-mail: bpjg@phonecoop.coop
Phone: (01874) 658 564**

around Wales

Welsh bishop doesn't beat around bush

The Bishop of St David's, Carl Cooper is following in the footsteps of the former Archbishop of Wales, Rowan Williams in denouncing attempts to 'suppress global terrorism by violent means'. At a conference entitled 'Islamophobia' held in Trinity College, Carmarthen, the Bishop verbally attacked George Bush and his 'war on terror', the idea that war can be 'won', the lack of US and British Government insight in how to address the causes of terrorism and the concept that we are involved in some sort of 'crusade'. The Bishop expressed disappointment in First Minister Rhodri Morgan for failing to state whether he agreed with the Government in its 'war' on Iraq. Bishop Cooper went on to say "it will be the 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide who decide who are martyrs and who are murderers", not George Bush or any 'war on terror'. He said that a culture of fear will erode civil liberties and increase injustice and unrest.

Knighton Action for Peace and Justice

After many years of involvement with CND, I've moved from the English Midlands to the Welsh border and have joined the recently revived Knighton Action for Peace and Justice (KAPJ).

This group meets fortnightly and has a wider brief than just nuclear matters. It is currently focusing on nuclear weapons and power, Palestine, Iraq and civil liberties. It produces "The Word on the Street", a regular one page digest of current significant news items. This is posted up anonymously in the town. The next stage is to draw more attention to it with stickers, and "curious" letters to the local papers.

Before and during the Iraq war, every house in the town was leafleted twice, there were weekly vigils, a march of 80 through Knighton and full coaches were taken to the London demonstrations. KAPJ continues to support the call to 'impeach Blair', to take petitions on to the streets and to show anti-war films. Well-attended public meetings on Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine have been held. A public meeting entitled 'The Abolition of War' with Bruce Kent meeting attracted 250 people and Bruce also spoke at a local school. A recent weekend street stall gathered 99 signatures for the "No Trident Replacement" petition.

Jenny Maxwell

heddwch action:

Future Knighton Action for Peace and Justice activities include

March 4th - Street stall with Trident petition

March 18th - Coach to London Stop the War demonstration

Contact: (01547) 550 354

peace education

Peace Mala Awards for Youth

A Peace Mala is a symbolic bracelet that promotes friendship, respect and peace between the faiths and all people in our world. It cuts through all forms of prejudice and celebrates what makes us different from each other.

It is a vision for the future. The project started in Llanelli and is now based in Morriston, near Swansea. Funds generated from the sale of 'Bespoke Peace Malas' made of silver are being put into the Peace Mala Awards for Youth which are now to be an annual event. Any young person who is a member of a school, college, youth club, faith group or other centre of learning may enter the Peace Mala Awards competition to produce a project which shares and promotes the vision of the Peace Mala. There are two awards: one for junior level (5-11) and the second for seniors (12-18).

The intention of the competition is to encourage youngsters to become aware of and involved with issues of peace, justice, tolerance and friendship.

heddwch action: The date for final submission of competition entries is now Friday 19th May.

Rules and guidelines for entering the Peace Mala Awards can be found on the website www.peacemala.org.uk, email: info@peacemala.org.uk or please phone (01792) 774 225

nuclear power politics

WAG wants to prolong life of Wylfa

Wylfa, the ageing nuclear power station on Ynys Môn is due to be closed in 2010, but the Welsh Assembly Government wants it to be kept open beyond its recommended lifespan because it provides the electricity for the Aluminium smelting plant (AAM) on the island.

Jobs at any cost

Ynys Môn is an Objective One funding area and as such, considered to be one of the most economically disadvantaged areas of the country. The smelting plant and power station together employ about one in ten people in the area (1500 people). Assembly Member Ieuan Wyn Jones has said that he wants the nuclear power station to extend its lifespan, yet the political party he leads, Plaid Cymru is opposed to the building of new nuclear power stations in Wales. AAM are concerned that they would be unable to satisfy shareholders if they were left to compete with Norwegian Aluminium smelters which use Hydro Electric generated power.

Power party politics

Friends of the Earth responded to the Welsh Assembly Government's proposal, saying that other energy developments such as marine current turbine devices off the coast and a combined heat and power gas plant at the factory could secure a supply of relatively cheap electricity. Mick Bates, a Liberal Democrat AM who has long campaigned against nuclear power has called on the Assembly Government to wake up and act:

"Wales is one of only three countries in the world that has a statutory commitment to sustainable development. ... The government has known for years that the possible closure of Wylfa would occur in 2010 - why hasn't there been an action plan to deal with this?"

"Sustainable development offers Wales an economic driver of huge potential. On Anglesey we already have a skilled workforce with great energy experience; this must be harnessed in achieving a richer, greener Wales."

Renewables

The Liberal Democrat MP for Ceredigion has called on the government to develop Wales' potential for offshore wave turbines to generate electricity. He said that renewable energy certainly doesn't mean building wind turbines 'all over the Welsh countryside', that wave power alone in Wales could provide 20% of Britain's energy needs and micro-generation and energy efficiency could mean that some buildings need use no commercially produced energy whatsoever :- "If half the money invested in nuclear power had gone into developing renewable forms of energy production, we'd be much, much better off..."

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be there

Social Forum Cymru

a space for *real* democracy

April 28th – May 1st 2006

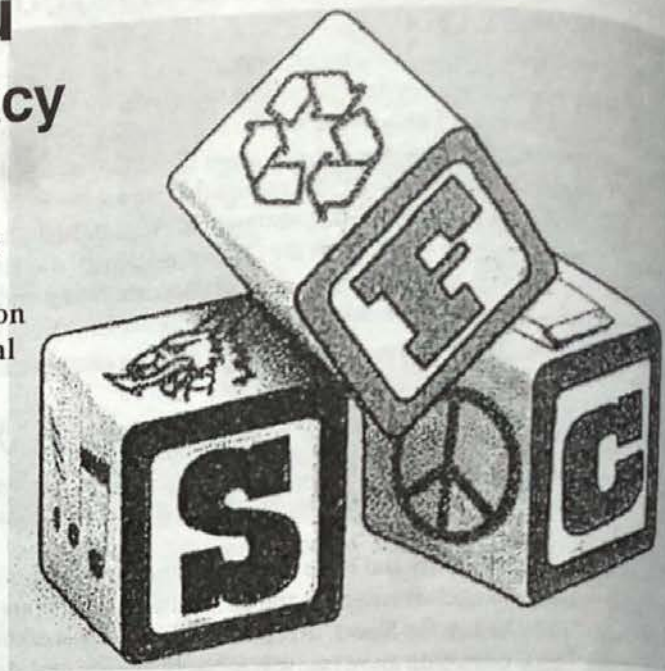
Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network have been working over time to make the launch of the first Social Forum Cymru in May a success. Kelvin Mason explains why Wales should be involved in the Social Forum movement and why the Peace Network are giving whatever it takes to make the May event a success.

The first World Social Forum (WSF) was held in Porto Alegre in Brazil in 2001, and was a gathering of some twelve thousand people. In part, the WSF is our response to the World Economic Forum where the dominant economic analysis views societies as *being* economies. The global justice movement, by contrast, views societies as *having* economies where people are much more than statistics in a cost-benefit analysis; and no price should be placed on identity, community or nature.

In other words, an economy should serve society rather than markets being permitted to exploit and even enslave people. We question the imposition of economic growth as the predominant measure of well-being or life quality. 'Gross Domestic Product', for instance, tells us nothing about peace, justice, sustainability or democracy, surely the vital signs of a healthy society? The WSF has given rise to Social fora on a variety of scales all around the world. Social fora are an opportunity to share our ideas and find out more about the issues that concern us. They present the opportunity to plan and co-ordinate our campaigns, to share resources and formulate alternatives.

Being the change

Another world is possible, and Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network want Wales to play its full part in that world. As Ghandi's maxim goes, we should *be* the change that we want to see in the world. We hope that civil society in Wales, both as constituted



groups and individual citizens, will welcome the idea and embrace this opportunity to come together.

Wales is not a vast country and those of us with a more progressive world-view have to raise our voices together to be heard above the clamour of careless consumerism. It is easy to feel isolated in our efforts, and become effectively silenced.

Closing the gaps in Wales

Bangor often seems a long activist step from Cardiff, and rural areas of our nation could all too easily disappear off the global justice map. Even within our own communities, we can be blinkered and too busy to be aware of what others are doing. A gathering of Aberystwyth civil society in October 2005 revealed how little we knew about each others activities. Since then, we've communicated better, supporting each other in actions on the streets and in the spaces of power.

Come on down!

One idea emanating from World and European Social Fora is that it is important to "think globally and act locally"; we need to put peace, justice and sustainability into practice at home through democratic action.

Over the May 1st Bank Holiday, then, Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network invite you to construct, participate in and enjoy Social Forum Cymru (SFC). For one packed and productive long weekend between Friday April 28th and Sunday evening May 1st, Aberystwyth will become the activist centre of Wales. SFC is whatever you want and whatever you bring! We will help make the space available for you to both stage your own events and also participate in those of others. Already the ideas and proposals are pouring in. There will be a mass rally, keynote speakers, a citizens' jury, seminars and practical workshops, as well as film shows, music and dance.

So, put the date in diary, and contact us now to discuss your participation: email information@socialforumcymru.org.uk, call Mat on 07767 798 601, and stay posted via the website www.socialforumcymru.org.uk.

Support from Tony for Social Forum Cymru

I am delighted to hear that the Social Forum Cymru is to be meeting in Aberystwyth and wish I could be there with you all. This movement has inspired people all over the world to believe that another world is possible and then start acting to bring it about. Given the massive contribution that Wales has made in creating better conditions for the people this is a great opportunity.

**In Unity,
Tony Benn**

news from elsewhere

The cost of a trip to Cuba

Seven individuals from Witness Against Torture, a group protesting the denial of rights to prisoners at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have been served papers by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) for violating the US travel ban to Cuba. The group of twenty-four U.S. Christians had marched over 60 miles from Santiago to the Naval Base. They then camped and fasted for four days at the gate of the militarized zone while awaiting access to the base.

Five hundred prisoners remain detained by the U.S. government in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Human rights organisations and released detainees have documented torture and extreme prisoner abuse at the base, but the Bush administration asserts that Guantanamo is beyond the jurisdiction of U.S. and international courts of law. Witness Against Torture has refused to answer OFAC's questions, maintaining that the true crime is the torture

photo: scott langley



and abuse of civilian prisoners by U.S. soldiers at Guantanamo. Witness Against Torture members risk a maximum of 10 years in prison or a \$250,000 fine for their actions to bring attention to U.S. practices in Guantanamo. Marchers included Fr. Steven Kelly, S.J. and 79-year-old Sister Anne Montgomery. Upon return to the U.S. all members of the group openly shared that they had been to Cuba and gave their names and addresses to Customs officials. Despite this high level of openness, the U.S. Treasury Department sent letters of inquiry to individuals that were not even on the trip.

Susan Crane, one of the marchers, said "I think it's important for the world to know that there's not a consensus in this country that torture is OK." Witness Against Torture member Gary Ashbeck, of Baltimore's Jonah House community, reflects, "We gave U.S. customs all the current information on our group and they were still not able to accurately account for who travelled. It seems that despite all their new methods of spying on U.S. citizens, our government has a very flawed intelligence program. It makes us wonder how good the intelligence is on the cases of those who are imprisoned at Guantanamo. Do they even know who is imprisoned there?"

heddwch action: Find out more or support Witness Against Torture:
www.witnesstorture.org or c/o Jonah House, 1301, Moreland Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 2126 USA
(+)410 233 6238

Support Ray today!

Ray Davies, Vice Chair of CND Cymru and a County Borough Councillor, has been brought before the Ombudsman for allegedly bringing Caerphilly County Borough Council into disrepute.

In the run up to the Iraq War, Ray Davies, along with Dr Margaret Jones and other Trident Ploughshares members, broke into Aldermaston AWE. They hung the inner perimeter fence with anti war placards exposing the illegal activities taking place inside, i.e. the production of nuclear weapons. The two also rowed up the Tamar River in Devonport, then broke into the Dockyard where they attempted to prevent a nuclear submarine being fitted for duties in the Gulf.

Ray Davies' third action was to take part in the blockade of Faslane nuclear submarine base in Scotland. For these offences Ray was fined £1700, including estimated damages to the fences. Ray refused to pay the fine, and was jailed for 14 days.

Roll of Honour

Ray received thousands of messages, from Britain, the US and Europe, including some from Assembly Members and Members of the Westminster Parliament. He was also included in the roll of honour of "Broken Rifle", an international peace magazine. When he was elected as a County Borough Councillor, Ray had to sign a declaration that he would not commit a criminal offence. His peace actions generated massive publicity, and Ray reported his activities to the council's Monitoring Officer, in an effort to show honesty and transparency in all he did.

Attempting to prevent a greater crime

Early in 2005 an unelected Vice Chair of the council's Standards committee reported Ray to the Ombudsman, and last month Ray was subsequently interviewed by the investigating officer.

Ray defends himself by explaining that he committed minor criminal and civil offences only in order to attempt to stop the British government from breaking international law, by going to war without a UN resolution. He has pointed out that subsequent events have totally justified his actions. Thousands of British, US and Iraqis have died, the country is in a state of civil war, a fuel crisis looms, and the latest revelations of British troops abusing Iraqi civilians have sickened the world.

More votes than any other councillor

No one else in Caerphilly County Borough has made any complaint against Ray, not even his political opponents. He topped the poll at the last election. Ray officially represents his council and Wales on the Nuclear Free Local Authorities For a for both Wales and Britain.

Ray does not regret his actions. As he said in his court case, Yes, he is sorry: "sorry that none of us did enough to stop Bush and Blair embarking on this illegal war".

While Ray will undoubtedly face a disciplinary tribunal soon, It is imperative that as many letters as possible be sent in his support. He would be grateful if you could write personal letters testifying to his commitment to peace and justice around the world, to demonstrate that he is not alone in his campaigning through non violent direct action against the evils of war and nuclear weapons.

Please send letters to:

Welsh Administration Ombudsman,
1 Ffordd y Hen Gae, Pencoed, CF35 5 LJ or email (and please send a copy to cnd cymru (page 16) or Ray
wendy.lewis2@aladdinscave.net):
ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

in court

The most important anti-war Case since Nuremberg ?

This Spring the Law Lords will hear two joined Appeal cases from peace enforcement activists who took direct action before the start of the war at RAF Fairford & Marchwood and who will argue that they were justified by attempting to prevent an illegal war.

In February, the Law Lords started to hear the combined appeals in the cases of the Fairford 5 and the Marchwood 14. The legal implications of the ruling are momentous, involving the power of the courts to examine the legality of the Governments' war waging actions, the right of campaigners to claim "crime prevention" as a defence to direct action against state power, and the national application to our own Government's international behaviour, of what the Nuremberg judgement described as the "ultimate war crime". But as important as these legal implications are, they are as nothing to political consequences were the Law Lords to rule that, at their forthcoming trial in the Crown Court in Bristol, the judge must reach a finding on the question of the day - "was the war legal?"

Regina v Jones, Milling, Olditch, Pritchard & Richards

Five peace enforcers who at various times in the week before the war started on 20th March 2003, and acting as three quite separate groups of individuals, broke through the perimeter fence at RAF (USAF) Fairford in Gloucestershire. Some managed to disable equipment but others were arrested before they could reach the

bombers. Their stated aim was to cause damage to property, with the intention of actually stopping or at least delaying the war waging preparations taking place. Fourteen USAF B-52H bombers had been deployed from the 23rd "Bomber Barons" Squadron based in North Dakota, and were then preparing for their ugly part in the "shock and awe" assault on downtown Baghdad, in the first week of the war.

Regina v Ayliffe & others, R v Swain

On February 3rd 2003, six weeks before the start of the war, 14 members of the crew of the Greenpeace International ship "Rainbow Warrior" went ashore at the MoD Sea Mounting Base at Marchwood on Southampton Water. Having occupied part of the site they chained themselves to Scimitar armoured fighting vehicles awaiting loading onto ships for transport to Kuwait. Val Swain, also at RAF Fairford, but acting in the week before those in Jones et al, was arrested inside the base, having cut her way through the fence, before she could begin her peace enforcement action.

Both sets of Appellants have argued in their defence that, under section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967, that they were entitled to act reasonably as they did in

order to prevent a much greater crime being committed by the Crown, namely the preparations then on going for the unlawful attack upon and subsequent invasion and occupation of Iraq. Further that they should (or should have been) permitted to present evidence at trial to justify their beliefs that the war, the preparations for which they sought to disrupt/prevent, was itself an illegal act of naked international aggression, comprising in an Crime Against Peace / Crime of Aggression as defined at the Nuremberg tribunal. In addition the Greenpeace appellants have deployed a similar argument in relation to their conviction under section 68 of the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 (Aggravated trespass), namely that the activity they sought to disrupt was unlawful. The Fairford five are yet to be tried in the Crown Court at Bristol, but lost their appeal against his ruling in a preparatory hearing in April 2004, when that was heard by the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) in July 2004. The Greenpeace appellants were convicted by the District Judge sitting at Southampton magistrates' court in 2003 and subsequently lost their appeal case stated to the Divisional Court in April 2005. We await more news.

Robbie Manson

e-mail: rmanson@toucansurf.com

Lots of Bobs and Wendys blockade Aldermaston AWE

On 26th January 2006, the West Berkshire Eastern Area Planning Committee decided not to object to the proposed laser facility (Orion) at AWE Aldermaston, Britain's nuclear weapons factory.

Between 35-40 activists and other interested people attended the planning meeting where Peter Burt and Sian Jones spoke against the laser, urging the councillors to refer the matter back to the Secretary of State and request a public inquiry. CND Cymru was one of the many objectors to the proposed facility which the Government and its agencies hope will be built to 'perfect' ways of threatening and delivering mass destruction and suffering. However, the planning committee voted 7 to 1 (with 3 abstentions) *not* to object and therefore, since all the official procedural ways had now been tried, campaigners were obliged to move on to more 'direct' ways of objecting.

In response to West Berkshire County Council's assent, the direct action group *Block the Builders* went ahead with a non-violent blockade of AWE Aldermaston. At around 6.30am on 30th January, groups of blockaders successfully shut two gates of the nuclear weapons plant. There were eight arrests. Police cutting teams gave up on trying to get through the lock-ons. A multi-faith candle-lit service for peace and disarmament was also held at the gates.

heddwch action: More Blockades are planned, more Wendys and Bobs are welcome. Contact btb@aldermaston.net or check www.blockthebuilders.org.uk and let Block the Builders know if you are planning to go. btb@aldermaston.net



Chernobyl 1986 - 2006

The world's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl on the northern borders of the Ukraine, happened 20 years ago this April. It is still early days to understand the full long term effects of this atrocious accident. Restrictions resulting from the radioactive fallout from Chernobyl still affect 359 farms covering 53,000 hectares of land in North Wales. In restricted areas, sheep have to be monitored with a Geiger counter before they can be sold to prevent contaminated meat from entering the food chain. Life for hundreds of thousands of people in the areas nearer to Chernobyl was changed forever. The Chernobyl Children's Project (CCP) continues in its work to inform people about the effects of the nuclear accident, to help those in the Ukraine, Belarus and Western Russia affected by the accident and to close existing nuclear plants and prevent the building of new ones. CCP Director Adi Roche asks us to regard news 'that all is now well' with caution:

With increasing fuel prices, global warming and dwindling conventional energy resources, the debate on the safety of nuclear power has reopened. This is particularly relevant in the light of the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster. Misinformation and deliberate distortion of 'the facts' have added much confusion to the debate. A report submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in September 2005 declares that few people have died as a result of the Chernobyl accident, and has done nothing to enhance our learning and knowledge about the scale of the tragedy as it adds further confusion while missing the whole human and environmental trauma.

New nuclear plant for Belarus?

This IAEA Report has further added unwitting support for the policies of governments in the affected regions of the ex Soviet Union by declaring the Chernobyl disaster 'officially over'. It also adds legitimacy to government policies of repopulating previously evacuated areas and re-cultivation of lands within the radioactive zones. The IAEA report is also being used to support the building of a nuclear power station 25 miles from the exploded reactor at Chernobyl, but over the border in the territory of Belarus.

A 1959 agreement between the WHO (World Health Organization) and the IAEA is being used to hinder the WHO in its freedom to produce material regarding the consequences of Chernobyl. It is an objective of the IAEA to promote and control nuclear power plants throughout the world. Article III of the 1959 agreement states: "The IAEA and the WHO recognize that they may find it necessary to apply certain limitations for the safeguarding of confidential information furnished to them."

Questions

Having spent much of the past 25 years visiting the Ukraine and Belarus, I can testify to there being conclusive observable evidence within communities, old and young, of increases in cancer and genetic related illnesses since the Chernobyl disaster.

Listening and observing filmmakers and journalists ask the same questions time after

time I have convinced that they are asking the wrong questions. They ask: "How many people have died? How many will die? Is this or that cancer or illness definitively caused by radiation? What is Chernobyl? How much radiation were you exposed to? Why do you all look so healthy? Show me the evidence?" These are questions with often non-specific answers or answers to that do not satisfy the required neat logic.

Perception

We seek absolutes in situations where there can be no absolutes, no definitive answers, for we ask the wrong questions. People expect to see something grotesque and distorted and are almost disappointed when people and things appear normal - the media are perplexed. But such expectations distract from the true effects, with no realisation that any dose of radiation is an overdose.

If we continue to seek *only* logical and rational answers we will constantly be diverted from the true picture - a picture of human fragility, a picture of how delicately balanced the relationship between man and nature is. I now believe that as long as we try and place Chernobyl within our existing understanding of catastrophes, understanding it will continue to allude us. Our experiences from other disasters are clearly inadequate because we are facing a realm of the unknown not previously experienced, requiring a new understanding, a new bravery, and a new kind of courage.

Adi Roche

adiroche@adicc.org

heddwch action: Chernobyl Children's Project brings children to Wales from contaminated regions of eastern Europe. More information from Galina Latypova (Aberystwyth): (01974) 241 079 Arfon Wyn (Anglesey): (01248) 810 451 Allan Carter (Carmarthen): (01267) 236 451 or Chernobyl Children's Project, Kinder House, Fitzalan Street, Glossop, Derbys SK13 7DL (01457) 862 112 / 863 534. linda@ccprojectuk.fsnet.co.uk

peace history

Put Wales on the peace map

The Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) is planning to produce a Peace Map of the British Isles. This is no small or short-term project and will need input from people all across Britain and Ireland.

MAW have had a vision that such a map could be put on display in places like schools, libraries and tourist information offices. It would also come out in book form with full descriptions of each site. However, first a record of such things as the birthplaces of famous peace activists, statues, plaques, sites of peace actions etc. which would have to be accurately recorded and described, where necessary with grid references. So let's get Wales on this map! Please send information about any particular site in Wales, forward its name and your contact details to the address below. Lesley Docksey will then send you a pro forma to fill in. Think: of places where important (let us decide what is important) Welsh peace events have taken place, where there are Hibakusha memorial posts, Peace gardens, birth places of famous Welsh pacifists, places where Peace Pilgrimages have begun or ended... Wales should be filled up! Making this reality is a huge task - but what a great idea. Well done MAW.

heddwch action: Please contact Lesley Docksey, 1 Court Farm Cottages, Buckland Newton, Dorset DT2 7BT

**Lesley.Docksey@abolishwar.org.uk
lesley@togetherness.freemove.co.uk
Be bold,
Your ideas are important.**

Nuclear Free Wales



photo: Martin W. Roberts Arcade

Brawdy March at Newgale, Pembrokeshire June 1981

On February 23rd 1982, Clwyd became the last of all the then 8 Welsh county councils to sign up to a Declaration that it wished to become a 'Nuclear Free Zone', - and Wales became Nuclear Free.

By then, 21 Welsh Local Authorities had 'signed up'. This declaration of intent was held up as an example of one small country's message of hope to the world. It was the result of intense campaigning by 'ordinary' people in Wales. Many had been alerted by announcements that the USA intended to base nuclear armed Cruise missiles in Britain, news that the British government was planning to replace Polaris nuclear weapons with the 'new' Trident nuclear weapons system, the nuclear industry's search for a nuclear waste dump, and Government plans to build a new generation of nuclear power stations in and around Wales. Greenpeace was concurrently alerting the public to the continuing radioactive discharges from Windscale (Sellafield) into the Irish Sea.

Co-operation and protection

The concept of a Nuclear Free Wales was realistic and wise. Minimising, if not preventing the dangers of nuclear technology on behalf of Welsh communities was considered vital. Local Authorities joined an organisation which had sprung from the Nuclear Free movement - the Nuclear Free Local Authorities. This organisation today continues to foster co-operation between affiliated authorities with similar nuclear free aspirations, seeks to increase accountability in the nuclear industry and works to increase protection for the public against nuclear hazards. It believes that 'prevention is better than cure' and provides expert advice to local authorities on nuclear issues which might affect local communities.

"If a Welsh Parliament existed, it too would most likely be predominantly nuclear free, since most political parties in Wales as well as MPs and local authorities are already elected on non-nuclear policies." "Opinion Polls have also indicated a majority in Wales against British nuclear Weapons; surveys since 1980 have shown a majority against the expansion of nuclear power. These results are largely ignored in Whitehall, Parliament and the media." Tony Simpson, then Vice Chair of CND Cymru 'Happy 5th Birthday Nuclear Free Wales' Sanity February 1987

Crystal spirit

While the detail of the nuclear issues may have changed over 24 years the dangers remain, some would say that the urgency to protect our planet is now even greater. I remember one morning in 1981, as a young mother, waiting for hours outside the then Preseli District Council offices in Haverfordwest. I stood with fellow campaigners, optimistic that the councillors we had lobbied for weeks would agree to sign up as 'nuclear free' at the council meeting taking place inside the building.

The baby I held in my arms that day is now a young man making his own way in life and hoping, like I had, that the future will be as nuclear free as we can make it. We would have to ask him if he still senses and shares the optimism we all felt in celebrating that nuclear free decision in 1982.

Hypocrisy

The double standards concerning nuclear power, weapons and proliferation, shown by those in positions of responsibility, are heard daily in today's news about Iran. In 2006, those in authority freely admit the connections between nuclear power and weapons and argue the case for their possession only for the elite of the 'nuclear club'. Over the years we have done a great deal to hold them to account but it seems that this is job for more than life. Work to stop the whole injustice and obscenity that surrounds the existence of nuclear weapons and nuclear technology continues. Do read that final, Clwyd Declaration again (opposite) and reaffirm your determination that Wales, Britain, Europe and the World will be nuclear free and safe for our children and our grandchildren's children.

Jill Stallard

The Clwyd Declaration

The Decision made today by the Clwyd Council to declare its county a nuclear free zone is of special significance to the whole of Wales. During the past year similar decisions have been made by one Welsh County after another, beginning with Dyfed and culminating this very day with Clwyd.

The consensus of opinion of the Welsh people in this matter has long been evident. Local anti-nuclear groups which sprang up voluntarily have been able to coordinate their activities so that Wales as an entity be made a nuclear free zone, and surveys and petitions have shown the overwhelming support for their campaign by a populace which is deeply concerned by nuclear escalation and which wants the right to have its say in the future of humanity.

Because of today's decision we are now in a position to proclaim to the world that the whole of Wales, through its democratically elected representatives, has declared itself a nuclear free zone. By this action Wales has given a moral lead to other countries of Europe and the rest of the world.

In passing on to them our message of hope and inspiration, we call upon the other nations of Europe to make known their deep concern for the future of civilization. We call upon them to commit themselves to the cause of redeeming Europe from total destruction by taking the initial step of declaring their homelands a nuclear free zone.

February 23 1982



On the streets of Cardiff

CND Cymru vice chair Ray Davies and Côr Cochion regular campaigners on the streets of Cardiff, have distributed hundreds of leaflets about the dangers of nuclear power generation. Shoppers and workers have been keen to sign up to the 'Keep Wales Nuclear Free' petition enclosed with this edition of *heddwch*. Ray said: "The most important issue facing peace and the safety of our world is the new wave of nuclear weapons and the prospect of nuclear power being put back into the government's energy policy. "There are so many ways to campaign on these issue: collecting petitions, letter writing to our elected representatives, and persuading those Councils who have dropped out of the Local Authority Nuclear Free Forum to rejoin it."

heddwch action: To contact Côr Cochion and get involved in the campaigning phone Ray Davies (02920) 889 514.

nuclear power

A question of scale

The first government energy review (published in 2002) emphasised that our energy policy should be flexible rather than the large, expensive and inflexible programme of investment such as the 10GW programme proposed by the nuclear industry.

It is so '1980's' to believe that power stations large enough to power a whole city are required when developments in technology mean that individual houses, offices and schools are now able to generate their own electricity. The use of gas and oil-fired systems to heat our buildings is so dominant that innovative ways to capture their waste heat are crucial. Combined heat and power units are now small enough to be a replacement for a conventional domestic boiler.

Introducing these will take time but as the average replacement cycle for central heating boilers is 15 years there are three full cycles between now and 2050:

These have the potential to generate electricity on a scale that makes a programme of new nuclear power stations completely unnecessary. And they are terrorist proof. Together with other energy efficiency measures in our buildings and renewable sources of energy the vision of the radical and forward looking energy white paper published in 2002 is achievable.

The arguments put forward for a repeat energy review (strengthening evidence on the nature and extent of climate change and increasing concerns about the future security of UK energy supplies) are as bogus as those that took us to war in Iraq. Could a programme of new nuclear reactors contribute to meeting our emissions targets and establishing a secure energy supply? The honest answer is that the uncertainties are enormous, and that such a programme could be jeopardised by any number of factors from terrorist attacks to the depletion of high grade uranium, that are outside our control.

Hugh Richards Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance

heddwch action:

Public consultation for the second energy review lasts until April 14th. The consultation document is available at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review/energy_review_consultation.pdf

Let your MP and your Assembly Member know what you think, and protest at the government's strategy to 'streamline' the licensing of untested nuclear reactor designs and restrict their examination at public inquiries. Contact WANA for briefings and campaign materials (stickers etc) Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance, P.O.Box 1, Llandrindod, Powys LD1 5AA Phone: (01982) 570 362 email: hughrichards@gm.apc.org

Keep Wales Nuclear Free!

In January, anti-nuclear and environmental groups launched a new campaign to 'Keep Wales Nuclear Free' saying that nuclear power is expensive, slow to install, a threat to public health and a potential terrorist target. The campaign calls on an energy policy in Wales which will reflect the Assembly's 'Sustainable Wales' goals, developing energy efficiency and renewable energy. The campaign is asking activists ask their organisation to endorse the Keep Wales Nuclear Free campaign. Also, ask your MP to sign Early Day Motion 1565 in support of the campaign.

heddwch action:

A petition addressed to Tony Blair: 'Keep Wales Nuclear Free' has been launched to coincide with the Government's Energy Review. This petition is available from www.keepwalesnuclearfree.org.uk, or CND Cymru (see contacts page 16).

book

Warfare or Welfare?

Colin Archer IPB
Secretary General

We choose boundaries for our campaigns and take time to refine their definition and brief, but we are aware that in real life all political, all environmental and moral issues are part of the same story. This 94 page book, published by the International Peace Bureau could prove to be an

invaluable resource for both those who 'study war no more', and for campaigners in the 'development' field. The pages catalogue a grim indictment of the human will to threaten, maim and kill and explain how such a 'warfare' agenda diverts valuable resources from those who need them, destabilises and displaces communities on a massive scale and pollutes the irreplaceable natural assets they may rely on.

The work does not claim to have answers, but to act more as a tool for campaigners. To have a clear but brief explanation, all in one document of different weapons of institutionalised and 'free range' murder is grim, but will prove useful to those of us trying to understand and change things for the better.

Perhaps if 'Warfare or Welfare?' was not published with the aim of 'reviving the 1980s UN idea of Disarmament and Development', the title would seem much too mild. For on reading this one thing becomes clear - that the opposite to all the war preparations catalogued within its pages, is not something as kind and mild as simply 'welfare'. The opposite to the grim lists of nuclear, chemical, biological, and conventional weapons that human beings accept as part of the status quo and make excuses to create, threaten with and actually use, is none other than the very survival of all living things: life.

As IPB President Cora Weiss writes in the Foreword: "Peace will depend upon more than the eradication of poverty or support for development. First, it will depend upon our eliminating all the nuclear weapons that hang like the sword of Damocles over all our heads. Improving conditions of life, training people for skilled jobs, providing education which develops critical thinking and teaches for and about human rights, gender equality, sustainable development, disarmament, international law and social and economic justice will go a long way to removing the resentment and anger so many feel by being 'pushed off the train'".

Jill Stallard

Colin Archer IPB Secretary General
Warfare or Welfare?

Published by International Peace Bureau (IPB) 2006

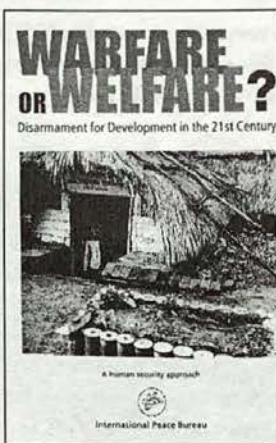
ISBN: 92-950060-03-8

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Single Copies £5 + £1 p&p

Send cheque made payable to IPB with order to Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) 11, Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ

heddwch 14



music

Alternative Information From Bethlehem to Bangor

Gwilym Morus
Mohamed Najem
Waseem Qassis
Luke Evans

The Arabic script on the cover of this CD reads 'Salaam Aleikum' (Peace be upon you).

While visiting Palestine in February 2005, Welsh musician Gwilym Morus recorded two songs with two talented musicians from Bethlehem. The three worked together to create two songs that reflected their native traditions. After returning to Wales, Gwilym gave the material that he recorded to his friend Luke Evans, who composed another two songs based on the original material. So that people could hear the fruits of their work, and to fund a further project in the future, Cymdeithas y Cymod (the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales) agreed to pay for the production of this CD. The intention of the Alternative Information Project is to enable Mohamed and Waseem to visit Wales in the summer of 2006 so that they can compose more music with Gwilym and his friends. Through this, it is hoped to create a cultural relationship between one of the most comfortable countries in the world, and one of the poorest countries which continues to suffer in the horrific conflict that consumes the region. The producers of the CD hope that this relationship can somehow promote a little understanding, compassion and respect between Western and Arabic people. 100% of the money made from selling the CD will go towards the project.

Alternative Information From Bethlehem to Bangor

Produced in 2005 by rasal cyf. is available from gwilym_morus@hotmail.com
www.cymdeithascymod.org.uk (01286) 672 257

Ninety Years of Working for Peace in Wales

Women's International League for
Peace and Freedom 1915 - 2005

Katrina Gass

Published by WILPF

with financial support from The Peace
Shop, Cardiff.

A 42 page booklet in English, chronicling 90 years
of peace campaigning by women in Wales.

Available from WILPF www.ukwilpf.gn.apc.org

or www.peacewomen.org or contact Katrina Gass (01873) 855 760



Out of the closet and under the bed!

Red Poets 11

is now available

Red Poets is a loose collective of writers, readers and lovers of radical poetry in Wales who have helped create a unique grassroots movement that unites radicals of all political organisations, and of none. In ten years, over 140 different poets have been published in Red Poets. Young or old, all are welcome to submit contributions.

To join Red Poets, and to receive a copy of the next edition send £5 to Y Beirdd Coch/Red Poets, PO Box 661, Wreccsam LL11 1QU

for it is said:

Better Red than Rhymed

Organizing Notes from America

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a legal action on February 1 on behalf of our organization, the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space. In addition, the ACLU filed a federal Freedom of Information Act request on behalf of anti-war activists in five other states trying to find out the extent of Pentagon spying on our collective efforts. With the growing secrecy we have witnessed lately I think it unlikely that we'll ever see more than a dribble of the surveillance files being kept on us. With the recent appointment of federal judge Sam Alito to the U.S. "Extreme" Court, activists in the U.S. fear the worst when it comes to our civil rights.

The progressive movement in the U.S. is growing steadily these days. Cutbacks in human needs at the local, state and federal level are forcing people to connect the dots with the more than \$6 billion a month now being wasted on the war in Iraq. I don't often get involved in local electoral campaigns, because there is not usually anyone running to get excited about, but I am now very actively supporting a man who is running for a seat in Congress next November. His son was recruited to be an Olympic skier by the Vermont national guard and now this young man is in Iraq guarding military convoys - having already narrowly escaped death three times. We are currently represented by a "liberal" Democratic congressman who says he is against the war but keeps voting for every dollar that George W. Bush requests for Iraq. Our candidate is running against the "liberal" on the war, and is calling for zero funding and 'bring the troops home now'. A group of peacenik veterans, like myself, has created an ad hoc group called "Veterans for Dexter" to support our friend Dexter Kamilewicz's run for the House of Representatives.

The Republican and Democrat party leadership want to keep the U.S. (and Britain) in Iraq and Afghanistan permanently. Both parties support empire - the corporate globalization variety - where diminishing resources will be controlled by the big corporations. Thus endless war is necessary. Jobs for young people, ever shrinking in our country, will in the future only be available in the military helping to secure the corporate realm.

During the last year I have helped organize eight occupations of offices of our congressional leaders from Maine. We enter the office and read the names of U.S. soldiers and equal number of innocent Iraqi civilians who have died during this illegal and immoral war. When we first started it took four hours, now today it takes 6 1/2 hours to read them all. We mark an X on a huge banner labeled "Iraqi War Dead" that we unfurl onto the office floor. After each name we ring a bell. Each time we do these occupations more and more people join us. Only once, last December 15, did we get arrested for such an office visit. Maybe that time it was because we held the event on election day in Iraq.

Best wishes to all in Wales. Keep up the good fight.

Bruce Gagnon

Bruce Gagnon is Coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
Bruce's book *Come Together Right Now - Organising Stories from a Fading Empire* is available on the web site <http://www.space4peace.org>

exhibition

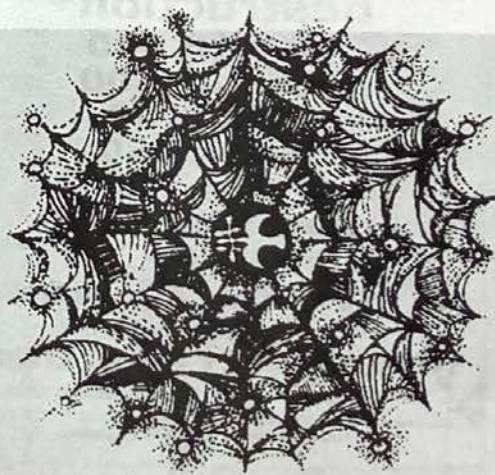
Weave and Mend

Five artists explore peace

Five artists are uniting to express their ideas about peace through their art and craft. Annie Taber, Christine Barnes and Fran Rawlings come from Cardiff, Anna Gregson from Tenby, and Anna Cheetham from Leicester. Anna and Anne have been members of CND and involved in active peace work for most of their lives. They have previously worked together on peace exhibitions in Leicester.

Their exhibition will open at Easter
from Monday April 10th - Saturday April 29th Open: Monday to Saturday 10.30am to 5pm
Little Wedlock Gallery, Gumfreston, Tenby SA70 8RB

More information: phone (01834) 845 868
anne.gregson@littlewedlockgallery.co.uk www.littlewedlockgallery.co.uk



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March 18th

London
Demonstration and
Protest

TROOPS OUT OF IRAQ DON'T ATTACK IRAN

Contacts for
information about
transport

For South Wales contact
Swansea Coalition Against
War swanseacoalition@hotmail.com
(01792) 526 405

elsewhere in Wales:
Aberystwyth Peace and
Justice Network

www.aberystwythpeaceandjusticenetwork.co.uk
apjg@yahoo.com
07817 596 285

Bro Emlyn
ffoniwch: (01559) 371 201
harry@wildwest.com

Knighton Action for Peace &
Justice

(via Presteigne and Hereford)
kapj@fountainhead.org.uk
(01547) 550 354

Wrexham Peace and Justice
Forum

wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com
(0845) 330 4505

Chester - via Oswestry
Frances Laing 01244 349048.

diary dates

March 8th PENARTH

Public Meeting with Bruce Kent "Poverty and War - a time to end both". Penarth Campaign Against the Arms Trade For further details phone 029 20711943

March 18th LONDON

Demonstration and also in Basra, Washington, Baghdad, and around the world as part of a Day of Action to mark the third anniversary of the beginning of the invasion of Iraq, calling for the immediate withdrawal of troops and an end to the occupation. <http://www.stopwar.org.uk/index.htm> see page 3

March 23rd LONDON

Chernobyl 20 Years On. 8th UK and Irish Local Authorities Conference on Nuclear Hazards. City Hall London. Nuclear Free Local Authorities Secretariat, Room 6005, Manchester City Council, Town Hall, Manchester, M60 3NYT (0161) 234 3244 <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>

April 4th LONDON

Public Meeting: Henry Richard and the 19th Century Peace Movement. With Peter Van der Dungen of Bradford University. University of London Union Organised by Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ. www.abolishwar.org.uk/home.shtml 13

April 8th - 15th N.FRANCE FOLLIGNY - CHERBOURG

Walk against EPR new French nuclear power station see: <http://www.stop-epr.org/marche-eng.php>

April 13th BAE SYSTEMS GLASCOED, Gwent Prayer

service outside the main gate to coincide with the arrival of the morning shift (time to be confirmed). Arranged by Penarth Christian Network of CAAT. Contact: 02920 711943.

April 15th CHERBOURG FRANCE (our back yard)

International Anti Nuclear Rally and demonstration 2:00 pm to protest at the planned New Nuclear Power Station (EPR) fora, concerts, screening, theatre... <http://www.stop-epr.org/programme-eng.php>

April 26th EVERYWHERE

20th Anniversary of the World's Worst Nuclear Accident

April 28th - May 1st ABERYSTWYTH Social Forum

Cymru - be there! see page 8.

April 29th TREGARON

event to commemorate Henry Richard MP, born in Tregaron in 1812 and known as the 'Apostle of Peace'. Contact: Olwen Davies (01970) 611 994 or CND Cymru

May 4th LONDON

BAE Systems AGM Protest. More details nearer the time from Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ (020) 7281 0297

May 13th LLANDRINDOD

CND Cymru Cyngor. All members and delegates welcome. contact CND Cymru to confirm.

May 29th - June 3rd RHUTHUN Urdd Eisteddfod

Welsh speakers/learners needed to help with CND Cymru stall Contact Brian or Jan Jones (see contacts) to volunteer!

FOUND!

weapons of mass
destruction*

USA: 10,640

Russia: 8,600

China: 400

France: 350

Britain: 200

Israel: 100 - 200

India: 30 - 35

Pakistan: 24 - 48

*and that's only the nuclear weapons

Now let's get rid of them!

Join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Yes, I want to join CND Cymru.

name:.....
address:.....
telephone:.....
I enclose a cheque/PO for £ payable to CND Cymru

waged couple: £16 ; adult £12;
 low/unwaged and pensioners: £4; youth and students £4
Please return to:

CND Cymru Membership, 7, Brook Terrace, Mochdre, Newtown SY16 4JG
Website: www.cndcymru.org

HELP!

CND Cymru has a few named members, whose addresses we do not know. They are paying subscriptions by standing orders but can not receive 'heddwch'. If you have information which could help us with this problem the Treasurer would be glad to hear from you.