



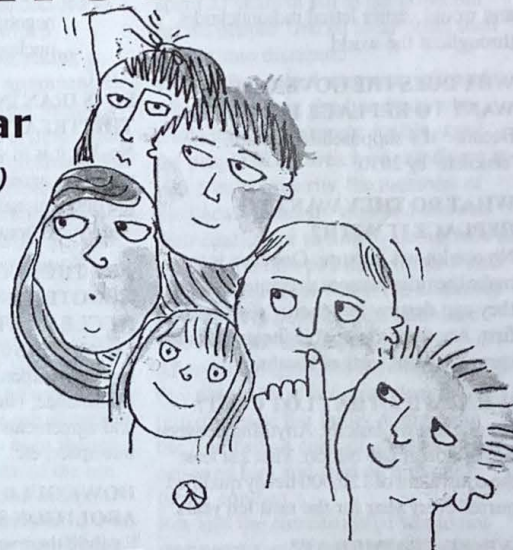
If Wales could spend over £1 billion

either

towards a new British* Trident nuclear
missile system (*estimated total cost £25-40 billion)

or

- end hospital closures
- reduce NHS waiting lists
- have a dentist in every town
- give schools the resources and teachers they need



Which would you choose?

Welsh MPs keeping mum on Trident replacement

Western Mail reporter Martin Shipton asked our MPs whether they supported spending of over £25 billion on a new generation of nuclear weapons. Their response, reported in the Western Mail on 17th July - <http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/> - was disappointing :

2 For - (Conservative-Stephen Crabb & David Davies)
6 Against - (2 Labour, 1 Independent and 3 Plaid Cymru-Adam Price, Elfyn Llwyd & Hywel Williams)
1 - "Misunderstood" (Lib-Dem Lembit Öpik)
31 - Did not reply

Two Labour MPs, Martin Caton (Gower) and Paul Flynn (Newport West) provided unequivocal statements not only opposing any replacement for Trident in future but equally challenging the retention of the present version - as did all three Plaid Cymru MPs.

New Blaenau Gwent Independent MP Dai Davies was also wholly opposed to nuclear weapons and expressed his satisfaction in walking Michael Foot's footsteps on this issue.

Lib-Dem MP Lembit Öpik was reported by the Western Mail as "For" but, tackled by **heddwch**, assured us that he was totally opposed to Trident replacement as "it would not deter

anyone". However he thought the present version of Trident might as well stay until 2025 (when the USA plans to replace their Tridents). He intends to complain to the Western Mail that their report that he was 'in favour of a nuclear deterrent' does not reflect his opinion. The other Lib-Dems did not reply. The only two MPs wholly in support of the Government were Conservatives MPs David Davies (Monmouth) and Stephen Crabb (Preseli Pembrokeshire) - implicitly in the same camp as Peter Hain who, although he did not reply to the Western Mail questionnaire, has just resigned his membership of CND.

heddwch action:

Please write to your MP and ask them whether they support the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons. Let them know how you feel - after all they represent you! If possible, please send copies of replies to CND Cymru (see contacts page 8).

STOP THE BOMBING!



Just one of the many events across Wales called in response to the escalating Middle East crisis was a lunch time peace vigil in the centre of Cardiff. Speakers from across the political spectrum expressed their outrage at the continuing upward cycle of violence. The children in the targeted areas are the main victims; their homes are being destroyed, they are without food water or electricity and a third of the dead and wounded in Lebanon and Gaza are children. Vigils, protests, events and meetings have been held across Wales. To be put in touch with events in your area email CND Cymru: heddwch@cndcymru.org, contact your nearest CND Cymru Vice Chair (see Contacts Page:8)

TRIDENT

Bruce Kent answers some questions:

WHAT IS THIS TRIDENT ANYWAY?

Trident is shorthand for Britain's submarine based nuclear weapons system - 4 nuclear submarines each with 16 nuclear missiles. Each missile has 3 - 8 bombs (or warheads) - up to 192 warheads. Each warhead is at least ten times as destructive as the US bomb that killed over 75,000 people in Hiroshima on August 6th 1945. Trident is capable of destroying all life on a whole continent and would scatter lethal radionucleides throughout the world.

WHY DOES THE GOVERNMENT WANT TO REPLACE IT?

Because it's supposed to become 'obsolete' by 2030.

WHAT DO THEY WANT TO REPLACE IT WITH?

No one knows for sure. One idea is to make the missile more accurate, so that they can destroy an 'enemy's' weapons first. Another is to enable the missiles to carry different sorts of bombs.

WHAT WILL THAT LOT COST?

No one knows exactly. Anything between £25 billion or £40 billion. That's at least the equivalent of 120,000 newly qualified nurses every year for the next ten years.

WHO IS IT AIMED AT?

No one knows. Nuclear weapons are useless against terrorists, the supposed new enemy. No country is threatening us with nuclear weapons. But if they were they would be insane. Radioactive fallout from a nuclear war alone would pollute the earth for hundreds of years to come.

SURELY THEY ARE INSURANCE AGAINST UNCERTAIN FUTURE?

That is just what the Government says. But it is a very odd insurance which actually increases the risks.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

If Britain replaces Trident, it will show the world that we think our security depends on nuclear weapons. It will send a clear message to others to do the same and the dangers of nuclear accidents and international crises will increase.

HAVE ANY COUNTRIES ACTUALLY GOT RID OF THEIRS?

Yes. South Africa, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

HOW MANY COUNTRIES NOW HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

The countries with nuclear weapons are the USA (10,640), Russia (8,600), China (400), France (350), Britain (200), Israel (100-200), India (30-35) and Pakistan (24-48). Worldwide there are more than 30,000 nuclear weapons at any one time including those in store, being refurbished or awaiting refurbishment. Each of those warheads has more destructive power than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945 and killed over 75,000.

heddwch 2

WHAT ABOUT THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY?

It was agreed in 1968 and said three things:

- That every country is entitled to have nuclear energy without limits;
- Those without nuclear weapons would stay that way.
- The nuclear nations would negotiate a treaty to eliminate all nuclear weapons.

SO IS IRAN IN VIOLATION OF THIS TREATY?

No, but it is in violation of a subsequent voluntary agreement entered into with the International Atomic Energy Authority about inspections.

ARE THE NUCLEAR STATES NEGOTIATING TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

No. All we have are negotiations aimed at nuclear weapon "good housekeeping", for instance, - limits on test explosions and agreements not to put such weapons into space, etc..

HOW COULD NEGOTIATIONS ON ABOLITION START?

Easily, if there was the political will. Already there is a detailed draft treaty lodged with the United Nations which could be its basis. It covers the difficult issues of observation, inspection on demand, control of nuclear material, criminality, and the like.

WHY DON'T THE NEGOTIATIONS START?

Because there is no political will. People do not realise that abolition of nuclear weapons is perfectly possible, and easier to 'police' than partial disarmament.

The possession of nuclear weapons is like storing dynamite in your cellar as a means of protecting yourself against burglars. You will go up with the burglar if ever they go off by accident or on purpose. Where ever and whenever nuclear weapons are used they will release radioactive and other dangerous material, which will know no boundaries.

SO IT IS TIME TO START?

Of course. We should begin by telling the world now that we are not going to replace our existing Trident system when it comes to the end of its life in twenty years time AND that we are going to call for the start of nuclear weapon abolition negotiations IMMEDIATELY.

NO TRIDENT REPLACEMENT

What are Nuclear Weapons?

The atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima and killed at least 75,000 people by heat and blast, had the explosive power of 15,000 tons of TNT. Many more died a long and lingering death from nuclear radiation. In an all-out nuclear war, more would die from nuclear radiation 'outside the battlefield' than inside from heat and blast. Modern thermonuclear bombs can have over 1000 times this explosive power of the Hiroshima bomb and, when they used to be tested for real, caused radionucleides to be spread around the world - in 1963, babies growing up in Wales had over 50 times as much radioactive Strontium-90 in their bones as before the tests started (and now).

The smallest bomb now being considered for the new Trident missile system is more than ten times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb and our government plans to have at least 192 of them. Exploded over 192 'enemy cities', this could kill well over 60 million people (more than the population of Britain) by heat and blast alone - and even more would die when later the dust and debris of these explosions contaminated Britain and other parts of the world as radioactive fallout.

Trident gets thumbs down from Bishops UNISON votes for health

19 English Bishops have written an open letter to MPs asking them to consider their views at the eventual formal debate on Trident. In their letter they said that 'Just War' arguments rule out the use of nuclear weapons and that such weapons challenge humanity's God-given responsibility to the earth.

They also said that the use of nuclear weapons "would be nothing less than the mass murder of thousands if not tens of thousands of innocent civilians. The resultant fall-out from a tactical or battlefield weapon could not be confined to a particular area." They are also concerned that "the use of limited resources on WMDs diverts resources from education, health and aid to those who are the poorest and most in need". The letter, which appeared in *The Independent* newspaper ends: "At the Gleneagles summit a year ago the G8 pledged to "Make Poverty History" and to end the debt burden on the world's poorest countries. The costs involved in the maintenance and replacement of Trident could be used to address pressing environmental concerns, the causes of terrorism, poverty and debt, and enable humanity and dignity to be the right of all, and would go a long way towards helping Make Poverty History."

The Health Workers' union UNISON, which is Britain's largest trade union and the Labour Party's largest affiliated trade union with over 1.3 million members, voted overwhelmingly at their Annual Conference to back a motion calling on the government not to replace Trident. This vote came one day after Gordon Brown's announcement that he was in favour of a new generation of nuclear weapons. The UNISON motion says that "a decision to replace Trident would run counter to (Britain's) treaty commitments."

The motion resolved to "oppose the replacement of Trident and to call for the decommissioning of the existing Trident weapons system."

Kate Hudson, Chair of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, called on other trade unions and organisations to join the movement against a new generation of nuclear weapons.

Police Clamp Down on Anti-Trident Protest

In July, protestors at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment found themselves corralled and unable to move about freely. Conditions were imposed by police, who prevented protestors leaving the area without seeking permission from the senior officer present. Concerns have been raised that protestors suffered 'arbitrary detention' as defined by the Human Rights Act.

The protest had been organised by Block the Builders to highlight the scale of development at Aldermaston. The non-violent protestors, included MEP Caroline Lucas assembled at two of the gates at Aldermaston, closing one for 45 minutes. A number of arrests took place. Sian Jones from Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp said, "We are very concerned about police imposing detention conditions on peaceful protestors - including children under 5 years old. We strongly oppose this clampdown on peaceful protest."



Yes, we can do it!

Regular readers of heddwch will know about the Government's plans to replace Trident and develop smaller 'usable' nuclear missiles (shudder). You won't have missed Gordon Brown's backing of Tony Blair's position and the preparation work at Aldermaston. Clearly, in their world the decision is already made and wants only the charade of "the public debate" to make it complete.



I want to ask.. "Are we going to let them get away with it?" But you might be thinking.. Can we stop them? And if so, what would it take?

The peace movement has had some big defeats recently – or looked at another way – some big successes! To assemble more than a million people (undisputed press figure) on the streets of London, in opposition to an unjust war *in advance of the invasion(!)* – a huge success, absolutely unprecedented in British history (while millions more protested in approximately 800 cities around the world!). To see our Government ignore that mass protest and go ahead anyway – a savage kick in the teeth for everyone who was there and countless others who wanted to be. To have sustained so many "Stop the War" and "Peace and Justice" groups up and down the country still actively campaigning against the war and maintaining the many links forged between white and Muslim communities – another important and ongoing success. And there's still no sign of the UK pulling out of Iraq or Afghanistan while more people are dying every day. So although it can start to feel like nothing we can do will ever change anything - **we are not in the weak position we might feel ourselves to be.** It is *not* that our numbers are too few; it is just time to use our strength in a different way than before.

If this Government doesn't listen to mass protest on the street we have two simple choices. Either we give up and let them get on with it or we urgently work out what they will listen to and get doing it.

Look back to some of the victories.. e.g in Britain, the poll tax in the 1990's. Yes there were big mobilisations on the streets, but more important, thousands of people refusing to pay jammed up the system and made the poll tax unworkable.

You might call this our weapon of mass disruption.. and it's what Faslane 365 is all about. Making it so difficult for the authorities to carry on with business as usual that they simply have to do something different.. we give them no alternative. We can do that, collectively with all the other groups. But we need more people for Wales days! And we need you now! South Wales for example has 25 – 30 people committed so far and we need 100 plus. Have you signed up

yet? Have you asked your trade union branch or your group to donate? How many young people could you bring?

No single group owns Faslane 365. It is a big idea, waiting to be filled out. What we make of it is up to us. But please, don't leave it much longer. There's a lot of planning, training and preparation to do if we are going to be effective. For many years we have written to our MP's, we have taken the arguments to the streets and shopping centres, and we have tried in the courts.. none of that was wasted.. but right now, if we seriously want to challenge the legitimacy of UK nuclear weapons it's time to do that at the gates of Faslane Naval Base. No-one has to go further than they are comfortable with. You don't have to be arrested for example, but don't let that stop you from coming right to the gates with those who will. We need your support and there will be plenty you can do.

Theodore Roosevelt said "It is impossible to win the great prizes of life without running risks."

One thing is sure; if we act, we give ourselves more chances of winning.. if we do nothing we've lost already.

Marie Walsh

Faslane 365 is planned to be a year-long peaceful blockade at Faslane Naval Base in Scotland with the two demands: Trident must be taken out of deployment and the Government. must give a clear timetable for dismantling nuclear weapons.

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. Everyone needs to commit to a ground rule of non-violence and respect for all.

The Wales Red Dragon days are..

South Wales: 13 & 14 November

North Wales: 14 & 15 November

Contacts:

(North) Phil: 01248 490 715

phil_steele@btinternet.com

(Mid.) Del: coney@gn.apc.org

(South) Marie: 01495 220 400

marle@riseup.net

representation and reputation

Council treads carefully

Ray Davies, Caerffili County Borough councillor and CND Cymru Vice Chair, gave a robust defence against the Council Standards Committee charge that he brought the council into disrepute by serving a jail sentence for refusing to pay fines following his direct actions for peace. He told the Committee that the only shame he felt was that he did not do enough to stop the illegal attack on Iraq in 2003.

The fallout from the British government's policy is that the democratic state of Lebanon was being destroyed, Iraq was in the grip of civil war, Gaza city was burning, and Afghanistan in a quagmire of violence. Ray explained that he had decided to act after he went to Iraq with a humanitarian organisation, taking medical and educational equipment. He was deeply affected by what he saw – failing water and sewage systems, sick and dying children and orphanages full of abandoned children. He met the UN weapons inspectors, who told him what they were telling Bush and Blair - that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

He returned to find the British government colluding with the US to prepare for an illegal war. Geoff Hoon stated in Parliament that he was prepared to authorise the use of nuclear weapons in the conflict - even though the World Court had declared the use, or threatened use of nuclear weapons illegal in 1996. Ray was motivated to do anything he could to stop the war, including entering Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment, rowing up the River Tamar to try to blockade a nuclear submarine being prepared for service in the Gulf, and taking part in the mass blockade of Faslane nuclear submarine base.

Ray then explained that he was part of a tradition of people who follow their conscience, rather than simply accepting the status quo. They include the Tolpuddle Martyrs, farm labourers who having banded together to seek

better working conditions and were deported as punishment; the Suffragettes, and the Chartists. Another part of this tradition includes Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and more recently Nelson Mandela who spent 27 years in jail to gain freedom for his people. Did all these bring their people into disrepute? Finally, Ray asked who was right and who was wrong; the hundreds who wrote letters of support for his stand, the people of his area who voted him in with a large majority, the members of the Local Authority who had showed their confidence in him by voting him in to the important positions he now held on the Council; or was it the unelected member of the Standards Committee who made the initial complaint? After deliberating, the committee found Ray not guilty of bringing the council into disrepute but guilty of breaking the Authority's code of conduct. They censured him and warned him of his future conduct.

Ray told the committee he would not stop campaigning against the evils of nuclear weapons and war, and he would seek changes to the relevant legislation. He firmly believes that in a democracy, only those who voted him on to the council should have the right to vote him off.

Ray told his supporters and the press that he had organised a vigil against Israel's bombing of Lebanon and Gaza, and was helping to organise the November blockade of Faslane. The work for peace and justice must go on.



Ray Davies with fellow CND Cymru vice chair, Olwen Davies

An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment. is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law.

Martin Luther King

The person who loses his conscience has nothing left worth keeping.

Izaak Walton
heddwch 3

Pitstop Ploughshares 5 AQUITTED!

Anti-Trident activists have expressed their delight that a Dublin jury unanimously acquitted five anti-war protesters.

The five, Karen Fallon, Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Ciaran O'Reilly and Damien Moran, known as the Pitstop Ploughshares, damaged the plane at Shannon airport in February 2003 to prevent it being used in the impending invasion of Iraq. Their acquittal comes after three years of waiting and three trials. In a statement the Pitstop Ploughshares said:

"The jury is the conscience of the community chosen randomly from Irish society. The conscience of the community has spoken. The government has no popular mandate in providing the civilian Shannon airport to service the US war machine in its illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq. In 1996 in Liverpool the Jury acquittal of the four 'ploughshares' women contributed to the end of arms exports to the Suharto dictatorship in Indonesia and the independence of East Timor."

"The decision of this jury should be a message to London, Washington DC and the Dail that Ireland wants no part in waging war on the people of Iraq. Refuelling of US warplanes at Shannon Airport should cease immediately."

A Trident Ploughshares spokesperson added: "We are absolutely delighted for Karen and the others. The case shows that people who act to stop war crime have every chance of acquittal if they get the opportunity to put their case fairly and directly to a jury. As far as international law goes, ordinary people are light years ahead of governments and state serving judges."

Background at: www.peaceontrial.com and www.indymedia.ie



World Military Expenditure increases

World military expenditure in 2005 is estimated to have reached \$1,118 billion. This corresponds to an average spending of \$173 per capita and represents a real terms increase of 3.4 per cent since 2004. The USA is responsible for about 80 per cent of this increase and its military expenditure now accounts for 48% of the world total. The USA is followed by Britain, France, Japan and China with 4-5 per cent each.

The second largest military spender in the world is Britain, which spends \$53.6bn (£29bn), or £490 per capita each year. This is despite the British government's view that: 'There is no direct military threat to the United Kingdom or Western Europe. Nor do we foresee the re-emergence of such a threat...'

[Source: Strategic Defence Review, 1998 and policy was reiterated in the Defence White Paper of 2003]

Such figures demonstrate that it is not a shortage of resources preventing richer nations from addressing climate change and poverty, which, apart from being problems deserving attention in their own right, are probably the greatest contributors to future insecurity and conflict

Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute <http://yearbook2006.sipri.org/sipri-yb06-release.pdf>

The Tragedy of Guantánamo

On 10th June this year, it was announced that three detainees at Guantánamo Bay, two Saudi Arabians and one Yemeni, had taken their own lives. The US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy issued a most undiplomatic and inhumane statement to the effect that the deaths were the strategy of Islamic extremism, that they were obviously people who showed no respect for anyone's lives. Rear Admiral Harry Harris of the US Navy said the suicides were 'not an act of desperation' but 'an act of asymmetric warfare'.

It is, of course the US government, which has shown no respect for people's lives. Official figures list 25 failed suicide attempts at Guantánamo to date, but defence lawyers estimate the figure is higher. Former detainee Moazzam Begg, answering questions at Social Forum Cymru in Aberystwyth on 30th April, described how, whilst suffering mental and physical torture, he himself had experienced a breakdown. This was not, however, the point that he had wished to underline in the talk he gave (following the publication of his book 'Enemy Combatant,' *). Indeed, he spoke very little of his own suffering, emphasising instead the need for justice for the detainees still held.



Referring to the arrests of the detainees as diplomatic or political decisions, Moazzam Begg said that there was no rule of law. He said that they should either be given political asylum or refugee status, or brought to trial.

Moazzam Begg is one of nine British radical Islamists who were held at Camp X-Ray, Guantánamo Bay by the government of the United States of America. He was released from detention on January 25th 2005 without charge, although he received no compensation or an apology. President Bush released Moazzam Begg over the objections of the Pentagon, the CIA, and the FBI, who warned that Mr. Begg could 'still be a dangerous terrorist'.

Moazzam's father, Azmat Begg campaigned hard for the release of his son. He spoke at the Peace Festival in Aberystwyth in 2004, where he said that justice is being asked for, not mercy.

We join him in calling for the British government to secure the release of the British residents who are still detained at Guantánamo. We call for the closure of this camp and all other illegal detention centres operated by the USA or their allies, before there are any more tragic deaths.

Linda Rogers/Peace & Progress

*Enemy Combatant: A British Muslim's Journey to Guantánamo and Back
Moazzam Begg and Victoria Brittain
£18.99 Free Press ISBN: 0-7432-8567-0

Fairford peace 'disarmers' - trial at Bristol Crown Court

Back in March 2003 Paul Milling and Margaret Jones entered RAF/USAF Fairford and disabled a couple of dozen military vehicles using hammers and bolt cutters. These vehicles were being used for loading bombs and fuel onto US military planes.

The intention of the 'disarmers' was to delay the take-off of the US B-52 bombers, which were at that time stationed at the Fairford military base, and waiting to launch the first of the many bombing raids on Iraq. These aircraft carried several kinds of weapons, including cluster bombs. Their appalling load was to be part of the 'Shock and Awe' raids on Baghdad, so bragged about by the Pentagon. Margaret Jones commented:

"Whether we did succeed in delaying the take-off of the planes to any degree, will never be known. All I personally hoped for, though was to give someone living in the city a chance to run for their life before all hell came down."

After a series of pre-trial appeals, Margaret and Paul now go to trial, charged with "Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Damage". The maximum sentence for this 'crime' is currently ten years' imprisonment.

heddwch action

The presence of friends and supporters is being called for at this Trial, which is to be held at Bristol Crown Court between 4th and 18th September. Please put this date in your diary now! You will be especially welcome outside the Court on the morning of Day One, but of course anyone can attend the proceedings to hear all or part of the trial. As Margaret says: "Please come and support us - as several of our witnesses have said - not just for Paul and me (although this gives us great encouragement and strength) - but for all the Iraqi people". Contact: Margaret Jones nabataat@yahoo.co.uk

Spain says 'adios' to nuclear power

In the Spanish Parliament 'State of the Nation' Annual Debate, the President Zapatero confirmed a commitment to phase out nuclear energy. The President had campaigned on this issue during the recent elections and a timetable for the closure of all nuclear power stations is being drawn up.

The Forum of the Spanish Nuclear Industry had formerly made a case for the need to build 10 new power stations in Spain and to prolong the life of the 8 existing power stations for several extra decades despite problems. These plans have been scrapped. President Zapatero said that the issue depended upon political will and that for economic as well as environmental and security reasons, clean energies must be the base of Spain's future energy needs. He also announced that he wanted to involve the Spanish people and environmental groups in decisions about the radioactive waste in Spain.

heddwch action:

More information from Carlos Bravo, Nuclear energy campaigner at Greenpeace Spain, +34 626 99 82 41 and Francisco Castejn, Ecologistas en Accin, +34 639 10 42 33 www.greenpeace.org/international/news/spain-adios-nuclear-31-06-06

On the side of peace and justice

I first knew of the Middle East conflict whilst after school I helped to transcribe faxes sent 'home' via CND Cymru by Ray Davies who made several trips to Palestine with the International Solidarity Movement. At that time I knew little of what the issue represented, only admiring his bravery and commitment. As time passed, the place and the conflict, for me, became just one of the 'too many causes' which cannot all be addressed by one person at once.

I had heard the language of the conflict – 'occupation', 'suicide bombers', 'the wall', 'refugee camps', 'terrorism', 'the siege of the Nativity', 'Jenin' ... , but I must confess that had I been asked a year ago which 'side' was being occupied by whom, or to describe any other particular details or events, I could not have been sure. In fact my knowledge was so limited and mostly sourced from the occasional, usually brief, national media coverage of major events, so that when I was given the chance to take part in a ten day trip to Palestine, on a 'fact finding mission', organised by Rev. John Butler of Bangor University Chaplaincy, my first reaction was negative. To me the Middle East was a dangerous place, I wasn't sure I wanted to get mixed up in it all.

I feel ashamed now of that reaction. After having spent ten days travelling the lands of Palestine and Israel, staying in the city of Bethlehem, amongst the wonderful Palestinian people, my opinions have, obviously, changed. The experience is one I shall never forget, even if only because of the sad truth that the problems there are unlikely to be quickly resolved. While we must and can do everything possible to encourage peace, there is little chance that it will come quickly.

Reporting on the situation itself is a difficult task, not only because of the great tragedies that must be recalled; the sad conditions that people in the land of Palestine must face every day and the memories of civilian deaths that are so often remembered in everyday conversation, but also because of the obvious propaganda released by Israelis and Palestinians in an effort to win the world over to their 'side'. Reading through the great many articles, reports, informative guides both 'official' and by individuals and groups of both 'sides', can feel like being accosted by two children who have been in a fight, both clamouring for sympathy and attempting to make out that it was the other who started it.

This, along with the challenge of chronicling the history without the chronicler appearing to be stereotyping or championing any particular religious group, means there is little truly objective literature on the subject. Even then, so called "unbiased" reports can be misleading – for example the BBC, allegedly dedicated to giving a fair and un-judgemental version of the news, has reported that the Separation Wall lies on the border between Palestine and Israel, when in fact it closes in on the land of Palestine slowly but surely, leaving ordinary Palestinian people unable to access their land that has ended up on the Israeli side of the wall.

Personally, if I must pick sides, apart from being on the side of 'peace and justice for all', it would have to be with the people of Palestine. Having seen the stark contrasts in living conditions - between Palestinian towns littered with rubbish bags because there is no where to take it, scattered with un-cleared rubble from destroyed buildings and homes built out of need, but nevertheless illegally built because of the impossibility of obtaining a building permit, and the green grassed Israeli settlements (where the plants get more water than the Palestinian people), have olive trees replanted from Palestinian land to decorate the roundabouts; having witnessed "security" checkpoints in the wall, built to keep checks on who passes through in case any are dangerous, but can be left unmanned and open; and having met the admirable people of Palestine; from our tour guide who had been arrested as a child for the "political" crime of carrying books in the street, but who, despite it all, had kept his sense of humour about life, to the tour organiser who planned meetings and trips for us to meet and see people and places that he, as an ex-political prisoner, could never meet and see; the lively children of Wadi Fuquim, whose village would soon be broken up by the coming of the wall (which already looms over them on a nearby hill), to the students of Bierzeit University who continued to attend lectures despite the fact that their 15 minute journey now takes an hour and half because a new Israeli checkpoint has been set up on the road; the teachers of Hebron who refused to pass through a checkpoint to get home because their pregnant colleagues were being forced to go through the x ray machines... the list of these people and their stunning feats of 'everyday' courage could be listed for pages.

Our trip took us on a tour of Bethlehem city, to see the graffiti-decorated Wall; a police station destroyed by an F16 bomber (we were told that it is actually illegal to use these in civilian areas); bullet marks on walls of the church of the nativity, there since the siege in 2002; the roads that can be seen by Palestinian people but is not accessible because of a surrounding lethal electric fence, and the roadblocks restricting movement in and out of the city. We also toured various areas of Jerusalem; saw Muslims being stopped and checked, always watched, on their way to and from their place of worship - the Dome of the Rock - on the holy day; saw people being beaten on the street by men wearing balaclavas marked "police" and passing hitchhiking Israelis at the side of the road, openly carrying machine guns. We walked the

streets of Hebron, under the nets put in place to prevent bricks and rubbish, hurled from the upper Israeli houses, from hitting people in the street below. We were refused entry to Nablus and discovered later that it was because several people, including two children, from Balte refugee camp had been killed that morning. (on returning home we discovered not a word of this had been reported by the British press). Most striking was the courage of the ordinary people continuing their every day lives despite the hardships: the Wall

and settlements seem to loom on the horizon wherever you go; a constant reminder of the occupation. Most of the people we spoke to – both Jewish Israelis and Palestinians, said they must have hope for the future or they could not continue to live; they said a two state solution is most likely but that their real wish is for one state – a land inhabited peacefully by the people of Palestine and Israel side by side. There seem to be few and inadequate explanations why this is not really possible.

Emily Freeman



Soldiers checking school bags

Emily Freeman in a member of CND Cymru who completed her A Levels at Ysgol Gyfun Pantycelyn, Llandoverly in the summer of 2005. During her 'gap year' she has made and sold crêpes from a street caravan in Scotland; represented Wales at a Youth Peace Conference in Milan; worked in the office of Member of the European Parliament in Brussels; helped organise the Social Forum Cymru, and is currently taking part in a 'For Mother Earth' Disarmament Camp in Belgium. In September she begins a degree course at Edinburgh University.

review

A Kaleidoscope of Cultures

To Babel and Back by Robert Minhinnick.
Seren 2005 £7.99 ISBN 1-85411-401-8

A worthy winner of the Welsh Book of the Year Prize, Robert Minhinnick's new book of essays has, as a running theme, an impressionistic narrative of his quest to link the mining of uranium in Arizona and its ultimate use as depleted uranium in Iraq during the First Gulf War. The essays are a reminder, if we need one, of the way the world is run on our behalf: victims are created at all stages of a long and complicated chain of misery and death, from cancer hospitals in America to an underground Baghdad shelter turned morgue for 400 people (mainly women and children) by a Cruise Missile. His description of the latter is an especially fine piece of writing.

Alongside this core Minhinnick presents a kaleidoscope of times and cultures experienced in his role as a travelling poet. He celebrates the diversity and local distinctiveness of humanity as well as our common desire for happiness, pleasure and rightness.

The book is not always an easy read, and at times you can feel the poet savouring the sound of words to give a density of prose which the more impatient reader might feel delayed the narrative energy. However, like replacing fast with slow food this book rewards the effort of slow reading. It allows us, like Minhinnick, to ponder a fine sunset or a well made margarita or the pleasures of eating in Florence-a "feeding Firenze"

One comes away from Babel with renewed faith in ourselves and the feeling that we should "declare" peace more frequently and find another word for announcing the misery of war.

Final note. On the shortlist with 'To Babel and Back' was an elegant and humane thriller Ice Trap by Kitty Sewell which links Cardiff and the Canadian Arctic.

This won the BBC readers Prize and is also recommended.

Martin Fitton

Lessons from Chernobyl

Jill Evans MEP

I vividly remember hearing the news of a nuclear reactor explosion in the Soviet Union twenty years ago and watching with horror those desperate scenes on television of emergency workers flying over the burning reactor to drop sand and concrete in an attempt to put out the fire. Nothing though, brings it home like my experience of visiting Chernobyl, on the northern boundary of Ukraine in April this year; seeing at first hand the ongoing damage caused to people and the environment.

On this 20th anniversary of the world's worst civil nuclear disaster there are still over 350 farms in Wales under restrictions because of radioactive contamination carried on the wind from Chernobyl. There is an increasing rate of cancer incidence amongst the population of the worse affected areas of northern Ukraine and southern Belarus.

Exclusion Zone

For centuries to come there will be a 35 mile diameter highly contaminated "exclusion zone" around the nuclear site at Chernobyl. As part of our visit from the European Parliament, and with prior permission, we were allowed to enter this "zone", but only after first passing through two checkpoints.

This 962 square mile area encloses land considered unsafe for anyone to live on for hundreds of years and includes forests, villages and large towns as well as the site of the reactor itself. While driving around the zone we barely saw another person or vehicle. In the forest I saw the remains of houses with trees growing through the roof and pieces of garden furniture still out after being hurriedly abandoned twenty years ago.

Empty city

It is an eerie experience to walk around a ghost town with no traffic or people. Pripyat is one such place. It was a modern town built to house the Chernobyl plant workers and their families and was one of the first places to be evacuated after the extent of the accident became public knowledge. The only people there now are the scientists and government officials who monitor the contamination and travel there from outside the zone.

Returned evacuees

Although it is illegal to live within this area some people have returned, preferring to gamble with their health rather than become refugees. I met one of these people, a farmer in his seventies. His village had been evacuated several days after the disaster and he had been taken to the capital city, Kiev. When later given a house in another rural area he said that the land was so poor that he and his family returned to their original

home. Around 500 people of the 130,000 people evacuated to the Ukraine have returned.

Standing in front of Unit 4 of the power station I was lost for words. The geiger counter carried at all times by our Ukrainian government guide displayed a 'radiation reading' several hundred times above normal. The remains of the nuclear reactor had been hastily covered in a concrete shell, which is itself now leaking. We were only permitted to remain for 20 minutes. The radioactivity released in the 1986 blast was equivalent to that released by 200 Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs.

Nuclear wasteland

Abandoned in a field near the plant itself are the rusting remains of radioactively contaminated helicopters, fire engines and other machinery used in the days following the disaster. We only stayed a few minutes and were warned not to get too close because of the radioactive contamination. Immediately following the accident, 237 emergency workers developed acute radiation sickness and 47 died. It is a chilling reminder of the human sacrifice of the emergency services and the human cost of this disaster.

There are still a lot of unanswered questions about the Chernobyl disaster and its consequences but there is one lesson we can learn from it. Nuclear power is not safe and the "nuclear experiment" has failed. After my visit I'm more determined than ever to keep campaigning for a Nuclear Free Wales.



Jill Evans, Chair of CND Cymru and Plaid Cymru MEP visited Chernobyl with a delegation of European Members of Parliament.

Ynys Môn needs you! island threatened by nuclear dinosaurs

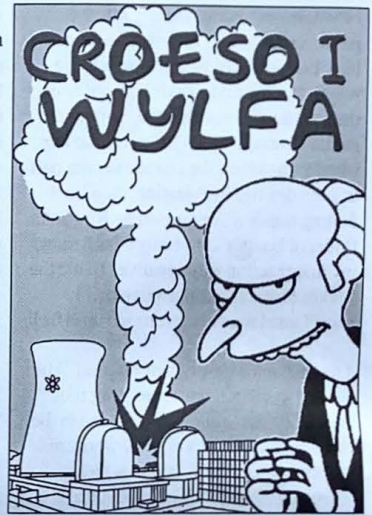
The nuclear debate is hot on Ynys Môn, the Isle of Anglesey. At issue is the future of the island's Wylfa nuclear power site, once its long overdue 2010 deadline for closure is past. This vast concrete bunker on the northernmost coast of Wales already houses twin 490MW Magnox-fuelled reactors. The County Council, the island's Labour MP and the constituency Labour party are all urging us to 'GO NUCLEAR!' Wylfa is back on the agenda, and since May 2006 we know that Tony Blair wants his legacy to be 'Radiation, Radiation, Radiation'.

The pro-nuclear lobby claims that the existing Wylfa nuclear power station is a shining example of safety and good management practice. They conveniently forget a series of significant accidents, one of which resulted in half a million pounds in fines for the operators in 1994. They claim nuclear power is reliable, ignoring Wylfa's repeated and lengthy shut-downs. They say our model in Wales should be the new reactor being built at Olkiluoto in Finland, regardless of the fact that that project was rushed through planning stages with indecent haste; the design was not perfected before production began, is already behind schedule with serious doubts being raised as to the integrity of the construction materials.

Any jobs or safe jobs?

For Ynys Môn MP Albert Owen and Gareth Winston Roberts, Council Leader, the issue is all about jobs and little else. One would not think that they and their predecessors had already had 43 years to consider the creation of alternative jobs. They say that closure will destroy the island's economy, as jobs will be lost at Wylfa itself (although decommissioning will itself be a major employer) and also at the Anglesey Aluminium Metal plant at Penrhos, Holyhead, which employs 540 workers. Serious stuff indeed. Anglesey Aluminium claims it depends on nuclear power at Wylfa to maintain production, because under a confidential agreement it receives cheap subsidised electricity to maintain its smelting operation. Its energy needs are incredible: it currently uses nearly 12% of all electricity consumed in Wales. So how did the plant manage during the recent 18 month reactor shutdown? It got its electricity from the national grid. Anglesey Aluminium is owned by two immensely wealthy corporations: Kaiser Aluminium and Chemicals (49%) and Rio Tinto Zinc (51%), which is also involved in uranium mining. Is there really no way forward, or is it all about profits and damn the consequences?

Let us make it absolutely clear. PAWB wants to see job creation and industrial development in this seriously deprived area, but we want to see jobs which are safe for the workers, for the public and for the environment. We want to see Wales become a beacon of research, development and production in the fields



of renewable energy, micro-generation and conservation technology. Has there ever been an island better suited to this task, with its offshore tidal surges and currents, its wind, waves and sunshine?

Join the campaign!

PAWB's first campaign was in the 1980s and 90s. Its second campaign was launched at Aberystwyth in February 2005. The first round looks set to be lost by the pro-nuclear lobby who have been calling for a two-year extension to the life of the existing station, despite Peter Hain having estimated the cost of safety checks for this exercise to run to £100 million; even though supply and processing of fuel would no longer be available at sites in England (and that this closure was obligatory under the international OSPAR Treaty). So much political posturing and spin, then.

The next stage will be difficult, for the nuclear lobby is determined to get its way and there is talk of 'pre-licensing' stations in order to bypass detailed planning enquiries and local democracy. PAWB, WANA, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth Cymru, individual sympathisers and political parties will need all the support they can get to win. They will need help from all in Wales and beyond. The political barometer may be currently set to 'uncertain', but in Ynys Môn it will be set to stormy for some time to come.

Phil Steele

heddwch action
Contact PAWB: 01248 490 715
phil_steele@btinternet.com

peace tax campaign Marie Walks to Court

In June Marie Walsh walked the 19 miles from Oakdale, near Caerphilly to Abergavenny. She was to appear in Court for withholding that part of her taxes which are being used for military purposes. Wendy Lewis, one of seven campaigners who joined her on the walk, talked to Marie and updates *heddwch* readers on the Peace Tax Campaign.

Wendy: When did you begin campaigning for a peace tax and what got you started?

Marie: My protest began in January 2003. At that time, we were working hard to try to prevent an attack on Iraq, and I read about the Peace Tax Seven's stand and thought: "I could do that".

I wrote to the Inland Revenue and explained my conscientious objection to war and that I did not want to be responsible for an unprovoked attack on another country. I explained I was going to withhold 10% (roughly the percentage we pay for the military) of tax due. I said I would save that money until the right is established to pay it into an alternative 'peace' fund.

Wendy: So what happened then?

Marie: For quite a while, nothing much. The tax office replied quite sympathetically but said that it wasn't possible for me to choose how my taxes were spent. Each year after that I calculated what I owed, paid 90% of it and rested my position. And they would write back saying "Sorry, you can't do that". At some point they also started adding interest. I only owed a small amount (unpaid tax plus interest of around £135 over 3 years) this may have been partly why they waited so long to take me to court.

Wendy: But they did take you to court eventually? How did that feel?

Marie: At first I did feel 'wobbly'. But I saw this as an opportunity to highlight the issue. I planned this 'peace walk' to Court and informed the press. The support was fantastic and I'd like to thank everyone who walked with me and leafleted; supported me at the court or in other ways.

It was frustrating to be told in court that the magistrates were not empowered to take my arguments into account. They said that the human rights case I was making is for a higher court. They awarded the 'Liability Order' to the Inland Revenue despite the current progress of the Peace Tax Seven's case through the European Court.

Wendy: And you have to go back to court on 1st August. What's likely to happen then?

Marie: I think the Court will issue an Order for Distraint, and I'll then get a visit from the bailiffs to remove property from my home. Personally I think I'd rather go to prison, but I'm taking it one step at a time.

Wendy: If people agree with you, how can they support you?

Marie: Phone me between 8 and 9am (01495 220400).

For details about the Peace Tax Campaign contact : www.conscienceonline.org.uk 0870 777 3223 or +44(0)20 7561 1061 contact <http://www.peacetaxseven.com/withhold.html>

Peace Tax Seven, Woodlands, Ledge Hill, Market Lavington, Wiltshire SN10 4NW

Act to Keep Wales Nuclear-Free

In 1982, Wales proudly became the first nation in the world to declare itself to be nuclear-free. Every county and many district and community councils joined the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities (NFLA). Many other nations have since followed this example. Even after local authority reorganisation in 1995, all 22 new Counties became members of the Wales Nuclear Free Forum.

It now appears that as a result of pressure from the Government and misinformation being peddled by the nuclear industry, some Local Authorities are using the excuse of 'economy' to allow their memberships to lapse. Yet it has been shown that the membership fee is less than the average annual expenses of one County Councillor. The councils that have remained members are Caerphilly, Gwynedd, Denbighshire, Flint, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen, Newport and Merthyr. Now, peace, environmental and political activists need to group together to lobby councillors in the defaulting authorities and insist that they are brought back into the Wales Nuclear Free Forum.

Nuclear issues in Wales

All local authorities have responsibilities for public safety and environmental protection. Specific nuclear issues directly affecting a Council's capacity to carry out these duties are:

- The operation and decommissioning of nuclear power stations in Wales and near its borders.
- Resistance to new nuclear build in or near Wales in defiance of public opinion.
- Overflying of US nuclear weapons over South Wales en route to England.
- Transport and storage of tons of nuclear waste from the many nuclear power stations due to be decommissioned.
- Safety of nuclear armed and nuclear powered submarines operating in seas off the Welsh coastline.
- A nuclear incident or accident could release radionuclides, which, as can we have experienced from Chernobyl, know no boundaries. Farmers over a large area of North Wales know this to their continuing cost.

All these issues are of vital importance to the future health and safety of the people of Wales, their children and grandchildren. The briefing material provided by the NFLA provides the best and most trusted source of information regarding nuclear hazards, for Local Authorities.



heddwch action

One way that we can protect ourselves and our families, is by ensuring that all our local authorities are members of the Wales Nuclear Free Forum, that they appoint representatives that attend regularly and actively brief their Councils and the public. Contact them: Keith Davies, Wales Nuclear Free Forum, Emergency Planning, Rhondda Cynon Taff, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

If your council is not listed as being a member of the Wales Nuclear Free Forum, please contact your County Councillor and the Chair of the County Councillor and encourage them to join – using the information above. If your council is listed as being a member of the Wales Nuclear Free Forum, please write and encourage your Councillor to ensure the Council remains a member.

War: not Family Entertainment

The ever active and alert Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum attended an Army Recruitment Fair in Chirk with the aim of informing as many young people as possible about the possible effects of the Armed Forces Bill currently going through parliament. Amongst the small print of this Bill is a clause whereby those in the military who object to carrying out an order on grounds of conscience could be sent to prison for life.

The group leafleted schoolchildren (free coaches had provided for schools by the MoD), and picketed near the entrance to the event, at the very least making students aware that there is another point of view about the desirability of a military career. There were complaints to the police about the sentiments expressed in the group's 'Dying to Join or Joining to Die' banner, hung across a bridge on a slip road. The Wrexham Peace and Justice activists complained to the police that they objected to an event inviting children to learn to kill. The banner across the road remained. Near the end of the second day of the event, some 'puzzled' military officers approached the campaigners, informing them that the army was all about building hospitals and schools in far off lands. Their reply to one activist's question "Then why do you need all these tanks and guns?" was "You don't know anything about politics!". Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum are following up their action with further letters to school heads, governors and the press. They say "We hope that in time it will be politically unacceptable for the army to show its face in schools, and that schools will stop colluding in the recruitment of children to this killing business."

1981-2006

Greenham Celebration Picnic



On September 5th 1981, a group of women who had left Wales 9 days earlier arrived at Greenham Common in southeast England. The purpose of the march was to highlight the protest against the 96 nuclear-armed US Cruise Missiles to be sited at the RAF/USAF base on the Common. The peace camp was set up that night and remained there continuously until September 5th 2000. Women in their thousands from all over the world found their way to Greenham to join the protest, and those who were unable to go but who supported the camp and its work were still part of the movement - as 'Greenham Women were everywhere'. It was the most audacious demonstration of personal and collective responsibility by women since the time of the Suffragettes.

The nuclear missiles were installed in 1983 and eventually removed in 1991 and 1992. The ancient Greenham Common, closed to the public and occupied by the military for more than

60 years was re-opened on April 8th 2000. In October 2002 the 'Greenham and Commemorative Site' was inaugurated, marking

the years of challenge and struggle over the issues of nuclear weapons and of the occupation of the land. The nuclear silos and the surrounding area on Greenham Common are now protected under the terms of the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, as one of the key monuments of the Cold War. The site is regarded by English Heritage as a being of national importance and global significance. If only all military sites could become redundant monuments commemorating the folly of the human race!



heddwch action

Come picnicking! All Greenham Women everywhere will be toasted and commemorated at a celebration picnic to be held at the Commemorative Site on September 2nd at 2pm. It is hoped to unveil a new sign about the site to record the march by the 'Women for Life on Earth' from Wales and to pay tribute to all the thousands of women throughout Britain and internationally who joined the protest against nuclear weapons. To contribute towards the cost of sign or for more details please contact Sarah Hipperson: 020 8989 4819 sarah.hipperson@virgin.net www.greenhamwpc.org.uk

diary dates

July 29th - August 12th
COULPORT < SCOTLAND

International Disarmament Camp
Trident Ploughshares 0845 45 88
366 info@tridentploughshares.org

August 4th - 12th SWANSEA
National Eisteddfod CND Cymru
tent Come along and help - or
visit! Contact: Jan and Brian
Jones (01792) 830 330

August 16th - 20th WEST WALES
Earth First! Gathering Contact:
EF!, Wells Road, Colchester
CO1 2YW 0845 223 5254
efgathering@aktivix.org

August 17th BRIDGEND Quaker
Meeting House, (87, Park
Street) Dr. Selma Al-Taha
speaking on the effects of
depleted uranium on the people
of Iraq. Contact: George Crabb
01446 774 452
georgecrabb@ybontfaen.freeserve.co.uk

August 24th 7.30pm CARDIFF
Temple of Peace Public Meeting
with Dr. Selma Al-Taha
(see above)

September 1st - 15th BRISTOL
Iraq War on Trial Paul Milling and
Margaret Jones return to Crown
Court for their trial. See story
(page 4)

September 2nd 10:30 am - 5 pm
LONDON Preventing Trident
Replacement Strategy Conference
TUC Congress House, Great
Russell Street. Sponsored by
South-East Region TUC. All
Welcome. More info: Ben Folley
0207 700 2393 campaigns@cnduk.org

September 23rd MANCHESTER
"No Trident Replacement"
Demonstration
On eve of Labour Party
conference. The first national
demonstration to include a
specifically anti-nuclear message
for many years! More
information: www.cnduk.org
BUS FROM ABERYSTWYTH
Time To Go: Aberystwyth Peace
and Justice Network will run a
bus from Aberystwyth to the
demonstration. The cost will be
around £10 (£5 unwaged) and
there is the possibility of picking
up passengers en route. For
bookings and enquiries contact
Tom: tpjo3@btinternet.com

September 30th 11.00am - 3pm
CND Cymru Cyngor (Council)
Meeting All members and
delegates from affiliated groups
welcome: contact National
Secretary (see Contacts) for
details.

September 2nd GREENHAM
COMMON Commemorative Picnic
(see story page 7)

September 21st CARDIFF Temple
of Peace Day of Peace Event
CND Cymru lunchtime event.
Everyone welcome! Contact: Ray
Davies (see Contacts)

September 29th 7.30pm KNIGHTON
Powys Martin Bell: 'Confessions
of a War Thug' organised by
Knighton Action for Peace &
Justice Contact: 01547 523 833

October 1st - 8th EVERYWHERE
Keep Space for Peace
International Week of Protest to
Stop the Militarisation of Space
www.space4peace.org
www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

October 14th - 15th BRADFORD
British CND Annual Conference
Contact 0207 700 2393

Join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament!

There has never
been a more
important time to be
part of the reasoned
voice of sanity in
Wales.

Join CND Cymru and
support the biggest
grassroots non party
political campaigning
organisation in the
country.

CND Cymru embraces
groups and
individuals who can
participate at any
level they like - from
reading 'heddwch'
and talking about the
issues with friends
and colleagues,
through letter
writing, silent vigils
and protests, to
getting out there and
non-violently
disarming a missile!

Let's work together
to build a sustainable
world governed by
true peace and
justice. Let's make
weapons of mass
destruction - and the
excuse for them, a
thing of the past.
Ordinary people are
the overlooked and
sidelined super
power in the world!

Membership Rates:
Family/household/couple: £30
Individual: £20
Unwaged household/couple: £15
Pensioner/youth/student/
unwaged single: £10

Make cheques payable to 'CND
Cymru'. Send with your name
and address to:
Monica Bradley, Membership
Secretary, CND Cymru 7, Brook
Terrace, Mochdre, Newtown SY16
4JG
(01686) 626 350

October 28th - 29th LONDON No
More Fallujahs. A weekend of
non-violent resistance to the
occupation of Iraq on 2nd
anniversary of the November 2004
US/UK massacre in Fallujah.
Organised by Voices in the
Wilderness. Contact: 0845 458
9571 info@j-n-v.org www.j-n-v.org

November 13th-16th Red Dragon
days at Faslane (see page 3)
Come along! Time for you to act!
See www.faslane365.org and/or
contact CND Cymru see Contacts)



Wales Nurtures Hope

The Social Forum Cymru took place in April over the May Day holiday weekend across the welcoming and beautiful town of Aberystwyth. Through workshops, talks, exhibitions and other events, well over 1000 people examined political and environmental problems and discussed how things could be improved for all life on the planet.

At a final rally at Aberystwyth Castle on May Day the following declaration was read out:

Social Forum Cymru is pleased to stand alongside other national, regional and civil society fora working for environmental and social justice and peace in the world: we wish to nurture hope.

Social Forum Cymru fully endorses the principles of the Porto Alegre (Brazil) World Social Forum. We are united in our determination to work to halt the concentration of wealth, the proliferation of poverty and the destruction of our planet. For three days in Aberystwyth we have been the change we wanted to see in the world and discussed how we can work together and take actions locally, to make safer and sustainable communities in Wales and the world.

We offer an invitation to all individuals, groups and organisations who care about human rights and the environment, to join in and act creatively at this crucial time for our planet.

We call on our elected representatives to recognise, encourage and actively work with the wealth of experience and opportunity there is within all our communities; to truly understand the hunger for real justice and peace and to respect the needs and aspirations of people in Wales.

CND Cymru AGM

The Annual Meeting of CND Cymru will be held on November 18th 2006. Members of CND Cymru and delegates may submit resolutions for consideration and nominations for the elected posts of Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons. Current post-holders may be re-nominated. Please send nominations and motions for resolution to the National Secretary (by September 30th) (see Contacts on this page). The venue of the meeting has yet to be confirmed. All members and delegates welcome. Please contact the National Secretary for more information.

Singing for Peace and Hope

A new campaigning choir was launched in Aberystwyth this July to sing songs of peace and justice. There are already 20 members and more are very welcome. The choir is for people who feel strongly about issues of peace and justice, to sing together in harmony. The intention is to celebrate, and to support those campaigning for non-violent solutions to problems in the world. As yet the choir is undecided about a name, perhaps - "Côr Heddwch" or "Côr Gobaith".

If you live in easy distance of Aberystwyth and would like to sing with like-minded people, you are welcome to join in. No previous experience of singing in a choir is necessary. Songs are taught by ear. The choir practices at the Quaker Meeting House, Maes Maelor, Penparcau, Aberystwyth. Wednesdays at 6pm on August 9th, 16th and 23rd, and then every week from September. Contact: Susie Ennals 01970 612 657 susie@ennals.org.uk

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.

Editor:

Jill Stallard
(01495) 773 180
heddwch@cndcymru.org

Translator:

Sian Edwards
sian@derwen.demon.co.uk

Printed and posted:

Redkite Print
(01591) 610 844
redkiteprint@thefreeflyer.com



cnd cymru contacts

www.cndcymru.org

chair:

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

vice chairs:

Brian Jones
(01792) 830 330
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, Y Drain
Gwynion, Heol yr Eglwys,
Talywau, Pontypool NP4 7EF
(01495) 773 180

to mark the 2nd anniversary of the November 04 US/UK
massacre in Fallujah and oppose the continuing violent assaults

NO MORE FALLUJAHS

**A weekend of nonviolent resistance
to the occupation of Iraq**



Image by Emily Johns

28-29 October 2006, London

including:

peace journey & 24 hour peace encampment in
Parliament Square opposite the Houses of Parliament

www.rememberfallujah.org

Remember Fallujah ...

In November 2004, the US - with British assistance - launched a massive assault against the Iraqi city of Fallujah, almost totally destroying it, killing hundreds of civilians, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes, and using white phosphorus - a substance that burns down to the bone - as a weapon.

Since then at least 21 other Iraqi towns and cities have been - and continue to be - attacked by US forces. Fallujah has been turned into a virtual police state and evidence of atrocities by US-led forces - such as the recently exposed massacre in Haditha - continues to mount.

... and resist

Join us on 28/29 October for a weekend of nonviolent resistance to the ongoing occupation of Iraq.

Sat 28 Oct:

Peace journey from the UK's military nerve centre in Northwood to Central London

Meet 11am, Northwood tube station



2 April 2006:
300 protestors
hold an "unauthorised"
4-hour protest against
the occupation
of Iraq in Parliament
Square.

Sun 29 Oct: "Unauthorised" 24-hour peace camp in Parliament Square to demand an end to the occupation

Assemble 12 noon, Parliament Square. The camp will begin with **Maya Evans** and **Milan Rai** reading the names of 100 Iraqis who have died as a result of US/UK military action in Iraq - one year after their arrest for doing this in Oct 2005. **Please note:** Under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act participation in such an "unauthorised" demonstration is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to £1000.

Accommodation will be available on request for 27 and 28 October.

Organised by: the Mass Action Group and supported by Brent Stop the War, Iraq Occupation Focus, JNV, London Region CND, Norwich Stop the War, London Catholic Worker and Voices UK.

Contact: 0845 458 2564 or
voices@voicesuk.org.

For more info see:
www.rememberfallujah.org

GET INVOLVED!

Sponsor a tent: a donation of £15 will enable us to buy one tent (see tear-off slip below). All tents not in police custody on 30 October will be distributed among the sponsors!

Speakers: contact us if you would like to have someone come and speak to your group about Fallujah and the weekend of nonviolent resistance. Speakers include activists who've travelled to Fallujah and Maya Evans.

Anti-war art: contact us if you would like to contribute to a display of anti-war art to decorate the tents in the peace camp.

- I would like to sponsor a tent and enclose £__ (min £15)
 I would like to host a speaker event about Fallujah and the weekend of nonviolent resistance
 Please send me 20/50/100/200 (delete as appropriate) copies of this flier

name..... address.....

email..... tel.....

Please return to Voices UK, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX.