

campaign WALES



CND Cymru Members Newsletter

No.18 November-January 1990/91

20p

OIL SANCTIONS NEED TIME TO WORK

12 months of sanctions better than twelve minutes of war

CND Cymru unreservedly condemns the invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraqi forces.

Iraqi troops should withdraw and Kuwait independence be restored.

CND Cymru supports the United Nations declaration on mandatory economic sanctions but not an embargo on food and humanitarian aid.

It condemns the unnecessary and dangerous build-up of American, British and other nations forces in the Gulf and the continuing arms sales in the region.

CND Cymru calls for the removal of all weapons of mass destruction from the region and the immediate adoption of defensive military doctrines and postures.

CND Cymru believes that preventing Iraq selling oil — which accounts for 95% of its revenue — will effect an Iraqi withdrawal.

These sanctions should be given time to work, for even if it took 12 months then this is preferable to the carnage that military action could produce in 12 minutes.

CND Cymru, which has a long record of struggle against militarism will oppose any military action by all non-violent methods available.

We call upon all the political parties of Wales and other organisations to join with us in calling for a non-violent solution to this crisis.

CND Cymru statement: October 1990.

For further information please contact Bob Cole, Brynellttyd, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd LL41 3TW. (0766) 831356

Inside: More on CND and the Gulf Crisis, Christmas Catalogues (CND Cymru).



Côr Cochion join the London demonstration on September 15th.

CATALOGUES — STILL TIME TO ORDER CND CYMRU CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND CARDS

THE GULF CRISIS by John Cox

Iraq's annexation of Kuwait has been rightly and widely condemned. The military response has not. Faced with the unacceptable brutality of the Iraqi regime and its inexcusable aggression against Kuwait, many have accepted the inevitability of a war.

I am not a pacifist and have been opposed to the Iraqi regime ever since it assumed power, with US help. But I cannot support this specific military action. Even without a shot being fired, it is causing suffering and misery to thousands of innocents and, if war does break out, the carnage will be horrific.

PRINCIPLES

I believe our response should be guided by principles which have universal application:

National boundaries, however unjust, should not be changed by force, whatever the complexion of the opposing regimes.

Self-defence is legitimate in an emergency — but should involve no more force than necessary to repel an aggression.

Military force should not be used until after all political and other non-violent measures have been exhausted.

Embargoes and other non-military actions are legitimate measures when directed against aggression.

Embargoes on food and medicines should not be employed under any circumstances.

LEGITIMATE MEASURES

Applying these principles to this crisis, the oil embargo and freezing of assets clearly are legitimate measures. 88% of Iraq's revenues stopped with the closure of its two pipelines and its entire purchasing power stopped when its foreign exchange assets were frozen. Given time, such measures still have a reasonable prospect of forcing Iraq to leave Kuwait.

If these proved inadequate, most of the remaining revenue would end if ships were prevented from unloading at destination ports (Rotterdam, Tokyo etc.). None of these measures require forces in the Gulf region.

In contrast, the US and multinational forces are being used to prevent food, medicine and other essentials reaching the people of Jordan and thousands of refugees. Whatever pressure this had placed on Iraq, it has also increased the suffering of these innocents and turned the anger of many against the embargo.

POLITICAL

To be effective, an embargo should weaken the aggressor government not the victims. The disruption of trade between Iraq and Jordan has been politically counter-productive. If it continues, Saddam

Hussein will benefit. The problem would have been less serious if the USA was perceived as acting for humanitarian ideals — against aggression, for democracy, etc. In practice, their actions highlight their double standards.

In the Arab world, America is despised for supporting Israel's annexation of Syrian and Jordanian land and for backing the rulers of any regime, however bestial, that is friendly to US interests. Their claim to be acting on moral grounds contrasts with this record — and has enhanced the standing of Iraq in the eyes of Palestinians and other victims of previous US-backed military interventions.

The US-Syrian rapprochement, after years of condemnation of Syria's record on human rights and its promotion of international terrorism, is a particularly revolting spectacle. Previously the US backed the bestial Saddam against the Ayatollah; now they back the bestial Assad against their new anti-Christ. When this crisis is over, will the Syrians stay (as in the Lebanon) or leave Saudi Arabia?

FOR DEFENCE

For supporters of the US military response, there remains the suggestion that Saudi Arabia needed aid against a possible Iraqi attack. In reality, Saudi Arabia is already the more heavily armed (relative to its population) and could defend itself on its own. The real purpose of the military intervention is to retake Kuwait by an armed attack on Iraq.

Whilst an attack on Iraq has every chance of being successful and probably would topple Saddam Hussein, it would also cause immense suffering and bloodshed. Which leads to the question — what sort of regime would the US install in Saddam's place? Would it be a fascist regime — as earlier placed in Iraq by the CIA and now embraced in Syria? Would it be an apartheid-style regime — as favoured for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia? One thing is sure — it won't be a democracy. Any regime installed by this US military action will not differ from those the US has installed in the past.

OPPORTUNITIES

If there is a silver lining to this pre-war period, it is in the widespread recognition of underlying causes: notably, the Arms Trade with Arab despots, uncritical support of Israel and lack of concern for the Palestine issue. If the peace movement campaigns more effectively on such issues, a longer-lasting solution may prove possible.

In the immediate future, I hope that CND

will campaign for a peaceful resolution of the crisis. We are being prepared for war by a media campaign against the hated Saddam. Our task is to combat the war hysteria.

However much we dislike Saddam's regime and condemn Iraq's aggression, we cannot condone the slaughter of Iraqi (and Kuwaiti) citizens that is the inevitable consequence of the military 'solution'. Like Gorbachov at the recent Helsinki summit, we must insist on firm united action to defeat the aggression — but it must be firm, united *political* action.

WAR IN THE GULF?

LLANDRINDOD CND FIRST IN THE FIELD!

Following a phone call from the secretary of CND Cymru, our group decided that for this town the most effective action would be in the Market on a Friday (October 12th).

Accordingly, we set up a table, draped the Llandrindod CND banner over it and displayed slogans such as:

SAY NO TO AN OIL WAR!

12 MONTHS OF SANCTIONS IS BETTER THAN 12 MINUTES OF CARNAGE

THE GREED FOR OIL COULD CAUSE MASS HUMAN DESTRUCTION

CHEMICAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS ANNIHILATE. FOR WHAT CAUSE?

We gave out leaflets, obtained signatures on postcards, attracted a great deal of attention and had much discussion.

Later, we learned from London that ours was the first peace group in Britain to use the new leaflets. One up for Llandrindod — and one up for Wales!

Vera Jones, Secretary, Llandrindod and District CND.

Other groups have organised public meetings (Brecon, Aberystwyth, Newport and Bangor — to name just a few). Have you written to your local paper, M.P. or the Prime Minister?

Swansea has organised a petition. Can you use the new leaflet from British CND "No War in the Gulf"? (£8 per 1,000), and lastly... try to be in London on November 24th — some buses from Wales have already been booked.

WHAT HOPE FOR A NEW TREATY?

On Hiroshima Day 1990. Bruce Kent (chairperson of British CND) and others, set off to walk to Geneva. They arrived for the Review Conference on the nuclear weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty on August 20th. Rhodri Glyn Thomas (chairperson of CND Cymru), the Giant Welsh Peace Ribbon with its thousands of signatures, and the special banner from CND Cymru, were there to meet them.

All nuclear weapon development is dependent on "testing". The present 'Partial Test Ban Treaty', with 118 signatories, bans atmospheric testing. In January 1991 an Amendment Conference will be held in New York and will

present an opportunity for the nations of the World to convert the 'Partial Test Ban Treaty' into a 'Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty'. The US and British governments will almost certainly be out of step with most other signatories and oppose the change. Although it is unlikely that we shall be able to change their stance it is important that this issue is widely discussed and that we obtain as many signatures as possible on an international petition, which was launched by over 20 countries in September.

All CND Cymru Groups have been sent the British CND version of this petition.



Geneva, August 20. Bruce Kent and Rhodri Glyn Thomas with one section of CND Cymru's Giant Peace Ribbon.

When will they ever learn?

In 1966 the Labour Government set up the Defence Sales Organisation (DSO), now renamed the Defence Export Services Organisation. The DSO was to promote arms exports and "to ensure that this country does not fail to secure its rightful share of this valuable commercial market". (Hansard 25.1.66).

A quarter of a century later, Denis Healey used the House of Commons' debate on the Gulf crisis to draw attention to the problems caused

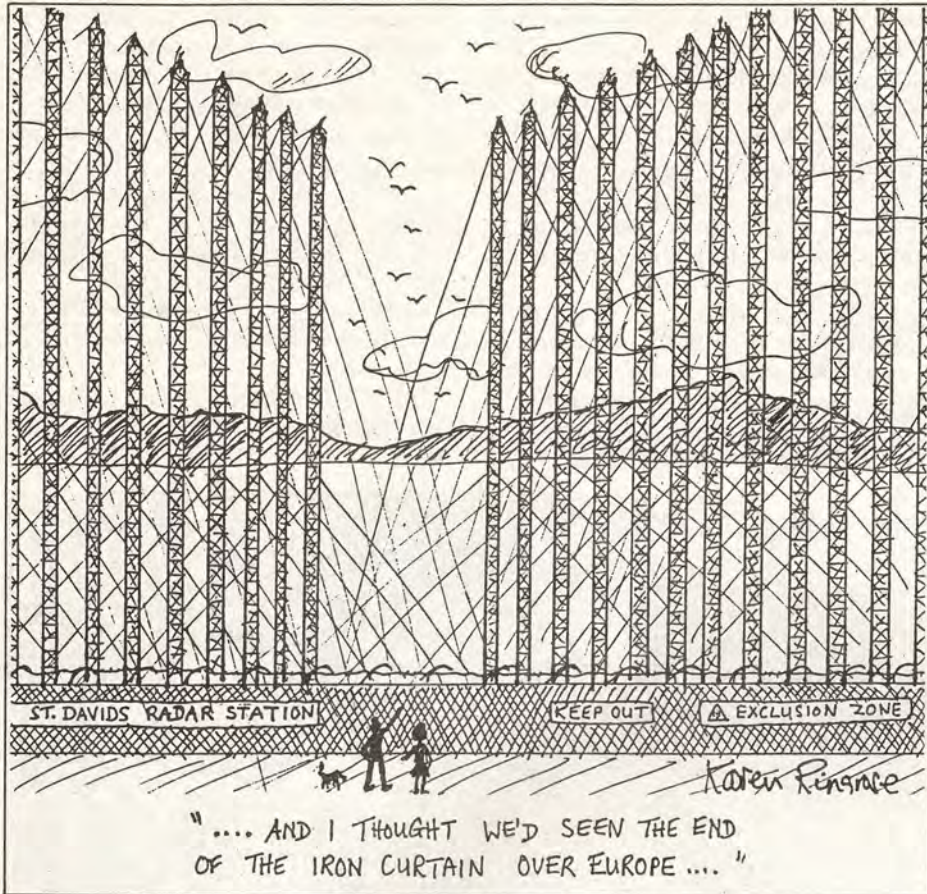
by the arms trade and to call for international controls (Hansard 6.9.90). He asked the Government to take up the suggestions of another notable new critic of arms exports, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze.

According to most press reports, a shadow of gloom was cast over this year's Farnborough Air Show. The aerospace manufacturers pondered their military futures dejectedly as the end of the Cold War continues to cut

military budgets. In an attempt to recapture some lost trade, the Gulf crisis was cited in some reports as providing an excuse for reminding small countries that "without adequate defence they are vulnerable to sudden attack". The report failed to note that Iraq's "sudden attack" was at least partly due to the generous exports many countries attending the airshow had previously supplied.

Adding steam to the arms race currently under way in the Middle East, several British military firms are poised to clinch big orders from the United Arab Emirates in an arms deal worth nearly £1 billion. (Sunday Times 16.9.90).

(Extracts from Campaign Against Arms Trade newsletter — October 1990.)



ST DAVID'S OPPOSED IN THE U.S.A.

While continuing to campaign against "nuclear deterrence" and other military madneses we must sometimes feel a bit isolated, if not depressed, although somewhere inside ourselves we know that there are huge numbers of people all over the world, who agree and who are working for peace.

The plan to build the RADAR BASE at St. David's has aroused strong and widespread opposition in Pembrokeshire, but it is encouraging to be reassured that not all the people of the USA are behind it!

During this year the US Welsh journals "Ninnau" and "Y Drych" have been carrying articles and letters opposing the radar installation on all the same grounds as the people of Wales.

"You who are US citizens are in a very powerful position to do something for Wales now. Your Welsh cousins have no voice in the US Congress, but you do. You are all constituents of members of Congress. You can write to your two senators and to your representative and ask them to keep the US Navy from building this radar array.

Now is the right time; construction has not yet begun and there is strong pressure to reduce government spending. Please write

three letters to your members of Congress and keep your tax dollars from being used to build something in Wales to which the Welsh people are overwhelmingly opposed."

Carole Woods, Seattle, Washington

"The idea is preposterous. The Soviet military halted construction of a similar radar site in the Ukraine when citizens objected for health reasons.

Surely we will not impose on the Welsh people what the Soviets will not impose on the Ukrainians.

On behalf of the Welsh Society of Delaware and of all the people of Welsh descent in the United States, I wish to enlist your support in helping to prevent construction of the new radar site at the US Navy base at Brawdy, West Wales. Please write to your senators and Congressmen to stop this waste of tax money and desecration of a beautiful part of Wales."

Peter N. Williams, Ph.D., Newark, Delaware

Extracts from letters to "Ninnau" — August 1990.

DUBLIN CONFERENCE ON A NUCLEAR FREE IRISH SEA

6th and 7th October, 1990

Members of Irish CND were already planning this weekend when they came to CND Cymru's AGM in Aberystwyth in April.

Not surprisingly, we had a wonderfully warm Irish welcome. There were delegates from Scotland, Merseyside, Southampton and around Ireland, as well as Greenpeace and twelve of us from Wales, representing different anti-nuclear and peace groups.

Opening the conference, John De Courcy Ireland, President of Irish CND, said that Ireland is proud of her role as a neutral country and will not rest until there is an end to nuclear contamination and war games around her coasts.

The emphasis during the two days was on exchanging information and setting up campaigning networks rather than listening to speeches.

One session concentrated on the menace of submarines in the Irish Sea. As a neutral country, Ireland does not allow nuclear powered or nuclear weapon carrying ships into her ports or territorial waters.

CND is understandably less controversial in Ireland than in Britain and the main political parties are, in theory at least, supportive.

One outcome of the weekend will be greater co-ordination of the groups campaigning on issues of nuclear pollution from Sellafield, nuclear waste dumping and nuclear submarine exercises in the Irish Sea.

Major campaigns on all these issues will begin in the spring, as a result of this highly successful conference.

Rhoda Jones

campaign Wales

Published by CND Cymru. Send letters, articles, pictures, cartoons to the editor: Rhoda Jones, Tŷ Isaf, Ffestiniog, Gwynedd LL41 4LS, by January 1st, 1991.

The general secretary of CND Cymru is Bob Cole, Bryn Eltyd, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, LL41 3TW (Tel. 0766 831356).

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ADVERTISEMENTS: £15 1/8 page, £25 1/4 page, £50 1/2 page — to Rhoda Jones, Tŷ Isaf, Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, LL41 4LS (076 676 2739).

LOW LEVEL FLIGHTS — HIGH LEVEL PROTESTS

In June this year, there were tremendous celebrations amongst peace activists in Canada, when proposals for a new NATO low level flight training base in Goose Bay, Labrador and another similar base in Turkey were abandoned.

Many thousands of people had worked vigorously to support the native Innu of Northern Quebec and Labrador, in their campaign against the existing low level flights and the proposal for a new NATO training base. Many of these people have their families and livelihoods threatened by the programme and the increase in flights caused by the new base would have been catastrophic.

An 'environmental impact survey' (EIS) on the subject, which had been commissioned by the Canadian Department of National Defence, was finally released for public scrutiny in November 1989. Environmentalists and Professors of Science and Mammalian Research were horrified by the inaccuracies, omissions and generalisations contained in this huge document. Many critical submissions were received by the EIS review office before the February deadline. This resulted in a document outlining the deficiencies being sent to the Defence Department requesting a reduction in the number of flights, pending the publication of the full EIS review. The response was a refusal, showing, amongst other things, an apparent lack of respect for a government appointed Review Panel.

The legal wrangles continue, but in the meantime the flights from Goose Bay continue with no apparent limit or safeguard.

The Department of National Defence has recently announced proposals for new flight training corridors in British Columbia. These cover huge tracts of land and reach north and west of the Rocky Mountains. Protest in British Columbia is widespread and even before the flights begin, literature and illustrated documents are being distributed to the Canadian people, to make them more aware of the problem. In the Arctic regions proposals for flight corridors have been met with active opposition, but with people more isolated the protest is more limited.

In Canada, low level flight training is the single most dramatic increase in military activity at the present time and Government appointed panels seem powerless to restrict

or even monitor it.

(Gillian Metcalf — a Welsh Canadian member of the Canadian Peace Alliance.)

It seems as if the opponents of low level flight training in Germany have been listened to and 1,000 ft has now become the minimum permitted height. In Wales, Scotland and Cumbria the widespread opposition has met with no similar positive response — only the endless repetitions of the need for this type of training. I have heard it suggested that instead of flying low over Wales the exercises could take place in Canada. Why not? Well this short article, received from Canada at the beginning of September, tells us why and once again emphasises the need to exchange information and work together for peace and demilitarisation.



The writing is still on the wall of the Atomic Weapons Establishment.
Photo: Peter Burt

BLAST AT LLANISHEN TYPE FACTORY

News of the toxic blast at a Soviet Union Atomic Plant has been given scant coverage in our media. We are told that "beryllium is a light metal that burns easily, releasing deadly beryllium oxide gas. Exposure to this gas can cause lung, liver and kidney malfunction. It can also affect the nervous system."

As I write this I realise that one has no need to go to the Gulf or to Iraq itself to be gassed. People of the Soviet Union have felt the effect at home. And the reason for manufacturing this deadly stuff? To make nuclear weapons more explosive!

We have a beryllium manufacturing plant here in Wales. The Atomic Weapons Establishment of Llanishen is some couple of miles from the centre of Cardiff. The beryllium produced there goes to Aldermaston, where it is used in warhead casing for Trident. Across the road from this harmless-looking establishment are rows of semi-detached houses with pretty gardens. It all looks so normal.

Peace campaigners have been protesting outside

Llanishen for many years. The powers-that-be trot out the same old clichés. This could happen only in the Soviet Union — never here. They have already jumped in to reassure the public that all is well at Llanishen.

It is a fact that all Atomic States are the same the world over. Secretive, obstinate and confident of their great power. We shall see. Ordinary people are becoming aware of their great power too. Once they realise their potential and get together they can move mountains. We have proof of this during this last year in Eastern Europe.

Due to public protest Moscow has already announced that its testing site at Semipalatinsk will be closed down in 1993. It will be transferred to a remote island in the arctic on the northern Soviet coast. The people of Norway are well aware of the evils of nuclear testing and being only 500 miles away from this "remote" island I am sure that, come 1993, they will be waiting.

Rowena Thomas

PICK YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN!

CND's Individual Campaigning schemes are specially designed for people who have not much time, but would still like to do something more for peace. **ALL THE SCHEMES ARE FREE** (except the leaflets). Perhaps one will suit you?

CND CYMRU PRESS GANG

You promise CND Cymru that you will try to write to your local paper twice a year. In return CND will send you a bulletin which suggests the topic you could write about and provides background information.

20-MINUTERS

These people write short notes to their MPs, notes which should only take 20 minutes to compose. We send regular postcards suggesting the topics for these notes.

CAR STICKERS

Why not put a CND Cymru sticker on your car? We will send you a free one.

CANDIDATES ACTION NETWORK

The next General Election could be in 1991! We want to make sure that prospective candidates receive letters on 'peace' issues before they become too set in their ways. Join a network of people writing these letters! We promise not to ask you to send too many and our briefings will be short!

LEAFLETEERS

Would you like to give out 100 leaflets in a street near you three times a year, Spring, Summer and Autumn? We will send them to you if you would. Unfortunately we have to charge £4 a year for this scheme.

If you are interested in any of the above schemes please send your name and address to Bob Cole, Bryn Elltyd, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, and indicate which one(s).

Diary

November 24:
London Demo against War in the Gulf, assemble Embankment 11.00am.
December 1:
Cyngor CND Cymru, Brynafon, Rhayadr. Planning next year's campaign.
February 2:
Cyngor CND Cymru, Brynafon.
February 23:
Nuclear Free Wales Festival, Newport, Gwent.



STOP PRESS

The Green, Liberal, Plaid Cymru and Labour conferences all discussed the 'Peace Dividend', i.e. defence cuts, arms convension and disarmament. CND's recent publication "The Peace Dividend in the 1990s" is a detailed analysis of the issues, which should be widely discussed. Available from CND, 162 Holloway Rd., London N); £2.

LOCAL GROUPS NEED FUNDS

In our area, we have quite a number of members of CND Cymru nationally, but they do not belong to the local branch. We keep them advised of local activities and some of them take part in local events. We should be pleased, however, if they contributed to local branch finances either directly or through CND Cymru. As national members they probably feel they are paying their way and we could not expect them to pay the full branch membership sub., but we feel there is an anomaly here which we should like sorted out.

Douglas Smith, Chairman,
Welshpool CND.

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The postponement of the St. David's Radar scheme until at least 1992 is surely a money-saving exercise by the US, but Parc mobilised wide oposition; well done Parc, CND will be right behind you if the threat returns.

Defence secretary Tom King overruled the All Party Defence Select Committee on low flying. Bilingual "complaints" cards will be distributed by Bob Cole in the New Year. CND Cymru low flying leaflets are still available. It is up to us to make him regret his high handed decision. Cyngor on December 1st will plan the campaign — the meeting is open to all members, please come along.

Stephen Hancock and Mike Hutchinson have been imprisoned for 15 months for disarming a nuclear capable F111 bomber at USAF Upper Heyford. Christmas cards will reach them if sent c/o 155 Annitt Rd., Northampton, NN1 4NH.

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ANGEN ARIAN AR GRWPIAU LLEOL

Mae Tom King, Ysgrifennydd Amdiffryn, wedi gwrtod derbyn casgliadau'r wedi ailprosesu gan Argraffwyr Eryn, Bethel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.
HYSBYSSEBION: £15 1/8 tudalen, £25 1/4 tudalen, £50 1/2 tudalen — ! Rhoda Jones, Ty Isaf, Ffestiniog, Gwynedd LL41 4LS (076 676 2739).

ymgyrch Cymru
Cyhoeddwyd gan CND Cymru. Danfonwch llythrau, cerbydau, llythrau, cerbydau at y gol-lythrau, Rhoda Jones, Ty Isaf, Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, LL41 4LS, erbyn Ionawr Iaf, 1991.
Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol CND Cymru yw Bob Cole, Bryn Elltyd, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, LL41 3TW (Ffôn 0766 831356).
Argraffwyr YMGRYCH CYMRU ar hapur wedi ailprosesu gan Argraffwyr Eryn, Bethel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

yn cynllunio'r ymgyrch; mae'r cyfarfod ar agor i bob aelod — dowch yn llu. Mae Stephen Hancock a Mike Hutchinson wedi cael eu carhau am 15 mis am ddarllogi awyren bomio F111 yn Upper Heyford, safle llu awyrt yr UDA. Cewch CND "The Peace Dividend in the 1990s" yn ddadansoddiad manwl o'r pynciau trafod: ar gael oddi wrth CND, 162 Holloway Rd., London N); £2.

Mae'r gohiriad o gynllun Radar Ty Ddewi tan o leia 1992 i'w wneud ag arbed arian gan yr UDA; ond ddaru Parc lwyddo! Ie! Ie! Ie! gwrthwnebiaid croesodoriad eang o'r cyhoedd; bydd CND yn siwr o gefnogi Parc os yw'r pwnc yn codi eto.

NEWYDDION

CRIWR WASG CND CYMRU

Ond i chwi ymrwymo i geisio ysgrifennu rhyw ddywraith y flwyddyn i'ch papur lleol ar gyfer CND Cymru, fe gewch fwlctin gandod'n awgrymu testun addas a chefnid o wybodaeth i'r cyfryw.

20 MUNUD

Mae'r bobl yma'n ysgrifennu nodiadau byrion at eu AS — rha'i nas cymer ond rhyw 20 munud i'w cyfansoddi! Gytrwn ni gardiau-post yn rheolaidd i awgrymu testunau ar gyfer y cyfryw.

STICERI CEIR

Beth am roi sticer CND Cymru ar eich car? Anfonwn un yn rhad ac am ddim i chwi.

RHWYDWAITH GWEITHREDU AR GYFER YMGEISWYR

Gall Etholiad Cyffredinol ddigwydd ym ymgeiswyr dderbyn llythrau ar faterion ymgeiswyr dderbyn llythrau ar faterion hoddwch cyn iddynt galedu i barwm. A hoffech chi ymuno a rhydwraith o bobl sy'n ymgyrryd ag ysgrifennu'r math yma o llythrau. Rwydym yn addo peidio gofyn i chi yrto gormod a byr iawn ac i bwrpas fydd ein ymgynghoriadau ni.

TAFLENNI

A fusasch chi'n hoffi dosbarthu 100 o dafleuni mew'n stryd yn eich hymyl dai'r gwaith y flwyddyn yn y gwawwau, yr hat ar hydref! Os hynny, fe allwn eu gyrru i chwi — er yn anffodus, rhaid inni godi £4 y flwyddyn i weithredu'r cynllun hwn. Os oes diddordeb genych yn unrhyw un o'r cynlluniau uchod, gyrrwch eich enw a'ch cyfeiriad i Bob Cole, Bryn Elltyd, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, gan nodi pa unrta!

Dyddiadur

Tachwedd 24:
Gwrthdystiad yn erbyn rhyfel yn y Gwlff, ymgasglu ar yr Embankment, 11.00am.
Rhagfyr 1:
Cyngor CND Cymru, Brynafon, Rhayadr.
Cynllunio ymgyrchocdd y flwyddyn i ddod.
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