



cnd cymru

campaign for nuclear disarmament

Faslane 365 off to a good start!

If it is your lot to pound the beat for Strathclyde Police one of the most interesting tasks you can be allocated these days is to don the yellow jacket at Faslane naval base on the Clyde, on the other side of the razor wire from the Trident submarine berths. In the past 18 days you would have been presented with tableau after rich tableau as a huge diversity of gentle but determined individuals have put their bums in the gateways, attached themselves there to each other in the most awkward fashion with tubes of various materials, or climbed problematic tripods.

These individuals have come in groups identified by their area (Sheffield, Assynt, Galloway, South West, Sweden and Finland), or by their particular solidarity (Greenham Women, Women in Black, Green Party, Cyclists). Their approach has been varied, not only by different and unpredictable blockading times, but by the mix of colourful shenanigans, from camping right on the verges of the base to performing a horizontal can-can. The visible presence at the gates has been vibrant, with great displays of banners, music and dancing.

The police have put up ordinary crowd barriers in the gutters at the pavements on both sides of the North gate and this has gradually been extended round the corners. At the same time they have not attempted to corral protesters in a particular place and there has been a fair bit of free movement. They have stuck by their promise to arrest people (so far 117) who go into and stay in the gateway entrances. They added Harris fencing (6 ft high perimeter fencing like they used at Gleneagles at the G8 protests) around the roundabout, preventing people from going on to it. There are also some barriers at the South Gate. There have been lots and lots of police, and (with a few crabby exceptions) they have behaved in a gentle manner.

We all wondered how the police and local prosecutor (aka Procurator Fiscal) would deal with the protesters once they were removed. At mass blockades of Faslane in the past the usual recipe was some hours in the cells to be followed by no action at all, or (much later) by a letter with an offer of a fixed penalty fine or a summons to court. This time around they are holding people overnight in the cells, supposedly

with the option of taking them for an initial court appearance the next day, but in fact, and in every case so far, releasing them straight from the cells with a warning letter not to be a naughty person again or else.

The blockades have already succeeded in bringing in new people to take part in civil resistance to Trident. It is even beginning to dawn on the conventional media that something is happening. If browsing is your thing try a news search with "Faslane Blockade" and up will pop reports from all over, some of them in anticipation of a group coming to do their slot.

The aim is to continue this for a whole year if necessary but there are still gaps in the rota, including in the next two months. Some groups who have already taken part are beginning to plan their

second shift, but there is space for many more. None of the groups so far has had the notional 100 blockaders as in the initial plan but they still have been able to mount very effective blockades. If you are not attached to any group you can still get involved by joining up with an established group or joining the CND days on 5th and 6th November, or the Trident Ploughshares days on 11th and 12th December.

David Mackenzie

See www.faslane365.org t:
0845 4588 365 e:
info@faslane365.org



Assynt blockade Faslane October 8-9th 2006

Who pays the fiddler?

Now More than Ever

The announcement by North Korea (DPRK) that they have tested a nuclear weapon for the first time has of course been condemned worldwide, most importantly by the UN Security Council. CND Cymru supports the condemnation.

Why not join in?

South & Mid Wales will leave Wales for Scotland on the evening of 12th to take part in the blockade on 13th & 14th November.

North Wales is blockading on 14th & 15th November. The two groups will 'overlap' on 14th November.

If you are a veteran direct action campaigner, or if you have never done anything like this before, we would be delighted to have you with us.

If you are interested in taking part in Faslane 365 please get in touch as soon as possible.

North Wales:

Phil Steele 01248 490 715
phil_steele@btinternet.com

Mid Wales:

Del Harris 01974 831 575
coney@gn.apc.org

South Wales:

Martin Fitton 02920 481 791
martin@mfittan.wanadoo.co.uk

More about Faslane 365 :
www.faslane365.org

Pictures and map of Faslane :
<http://www.tridentploughshares.org/article989>

CND Cymru: 01495 773 180
heddwch@cndcymru.org

This act increases tensions in North East Asia, increases the risks of further nuclear proliferation and is in violation of obligations to end nuclear testing and work towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

There have been over 2,000 nuclear weapons test explosions conducted by China, France, India, Pakistan, Russia, the USA and Britain, each one contaminating the environment, threatening peace and stimulating the nuclear arms race.

North Korea is now a member of this growing nuclear family. We must put pressure on them to ratify the Test Ban Treaty and the Non Proliferation Treaty. There must be diplomatic actions to ensure a peaceful resolution and a return to the Six Party talks for denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. You can't fight back using nuclear weapons, they are obsolete and useless. A diplomatic response and cool heads are needed. But we've also got to look at our own government's responsibility for these events. The British Government has already signed up to the international treaties but seem hell bent on going



ahead with a new generation of Trident nuclear weapons instead of disarming. They're not opposing the North Korea tests on moral or ethical grounds, how can they when the very same thing but using lasers to simulate tests at Aldermaston. It's time for the nuclear states to lead by example. There is a responsibility on them not to lead all regions of the world into nuclear oblivion.

I hope that this latest expansion of nuclear technology will stimulate many more people to come to the protest at Faslane on November 13-15th. The need to stop a new generation of nuclear weapons is more urgent than ever. I hope to see you there.

Jill Evans MEP Chair CND Cymru



Join the Big Trident Debate

A broad coalition of individuals and organisations* has launched a campaign to secure a full public and parliamentary debate on the replacement of Britain's nuclear weapons system, Trident. CND is encouraging individuals and organisations to sign up to a statement (see below) on the website www.bigtridentdebate.org.uk and to write to their MP on the issue.

This Big Trident Debate website also provides a public space for a debate around the issues. It is not confined to any one point of view and participation from all perspectives is being encouraged. If you do not have access to the internet and support the aim of a full and open debate on the future of Trident, please add your name to the statement below.

Why not visit the web site www.bigtridentdebate.org.uk and join the debate? You will find lists of signatories, useful links for further information, an outline of international legislation regarding nuclear weapons and a forum for discussion.

* The Big Trident Debate coalition includes National Union of Students, Church in Wales, Greenpeace, CND, People and Planet, War on Want, Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp (aign) and Scientists for Global Responsibility.

'Can there be any threat more alarming, in today's world, than that of a nuclear or biological weapon falling into the hands of terrorists, or being used by a State, as a result of some terrible misunderstanding or miscalculation? The more States have such weapons, the greater the risk. And, the more those States that already have them increase their arsenals, or insist that such weapons are essential to their national security, the more other States feel that they too must have them, for their security.'

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations

I, the undersigned, believe that:

The future of Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system is of great national and international importance and will have implications for decades to come. Any decision should only be made after full and informed public and Parliamentary debate.

It is the responsibility of Government to facilitate a thorough, national consultation. This dialogue must inform the decision-making process and take place before the Government makes any decision on the way forward.

The Government must publish comprehensive information and analysis on all the key issues, including nuclear and non-nuclear options, current and future perceived threats to British, the deterrent capability of nuclear weapons to address such threats, estimated costs for each option, international obligations and implications for nuclear proliferation.

The Government must allocate sufficient time for a full Parliamentary debate, and the substantive decision on whether or not Britain retains nuclear weapons must be made by Parliament.

Sign and send this to: The Big Trident Debate, CND, 172, Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.

Another Granny for peace

Fearless and proud, Joan Meredith, a 'Granny for Peace' has been on the streets of Chester, campaigning against nuclear weapons. Joan is famous locally for being one of those who protested against the refuelling of US military planes at Prestwick airport in Scotland during the bombing of Lebanon. Joan said "We have got to take a stand against violence generally and Trident missiles are an illegal weapon. If our security depends on nuclear weapons then I'm ashamed. If we cannot pull ourselves together in the 21st century then it's a sad state of affairs." She was moved to take the issue onto the streets of Chester by Government proposals to replace Trident.

Joan is known to many in Aberystwyth where she used to live, and is a retired teacher for the deaf. She has been arrested many times for her non-violent direct actions outside military bases. She is active with the direct action movement, Trident Ploughshares. Joan commented to her local newspaper: "It's politicians who wage wars - with ordinary people stuck in the middle. We are the collateral damage."

Churches speak out again against new nuclear weapons

The Church in Wales has joined those calling on the Government not to replace the Trident nuclear weapons system. After hearing the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, express his opposition to replacing Trident in September, the Governing Body of the Church in Wales passed a resolution deploring the Government's "decision to consider the maintenance and renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons programme":

The Archbishop said that the £25-billion cost of Trident Replacement would be better used to prevent 16,000 children a day dying from diseases caused by contaminated water and malnutrition. He went on to say:

"The deaths of 16,000 children a day is the equivalent of 40 jumbo jets crashing every day of every week. "Our world would not tolerate that - just look at what happens when our airports grind to a halt. But we do tolerate hunger, poverty and impure water, and are prepared to contemplate spending our resources on weapons of mass destruction."

England

A Christian vigil held at the gates of AWE Aldermaston in October was supported by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell. The Bishop said: "The world thinks peace can be secured by pointing ever more sophisticated weapons at each other. It won't work."

Protesters should pray "that our nation may draw back from developing yet more

weapons of mass destruction", the Bishop said. Only understanding, stability, and freedom from poverty would bring lasting peace. Later the same week, Father Martin Newell, another member of the London Catholic Worker community, Stephen Ploughshares, Irene Willis, hung a banner on the roof of the British headquarters of arms manufacturer Lockheed Martin, in London. Lockheed Martin is the prime contractor for the Trident II Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM). The company also has a major subcontract at the US Nevada Test Site to carry out "subcritical testing" of new nuclear weapons designs, a form of testing that attempts to exploit possible loopholes in the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Scotland

In September, church leaders in Scotland finished a 'Long Walk for Peace' during which Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, the Right Reverend Alan

TRIDENT

Trident is Britain's nuclear weapons system. It is expected to reach the end of its service life in the 2020s. A replacement for the system is likely to take around 14 years to develop, and the Westminster Government has said that it will take a decision on this matter before the end of this year.

Last year, the Government promised that there would be a full and open debate on the future of Britain's nuclear weapons. Since then, there has been considerable demand from all points of view for a genuine public and parliamentary debate but there have been few signs that this will happen.

In September, calculations by the Liberal Democrat Party using parliamentary answers and backed up by independent Commons researchers revealed that the true cost of replacing and operating the Trident nuclear missile system would be at least £76bn. This estimate has been based on official figures and takes into account the initial cost of acquiring new Trident missiles, the replacement of existing Trident nuclear submarines and the annual running costs of maintaining the system and nuclear warheads over its 30-year life.

Up until now, most estimates put the cost of replacing Trident at between £15bn and £25bn, but these did not take annual maintenance costs into account. Decommissioning costs and radioactive waste storage have not been included.

McDonald, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Episcopal Bishop of Edinburgh, the Right Reverend Brian Smith also spoke out against a replacement for Trident. Tony Blair has said a decision on the missile system's future will be made by the end of the year.

Aldermaston women explode AWE jobs myth

The Parliamentary Defence Select Committee has been holding an inquiry relating to the future of Britain's nuclear weapons programme. The latest part focuses on one of the aspects under review of the "UK manufacturing and skills base", and relates to the Committee's decision to examine "the Government's investment programme at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), Aldermaston".

The Aldermaston Women's Peace Campaign (AWPC) has replied to the inquiry by arguing that investment in the manufacturing and skills base at Aldermaston far exceeds that required for stewardship of the extant nuclear stockpile. The Campaign also points out that investment in both infrastructure and personnel indicates that the Government has already made a substantial investment towards the development of the next generation of nuclear weapons in advance of a public debate and a publicly announced government decision on the replacement of the current Trident system.

AWPC also recommends that the Government is more open about AWE proposals, plans and decisions already made about Trident Replacement.

So far, the British Government has refused to give access to any of its studies on the likely financial, diplomatic and military effects of building a new atomic bomb, despite the fact that 200 MPs have called for these studies. The Ministry of Defence has refused to appear before the House of Commons Defence Select Committee to answer questions about the new bomb programme.

AWPC has campaigned against the production and deployment of nuclear weapons at AWE Aldermaston for the last 20 years, and maintains a regular presence at AWE Aldermaston, through holding a monthly peace camp and by monitoring activities on the site.

Contact: AWPC, c/o 18, Greenway Road, Bristol BS6 6SG

What is Aldermaston?

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Aldermaston in Berkshire is the centre of Britain's nuclear weapons industry. For the past 55 years, Britain's nuclear weapons have been researched, developed and produced by this 'factory' - the most recent being Trident - with extensive help by US nuclear weapons laboratories and nuclear manufactures.

Over the past 15 years AWE has made key changes to Trident: extending the number of targets; rapid retargeting; improved accuracy; single-warhead missiles; and almost certainly developing 'more useable' 'low-yield' warheads.

These changes have been driven by the fantasy that a Trident strike on a target with a single accurate missile fitted with a 'low-yield' nuclear warhead would kill fewer civilians, enabling it to be deployed in a 'conventional' war because the public could be persuaded that its use actually reduced civilian casualties.

This is a mad idea driven by the post Cold War need to find a use for Trident now that the enemy it was meant to deter, the Soviet Union, no longer exists. British government calculations show that even if the warhead used had only a one kilotonne capacity (that's 100 times smaller than the standard Trident warhead):

everyone within one kilometre would be killed instantly by radiation;

people within two kilometres would be injured;

people downwind would immediately suffer from radiation sickness and in the longer term their lives and those of their children would be blighted by leukaemia and other diseases.

Low-yield Trident warheads have probably existed since at least 2000, when the AWE report stated that:

"...with high accuracy, targeting and an option of two warhead yields, [Trident] can operate in both strategic and sub-strategic roles."

Not only are these 'more useable' nuclear weapons more likely to be used, they are being intentionally engineered for that very purpose - in defiance of international treaties.

CND Cymru is absolutely opposed to the illegal, immoral, expensive and unjustifiable weapons development taking place at Aldermaston.

Faslane 365 A first but not the last protest

Sarah Thom of Cemaes Bay was one of those arrested at a Faslane 365 blockade in October. She has been charged with public order offences and handed a warning by the district Procurator Fiscal. Reported as an 'Arrested Protest Mum' by the North Wales Daily Post, Sarah commented: "What's happening should be totally illegal and the use of nuclear weapons should not be allowed to happen. It's my first protest but as soon as I heard it was going on I had to get up to Scotland. I felt so strongly about it. I would do it again. No question. I've got no regrets."

The Peace Mala

The word "mala" is Sanskrit and means garland of flowers. In the East, a mala is a string of beads which may be used in meditation or prayer. Each "flower" or bead on the mala can represent a mantra or prayer.

The Peace Mala is a bracelet and a practical teaching aid used to promote awareness, tolerance and respect between all communities.

Each coloured bead on the bracelet represents a spiritual path or faith and carries a universal peace message which encourages us to treat others as we wish to be treated. Wearing the Peace Mala is a promise to help create a better world.

The main aims of Peace Mala are education for global citizenship through the promotion of understanding, respect, friendship, tolerance and peace between all communities, cultures and enlightened, compassionate faiths. Peace Mala supports human rights, confronts bullying and all forms of prejudice. For information about Peace Mala - contact e: info@peacemala.org.uk t: 01792 774225.

Women's peace camp

Aldermaston women's peace camp is held on the second weekend of every month, from Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime. Dates for 2006 are: November 10th-12th December 8th-10th Dates for 2007 are: January 12th-14th February 9th-11th March 9th-11th.

The full AWPC submission can be read at:
http://www.aldermaston.net/pdf/dsc_sub_1006.pdf

NEW camp at AWE Aldermaston!

You are invited to join a new mixed monthly peace camp at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston, which will add further pressure to the Block the Builders campaign to halt development of the next generation of nuclear weapons, and to assist the people's disarmament of Britain's nuclear bomb factory. This camp has been planned to support (not dilute) other campaigning work and direct action at Aldermaston, notably the monthly Block the Builders blockades, and the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp(aign); it aims not for large numbers, but for persistence and effective publicity/awareness raising.

Interested? You will be welcome to turn up, any time from about noon on the Saturday. Or contact Block the Builders first to know more:

e: btb@aldermaston.net m: 07969 739 812 t: 0845 4588 368
<http://www.blockthebuilders.org.uk>

Peace Mala awards 2006

Plaid Cymru MEP and CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans was the guest speaker the 2006 inaugural National Peace Mala Youth awards ceremony at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff. The awards recognise the work of young people in schools and other places of learning to promote peace, tolerance and understanding. Award winners this year were Ysgol Gynradd Brynmanan, Carmarthenshire, Pontygof Primary School, Ebbw Vale, 1st Llansamlet Brownies, Ethnic Youth Support Team, Swansea and Swansea College Ty Coch Campus. Jill Evans congratulated all young people who had taken part in this years awards scheme,

she told the gathering: "In a world where we see scenes of violence and suffering daily on our TV screens, it offers hope for the future to know that so many young people are actively supporting the principles of tolerance and respect for diversity." Entertainment at the awards included music and sound by DJ Les Paul, dance by Rising Eagle (with a native hoop dance beautifully depicting the spirit of unity and harmony in the world) and music by the Hemiola Young Musicians, dance by Sheikh Ahmad Dede and his Haqqani-Mevlevi Dervishes with The Forever Haqqani musicians.

The Greenpeace 'Nuke Pub Quiz' Nuclear Weapons in Europe

The correct answers are at the bottom of the page

Question 1

Which of the following countries have US nuclear weapons on their soil but no say over whether the US can or can't launch them?

- A. Belgium
- B. Britain
- C. Italy
- D. Netherlands
- E. Turkey
- F. Germany
- G. All of the above
- H. None of the above – surely the US has to ask permission?

Question 2

Which of the following is a nuclear weapons free zone?

- A. The entire Southern hemisphere
- B. The Kingdom of Liechtenstein
- C. Downtown Berlin

Question 3

How many nuclear weapons are at this moment on 'hair trigger alert' meaning that the missiles could be launched – either from land or sea – upon warning of an attack?

- A. 4,500
- B. 250
- C. None – surely now the Cold War is over there's no need for that.

Question 4

A 2006 poll asked how many people in Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Britain and Turkey knew for certain that there were nuclear weapons in their countries. Which citizens were the best informed, and by what percentage?

- A. More than 70% of Germans knew that there were US nuclear weapons in Europe?
- B. Italians were the best informed, with more than 70% aware of US nuclear weapons in Italy?
- C. Belgium topped the list, with 17.4% of the population knowing for certain that there were US nuclear weapons?

Question 5

In that same 2006 poll, how many Europeans said they wanted a Nuclear Free Europe?

- A. 69.2%
- B. 10%
- C. 5%



heddwch action:

The entry of North Korea into the nuclear club, instigated by the nuclear test on 9th October 2006, calls for international diplomacy to de-escalate tensions in the region. Negotiations with European states hosting weapons from the US arsenal are undermined by the presence of US Nuclear weapons on their soil. It is time for European states to put an end their nuclear hypocrisy and remove and dismantle these nuclear weapons. What's more, these weapons are owned and controlled by the US. If our Governments don't have any control over how these weapons are used, it is a dangerous betrayal of European citizens to allow them to be present on our soil. These US nuclear weapons are a clear and present danger and should be removed. Want to boot US nuclear weapons to the US backyard? Tell the Defence Ministers of Germany, Britain, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy and Turkey online at www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/nuclear Or write to your MP

Anti-nuclear campaigners lock-on at USAF Lakenheath

On October 2nd, eight anti-nuclear campaigners locked-on to the gate of the amunitions area in USAF Lakenheath in Suffolk.

The motto on the sign outside USAF Lakenheath reads '48th Fighter, The Liberty Wing, RAF Lakenheath, - "Ensuring Freedom's Future"' and one of the activists, Mell Harrison told the military personnel attempting to enter the Munitions Area, that " by preventing access to these weapons, we are securing freedom's future".

This followed a National CND Demonstration held the previous day when over 200 anti-nuclear campaigners gathered to protest against the 110 US nuclear weapons kept on the base at any one time. Simultaneous protests took place at bases across Europe and David Higgin - a founder member of the Lakenheath Action Group read out messages of support from France, Belgium, Germany and Turkey.

The campaigners were addressed by Bruce Kent, vice-Chair of National CND, by Kate Hudson, Chair of National CND and by Jeremy Corbyn M.P. (who had cycled from ELY to take part in the protest).

Bruce Kent called for the removal of all nuclear bases in Europe as they were a relic of the cold war and we must move on from that mind-set. Jeremy Corbyn M.P. said that there was no moral cause that would condone the possession of nuclear weapons. He said that they have failed to buy us international influence and cited the achievements of Nelson Mandela - who had brought about the peaceful end of apartheid in his country and the renunciation of nuclear weapons. He went on to say, "We are here today so as not to be part of the silent acceptance of nuclear weapons - we are hear today to stand up and speak for all those who do not think that nuclear weapons make for a safer world. We are here to say No to nuclear and Yes to Peace".

Kate Hudson, CND Chair, spoke passionately of the need to protest against the replacement and upgrading of the Trident Nuclear Submarine's weapons system and called for a full public debate on the issue. Torrential rain, hail, and thunder and lightning did little to curb the enthusiastic response of the campaigners who vowed to continue their protests - in agreement with the CND slogan "Now more than Ever"

heddwch action:Contact Lakenheath Action Group t: 01508 550 446 e: info@lakenheathaction.org <http://www.motherearth.org/lakenheathaction/news.php3>

Source: Greenpeace (<http://www.greenpeace.org>)

1. G. There are about 480 US nuclear weapons in 6 European countries. If the US wanted to launch a nuclear attack on Iran for example, they are under no obligation to inform the host countries.

2. A. Separate regional treaties, along with an agreement forbidding nuclear weapons in Antarctica, mean that half of planet earth has been declared off-limits to nuclear weapons. Half down, half to go!

3. A. More than 4,500 warheads are ready to launch at a moment's notice.

4. C. Only 17.4% of the Belgian citizenry knew there were US nuclear weapons in Belgium and they knew more than all the other countries. In Turkey, only 7.5% of the population knew.

5. A. 69.2% of all Europeans in countries with nuclear weapons want them out. The highest percentage was in Turkey where 88% of the population don't want US nuclear weapons in their country or anywhere else in Europe.

ANSWERS to the Greenpeace 'Nuke Pub Quiz'

nuclear nato

MEPS call for expulsion of all US nuclear arms

This October, a cross-party group of MEPs signed a 'Written Declaration' sponsored by Angelika Beer, a German Green MEP and English Green Party MEP Caroline Lucas. The Declaration calls for the US to withdraw all nuclear weapons from EU military bases by the end of the year. The resolution attracted 75 signatures from MEPs from across the EU member countries.

A Written Declaration is the European Parliament equivalent of an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons. Though the level of support for the declaration received is less than the threshold to become official parliamentary policy, it marks the first time that a Green Party call for the removal of US nuclear weapons have received cross-party support.

heddwch action:

Copies of the Declaration can be accessed at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/expert/writtenDecl.do;jsessionid> or contact CND Cymru.



Impromptu inspection of French new "mini-nukes" site

In September, Peace activists from Britain penetrated the French nuclear installation at the testing centre of Les Landes in Biscarosse near Bordeaux, which is involved in the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons.

The ten activists joined a mass citizens inspection organised by a coalition of NGOs, including ATTAC, Réseau Sortir du Nucléaire, Mouvement de la Paix, Greenpeace and the Quakers. The focus of the inspection was the development of the new M51 nuclear missile which is intended to be a submarine-launched high precision weapon with a range of 10,000 kilometres. There is especial concern that the relatively low yield of the warheads it is designed to carry will make its use more likely.

Angie Zelter, from Norfolk, Lesley Anderson, from Clackmannanshire, Mell Harrison, from Norwich, Peter Lux also from Norwich and Ludd Appeltans, a Belgian currently living in Scotland, crossed a "forbidden zone" and entered the site and Lesley Rogers from Beith in Ayrshire, Matt Bury, from Faslane Peace Camp and Sam Maher from Norwich, are hot on their heels. The British activists were determined to show their solidarity with the French anti-nuclear movement as both the Britain and France are threatening to continue their dependence on WMDs, to develop new ones, and so to breach their legal commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

www.tridentploughshares.org

Youth of Europe Unite!

The young European anti-nuclear movement is alive and cycling!

For ten days of the summer, 40 young people from 15 European countries came together in Belgium to learn about and campaign against nuclear power and nuclear weapons. I travelled from Aberystwyth to represent Wales.



We spent three of the ten days cycling. The event started in Leper (Ypres) then, with 40 bikes adorned with 40 bright yellow anti-nuclear flags, we cycled on to Tielt, Ghent and finally Brussels, ending with a cycling parade through "Europe's capital" with a police escort and to cheers from supportive Bruxellois pedestrians. Cyclists were welcomed at Brussels City Hall by the Deputy Mayor of Brussels, Bruno De Lille, as the event supported the "Mayors For Peace" campaign for worldwide nuclear disarmament by the year 2020.

US nuclear weapons

This left plenty of time during the 10 days for a non-violent action at SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers Europe) NATO base near Brussels on Hiroshima Day. Here some of us also tried to carry out a citizens' weapons inspection. Staff at SHAPE are responsible for 480 US nuclear weapons deployed at NATO bases in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey and Britain.

Mayor peace power

On Nagasaki Day we blockaded Kleine Brogel NATO base - a military airbase which is home to 20 US nuclear weapons. This drew significant political support from Belgian Members of Parliament and prominent Belgian figures, including Jean-Luc Dehaene, former Belgian Prime Minister and Member of the European Parliament. The police, under the orders of the local mayor, refused to arrest the 100 people who were present. The blockade which included people from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Wales effectively closed the three main gates of the base for 3 hours.



Remembering

We attended commemoration ceremonies for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Brussels and Ghent respectively, which included making paper lanterns and setting them on the Ghent canal. However, it was not all about direct action. Along the route of this bike journey for peace we visited the wretched and unnecessary war graves of European youths who died in Belgium almost 100 years ago. We reflected that another world war, with nuclear weapons would involve so much greater carnage - on an unthinkable and terrible scale and that for the sake of our future we must get rid of nuclear weapons now.

Learning

We spent a lot of time in workshops and talks, learning more about nuclear issues, the nuclear processes and the particular situation and stance of our respective countries on nuclear weapons and nuclear power. These were just as interesting, fun and exciting as the direct actions themselves and, as both the organisers (almost all below the age of 26 themselves) and the participants were well motivated and very friendly, we all got on very well and achieved a lot.

Meeting older friends

Meeting so many young, motivated people from so many countries was very empowering and encouraging. The point of the whole ten days which gave me most hope was, when we were waiting to parade around Brussels we were approached by an old Bruxellois man who told us that, many years ago, he had done something very similar campaigning for women's right to vote.

Nowadays, of course, all women have a right to vote. Who knows, therefore, what the future will bring?

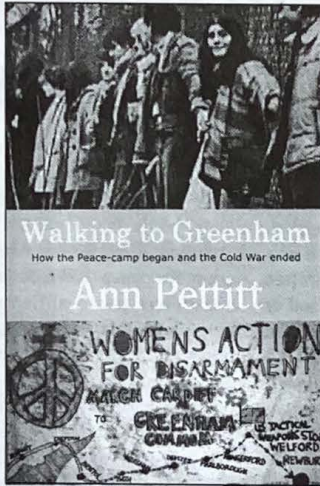
Emily Freeman

heddwch action: The event was organised by the Ghent-based Belgian NGO 'For Mother Earth', an NGO working on issues related to disarmament, human rights and the environment. Thanks to The Peace Shop, Pat Allen and others who contributed towards Emily's expenses. For more information and photographs of the events, or information about For Mother Earth, visit www.motherearth.org To keep up to date with the European youth anti nuclear scene join the Ban All Nukes Generation email list at www.bang-europe.org or contact Emily emfreeman@hotmail.co.uk



Walking to Greenham

Ann Pettit



This is the most authentic book I have read about the "Women's March from Cardiff to Greenham in 1981" and subsequent events until the world famous "Embrace the Base" demonstration in December 1982. Ann writes well and, insofar as my memory can be trusted, accurately chronicles key events in the development of the Greenham Women's Peace-camp. I was left reflecting on the coincidence of contradictory personalities and events that resulted in what many consider the most significant peace activity of the 1980s. The march from Cardiff would not have been possible without the determined nucleus of women that Ann brought together – now, it seems from her account, without crucial financial support from CND when most needed.

Similarly, in that critical period between the arrival of the march at Greenham (from Wales) and the snowballing support from English women peace campaigners for the Peace-camp, the speech that Ann made at CND's Hyde Park rally that October was the catalyst for the hundreds of letters of support and donations and volunteers that then followed. Without the coincidence of the CND rally (planned six months earlier) and the march from Cardiff (without any thought of a subsequent Peace-camp), the more than symbolic Embrace the Base demonstration would not have taken place. Although, for sure, those awakened by and participating at Greenham, would have found expression in some other way, the distinctive "wimmin, womyn, women" character of British peace campaigns then might not have occurred.

The Women's Peace-camp was an integral part of the peace movement in the 1980s yet a distinctive part, standing well apart from the organisation and structure of CND. It is to the credit of CND that, unlike some Stop the War campaigners today, it did not make conformity to its campaigning methods a precondition for continued support.

There is not sufficient space here to review the chapters describing Ann's second project – taking the message to the Soviet Union – or her accounts of her upbringing and the influence and history of her parents: they are worth reading, nonetheless.

John Cox

Dr. John Cox was first elected to the CND executive in 1961. He was Chairperson of British CND for six years from 1971 and Vice President in the early 1980s. He is currently acting Vice Chair of CND Cymru.

Ann Pettit Walking to Greenham ISBN 1 870206 762 Honno £8.99

heddwch 6

Still walking for Greenham 1981 - 2006



Our 25th Anniversary celebration of the Walk to Greenham Common from Cardiff was a triumph over adversity. On the morning of 2nd September the weather was atrocious, dark, wet and windy, yet about 50 good souls turned up at the Greenham Commemorative Site to witness the unveiling of the new 'sign' explaining the significance of the site. We all formed a large circle around the stones and holding hands we joined in an updated rendition of "We Shall Overcome" by Bruce Springsteen: it was very moving. We sheltered in the New Greenham Art Centre, 'inside' the Base for short speeches, wine and cake.

The anniversary and commemoration had attracted plenty of media attention. Sky TV were with us most of the time, interviewing women and filming the event. I was delighted to receive messages a few days later saying that, despite the weather, people felt that the day had been a success.

On the 5th September, the actual anniversary, I was interviewed for BBC lunch time news in the Greenham Peace Garden. Again, as at every interview, I was asked 'what do you think was the greatest achievement of Greenham'? I said "The effectiveness of the protest. Lasting as it did for 19 years, day in and day out, no matter what the weather, the primitive conditions or the daily evictions". As I sat in the garden reflecting on all the hype that the media had created, it struck me that there were a number of achievements we could point to, and did throughout the interviews, but none would have been possible if we hadn't been fully committed to the conduct of the protest.

The new sign is a wonderful addition to the site which will now be known as the Greenham Peace Garden. The actual cost of the sign was £3,125.49. There were added costs to host the event which amounted to £240.00. We are still short of £300. I'm not asking those who have already contributed for further donations, I'm grateful to all who did. The sign is certainly worth the cost - it defines the area and records the history of the protest, with an authority that cannot be dismissed or ignored. If anyone would like to make a small donation to the shortfall it would be helpful and appreciated. The text on the sign can be seen below.

I have sent my book *Greenham Non-Violent Women vs The Crown Prerogative* to 50 named Libraries - on behalf of named donors. I'm grateful to those who have taken part - I would appreciate receiving more requests. Media and press interest in the Greenham Anniversary shows that the protest was, and remains a reference for those who take part in, or study, peaceful protest. Getting the book into libraries and universities is essential for future generations of protestors. All that is needed is a donation of £6.00 and the name and address of your local library. When I send it, I give your name as the donor and a brief, but relevant, outline of the contents of the book. You may not get an acknowledgement from the library, they may just accept it as a donation.

Sarah Hipperson ~ Coordinator for the Greenham Peace Garden
Contact: 15, Sydney Road, Wanstead, London E11 2JW 0208989 4819



GREENHAM PEACE GARDEN

Welcome to all who visit here. This Peace Garden is situated on the area of land where, between the years 1981-2000, an encampment of non-violent women who protested against plans for nuclear war was sited.

At the height of the Cold War between the two super-powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, plans were made at NATO Headquarters to install 96 Ground Launched Cruise Missiles at the Royal Air Force/United States Air Force Base here on Greenham Common. Each missile would have the explosive power of 16 Hiroshima bombs. They would be under the command of the United States Air Force.

On 27th August 1981, following a long tradition that includes Gandhi's marches for justice and the US civil rights marches, the Welsh group 'Women for Life on Earth' marched from Wales to Greenham Common. They arrived on 5th September 1981, to protest against the NATO plans. The Women's Peace Camp was set up on this site and as the protest grew, other Camps formed around the perimeter fence. The camps became a focus for tens of thousands of women throughout Britain and internationally, to protest against war and nuclear weapons.

The missiles and their nuclear warheads began arriving on 14th November 1983 and were housed in hardened silos on the Common, from where the missiles were taken out for regular firing drills on Salisbury Plain. Each and every missile convoy exercise was non-violently disrupted by the women. Arrests, court cases and prison sentences followed.

The missiles and warheads were removed under the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed on 8th December 1987 by US President Ronald Reagan and by Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Treaty preamble, 'Conscious that nuclear war would have devastating consequences for all mankind ...' is a testament to the impact of non-violent work by many thousands of women on Greenham Common. Between 1990-92, the missiles and US military personnel were returned to the US.

After 19 years of continuous non-violent protest, first against Cruise Missiles and later against the Atomic Weapons Establishments at Aldermaston and Burghfield, the Women's Peace Camp closed on 5th September 2000.

This Peace Garden was inaugurated and opened to the public on the 5th October 2002. Whether you can visit for minutes or hours, we hope the time you spend here will refresh your spirit. We hope you'll take away inspiration, as well as an impression of the power of the powerless to redress the injustices of this world we share.

Peace-Namaste-Salaam-Shanti-Shalom-Paz-Mir-Paix-Ukuthula

'Can weapons not be discarded, military bases dismantled?'

Sadako Kurihara, from her poem *When Hiroshima is Spoken Of*.

North Wales leukaemia cluster

Welsh cancer authority and Government radiation advisers admit errors

Ever since 1992, when Wales Cancer Registry (WCR) revealed high rates of childhood leukaemia, there has been concern about the impact of radioactivity blowing inland from the Irish Sea.

In 1995 WCR released data to the Low Level Radiation Campaign showing the locality in which cancer patients lived. Analysis showed high risks associated with living near mud where radioactivity is known to accumulate. This finding was denied by the Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit (WCISU) which had replaced WCR. In 1999 the Government's Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) endorsed WCISU's position.

However, evidence from parents and medical staff continued to suggest that cancer and leukaemia diagnoses in children on the north Wales coast were far higher than the national average. This was confirmed by an ITV documentary showing a 20-fold excess of leukaemia in children in Bangor, Caernarfon and Colwyn Bay between 2000 - 2003. Risks were also elevated in the surrounding areas. Once more WCISU issued a denial. Once more COMARE endorsed it. Their reasoning was that, although risks were high, the cluster lacked statistical significance and could be a random event.

A Low Level Radiation Campaign briefing circulated to *heddwch* readers earlier this year showed that the "random event" argument is false; data for 1982 - 1990 showed the 2000 - 2003 cases were part of a long-term pattern of high risks. Moreover, WCISU had made an elementary and massive mistake in analysing the 1982 - 1990 figures. Their use of wrong documents over-estimated the populations of the three towns by three times their true size, thus reducing the apparent risks. In September, following an exchange in the Journal of Public Health and an investigation by COMARE, both WCISU and COMARE acknowledged the mistake. They now accept that rates were 5 times the national average in the early period, rising to 13 times in 2000 - 2003. This is despite WCISU revising the early data downwards, not for the first time.

COMARE and WCISU still maintain, however, that the results are not significant and have no implications for public health. This is based on analysing each town individually. LLRC's Dr. Chris Busby says "This is reductionism and bad epidemiology. Since we are looking at a coastal effect, scientific method requires us to aggregate the coastal population. On the WCISU logic they could analyse the diseases street by street and never find statistically significant results."

The Welsh Assembly Government has now spent £93,000 on a study to show that doses from marine radioactivity in north Wales are too low to cause the cancers. LLRC points out that international authorities now agree "dose" is meaningless when radioactive particles are inhaled. The campaigners are asking WAG to commission a joint study of cancer in the whole area.

Richard Bramhall

Low Level Radiation Campaign

e: bramhall@llrc.org t: 01597 824 771 p: The Knoll, Montpellier Park, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5LW

chernobyl

Venturing into Belarus

Maryna Svirskaya is from Belarus and she suffers from thyroid cancer. We first met in 2002 when she came to Aberystwyth on a holiday funded by the Chernobyl Children's Project.

We kept in touch when she returned home, then in 2004 she was granted her last visit here via the charity and she stayed at our home for 4 weeks. It was during that stay that she once again asked us to visit her home in Belarus. In 2006 my wife Sandra and I decided to take up her offer.....

We took an unconventional route by flying to Warsaw, then travelling by rail to Teresapol on the Polish side of the border. We were to meet Maryna at Brest, just over the border in Belarus.

On boarding the train to take us over the border we were met by Belarussian military police who checked our 'papers'. The train moved off and we noticed a truck filled with more military police following us. When the train crossed the border we came to a stop and five more military police emerged from a building and they boarded the train. They took our passports and gave us a document to fill out with questions in Russian. Fortunately a fellow traveller was able to help us by translating the questions. After one hour the train rumbled into Brest where we were ushered into the customs room. An officer studied our documents and I realised he could not read my English answers. I thought that this would cause more delay but he waved his arm towards a door on the other side of which were Maryna and her family. We were driven sixty miles to Maryna's home town, Beruoz, which consists mainly of three-story blocks of flats built by German prisoners of war in 1946-7.

During our stay we visited Minsk and Brest. These cities in outward appearance could be anywhere in the world, but poverty is widespread and more so in the villages. Here, people rely entirely and what can be grown - earnings will not cover food bills. Potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers and wild mushrooms are the principle foods grown in 'allotments' and these foods form their main diet. There is also an abundance of fruit - apple, pear and cherry. A lot of these foods are preserved in some fashion for the very hard and severe winters. Village homes are 25 foot square wooden huts with no mains water and some have no electricity. Wood burning stoves are used for cooking and warmth. Our departure was a sad occasion, the security around the station was intense, so we waved goodbye to Maryna and her family from a distance. We travelled from Brest on a sleeper train directly to Warsaw. We would do it again - but maybe not by train!

Stephen Howard

Chernobyl Children's Project

In the summer, dust in Belarus, Western Russia and Northern Ukraine causes radiation levels to rise, and as many children as possible need to leave their contaminated homeland for a few weeks of fresh air and clean food. Doctors in Belarus say that this boosts the children's immune systems for at least two years, helping them to resist or recover from, serious illness. A month in an uncontaminated area also significantly reduces the amount of radioactive caesium which has built up in a child's body. Each summer Chernobyl Children's Project brings children to Wales for a recuperative holiday. If you are interested in getting involved or can offer accommodation for children, please contact your local group.

Project Groups in Wales

Aberystwyth: Galina Latypova 01974 241 079

galina@latypova.fsnet.co.uk

Caerphilly: Debbie Batten 07740 051762

daustin@Worldmark.com

Carmarthen: Jean Williams 01267 275 222

huw.darog@virgin.net

Llandinam & Newtown: Roger Locke 01686 624 299 RogerLocke78@aol.com

Chernobyl - the worlds worst nuclear accident

"Chernobyl. The war of all wars. There is no salvation for mankind anywhere. Not on earth, not in the water, not in the sky." A villager in Belyibereg, Gomel

On April 26th 1986 an explosion at Reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in northern Ukraine triggered what the United Nations has described as "the greatest environmental catastrophe in the history of humanity".

190 tons of highly radioactive uranium and graphite were expelled spewing radioactive substances to the height of more than 1km into the earth's atmosphere. The radioactive plume from the burning reactor moved north and then west and on into Poland and Sweden, where it was first detected, taking with it radioactive Iodine 131, over millions of unsuspecting people. In April 2006 359 farms and 180,000 sheep in Wales remain officially in restricted areas where contamination levels in sheep meat could potentially cause a risk to public health.

Between the stricken regions of Belarus, Western Russian and Northern Ukraine, the United Nations estimates that up to 9 million people have been affected directly or indirectly by the fallout. The people of the affected areas have received the highest known exposure to radiation in the history of the atomic age, the full consequences of which will not be fully seen for at least another 50 years. Crops - cereals, fruit and vegetables - grown on polluted land recontaminate the food chain.



new nuclear power stations

Oppose the Westminster Government Proposal that 'nuclear has to play a role in the future UK generating mix'!

The purpose of this lobby is to ask MPs to demand a full debate in Parliament on this issue and to urge them to oppose the proposals to build a new generation of nuclear power stations in Britain. Nuclear Power No Thanks has invited a number of experts in the energy field to speak at a meeting of lobbyists and MPs in Portcullis House (next door to the Houses of Parliament) between 1 and 5pm. Individual MPs can be lobbied individually or by appointment during or after this time. You can join in this opportunity to bring concerned citizens, specialists and elected representatives together to make a powerful case against the development of new nuclear power stations.

A full information briefing is available from 'Nuclear Power No Thanks'

e: info@nuclearpowernothanks.org

t: 01508 550 446

www.nuclearpowernothanks.org

p: Nuclear Power No Thanks, c/o The Greenhouse Trust, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1NR

****MEMBERSHIP ALERT****

As of 1st June, membership rates were increased to £30, £20, £15 or £10 respectively, as detailed on enclosed membership form. We had delayed increasing membership rates for several years, but the increase became essential both to cover the rising costs of the production and distribution of Heddwch, AND for us to be able to pursue our vital lobbying and campaigning activities on your behalf.

Approximately two thirds of members pay by monthly or annual direct debit. We would greatly appreciate it if those of you who pay in this way could use the enclosed form, check how much you are paying and amend the instructions to your bank accordingly. This will save CND Cymru a significant outlay in terms of time and money. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND CONTINUED SUPPORT!

diary dates

November

13th-14th Faslane 365 South and Mid Wales
South t: 02920 481 791
e: martin@mfitton.wanadoo.co.uk
Mid t: 01974 831 575 e: coney@gn.apc.org see page 1.
15th - 16th Faslane 365 North Wales t: 01248 490 715
phil_steele@btinternet.com

11th Abergavenny Women In Black - Vigil 11am - 12noon
High Street opposite Ottakers
01873 855 760

17th - 18th Cymdeithas y Cymod Weekend Nant Gwrtheyrn, Gwynedd
post@cymdeithasycymod.org.uk

18th London Ending the Occupation of Iraq : A Strategy Gathering for grassroots activists
share campaigning experiences and discuss ideas and proposals for action
iraqfocus@riseup.net
www.iraqoccupationfocus.org.uk

22nd 8pm Bangor Public Meeting
Speaker: Craig Murray, campaigner for human rights and ex-ambassador to Uzbekistan
Main Arts Lecture Theatre, Bangor University

26th Swansea Green Fair - Swansea Environment Centre
01792 480 200

26th - December 2nd Swansea 'Beyond TV' international video festival
hosting discussion and films about climate change, peak oil, lesbian marriage, Palestine, nuclear activism and much more
www.undercurrents.org

December 2nd Women in Black Cardiff Vigil
12.00-1.00pm, National Museum Steps, Cardiff. Monthly vigil, 1st Saturday of month.
e: sian@derwen.demon.co.uk
t: 0780 882 9756

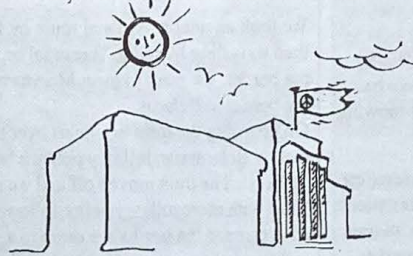
11th Bangor Sending Christmas Cards to Prisoners of Conscience
7.30pm Friends Meeting House, Dean St, Bangor [Glannau Menai Amnesty International]

2nd Demonstration RAF Brize Norton (Oxon) Demand withdrawal of British troops from Iraq. RAF Brize Norton is used to refuel US military flights transporting munitions between Kelly air force base in US & Tel Aviv. Assemble 12:00pm
www.swindonstopwar.org.uk/
e: swindon_stopwar@yahoo.co.uk
t: 01793 513 632

heddwch 8

CND Cymru Annual Meeting 2006 November 18th 11.00 am

This year's Annual Meeting for CND Cymru will be held at the Temple of Peace, Cathays Park Cardiff. All members and delegates of paid up affiliated groups are welcome. Please bring a packed lunch and stay for the afternoon event (see below).



Public Meeting with Kate Hudson November 18th 2pm

Following the CND Cymru Annual Meeting and after lunch, Kate Hudson, Chair of British CND will be speaking about the campaign to stop the replacement of Trident. This is an open meeting and everyone is very welcome, please come along and bring a friend!
More information from CND Cymru

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

Penfriend in England ?

A welsh learner living in Stockport, England is looking for a welsh speaking/learning pen or telephone friend with whom she can practice her welsh. If you can help, please phone: 0161 429 6146

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

heddwcheditor@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

jjevans@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

John Cox

(01495) 774 495

membership & affiliations:

Monica Bradley

7, Brook Terrace, Mochdre,

Newtown SY16 4JG

(01686) 626 350

aelodaeth@cndcymru.org

trading

Kate Gwynfyd-Sidford & Del

Gwynfyd-Harris

coney@gn.apc.uk

01974 831575

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,

Talywaun, Pontypool NP4 7EF

(01495) 773 180

heddwcheditor@cndcymru.org