



So much to celebrate!



It's gone against the establishment grain for decades - and done so with principle and grim determination - but there is no doubt that CND is a real part of life on this island. Love it or hate it, it's embedded in our political and cultural make-up. But institutions, as we know, can become fossilised and obsolete. And their history - and the glory or ignominy of their forerunners - can weigh heavy upon succeeding generations.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

The early days

In August 1945, the USA deliberately delayed peace talks with Japan, then dropped nuclear weapons on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This was in part to demonstrate the destructive capability of these horrific new weapons. During the late 1940s and 50s, the USA and then Russia and Britain tested and developed thermonuclear weapons many times more powerful than those that killed more than 250,000 civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As ordinary people feared that nuclear weapons would be used again, there were many protests about the threats to human life caused by nuclear testing.

In Britain, public opposition to nuclear weapons grew following the government announcement that it had decided to manufacture a "hydrogen" (thermonuclear) bomb. In November 1957 The New Statesman published an article 'Britain and the Nuclear Bomb' by J. B. Priestley in which he argued for the moral superiority of unilateral nuclear disarmament and the journal received many letters of support. Editor Kingsley Martin, chaired a meeting of fifty people to launch the 'Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament'. The first executive committee of CND was headed by Canon Collins (Chairman) and Bertrand Russell (President) and included Richie Calder, James Cameron, Michael Foot, Kingsley Martin, J. B. Priestley and Professor Joseph Rotblat and its founding members also included Fenner Brockway, E. P. Thompson, A. J. P. Taylor, Anthony Greenwood and Dora Russell. ☺

The inaugural public meeting of CND at Central Hall, Westminster on 17th February 1958 was attended by five thousand people, and afterwards a few hundred marched to Downing Street. All sections of society were represented: scientists, more aware than anyone else of the full extent of the dangers which nuclear weapons represented, along with religious leaders concerned to resist the moral evil which nuclear weapons represented.

The Society of Friends (Quakers), Labour Party members and trade unionists were overwhelmingly supportive as were people who had been involved in earlier locally and nationally based anti-bomb and testing campaigns and those organised by the British Peace Committee, the Direct Action Committee and the National Committee for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons Tests.

CND organised many demonstrations and marches (to and from Aldermaston and other nuclear weapons establishments) and developed a network of branches, and specialist groups. The Aldermaston march, CND's logo and its slogan "Ban the Bomb" became icons and part of the youth culture of the sixties.

Most CND supporters probably voted Labour and many of its early leaders were Labour Party members, hoping that the Labour Party would support unilateral nuclear disarmament - as it did at its 1960 Conference, regarded by many as CND's high-point at the time. But Hugh Gaitskell, the Labour Party leader, refused to accept the decision and promised to "fight, fight, and fight again" to overturn the decision at the 1961 Conference - and succeeded.

The CND logo, designed in 1958 by Gerald Holtom became widely known and used as the "peace symbol". The logo is based on the international semaphore symbols for "N" and "D" (for Nuclear Disarmament) enclosed within a circle. It may also be seen as a cross with lowered arms.

Nice to know then, that CND has passed the 50 years mark without either unwarranted self-congratulation or excessive self-criticism. In reality, we have had an impact on both politics and society, and we have helped achieve some restraints upon nuclear weapons and their use. We haven't yet achieved our goal of nuclear disarmament.

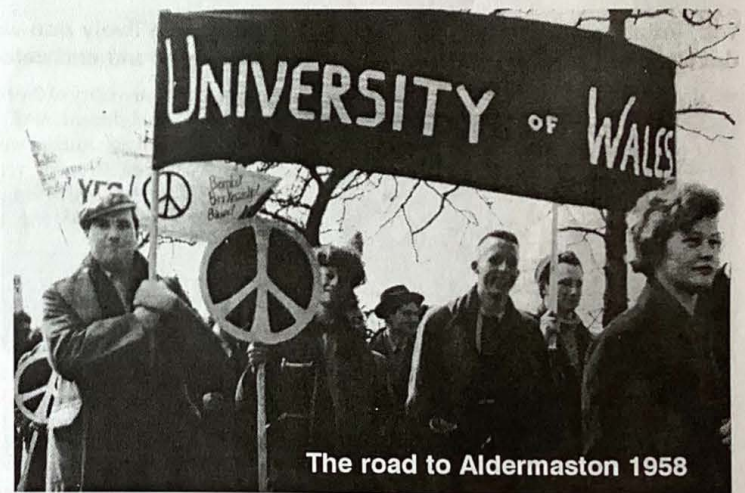
What we do have is an unflinching commitment to that goal, a strong campaigning organisation and an increasing number of supporters and allies. There is widespread recognition at home and abroad that nuclear weapons do not bring safety and security. And there is increasing global demand for

nuclear abolition. Building on our decades of experience - and learning the lessons from it - we are moving forward in this new context.

The Global Summit in February held to mark our 50th anniversary, underscored our advance. As well as activists from around the world, we welcomed diplomats and experts from the UN, and across the world. It represented a meeting of minds across some traditional divides.

This is the reality. Nuclear disarmament is not the preserve of the minority, it's the new global common sense.

Kate Hudson Chair British CND



☺ 1958 CND sponsors included John Arlott, Peggy Ashcroft, the Bishop of Birmingham Dr J. L. Wilson, Benjamin Britten, Viscount Chaplin, Michael de la Bédoyère, Bob Edwards MP, Dame Edith Evans, E.S. Frere, Gerald Gardiner QC, Victor Gollancz, Dr I. Grunfeld, E.M. Forster, Barbara Hepworth, Patrick Heron, Rev. Trevor Huddleston, Sir Julian Huxley, Edward Hyams, the Bishop of Llandaff, Dr Glyn Simon, Doris Lessing, Compton Mackenzie, the Very Rev George McLeod, Miles Malleston, Denis Matthews, Sir Francis Meynell, Henry Moore, John Napper, Ben Nicholson, Sir Herbert Read, Flora Robson, Michael Tippett, Vicky, Professor C. H. Waddington and Barbara Wootton.

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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.

('heddwch' - 'peace')

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Britain's nuclear bomb factory

Not independent, not a deterrent, not safe, not wanted

Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) or 'Britain's Nuclear Bomb Factory', is located in the southern English county of Berkshire. Since the 1950s it has been at the centre of the design, production, maintenance and eventual decommissioning of British nuclear weapons.

During 2002 AWE plc - the company which manages and indeed profits from the British nuclear weapons programme - announced 23 proposed developments to their sites (at AWE Aldermaston and nearby Burghfield). We are told that these facilities are required to support Britain's current warhead in-service. However it is clear from the degree of upgrading these represent that they are more to do with plans to replace the current Trident nuclear weapons system. Minister of Defence Des Browne said in January this year that 'decisions on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace this warhead are likely to be necessary in the next Parliament'. Every planning application objected to by CND Cymru (and many others) seems to be 'passed' almost as a formality by Berkshire Council.

Going gone to the USA

For many years the AWE has been jointly managed by the government (through its stake in British Nuclear Fuels Ltd), US defence company Lockheed Martin and British support services group Serco. Now the government's share in AWE is to be sold off as part of a plan to privatise all nuclear assets still in public ownership. AWE is just about certain to end up under

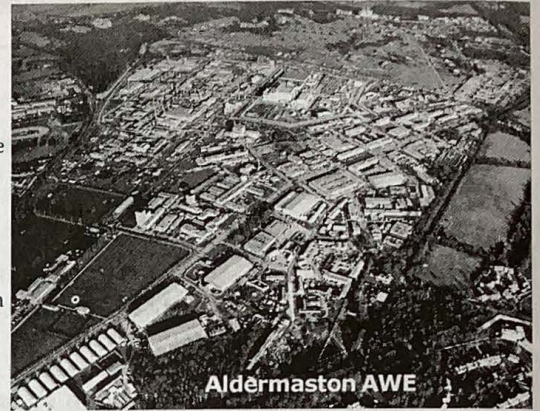
majority US control since the only two companies which have shown an interest in buying are US companies Fluor and Jacobs Engineering Group.

Illusion

The so-called 'independent' British nuclear 'deterrent' has been largely US controlled and run since its inception.

Trident missiles will now not only be leased from the US, but warhead production will also be under the control of US companies, the illusion that Trident is an independent system is shakier than ever.

The companies pegged as likely buyers (as well as existing shareholder Lockheed Martin) are heavily involved in US nuclear weapons production, running weapons sites and labs like Oak Ridge, Hanford, Sandia and the Nevada test site. 'Co-operation' between US and British nuclear weapons labs looms larger.



Aldermaston AWE

Influence

As usual, the government is being very cagey about discussing the sale, even refusing to confirm the identity of the bidders.

Perhaps they should heed the warning given by former US president Eisenhower in his famous departing speech: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

The Bomb Stops Here! Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston 12 noon Easter Monday 24th March

You, your family and friends are invited to join in a lively non-violent demonstration at Aldermaston, against the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons and celebrate 50 years of anti-nuclear protest in Britain.



This Easter marks the 50th anniversary of the first march to the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston - the cold heart of Britain's nuclear weapons programme, when 10,000 people walked from London. We need you - and your friends, colleagues, communities, and networks - to help surround the

Aldermaston

base and create a colourful and effective demonstration.

With parliament voting in March 2007 for a new fleet of nuclear armed submarines, and with the construction of facilities for a new generation of nuclear warheads already underway at Aldermaston, it's nigh on time to send a clear message to the government that 50 years is enough!

While celebrating five decades of sustained campaigning against nuclear weapons, the emphasis will be on embracing the future, pushing for disarmament and working together to build a broad movement that grows from strength to strength.

There will be 'themed' gates (see www.cnduk.org/aldermaston/ for more information). Come dressed or fancy-dressed as you want: as you are, in theme with the gates, as weapons inspectors, campaigners from the future ...it's up to you!

We need you. It will take 5,000 people to surround Aldermaston AWE. The developments at Aldermaston are well on their way, we need to move our campaigning to the next stage, build an even stronger movement and stop the development of new nuclear weapons.

THE BOMB STOPS HERE!

Transport to Aldermaston from Wales

Please contact those below NOW so arrangements can be made and we can have some idea of numbers of seats needed - it is for buses and/or shared transport. If you are arranging transport not included below, please contact CND Cymru and we can spread the word.

North Wales: From Bangor, possibilities for picking up along the way to Wrexham Phil Steele & Linda Rogers t:01248 490 715 e:phil_steele@btinternet.com

Aberystwyth: t:01970 610 185 e:lotte.reimer@btinternet.com

Meifod via Oswestry: t: 01691 650 527 or 01938 500 746 e:mgt2800@hotmail.com

Borders: Hereford t: 01981 250 835

Swansea: Jan & Brian Jones t: 01792 830 330 e:b_jones4@btinternet.com

Cardiff: Ray Davies t: 02920 889 514 e/c/o: wendya.lewis@talktalk.net

Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthen & Crosshands: Harry Rogers t: 01559 371 201 (m:07799 476 595) e:harry@wildwestwales.com

more details from www.cnduk.org

Goodbye Democracy

UAVs over West Wales

'Skynet' is a fictional, computer-based military defence system that acts as the primary antagonist in the 'Terminator' series of films and computer games. This is a fictional example of an artificial intelligence that becomes sentient, and turns against its creators. Of course this is Science Fiction and not happening in the real world. Or is it?

An ASTRAEA (Autonomous Systems Technology Related Airborne Evaluation and Assessment) Centre is being established at Parc Aberporth on the Ceredigion coast, with the backing of £3 million of public money on top of the cost of building the Parc



Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

itself. ASTRAEA is a British programme with Welsh Assembly and Westminster Governments support and funding, which involves a number of arms companies including the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS), QinetiQ, Flight Refuelling Ltd (FRL), Thales and BAE Systems.

Remote killing

At Aberporth, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones) are being developed for a variety of purposes, some benign and some most certainly not. QinetiQ is currently carrying out experiments marrying up 'artificial intelligence' with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). While these could have peaceful applications, it quickly becomes worrying when the same technology is applied to Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs).

The future of warfare is computer controlled and where the human element is removed from the theatre of operations. Civilian populations could be kept in check by a variety of robotic drones. Some drones are designed to be spy planes for collecting information and intelligence; others carry weapons for combat and bomb delivery. All this is talked up with glee by various politicians and civil servants as a perfect way to solve the problems of economic regeneration in West Wales.

Think again

There are dark things going on at Parc Aberporth. Why is the Welsh Assembly Government so keen to get into bed with these major armaments developers? QinetiQ's website makes no bones about the fact that the company is linked in with the UCAV programme for the Ministry of Defence and will be connecting in with BAE, joint partners in the ASTRAEA project with offices in the Parc Aberporth complex.

Those in favour of the civil aviation authority airport planned for Aberporth might think twice about arms dealers and international weaponry experts flying in and out of a West Wales Airport. It is time that New Labour's Andrew Davies AM, Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery, began to understand that Wales is a fledgling democracy and that the people of Wales do not want to be blinded with spin in the usual smoke and mirrors approach of the Westminster style of government.

Despite this huge 'investment' it was reported last May that the Parc Aberporth remained largely unoccupied more than 18 months after it was first opened. The Assembly Government had originally announced over 230 jobs would be created by 2008 with a further capacity for up to 1,000 employees. Selex (Sensors and Airborne Systems), Europe's second largest defence electronics business occupies one unit on the site. The 'expertise' of EADS, QinetiQ, Flight Refuelling Ltd, Thales and BAE Systems was to have been combined with that of university departments at Aberystwyth and Cardiff' to create even more jobs. The Parc is now frequented by practicing learner drivers and the grounds are unkempt.

As we know, the ideal situation for profit in the military industrial complex is 'endless war'. People in Wales demand better and want to know that industry in Wales is being used for purposes other than being part of the US led world domination inspired military transformation strategy which George W Bush, Tony Blair, Rhodri Morgan, and now, Gordon Brown have bought in to.

Harry Rogers

heddwch action: This is not the Wales we want!

Write to your AM to ask why public money is being spent on unsustainable developments at Aberporth, and money being used to entice arms companies such as BAE which is known to have committed a large number of corporate crimes. Genuine, permanent employment could instead be created by investing in local, sustainable and ethical companies.

Get involved in the campaign to stop this immoral arms investment in Wales and to convert Aberporth for peaceful purposes. Contact Bro Emlyn Peace and Justice Group - c/o Harry Rogers e: harry@wildwestwales.com

Stopping St. Athan Military Academy

There is support for the campaign to stop the increasing militarisation of Wales. Cymdeithas yr Iaith has voted to back the campaign as has Arfon Peace and Justice Group. Stop the War and the Green Party have formally declared their opposition to the proposed academy. Tony Benn has signed the petition. Plaid Cymru has reaffirmed its opposition to privatisation, including that of military training.

BBC's 'Dragons Eye' has raised questions about the actual number of jobs to be created at the St Athan Military Training Academy. Public and Commercial Services Union, PCS claims the privatisation of training services is about "job relocation rather than job creation". PCS raised questions about the viability of the project such as the lack of accountability and the ability to control the costs of the enterprise, at February's Welsh Assembly Government Finance Committee.

Vale of Glamorgan MP John Smith has claimed that the '5,000 jobs' figure might even be an under-estimate. He paid for a whopping 4 page promotion in the Glamorgan Gem from his "parliamentary communications allowance". Above a picture of young pupils 'doing course work' on the benefits of the defence academy he is quoted: 'I am pleased that the benefits of the Defence Academy provided at St Athan are being studied in our schools'. Whatever that means! John Smith sits in a Labour marginal, with a majority of 1800.

As part of the National Day of Action for University Ethical Investment in February, protesters gathered outside the Open University (OU) Offices in Cardiff. The OU is part of the consortium which would operate the Academy. One protestor said: 'As a graduate of the OU I am shocked that they could work with and profit from arms dealers such as Raytheon associated with cluster munitions and Serco and QinetiQ'. The 'Study War No More - Military Involvement in UK Universities' is a joint project between



Campaign Against Arms Trade and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The report is available at www.studywarnomore.org.uk.

Some readers may remember Jennie Lee who played a key role in the foundation of the Open University which has a one of its precepts, a promise to promote social justice. She objected strongly to her husbands support for Britain's acquisition of nuclear weapons.

Join us on Saturday April 26th, when protestors against the proposed military academy will be assembling on the lawn opposite Cardiff City Hall to process through the city centre. Assemble at 1.30 - the march begins at 2pm.

Anne Greagsby

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War Machine Wales

Dear Heddwch,

Greetings from Devon! Thanks for your useful reports on Trident and the St Athan Defence Training Academy.

In the 50th year of CND and 120 years after Henry Richard tried to ban war, the arms race is still with us; the old man must be turning in his grave. Is there anyone today of his standing in the Assembly or Parliament who questions this further militarisation of Wales? I say further, because I can not agree that 'Wales is one of the least militarised spaces in Britain'.

Since the Napoleonic Wars, Wales has acted as a military training ground. Remember the dragoons putting down the Rebecca-ites, later the miners?

I grew up in the shadow of Brecon Barracks, the army headquarters. What on earth was my great grandfather and other Welsh boys doing making war on the Zulu and Indian people? I witnessed constant military exercises in my youth – the mountains of the Beacons and Epynt often seemed more khaki than green! The air bombing of civilians in the Second World War were prophesied by Lewis Valentine and Saunders Lewis' protest against the Penyberth Bombing School. Peaceniks of my generation took part in the 1960s protests against the Panzer tanks training at Castlemartin, the US bases at Brawdy and Caerwent, the Polaris (and later Trident) warhead factory at Llanishan and intrusive low flying 'raids' from Valley and Brawdy and beyond. We even produced a map of military sites in Wales – at least the ones we knew about. It was staggering.

In my experience, what Eisenhower called 'the military industrial complex' still exists and will always exaggerate the jobs and benefits of militarisation. It is our job to highlight the facts, challenge the true costs (including public subsidies) and demonstrate the peaceful alternatives, which has been done in the past at RN Llanelli and Lucas Aerospace. What seems significant about St Athan is the scale of the thing, the extent of private and multi-national corporations like Raytheon and the apparently fawning attitude of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Let me know when the direct action occupation takes place (I presume there is going to be one?).

Peace,
Tony Simpson

cluster bombs

Students act to prevent indiscriminate killing

Every year thousands of civilians die following ongoing violent conflict and the legacy of long past conflicts. Three out of four of these deaths are women and children. Despite international rulings aiming to reduce deaths and injuries, weapons that kill indiscriminately and have long-term effects continue to be manufactured and used. Cluster munitions rank among the worst of these weapons.

Cluster munitions are a weapon system made up of two parts: containers and submunitions. The containers each hold hundreds of submunitions. When cluster bombs are deployed, the containers open in the air to spread the unguided munitions over an area of up to one square kilometer. These are designed to explode upon impact with anything civilian or military. Many fail to explode immediately, leaving what looks like bright pieces of candy or playthings for people to pick up and accidentally detonate in years to come.

Empowered

The students of the United World College of the Atlantic at St Donats in the Vale of Glamorgan (Atlantic College) became aware of this travesty in November last year while listening to a lecture given by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ray McGrath. Feeling compelled to get involved with the Cluster Munition Coalition campaign, students quickly set up a group to promote the movement among United

World Colleges. Amit Meyer, a campaign leader and Atlantic College student said: 'As members of the United World Colleges, who believe in its values, we felt we had to do something about it. We are going to do anything in our power to help the campaign, and help saving lives.'

International call

In a statement, the students expressed their distress on the use of cluster munitions, called on governments worldwide to stop production and aid the clearing of contaminated areas. The student body and staff of Atlantic College have voted unanimously to accept the statement. The statement will

SPOT THE ODD ONE OUT!

Which product has NOT been recalled from the market because it can be fatal to children?



now be forwarded to the other eleven United World Colleges to gain their support.

Kathryn Linthicum

The Atlantic College Statement:

'We the members of the United World College Movement call for an international treaty in 2008 signed by all the nations of the world to ban the production, use and stockpiling of cluster munitions worldwide, to clear contaminated areas and to provide victim assistance. We believe that the use of cluster munitions constitutes a fundamental violation of human rights through the horrific, indiscriminate and long-term consequences for civilian populations. We pledge our support for the campaign against cluster munitions and deplore the mentality and moral state of governments that validate their use.

84 states are participating in the Oslo Process to achieve a treaty banning cluster bombs.'

Participants next meet in Dublin between 19th -30th May.

Wanted! Welsh Mayors for Peace

Over fifty years after the dropping of the US nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, thousands of citizens still suffer the devastating after effects of radiation and unfathomable emotional pain. The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have since sought to tell the world about the inhumane cruelty of nuclear weapons and have consistently urged that nuclear weapons be abolished.

Mayors for Peace is an initiative by a mayor of Hiroshima, originally launched in 2003 to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. There are now over 2,028 members in 127 countries offering towns and cities a way to transcend national borders and work together to press for nuclear abolition. Subsequent mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have called on mayors around the world to support this program.

Only 46 local governments in Britain have so far enrolled. Unfortunately, membership in Wales has not kept up with the global growth of Mayors for Peace. Y Bala, Mold and Gwynedd are the only authorities who have signed up. Mayors for Peace are hoping for one new member city/authority for each week of the next year.

heddwch action: CND Cymru is currently contacting all local authorities and mayors in Wales asking for their support, but a letter from a local resident will obviously carry extra weight. More information about the campaign can be found at www.mayorsforpeace.org. If you would like help with writing a letter to your unitary authority leader or chairperson, town or borough mayor, please contact CND Cymru (see page 8).



MANAW

For the past 25 years Musicians Against Nuclear Arms (MANA) has been organising concerts for Peace. It has a very small administration based in London and has received excellent support from numerous musicians, many of them world famous. All have donated their services to the cause. The Peace Movement in England has benefited immensely, not only financially but also by gaining support. A peace activist speaks to the audience on each occasion.

There have been difficulties in organising events in Wales from far away London. We have of course our own unique musical tradition, which has the Welsh language at its heart.

In January the MANA Committee gave approval for a sister organisation to be established in Wales.

There is no doubt that there is great potential for support for our Peace Movement and for CND Cymru in particular, from all kinds of musicians and music. Denis O'Neal, Caryl Parry Jones and Frankie Armstrong are already willing to help. However, until we have found a volunteer, with the experience and ability to administer the organisation, MANAW will not be able to take off. Can you suggest the name of someone I could approach, ideally but not necessarily a Welsh speaker, who could organise concerts, recitals and gigs for Peace? Please give the matter serious consideration and contact me

e: georgecrabb@ybontfaen.freeserve.co.uk
or t: 01446 774 452.

George Crabb

Besieged and newly born

CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans MEP has visited Palestine regularly as a member of the European Delegation for Relations with the Palestine Authority. During her most recent visit, she met medical staff at Gaza's Shifa Hospital, who explained the effects of the Israeli siege, implemented in June 2007.

A lack of drugs meant cancer patients had to be referred to Israel - but many of these patients were refused permission to travel. The hospital was using generators because of cuts in the electricity, but fuel supplies were dwindling.

It's obvious the effects that power cuts would have on intensive care patients and the thirty premature babies, one of whom is pictured, who depended on the electricity supply to keep their incubators working.

The dire situation in Gaza has worsened as heddwch goes to press, with over 100 Palestinians killed. The humanitarian crisis is at its worst point ever. The situation in Palestine is reaching breaking point. There has to be international action to lift the siege of Gaza, end the occupation and resume peace negotiations.



pembrokeshire

Demilitarising Israeli Society

An inaugural meeting of the South Pembrokeshire Peace Group, attended by well over 100 people in January was addressed by Professor Talila Kosh from the Israeli Peace organisation New Profile.

Haverfordwest was one of 18 venues across England, Scotland and Wales, taking part in the lecture tour (by two separate speakers). It was New Profile's first venture out of Israel, to let a wider public know that they, as well as other organisations, are working quietly for a peaceful solution to the Arab/Israeli problem. They also wanted to link up with peace organisations in this country. New Profile works to de-militarise Israeli society, to end Israel's occupation of areas conquered in 1967 and to move to an egalitarian civil society from one which passively accepts military conscription. Talila spoke of how Israeli culture normalises war and the military, and pointed out ways in which the culture 'nurtures admiration for might and physical prowess'; aggrandising Jewish nationals while devaluing the lives of Arab nationals. Soldiers and uniforms are common on the streets of Israel and militarisation starts young for there is even a tradition in kindergarten for the small children to send presents to serving soldiers. New Profile members have been working to encourage more parents to ask teachers if children could send presents to children in hospitals instead. But even this small act of resistance against militarisation is difficult in Israel.

New Profile organises a travelling 'roadshow' to help young Israelis discuss the taboo issue of refusing to serve in the army, and it offers conscientious objectors and their families information, moral support and legal aid. Mid and West Wales AM Alun Davies welcomed Talila and CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans MEP spoke about her work for peace and justice in the Middle East. Jill Evans and Talila made plans to keep in contact, especially where opportunities for mutual support arise.

More information:

www.newprofile.org
South Pembrokeshire Peace Group: redpath@xfos.co.uk

wrexham and bangor Hands on

campaigning

Just two of the hundreds of actions in support of the international 'Hands Off Iraqi Oil' took place in Wales on 23rd February.

In Wrexham, members of Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum and Wrexham Women for Peace met at the Shell garage in the town where protesters put up banners and placards and handed out leaflets.

Bangor Peace and Justice group held a stall in Bangor town centre and offered information to shoppers and passers by. Both solidarity actions were in support of the people and oil workers of Iraq, who are trying to keep Iraqi oil under national control in the face of pressure to accept a new 'oil law'. If this law is passed, it will allow foreign companies such as Shell, BP and Exxon to control Iraq's oil production, guaranteeing massive profits for western oil companies and leaving Iraqi oil workers in poverty.

Genny Bove of WPJF and Wrexham Women for Peace said: 'After years of sanctions which harmed ordinary Iraqis and led to the deaths of half a million Iraqi children, the British government supported the 2003 invasion which has led to up to a million more deaths. We cannot stand by now while Iraq's most valuable economic resource is sold off. The banners we displayed on Saturday - 'Iraq for the Iraqis' and 'No Profit from War' sum up our feelings.' <http://wpjf.blogspot.com/>

Contacts: Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum (with a newsletter well worth subscribing to - wherever you live) e: wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com
Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum, PO Box 661, Wrexham LL11 1QU.
Bangor Peace and Justice Group e: phil_steele@btinternet.com t:01248 490 715



Peace Week Wales

The United Nations International Day of Peace was first agreed by the UN General Assembly in 1981. It is celebrated on September 21st each year and calls on people to remember the folly and horror of war, and to re-commit themselves to work for peace. Since 2001, there has also been a call for a full day of peace and ceasefire throughout the world on September 21st and this special day coincides with the opening of the UN General Assembly each year when a "Peace Bell" is rang at UN Headquarters. This bell is cast from coins donated by children from all continents, and considered a symbol of global solidarity. It was given by Japan, and is referred to as 'a reminder of the human cost of war.' The inscription on its side reads: 'Long live absolute world peace'. Observance of the annual International Day of Peace is widespread across the globe and celebrations now take place in every country.

While in office, then Secretary-General Kofi Annan asked all United Nations departments and agencies to expand their observance, extending a special invitation to civil society and highlighting a 'Minute of Silence' at 12 noon.

An event to celebrate this International Day of Peace is held at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff each year when school children are invited for a day of special events. Last year a Day of Peace event for children was also held at Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff. It is during this same week that the Peace Mala awards are also made.

heddwch action: An appeal is being made for others to join in and hold Day of Peace events all over Wales, not necessarily on the day itself, but over the week leading up to or following 21st. If you are organising an event for International Day of Peace or in helping develop an 'All Wales Week of Peace', please contact George Crabb e: georgecrabb@ybontfaen.freeserve.co.uk or t: 01446 774 452. See more about the Day of Peace: www.internationaldayofpeace.org

cymdeithas y cymod

Demilitarising Wales



At the end of 2007, Cymdeithas y Cymod held its annual vigil in Cardiff. The vigil called for the scrapping of plans for the proposed St Athan military academy. Dr. Stuart Tannock was invited to speak about the proposed military academy at St Athan. He told members, friends and visitors that Raytheon, one of the partners in the private Metrix consortium which will construct and run the academy, is also involved in making the delivery systems for weapons including cluster bombs. He said the fact that First Minister Rhodri Morgan had welcomed the military academy was contrary to the Assembly's stated policy of building a sustainable Wales.

'Wales is one of the most militarised areas of Britain' said the Rev. Guto Pryp ap Gwynfor. 'Our aim as a Fellowship must be to campaign for the demilitarisation of Wales by raising public awareness' he said 'Even the air space of Wales is a military zone. One of our first tasks will be to work to stop further militarisation such as the building of the St Athan military academy.'

A service for peace was held at St Athan Church and Dr. Wyn James reminded members that the Vale of Glamorgan was the site of two famous Christian academies during the Dark Ages. He said that these academies had trained missionaries who went all over Europe to convert people to Christ, but that the proposed military academy would train people in the art of killing their fellow human beings around the world.

To keep in touch with the campaign to stop the St Athan Military Academy, please see www.cynefnywerin.org.uk. Regular meetings are held in Cardiff. For more information about meeting dates contact CND Cymru (see page 8).

aberystwyth Speaking out

Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Forum took to the streets to draw attention to how the Serious and Organised Crime Police Act threatens our freedom to protest. They held a stall in the town centre and asked passers by to make their own protests by writing on large sheets of paper and displaying them around town. The stall displayed information about the proposed legislation and provided an opportunity for people to participate in the consultation process. Mark Thomas' film 'Serious Organised Criminal' was shown later in Y Morlan.

Contact: Lotte Reimer, Banc y Mor, Blaenplwyf Aberystwyth SY23 4DW t: 01970 610 185 m: 07775 801 691 e: lotte.reimer@btinternet.com

Big brother, big bangs

In February, the Pentagon claimed to have hit a falling military satellite with their Navy Aegis destroyer interceptor missiles. This matches a similar action by the Chinese government in 2007. The Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space have denounced this as nothing more than an opportunity to test new 'Star Wars' anti-satellite weapons (ASAT) technology.

Bruce Gagnon, Coordinator of the Global Network commented that the Bush administration magnified the risk 'to justify the testing of new dangerous and provocative offensive space warfare technologies.... at a time when we need to be constraining space debris-creating ASAT testing, this test throws open the door to a new arms race in space.' For many years Russia and China have gone to the United Nations General Assembly with a resolution calling for a treaty to ban all weapons in space. The U.S. and Israel have annually voted against the treaty while every other nation in the world supports such a new legal ban on space weapons. Russia and China understand that the Pentagon is moving to "control and dominate" space, and that 'space control' means control of the planet below.

The U.S. aerospace industry has said that the development of space weapons will be the largest industrial project in

the history of the planet Earth and that they intend to take funds from "entitlement programs" to pay for it. Officially, US entitlement programs mean Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, and what is left of the welfare programs. Social progress or an arms race in space? Which would the people of the United States choose? As elsewhere in the world, politicians and arms manufacturers are hiding the truth behind the fig leaf of a promise of well paid jobs.

The only positive value of this anti-satellite weapons 'test' or 'posture' is that it has put the issue in front of the people of the world. We are standing on the edge of a cliff watching the emergence of a new expensive and dangerous arms race right before our very eyes. Our best move would be to step back, take a deep breath and act to stop it in its tracks. We must resist the militarisation of space.

heddwch action: 2008 looks set to be a crucial year in US plans to develop Missile Defense. Proposals for US missile bases in Poland and radar systems in the Czech Republic face enormous opposition and both governments are being forced to reassess their support for the programme. A vote will be held in the Czech Republic in June and the Polish government is re-evaluating its relationship with Russia in the light of the tensions that the presence of US 'interceptor missiles' based on Polish soil could bring with them. The British Government has committed Menwith Hill and Fylingdales in Yorkshire to the US missile defense system.

Write to your MP and ask them to work to stop the British Government supporting these plans which would make Britain a first strike target for any aggressive enemy of the USA. Ask them to call on the British government to 'insist' that the US government join in with negotiations for a ban on weapons in space.

The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space is made up of more than 140-affiliated peace groups around the world. www.space4peace.org



Trident out of Scotland

The Scottish Government has set up an expert group to investigate how best to get rid of nuclear weapons. The group, to be chaired by Bruce Crawford MSP, Minister for Parliamentary Business, is seen by many as a crucial step towards making Scotland a nuclear-free nation.

It includes religious leaders, academics, activists, a lawyer and a trade unionist and has been given the task of finding legal, planning, regulatory and diplomatic ways to block the plan to replace the Trident nuclear weapons system on the Clyde.

Bruce Crawford said: 'It is only right that we consider how to raise the Scottish arguments with the British Government. The plain facts are that a majority of Scottish MPs oppose the son of Trident, a majority of MSPs oppose the son of Trident and a clear majority of Scots, in poll after poll, oppose the son of Trident.'

The 13-strong group includes the Rev Dr David Sinclair from the Church of Scotland; John Deighan from the Roman Catholic Church; Osama Saeed from the Scottish Islamic Foundation; Professor William Walker from the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews and Dr Rebecca Johnson of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy.

They will be joined by Dr Richard Dixon, the director of World Wildlife Fund Scotland; David Moxham from the Scottish TUC; Gillian Slider of the Scottish Youth Parliament; Isobel Lindsay from the group 'Scotland for Peace', and James Robb, the SNP councillor for Helensburgh.

Alan Mackinnon, the chair of Scottish CND and a member of the group, affirmed that it will 'explore practical and effective ways to obstruct the deployment of new weapons of mass destruction'. The working group's remit includes examining alternative employment, the legality of nuclear weapons and the current licensing and regulatory framework. It is expected to meet around three times a year.

www.banthebomb.org



Vanunu waits

On February 19th Mordechai Vanunu's court hearing was again postponed. In 2007 he had been sentenced to community service for violating a 2004 ban forbidding him to speak to foreigners. There turned out not to be community service in East Jerusalem so he must now return to court. Vanunu has lived in the Palestinian side of Jerusalem since his release from Ashkelon Prison in April 2004.

Everyone who talks with Vanunu in Jerusalem or on the phone or by email is being monitored by Israeli security-surveillance. A twenty-one year old German was arrested on Christmas Eve 2007 just for having dinner with Vanunu. Vanunu's response to Israeli government fears that he will 'tell secrets' to foreigners is consistent 'All the secrets I had were published in 1989 in an important book by Frank Barnaby: The Invisible Bomb: Nuclear Arms Race in the Middle East.'

Vanunu was imprisoned for 18 years for disclosing secrets about Israel's nuclear weapons. But is now not allowed to leave the country. He says: 'For 18 years in prison I felt like a man at a train station, waiting for my train. I lived in a six by nine foot space without a window for 18 years. Every day I would get up, get dressed, put on my shoes, look at the same four walls and wait for that train that never came... Now I live in a nine by nine space with four walls, I have a window to the Mount of Olives and the street. But, I live like a tourist without even a TV in a cheap hotel and all I want to do is leave Jerusalem. I am no longer waiting for a train. Now I am at the airport terminal waiting for my plane.'

The UN Charter tells us that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

heddwch action: Send a card or letter of support to Mordechai Vanunu c/o Amnesty International, Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

Whose Priorities?

A guide for campaigners on military and social spending

This 73 page publication is very much what it says on the cover, an easy, well set out read and, as Colin Archer hopes for in his introduction – an inspiration. He sets the stage with information and background, discusses the issues under clear headings, gives examples of some extraordinary campaigning and networking from around the world (this reader's favourite bit) then argues for building a stronger worldwide network of those civil society groups campaigning 'on peace, justice and human rights issues'. There is a useful resource of web links to set us on our way, along with a bibliography. As the book points out, the biggest taboo for aid organisations is military spending. Even here in Wales although we civil society groups get on pretty well together, some of our colleagues working in the development field sometimes remain uncomfortable about appearing on the same platform as peace and justice activists. True security for most of us is an ordinary life, clean water, food, warmth and shelter; justice and the freedom to speak freely, an education and health system. Yet while powerful governments propagate ideas such as 'freedom' and 'democracy' with a gun in their hand and a nuclear weapon in their pocket, there can be no truly sustainable development. What we need in all our countries is what Colin concludes necessary for authoritarian states in the 'global south' – the improvement 'of a democratic system ... to enhance transparency and in general [to] give civil society some role in the decision and consultation process'.

We don't find enough time to stand back and analyse what we do as campaigners – 'Whose Priorities' offers such an opportunity.

Jill Gough

Whose Priorities? A guide for campaigners on military and social spending Colin Archer
International Peace Bureau 2007
ISBN 92-95006-04-6 £5 plus postage from IPB
t: +41 22 731 6429 e: mailbox@ipb.org
www.ipb.org

Take back your power, or take the blame

An important new CD 'Not in Our Name, Singing Out About the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan' has been released which should be of interest to readers of *heddwch*.

In his endorsement in the sleeve notes, Tony Benn writes: 'Not in our Name contains powerful and moving songs by British, American and Australian singers that will inspire the many millions of us, worldwide, who reject the propaganda that led us into brutal invasions against Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a 'war on terror' that could last a generation and lead to more war and more deaths.'

The CD features 15 of the very best artists and bands from around the world. It kicks off with a splendid song from Eliza Gilkyson called 'Man Of God'. With Bush's proclaimed Christianity it's not hard to work out the theme of this track! Emma's Revolution are a very radical duo from the US and their codePINK track is a real rallying cry for a better world.

Leon Rosselson, Robb Johnson, Seize The Day and the 'one man soul machine' that is Rory McLeod lend real class to proceedings. Not many musicians have had as long or as distinguished a career, or have created such a huge body of work, as has Roy Bailey (who gave back his MBE to new labour in 2006 in protest against the Iraq war). His track, 'Collateral Damage', written by the great Jim Page who also features on the CD, has Martin Simpson on guitar and is as powerful a song as Roy has ever recorded.

Jez Lowe, a stinging track by Dick Gaughan on those who loose the faith, Mark Erelli and Amy Martin all make huge contributions. Not In My Name was compiled by David Ferrard of Edinburgh, and he includes a track of his own - Hills Of Virginia.

All proceeds from sales are going to Stop the War Coalition. This is an excellent CD for an excellent cause and can be brought in Wales from Four Dogs Music for £10.99 including postage.

Mike Newman

Either buy online from www.fourdogsmusic.co.uk or by post from Four Dogs Music, Caegwyn, Temple Bar, Felinfach, Ceredigion. SA48 7SA.



The Hidden Human Cost of Trident

Blackaby Paper 7
by Di McDonald, Executive Director of the Nuclear Information Service (NIS), which works to promote public awareness and debate on nuclear weapons issues, & Jamie Woolley, sometime legal adviser to the Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

In March 2007 the British government decided to undertake eventual replacement of the V-class (Trident nuclear missile armed) submarine fleet. At the same time, upgrading of the warhead design and research capabilities of AWE Aldermaston continues. This paper documents not only the financial costs of this programme but also, and more significantly, the environmental and human costs of the radioactive legacy, the psychological and psycho-social effects, warhead transport, emergency planning, and international relations, fallout, uranium mining and military nuclear waste. A detailed section of the paper places all the arguments within a firm legal context of safety and risk and examines the effects of Trident on our civil rights and our rights to a clean environment.

Copies of the full paper can be obtained from the Abolition 2000 UK office (address below). £2:00 plus £0:50 postage (total £2:50). It can also be downloaded from www.abolition2000uk.org
Abolition 2000 UK, 162 Holloway Road London N7 8DQ e: mail@abolition2000uk.org

Henry Richard, 'Apostle of Peace' - a man for our times?

Summer 2007 saw the publication of *The Life and Work of Henry Richard* by D. Ben Rees. This slim volume continues the minor revival of interest in Richard over the past twenty five years, initiated by David Morris and Bruce Kent, with pamphlets published by CND Cymru and Cymdeithas y Cymod and pursued by former MP Simon Thomas, John Gwynfor Jones and the United Nations Association Wales among others.

Richard may remain in semi-obscurity, but many in the peace movement clearly feel there is a case for securing the memory of his contribution in the mid- and late-nineteenth century from its comparative neglect.

The book effectively outlines his early life and his career as pacifist and parliamentarian, and repeatedly underlines how Christianity was the basis for his beliefs. He was Secretary of the London Peace Society, an energetic and skilled campaigner, who succeeded in bringing various pacifist groups together, from Britain and abroad. As MP for Merthyr Tydfil he pushed through the House of Commons an agreement on arbitration in situations of conflict; he advocated

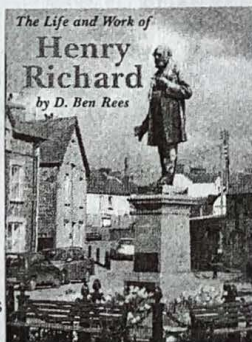
European disarmament, and in 1886 he proposed that parliamentary consent be required for the conduct of war.

However, I do not accept D. Ben Rees's claim that Richard's parliamentary efforts on arbitration led directly to the beginnings of the International Court of Justice. This strikes me as using hindsight to find patterns in history that do not exist. While undoubtedly influential on peace matters, the book also claims for him the title 'the Member of Parliament for Wales', interpreting Wales to England and supporting the early stirrings of Cymru Fydd. Embodying Victorian Liberalism and championing working class enfranchisement, D. Ben Rees calls him 'Defender of the Nonconformist Faith' too.

Surely he cannot have been a high profile champion of all these causes, otherwise he would be more widely celebrated than he has been.

So, Richard was an important internationalist, possibly deserving the epithet 'the greatest pacifist of the 19th century'. I am not convinced that present day activists can learn much from his endeavours in practical terms, though, given the passage of time. Inspiration may be drawn from him, certainly; but no clear blueprint for action.

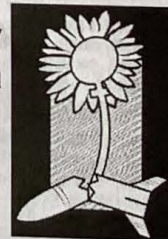
Stephen Thomas



The Life and Work of Henry Richard: Apostle of Peace and MP for Wales; 32 pages; £3: Spokesman Books, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Nottingham t: 0115 970 8318 www.spokesmanbooks.com

Don't Replace Trident!

Do you want to know more about British nuclear weapons and help to make sure that they are not replaced? A pack, available free or for a donation, includes a briefing, an action ideas sheet, a list of key arguments, as well as postcards and petitions to use in the community. The pack includes a letter writer's list of 'decision makers' - key officials and parliamentarians with a bearing on the government's decision. There are also instructions for making paper cranes. Folding paper cranes is also an ideal activity for children over 9 and young people's groups.



For your pack, contact : Peace & Disarmament Programme, Quaker Peace & Social Witness, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ e: disarm@quaker.org.uk t: 020 7663 1067 QPSW Briefing on the Replacement of Trident: www.quaker.org.uk

diary dates

March 20th 1.30pm
BAE Systems Glascoed, nr. Usk Monmouthshire
 Prayer Vigil outside main gate of the BAE Systems Weapons Factory near Monkwood [on the A472 Usk-Pontypool Road] to bear witness to and to promote the resolution of conflicts by peaceful, non-violent means. Bring flowers to place at perimeter fence in memory of people killed by weapons of war. Arranged by Penarth Christian Network of Campaign Against Arms Trade. Contact t: 02920 711 943

March 24th 12.00pm
Aldermaston, Berkshire, England The Bomb Stops Here! Demonstration. Surround the nuclear bomb factory. 50th anniversary of first Aldermaston march. www.cnduk.org

March 28th- 29th London, Imperial War Museum. Peace History: People, Politics and Culture Conference
 A focus on episodes and individuals from different times and places - gathering inspiration from their examples to build structures of peace for today and tomorrow. Organised by the International Peace Bureau and the Movement for the Abolition of War Registration £30 for both days, £25 for one day, Students £15 and £10). More details: sae to MAW Conference, 11, Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ or: www.abolishwar.org.uk

March 29th 3pm Temple of Peace, Cardiff. St Athan Military Academy Campaigning Meeting
 www.cynefynywerin.org

March 29th Slupsk, Poland International Mobilisation against US Military Bases in Central Europe. No to Anti-Missile Defense System! A large-scale mobilisation against the planned deployment of 10 US ground based anti-ballistic missile interceptors on Polish soil. Street theatre, samba band, open mike for discussions in public squares, food not bombs, film screenings on topics of missiles militarism amongst activities. The city of Slupsk is near the Baltic Sea Coast. The US base is planned for the disused ex-Soviet military airbase at Redzikowo 4 km. from Slupsk. http://www.m29.bzzz.net/

March 31st 7 30pm Cardiff CAAT Meeting Model Inn, Quay Street, Cardiff. (between Westgate St and High St.)

April 1st Fossil Fools Day
 Day of Direct action against climate change called by the International Rising Tide Network come join us www.fossilfoolsday.org/9620

April 2nd Protest at NATO summit in Bucharest, Romania
 NATO Government leaders meet at the NATO summit in Bucharest on 2nd-4th April to make important decisions on the ongoing transformation of NATO, missile defense, Afghanistan. Resistance against NATO will be visible - join in. e: tarcza@bzzz.net

April 5th Merthyr Tudfil Protest against Ffos-y-Fran open cast coal extraction - march, speakers, public debate, music Speakers Jill Evans MEP and George Monbiot - for details contact t:01970 610 185 e: lotte.reimer@btinternet.com

'Act or Perish'

Bertrand Russell and Michael Scott 1960 Founding Statement of Committee 100

April 25th 7.30pm Studio 2, Galeri, Caernarfon Films for a change: Bamako.
 Organised by the Wales Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, Sylfaen and Cymru Cuba. e: benica@gn.apc.org

April 25th-May 4th 2008 Geneva 2nd Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation-Treaty (NPT Prep Com)
 at UN in Geneva. BANG (European Youth Group) is organising youth workshops and activist events to contact them: www.bang-europe.org

April 26th Cardiff 11.00am - 1pm CND Cymru Cyngor (business meeting) For more details t: 01495 773 180

April 26th Everywhere - Chernobyl Day (22 years after the world worst nuclear accident

April 26th assemble 1.30pm for 2pm Cardiff No St Athan Military Academy
 Anti-military academy protesters meet on the lawns opposite Cardiff City Hall. March through Cardiff. See www.cynefynywerin.org

April 26th - July 16th London-Geneva Peace Walk
 International walk for a nuclear free world. www.footprintsforpeace.net

May 12th CAT, Machynlleth Cyfanfyd Annual Forum
 Climate Change and Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Guest speakers, networking opportunities and review of work in the fields of lifelong learning, global youth work and the formal sector. e: info@cyfanfyd.org.uk

May 26th-31st Urdd Eisteddfod, Llandudno Help with CND Cymru stall needed. Please contact us t: 01495 773 180

June 17th 8pm Llanfoist Community Hall, near Abergavenny
 Musicians Against Nuclear Arms (MANA) 25th anniversary concert. Folk and contemporary music and political songs with an acapella choir, soloists, saxophonists and lots more! Sarah Harman t: 01873 890 616

June 21st 8pm Town Hall, Denbigh Sierra Maestra - Cuba's leading Salsa band. Organised by Cymru-Cuba t: 01745 813 402

July 19th 11.00am Aberystwyth CND Cymru Cyngor For more details t: 01495 773 180 e:heddwh@cndcymru.org

doing something

Action is doing
 Action can be covert or overt
 fluffy or spiky
 engaging or confrontational
 educating and demystifying
 challenging
 subverting
 publicising
 making music and theatre
 art and poetry
 writing, speaking, clicking, filming
 recording and reporting
 cooking, cleaning, mending
 feeding people
 healing people
 building places to sit and talk
 and sit and shit
 waiting at the nick
 legal help
 court support
 just being there
 with a smile and a hug
 and a listening ear
 All these are Actions
 We need them all
 and together
 We are Activists

Genny Bove



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If Wales could spend over
£1 billion

either

towards a new British* Trident
 nuclear missile system


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?

*estimated total cost £25-40 billion

Give Voice to YOUR Choice: **Join CND Cymru**

name: 
 address:
 post code:
 telephone: email:

I enclose a cheque/PO for £ payable to CND Cymru

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

Please return to CND Cymru Membership (see above right)

Calling all Conchies!

As Archivist of the Peace Pledge Union, I am often asked whether there is some official register of the 86,000 British men (and some women) who exercised their right to refuse to kill by conscientiously objecting to military call-up in the two world wars and the post-1945 conscription period. There is, in fact, no such register, and most of the government records relating to individual cases have been destroyed.

In order to fill this gap, as a permanent record for posterity, I am creating a database of as many COs as I can trace. I have 6000 so far, fairly evenly divided between the two conscription periods, and varying amounts of detail within the entries, but there are 80,000 yet to find. This is where readers of Heddwh can help. If you were a CO, or a relative or friend was a CO, can you please send me some basic details and a means of contacting you. I will create new entries, or add information to existing entries, as appropriate, but will also confirm receipt to you, and perhaps ask a few questions.

Bill Hetherington

e: archives@ppu.org.uk

By post: Bill Hetherington, PPU,
 Peaceworks, 1 Peace Passage,
 London, N7 0BT