



cnd cymru

campaign for nuclear disarmament

Looking to the future

As if the collapse of international financial institutions wasn't enough, Gordon Brown announced he would use this opportunity to arm Britain with new nuclear weapons. A replacement for the Trident submarines was on the cards anyway, but I listened with horror at the claims that horrendously expensive new nuclear weapons could help rescue our economy.

In fact, the effect would be the opposite. A recent report by the Scottish TUC showed that far from preserving jobs, spending on Trident is bad for the Scottish economy. If the billions of pounds were spent instead in productive sectors, it could create 3,000 jobs.

This can be a time of opportunity. Not only should we take the opportunity to create a more sustainable economy for the long term, but also a sane and safe security policy. I believe that in Wales it means replacing plans for a British military training academy at St Athan with a Wales Peace Institute. If we adopted the model that now exists in Flanders, then we would have experts examining the effects of all developments on every aspect of our lives, including the role we want Wales to play in the world. We would have an institute with the task of advising the government of Wales on how our nation can contribute to building peace and

supporting nuclear disarmament. A peace institute is a development we in the peace movement can lobby the Assembly government to set up after the next elections. In the meantime we can begin to develop the work of the institute by using the skills and expertise of many of our members and supporters. A number of academics have already shown interest. I will be visiting the Flanders Peace Institute before Christmas to meet its director and discuss what lessons we can learn for Wales.

As this fiftieth year of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament draws to a close, we can look back and celebrate all we have achieved. We must also take the opportunity to look forward at the challenges of the next few years in the knowledge that CND will keep campaigning as long as nuclear weapons exist. And we will win.

Jill Evans MEP, CND Cymru Chair



A pre-CND 'ban the bomb' demonstration held in London in mid-1957 was organised by the British Peace Committee and the British Communist Party.

From 'PEACE 50 years of protest 1958-2008' by Barry Miles - reviewed by John Cox page 6.

Obama = Hope?

Everyone is wondering what Obama will do as president. Will he stand up against the military industrial complex and end the U.S. occupation of Iraq? Does he mean it when he says that we must 'surge' the war in Afghanistan? Will he end the attacks on our civil liberties that were a trademark of the Bush years?

Obama's first appointment was of centrist-Democrat Rahm Emanuel (also from Chicago) to become his Chief of Staff - the gatekeeper at the White House. Emanuel was in charge of recruiting Democratic Party congressional candidates in 2006 and did all he could to push away more than 20 anti-war candidates in favor of those, who once elected, continued to vote for Iraq occupation funding.

Emanuel's father, a former member of the Irgun, the Israeli terrorist group recently told an Israeli newspaper, 'Obviously he will influence the president to be pro-Israel. Why wouldn't he? What is he, an Arab? He's not going to clean the floors of the White House.' Emanuel has since apologized to the Arab-American community for his father's racist remarks but serious questions remain about Obama's Middle East intentions.

Obama is also considering asking current Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to stay on in that post. Gates has publicly stated that we must slow down talk of timelines for leaving Iraq. Obama's pick for Secretary of State - Hillary Clinton who, as we know voted for the Iraq war, was on American TV two years ago telling us to "relax," that we were going to be in Iraq for "a long time." She is another centrist Democrat hawk and will fit right in with what appears will be a corporate dominated Obama administration. During the campaign the president-elect often said that 'Iraq was the wrong war' and that once elected he would move U.S. troops from there into Afghanistan where he would 'find and kill Osama bin Laden.' He also repeatedly said we have to increase the size of the U.S. fighting force and 'rebuild' the broken military by purchasing new generations of weapons systems.

How Obama can do all that and still deal with health care, education, jobs, energy policy and more is a mystery to me. The real question for the peace movement in the U.S. is how long do we give Obama a free ride? Many liberals, who view the peace movement as an extension of the Democratic Party, are loudly condemning any early criticism of Obama. Some are already pulling their money out of the peace movement because we are being 'critical' of the president-elect. A friend recently told me that during the campaign an Obama supporter had told him that Sen. Obama would bring hope. My friend asked the supporter what 'hope' really meant. 'What ever you want it to mean,' was the answer. Obama is a blank slate. People can draw on him anything they might like him to be. I am convinced that the corporate oligarchy that runs our nation would never have allowed him to get as far as

he did if they had any doubts about where his loyalties would be. We should all be making demands on his administration early on, before it is too late.

Bruce Gagnon

Bruce Gagnon is coordinator of the US based organisation Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space. Last year he toured Wales to speak about the militarisation of space. He writes an excellent 'blog' 'Organizing Notes' which can be found at: www.space4peace.blogspot.com. See 'Obama on Nuclear Weapons' inside on page 8.

inside:

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- * St. Athan
- * Campaign news
- * Wylfa *and more*

CND Cymru works for international peace and disarmament and a world in which the vast resources now devoted to militarism are redirected to the real needs of the human community and the environment



heddwch

is the magazine of the
Wales
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(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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All Wales Peace Festival

Congratulations to the Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group for their year of hard work in making the Wales Peace Festival such a brilliant weekend in October.

The festival took place at two adjoining Bangor University premises – the Department of Lifelong Learning and the Department of Computer Sciences, to both of whom many thanks. It was sponsored by CND Cymru, Cymdeithas y Cymod and Cynefin y Werin. The local hosts and organisers this year were the Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group. Many other groups and individuals from all over Wales helped to make the festival a success and contributed to the busy central forum with a children's corner and stalls from organisations across Wales. The economic crisis and recession impacted on many of the discussions and topics. The weekend was opened and subsequently chaired by Stephen Thomas, of The Welsh Centre for International Affairs who discussed peace building and the 'credibility crunch' of the United Nations – from The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its achievements, to its shortcomings and its potential.

Speakers

Jill Evans MEP Chair of CND Cymru spoke about nuclear proliferation and the NPT, Trident replacement, and security in the Middle East and Palestine in particular. She introduced the idea of a Wales Peace Institute which might address the concerns raised throughout the weekend.

Milan Rai (Voices in the Wilderness/ Justice Not Vengeance and co-editor of Peace News) discussed the political theories and world view of Noam Chomsky.

Moazzam Begg, an eloquent and moving speaker for the Cageprisoners organisation, spoke about torture, detention without charge and rendition, speaking from harrowing personal experience, having been detained at the Bagram air base in Afghanistan and at



Guantanamo Bay. He spoke of those still held illegally and of current developments and campaigns.

Greg Muttitt of Platform reported on the bid to privatise Iraqi oil, handing over resources and production to foreign companies, a surrender unmatched by other oil-producing nations. Despite threats from the USA and the IMF to withhold reconstruction aid, the Iraqi Parliament is still refusing to enact the enabling legislation for oil privatisation. Privatisation, planned instead to go ahead without legislation is being fiercely resisted by the (illegal) oil workers' trade union and by the Iraqi public.

Mary Compton, from Powys, former president of the National Union of Teachers, is joint editor of 'The Global Assault on Teaching, Teachers and their Unions'. As a passionate campaigner for Palestine, Mary described her own experiences of life in the West Bank observed while an international observer of the 2006 election won by Hamas.

Bianca Ambrose-Oji, formerly of Bangor University's Centre for Arid Zone Studies/Natural Resources Unit, and Forest Research, presented an analysis of the effects of climate change on the continent of Africa, with regard to ecology, resources, population, society, armed conflict and governance.

Workshops

In addition there were smaller, more intensive sessions including: PAWB - Dylan Morgan on the campaign against nuclear new build at Wylfa and elsewhere; St Athan Military Academy -

James Maiden with an update on the campaign; Is religion the cause of war? - Rev Guto Prys ap Gwynfor - a Cymdeithas y Cymod debate; Shooting films, shooting people - Jonathan Ervine University of Bangor on war, peace and the cinema; More power than we know - Milan Rai on the power of activism; African Perspective - Nick Jewitt & Bianca Ambrose-Oji discussing the impact of AIDS and malaria, conflict, sustainability and resources.

Campaigns

Two postcard campaigns were launched at the Festival, one for the release of Binyam Mohamed from Guantanamo Bay, the other for facilitating overseas study visas for Palestinian students trapped in Gaza, particularly for Zohair Abu Shaban to study at Imperial College, London.

Cultural and Social Events

Jonathan Ervine showed extracts from the film 11-09-01 September 11th for discussion; Phil Steele displayed his collection of 'Snapshots and cuttings from 30 Years of Protest in North Wales'; Bangor Community Choir sang a Sunday lunchtime session of songs from around the world; Trio Naatyashwora Trio member Ram gave an impromptu song and conch recital and the Festival gig featured DJ Hippyad, Trnstone and Bandabacana raising £600 for Palestinian causes, including the Bustaan Qaraqqa community environmental project established near Bethlehem this year by four ex-Bangor students.

A Future for the Wales Peace Movement

A small meeting discussed the future of the Wales Peace Festivals, the future direction of Cynefin y Werin, wider collaboration with other movements and organisations in Wales, and the idea of a Wales Peace Institute. It was agreed to progress these discussions at a meeting in Aberystwyth in the New Year.

Phil Steele

heddwch action: for more information about speakers at the Festival contact Phil Steele:
t: 01248 490 715

e: phil_steele@btinternet.com
If you are interested in organising a local event on any scale – with a speaker or to show a film – we may be able to help. Contact CND Cymru. If you have events to report in 'heddwch' please contact the editor. (See page 8)

A Wild Welsh Autumn

The strength of movements working for change is in the hardworking local organisers who give their time and passion to set up stalls, display literature, collect signatures, organise and publicise meetings, get to demonstrations and direct actions – and take them – and talk to people. Our job as 'minders and carers' of the campaign right across Wales is to keep it going, disseminate information, display and exhibition materials; maintain the networks, provide the frameworks and have an accessible ongoing overview of the bigger picture. Even in quieter, less fashionable times we maintain friendships within and between movements, issues, decision makers and individuals. So it has continued for CND Cymru locally and nationally throughout the summer and autumn. Having had a CND Cymru presence at several events and festivals throughout the summer – created bilingual leaflets and other materials, we found ourselves moving into an autumn of public meetings. UN Peace Day was celebrated at the Temple of Peace, with young people from local schools in September. Paul Oestreicher spoke in Llandrindod (Llandrindod CND), Bruce Kent in Haverfordwest (Pembrokeshire Peace Group) and Kate Hudson in Swansea (Swansea CND). All events were well attended - really rewarding for the local groups.

See page 8 for contacts of peace, justice and disarmament groups around Wales.

Privatisation on Parade

Saint Athan military base in the Vale of Glamorgan is the planned location for the biggest Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme in Wales and Britain as a whole. £12 billion according to the latest figures is to be spent on a 30-year government PFI contract with the Metrix Consortium. This will convert the existing base into a military defence academy, where outsourced training is to be provided to all three British armed forces, as well as to overseas military personnel.

Like a stealth bomber, this huge development has largely remained off the radar screens of Welsh political debate since the January 2007 announcement it was coming to Wales. This may partly be because of the vortex between Westminster and Cardiff Bay: the decisions were made via the Ministry of Defence and Whitehall, as a non-devolved matter. Lately, Plaid Cymru President Dafydd Iwan visited Penyborth, on Lleyn, North Wales and pointed out analogies with the burning of the bombing school there in 1936 and coming out against the St Athan development. But he is the only senior political figure to have publicly joined Jill Evans, Plaid MEP and Chair of CND Cymru, in criticising the venture.

Sound of silence

There is a feeling that our politicians do not wish to engage in debate. Despite the controversial nature of PFI schemes and the fact that they are not favoured by the Welsh Assembly Government, there has been little questioning of this leviathan within political circles here. Indeed, senior National Assembly politicians of all hues welcomed the announcement. Yet there are serious questions still to be answered before the Academy sees the light of day as programmed in 2013.

Misinformation

The most dependable source of information in recent months about what is happening on St Athan preparations has been *Private Eye* magazine. Its investigative work contrasts with the rhetoric of the project's cheerleader-in-chief, Vale of Glamorgan MP John Smith. His claims in the regional press - on the number of jobs to be created for local people, and positive financial spin-offs for the area - are consistently exaggerated and verge on the disingenuous.

Economics

In reality, the affordability of the privatised package is now a concern in Whitehall and beyond. Selling off MoD land elsewhere is a key component in the financial arithmetic behind the value for money that the Metrix Consortium supposedly represents. That is not looking such a coherent piece of mathematics nowadays, with economic trauma all around, and there are also intriguing land sale links to the government's eco-towns proposals. Nor are senior military figures particularly sanguine about the development, with unease among top brass at the 'lack of military ethos' that certain Consortium members demonstrate, and fear that 'trainees will leave the training establishment ill-prepared for service in operational commands'. Pay, conditions and pension provision for military trainers currently working for the MoD at other sites in Britain will change greatly for newly-privatised training staff too, and trade unions are active in securing assurances on those matters. The prospect of relocation to south Wales is also proving a turn-off for some, despite First Minister Rhodri Morgan's warm words talking up the Vale as a location.

Timing

A statement in the House of Commons in October by Armed Forces Minister Bob Ainsworth pushed a decision date on St Athan back to Spring 2009. At about the same time, the Vale of Glamorgan Council will consider a planning application relating to the expanded housing, road and other infrastructure in the locality that the development would entail. Campaigners seeking to stop the Academy from coming to Wales are using that timescale to focus their efforts. The Welsh Assembly Government has treated the military academy as a purely economic issue. Even in those terms, the question of

such large off balance sheet public accounting, the efficiency of securing the defence of the realm, and the potential blight on local development are major questions that have by and large remained outside public discourse. It may be that new economic realities will put paid to the project, or limit its scale.

Ethics

But for many organisations and individuals campaigning against the Metrix option the real issues at stake are different. They oppose the increased militarisation of Wales; are very wary of the fact that the Metrix Consortium includes major arms manufacturer Raytheon, military research institution Qinetiq, PFI stalwart EDS, private education company Nord Anglia (recently bought by a private equity company) and, perhaps the oddest consortium bed-fellow of all, the Open University; and are appalled by the prospect of training military from unacceptable foreign regimes at what John Pilger has described as a British *School of the Americas*, dedicated as the original institution to the pursuit of 'global security' as defined by the Consortium.

Debate and Discussion

The future of St Athan formed part of October's Wales Peace Festival in Bangor. This annual national event brought together inspiring speakers on a challenging range of issues related to justice and peace. Now that much of



party politics has been emasculated and the sheer numerical clout of the chapels is greatly diminished, it takes a non-partisan, secular event such as this to bring these matters to the fore. So there was discussion of a Welsh Peace Institute, the question of the future of Iraq's oil, workshops, stalls and a gig raising money for projects in Palestine. Perhaps the most impressive input of the weekend came from Moazzam Begg, ex-Guantanamo Bay detainee. This was not his first foray into Wales, but the clarity and apparent cool logic of his descriptions of life in an orange suit remain very strong, some four years after his release without charge. Next year he will be on a speaking tour sharing a platform with one of his former US captors from that corner of a Cuban field that is for ever America. Someone must ensure that there is a booking at St Athan parish hall for them.

Stephen Thomas

To find out more about the St Athan proposals, visit www.cynefinywerin.org.uk and www.antimetrix.org/.

This edited version of the article 'Privatisation on Parade' first appeared in *Planet 192*, price £4.00, available from good bookshops or direct from www.planetmagazine.org.uk

Secret Plan for New Trident Nuclear Warhead

The government is currently spending £5 billion on a new building programme at Britain's nuclear bomb factory at Aldermaston. Annual expenditure has risen from £493m in 2005/06 to an estimated £950m for 2010/2011, almost doubling the annual expenditure.

The projects include a new super computer, new laser facilities which can simulate nuclear weapon testing and the recruitment of over 1000 new scientists and engineers - a 30% increase in staff numbers. It is inconceivable that all this is just routine upgrading as the government claims. It is to enable the development and production of a new nuclear warhead for Trident.

Scottish CND has learned that at a briefing for the defence industry on Trident Replacement in June 2007 at which no press were present, David Gould, 'Chief Operating Officer Defence Equipment and Support' gave the game away. 'This afternoon', he said, 'we are going to outline our plan to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent. The intention is to replace the entire Vanguard Class submarine system [Trident], including the warhead and missile.'

However, the Westminster Parliament has yet to be informed about these developments and has certainly not endorsed such a decision.

Sources: Hansard 30 October 2007; Keynote address by David Gould, 29 June 2007, Abbey Wood - released to Scottish CND under freedom of information request.

heddwch action: Why not send this information to your MP. Tell them your feelings on the matter and ask them theirs. See 'some useful addresses' page 8

Welsh Mayors sign up to ban bombs

Caerphilly Mayor, Anne Collins is the latest Welsh signatory to Mayors for Peace - an international organisation which seeks the support of cities and local councils around the world in pressing governments to eventually eliminate all stocks of nuclear weapons.

Over 2,468 mayors have declared themselves 'Mayors for Peace' worldwide, and in Britain mayors from over 40 local authorities (including Boris Johnson) have joined the network. In Wales, the mayors/chairpersons of

Newport (SE Wales), Y Bala, Gwynedd, Mold and now Caerphilly have joined.

heddwch action:

If you want to encourage your unitary authority or town mayor to join - or if you are yourself a willing mayor - contact CND Cymru (see page 8) or Mayors for Peace c/o Peter Burt e: peterburt@phonecoop.coop for more help, a sample letter and mayor's membership form. More information on: www.mayorsforpeace.org

Double Standards over Nuclear Flights

Two of the United States Air Force top officials have been sacked and a whole new US 'Global Strike Command' has been set up following revelations that six nuclear weapons were mistakenly flown over the USA this year. For safety reasons, it is against regulations to fly any nuclear materials over the USA, although following the news, a military official did say that there had been 'no nuclear risk to public safety'.

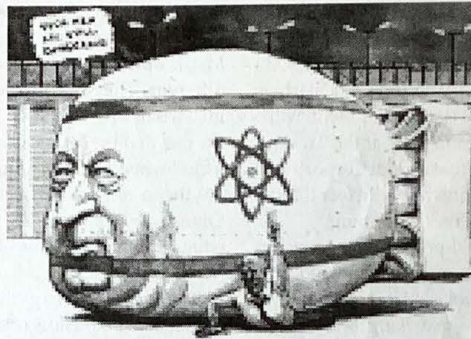
As part of the 'British' nuclear weapons programme, materials are regularly flown to and from the United States across the west of England and south Wales. After being taken by road from Aldermaston (Berkshire) and Burghfield to RAF Brize Norton (Oxfordshire), they are loaded onto VC10 planes. They are flown either over the Cotswolds and the northern edges of Bristol and Cardiff or further north over Chepstow, the edge of Newport, Caerphilly and Port Talbot and down over the Bristol Channel. These cargoes contain radioactive material and are destined for use in nuclear weapons. Information obtained by CND under the US Freedom of Information Act indicates they are likely to include either plutonium and/or highly enriched uranium along with components such as nuclear warhead triggers. So, when it comes to nuclear overflights – remember – just how safe they are depends on who is underneath them.

heddwch action: if this worries don't hesitate to let your AMs, MPs and/or Unitary Authority Councillors know how you feel.

Vanunu Update

Mordechai Vanunu was kidnapped by Israeli agents and convicted of treason in 1986 after discussing his work as a technician at the Dimona nuclear weapons plant in Israel, with the Sunday Times newspaper.

He consequently served 18 years in an Israeli prisoner, and was released in 2004 but forbidden to speak to the media or to leave Israel. Mordechai was then sentenced to 6 Months in prison in July 2007 for giving 'unauthorised interviews' to foreign media. His appeal against the further prison sentence was heard in a Jerusalem district court on 23rd September where the sentence was cut to 3 months. He is currently awaiting a Supreme Court appeal. The next great challenge for supporters of Mordechai Vanunu is to get him safely out of Israel.



heddwch action: Send Mordechai a message of support: PO. Box 20102, Salah Adin St. Post Office, East Jerusalem 91384 Israel e: vanunuvjmc@gmail.com or m: (972) 052 374 4569

The 'Sensitive Side' of Bombing

In October a military exercise 'Joint Warrior' was roundly condemned by Cymdeithas y Cymod (Wales Fellowship of Reconciliation) as yet another sign of the way in which Wales is being militarised.

Joint Warrior, a two week long exercise, over, in and around Wales and Scotland was a huge joint war game between military forces of the Britain and NATO. It involved weaponry of 29 naval battle ships, 4 submarines and 60 aircraft flying over 100 missions each day. The major exercise involved numerous simulated bombing runs, and was one of the few remaining where live firing of most weapons available is authorised.

Cymdeithas y Cymod deplored the use of Wales and Scotland as 'second class colonies' causing inconvenience and danger. They also opposed the tremendous waste of resources that used in this exercise - billed as the 'biggest in history'.

Conservation and environmental groups including the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and bird protection organisations also expressed concerns about the impact of military explosions on seabird populations, basking sharks and other marine life. During the exercise the British Geological Survey recorded three 'earth tremors' at magnitudes of 1.1, 1.5 and 1.9 on the Richter Scale in the Minch, between the Scottish mainland and the Western Isles. This was later confirmed by the MoD as having been caused by 'military mine clearance training'.

Joint Warrior was intended 'to replicate current Middle-East operational missions'. Readers will take comfort in the fact that the MoD reassured us that they take their environmental responsibilities very seriously and had carried out 'environmental impact assessments before the 'Joint Warrior' took place.

heddwch action: If military low flying exercises distress you or you want to report a particular incident do contact your MP, AM (it is an environmental and health issue too) and/or the MoD and complain – otherwise they will think everyone is happy with the situation as it is. Write: Ministry of Defence Directorate of Air Staff, Complaints and Enquiries Unit, Level 5, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB t: 0207 218 6020 f: 0207 218 2680 e: cro.wales@stc.raf.mod.uk

Top-down disarmament work in Europe

In the summer of 2008, a cross-party group of Members of the European Parliament launched a Parliamentary declaration in support of the Nuclear Weapons Convention to mark 40th anniversary of the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), and the unfulfilled promise of the official Nuclear Weapon States to move towards total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

The declaration was drafted and agreed by the cross-party group of Deputy Chairs of the European Parliament section of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. So far over 75 members have signed the appeal. During the launch, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Costa Rica highlighted the need of a Nuclear Weapons Convention. The government of Costa Rica has taken a leading role within the United Nations in favour of a convention banning all nuclear weapons. Last year Costa Rica submitted a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) to the Preparatory Committee of the NPT in Vienna and the General Assembly of the UN. This outlines the legal, technical and political elements required to achieve the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons under strict international control.

Every year since 1996, resolutions in favour of a NWC have been adopted in the UN General Assembly with large majorities, including the support of some States

that currently possess nuclear weapons – India, Pakistan, China and North Korea. The refusal of the other NWS and some of their allies to engage in multilateral negotiations for a total ban of nuclear weapons, as is required under Article VI of the NPT, has plunged the NPT into a deep crisis.

The European Parliamentarians are hoping that the European Parliament and countries will support this bold vision and take action to ensure its enactment, prompted by the voice of the people.

heddwch action: For more information about the European work contact: Pol D'Huyvetter, on behalf of PNND European Section t: +32-495-28 02 59 e: pol@2020visioncampaign.org CND is part of The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) which is campaigning for Governments to negotiate a Nuclear Weapons Convention see: www.ican.org or write to ICAN c/o Medact, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT for more information.



Penyberth

1936 - 2008

CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans and Dafydd Iwan joined the Rev. Guto Prys ap Gwynfor to light a flame of peace at the memorial at Penyberth, in September. The event commemorated the fire lit by Saunders Lewis, Rev. Lewis Valentine and DJ Williams to stop the building of a bombing school on the site in 1936.

Jill Evans said: 'We must not allow Wales to become a major cog in the military machine, and there are very fundamental questions that must be asked about the Military Academy at St. Athan before we are drawn into something we will regret as a nation. The future we want for Wales is as a nation of peace, not of war, of international understanding, not of military confrontation.'

The event was organised by Cymdeithas y Cymod /Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales.



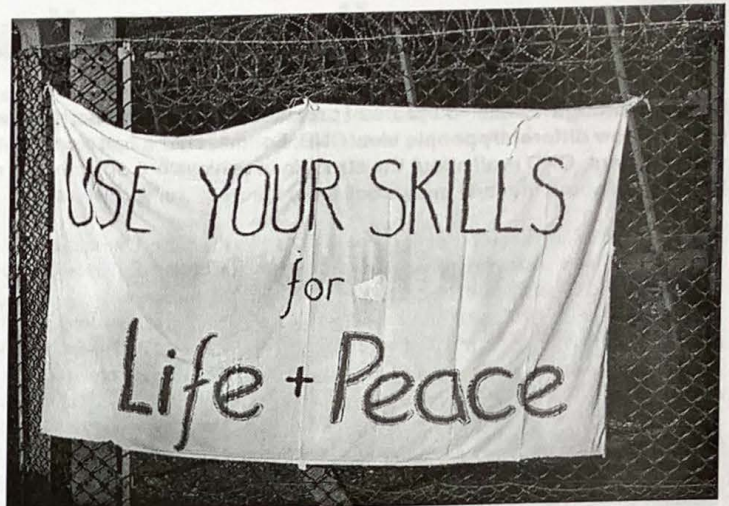
Tân yn Llŷn

Penyberth was a farmhouse at Penrhos, on the Llyn Peninsula which had been the home to generations of patrons of poets, but was destroyed in 1936 to build a training camp and aerodrome for the RAF. The Westminster government settled on Llŷn as the site for its new bombing school after similar locations in Northumberland and Dorset were met with protests.

Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin refused to hear the case against the bombing school in Wales, despite a deputation representing half a million Welsh protesters. Saunders Lewis when he wrote that the British government was intent upon turning one of the 'essential homes of Welsh culture, idiom, and literature' into a place for promoting a barbaric method of warfare. Construction of the bombing school building began exactly 400 years after the first Act of Union annexing Wales into England.

On 8 September 1936 the bombing school building was set on fire and in the investigations which followed Saunders Lewis, Lewis Valentine, and D.J. Williams claimed responsibility. The trial at Caernarfon failed to agree on a verdict and the case was sent to the Old Bailey in London. The 'Three' were sentenced to nine months imprisonment in Wormwood Scrubs, and on their release they were greeted as heroes by fifteen thousand Welsh at a pavilion in Caernarfon. This incident is known in the Welsh language as 'Llosgi'r ysgol fomio' ('the burning of the bombing school') or Tân yn Llŷn ('Fire in Llŷn').

Source: John Davies A History of Wales [1994]



The Big Blockade,

Ray Davies reports from AWE Aldermaston

The success of the blockade of Aldermaston Weapons Establishment on October 27th 2008 exceeded our wildest expectations. We spent the previous evening in Reading training and discussing the reasons why we were there. For me it was obvious, having 2 young children - Tad and Carwyn, both at school, who want a future, and who represent all the young people throughout the world who also want a future. The financial crisis crippling the country, people losing their homes and their jobs; yet this government was determined to spend £76 billion to build a new generation of nuclear warheads to add to the obscene number we already have and violated Britain's commitment to nuclear non proliferation.

At 4:15 in the morning, the whole place awoke to the loudest alarm clock I've ever heard. Outside, the police were already searching the vehicles with their torches and taking photographs.

As we approached Aldermaston, the police were everywhere, our driver slowed down and we got out of the minibus and planted ourselves flat out on the floor before the police could stop us.

For the first hour, the adrenalin kept us warm, but the temperature was dropping rapidly, and by 10 am, legs and feet were numb with cold. We were cheered by the fact that all the other gates had been successfully blocked. Other campaigners supporting the 'arrestables' fed us and kept our energy and spirits high.

At 10:30am two large vehicles came from the base, and out poured an army of police in riot-type gear and heavy screens to isolate us from the rest of the protestors. They were armed with equipment to cut away the arm-locks.

At another gate we learned that a group of young people had stopped traffic by super-gluing themselves together across the road, and when they were cleared by police, another group using tripods and stilts had taken their place.

At 12pm as agreed the night before, we cleared the gates. We felt that the blockade had been a wonderful achievement by Trident Ploughshares, CND, and all those who participated.

I shall look back with a great deal of pride on that day of action and wonderful memories of some truly great people, who more than make up for the Blairs, Bushes and Camerons of the world.

Planting a Peace Forest in Powys

Vera Jones, Chair of Llandrindod Wells and District CND spoke at the planting of yet another annual tree planting in the town on Hiroshima Day in August. She said 'We are part of international determination which has, in our country gone against the establishment.'

'But CND is a real part of life on this island. We have had an impact on both politics and society and have helped achieve some restraints upon nuclear weapons and their uses. We remain unflinching in our commitment with strong campaigns and an increasing number of supporters and allies.'

'Amidst the support for CND, there was opposition. Trees we planted on other sites than this were damaged or cut down. Protest letters were in the press. It is said that we were an organisation against defence - any kind of defence. In the so called 'Cold war', it was claimed that we were on the side of Russia.'

'Now thankfully the climate has changed, gone are the letters, trees planted are thriving as can be seen in our Peace Garden here. People to whom we explained about the aims of CND are sympathetic and often ask about joining.'

Photo left to right: Nicky Roberts, Pat Galliford, Vera Jones, Vi Shenton and Deputy Mayor Councillor Tony Phillips.

Llandrindod Wells and District CND contact: Vi Shenton 01597 829 303

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More than just a sign of the times

Reading through 'Peace - 50 years of protest 1958 - 2008' by Barry Miles, I was struck, and not for the first time, by how differently people view CND. For me, after a half a century of active campaigning for nuclear disarmament, CND is all about the struggle to achieve our objectives - nuclear and world disarmament, rather than about lifestyle or symbolism or "protest" for its own sake.

For others, including the author of this book, CND is also at least in part, a comfort blanket that he shares with others of like persuasion. He charts the advancement of the CND symbol as a universal peace symbol with affection but gives relatively little attention to the campaigns in which it has been displayed.

It seems that for some, peace campaigning is a sort of life-style which symbolises their rejection of the war machine and everything goes with it. Through CND, as in 'friends reunited' they meet human beings with common interests. Whilst doing so they take comfort from the companionship of others alienated from this violence-dominated society.

I don't knock peace campaigning as a life-style. Every social group, be it a political party, a chapel or a campaign to right a social evil, needs more than just its cause to bind its members together and keep the organisation going. My reservations surface when it appears to me that the lifestyle has begun to dominate

the cause. One manifestation of this is in the subtitle - a 'history of a protest movement' - used in several recent books.

No, I'm sorry, I don't want to be part of a 'protest movement'. This is a dismissive term used by our detractors to type-cast CND as supporters of a hopeless cause. It may be true that, compared with the tasks before us, we have achieved little but I am in the campaign to achieve disarmament, not for a lifetime of protest. Once into this frame of mind, you can end up measuring the success of a demonstration by the numbers arrested (a 'great protest') instead of how many were persuaded of our arguments.

I remember the great mineworkers' leader, Arthur Horner, telling me as a boy that he lived for the day when no-one would ever again have to go underground to work. For my part, I live for the day when no-one ever again has to protest about another new and deadly weapon that is about to be deployed. I'm in CND to get rid of weapons and the need to protest about weapons and will not mourn the passing

of the lifestyle that appears to have dominated so many of our lives.

'Peace - 50 years of protest' is also, sadly, an Anglo-American view of the peace movement - Wales Scotland and Ireland don't get a look in to such an extent that adaptations of the symbol for cat lovers and film stars' clothes are celebrated but not CND Scotland (thistle) or the Labour CND (rose) or the CND Cymru ground-breaking daffodil adaptation. It's a book to look good on a coffee table for people who dip in and out of the movement as the fancy takes them.

John Cox (showing his age)

'Peace - 50 years of protest 1958-2008' by Barry Miles. Published by Collins and Brown ISBN 978-1-84340-457-6 £25



'Protest' - an exhibition

You've just a couple of months to catch the end of this year-long exhibition at the National Library of Wales. A selection of the archives relating to struggles in Wales for human rights, peace and justice over two centuries have been brought together to give a taste of a long history of grassroots activism.

This large, striking photograph taken during a blockade on Trefechan Bridge, Aberystwyth by Cymdeithas yr Iaith (Welsh Language Society) activists in 1963 shows an non-violent action which protestors agree was greatly influenced by the civil rights movement in the USA. It was hoped the protest itself would also bring the second class status of the Welsh language to the attention of the press and the public. In addition to the struggle for an independent Wales and recognition for the Welsh language, the exhibition displays documents from the 1840s Rebecca Riots and the Tithe War, the Suffragettes, The Hunger Marches, industrial strikes and of course, photographs, leaflets and documents from CND Cymru as well as CND Aberystwyth are included. The substantial CND Cymru archive is housed in the Welsh Political Archive of the National Library.



It's an exhibition well worth a visit - as entertainment, information and an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and the journey still ahead.

Jill Gough

'Protest' runs until Saturday 14th February 2009 Library opening times: Monday - Friday 9.30am - 6.00pm Saturday 9.30am - 5.00pm. And there's a wonderful view from the steps - as well as free admission, a shop and the Pen Dinas Restaurant open to visitors for tea, coffee and/or food. Find a map on www.llgc.org.uk

Keep change in your pocket

When we in Wales have a Peace Institute of our own, an idea taken up at the 2008 Peace Festival in Bangor, People Power will surely be a handbook for all those involved. This essential and accessible resource for researchers and activists alike, is more than a bibliography; it acts as a guide to a huge number of non-violent popular actions, campaigns and movements.

People Power covers resistance to colonialism, authoritarian communist regimes, corruption and dictatorship then moves on to feature social movements and campaigns for human and civil rights, social and economic justice. An annotated bibliography of website and library resources with useful synopses is included, and the concluding section deals with preparation and training for non-violent action.

After a concise introduction to both the theories and practices of non-violent action, People Power focuses on 'protest and resistance, rather than non-violence as a philosophy, a social, economic and political theory or as a personal way of life'. Distinctions between non-violent action, direct action, civil disobedience, coercion, and passive resistance are usefully discussed.

People Power passed my test with flying colours on all counts. As an activist-academic with a passionate interest in non-violent action and social movements, this book has become one of my standard and frequent references. It should be regularly up-dated and reissued. One day - soon - I hope to find 'Wales Peace Institute' in the index.

Kelvin Mason

People Power and Protest since 1945: A Bibliography of Nonviolent Action
Compiled by April Carter, Howard Clark and Michael Randle (2006) Housmans ISBN 0-85283-262-1 £8.50 including a useful 2007 updating supplement and p&p within Britain, when purchased from Housmans Bookshop t:020 7837 4437 shop@housmans.com www.housmans.com

Non-Violence Training Handbook for Wales

Cymdeithas y Cymod has helped to fund the publication of a non-violence training pack that was prepared as a part of a project by Cynefin y Werin/Common Ground.

The purpose of the pack is to give guidelines and resources to the trainers of groups who want to learn about ways of managing conflict in non-violent ways. It contains the history of conflict situations and of movements in Wales which have used non-violent

means to resolve them. There are guidelines and resources to run nine non-violence workshops. Every workshop will concentrate on different



themes such as challenging conflict, analysis of conflict, reacting to power, how to campaign and the nature of non-violence.

It is hoped to see workshops being run across Wales by local peace groups, chapels and church groups, voluntary organisations, etc. The packs are suitable for trainers and tutors who work with groups of senior youth and adults.

The authors are Delyn Gwynfyd Harris, University College of Aberystwyth, Ben Gregory, chair of the Arfon Peace and Justice Group, and Arfon Rhys, secretary of Cymdeithas y Cymod.

The bilingual packs are for sale for £15 each. To order a copy, please contact Del Harris t: 01974 831 575.

David Jones: an extraordinary, ordinary man

David Jones, who has died at the age of 66 was described by his sister as 'an ordinary man who did extraordinary things'. Put ten of his friends in a room, ask them to talk about his life, and you would get some very different stories, such as his range of interests and friends. This version is mine, my picture of a very special person, and of a friendship that was both political and personal.

David Jones will be familiar to many readers of Heddwch and members of CND from the events which he ran for organisations like Cymru Cuba. He was also a teenage Aldermaston marcher.

Cuba

I got to know him when he and his wife Vesi were amongst the people who created a Plaid Cymru branch in the Vale of Clwyd for those of us who were seeking to play an active role in the party but didn't speak Welsh, or were more comfortable in the English language.

Over the years, large sums of money were raised for Plaid at the Jones residence, but you could just as easily find 'Dai Cuba' hosting an evening at Meifod for Cymru Cuba. In fact, I began to wonder if the Cuban ambassador and staff regarded Denbigh as the site of their consulate in Wales!

There were seminars at Clwyd Theatr Cymru - with CND stalls amongst many others - and numerous salsa nights at Denbigh Town Hall, often featuring bands from Cuba, and the most recent took place only a few weeks before David died.

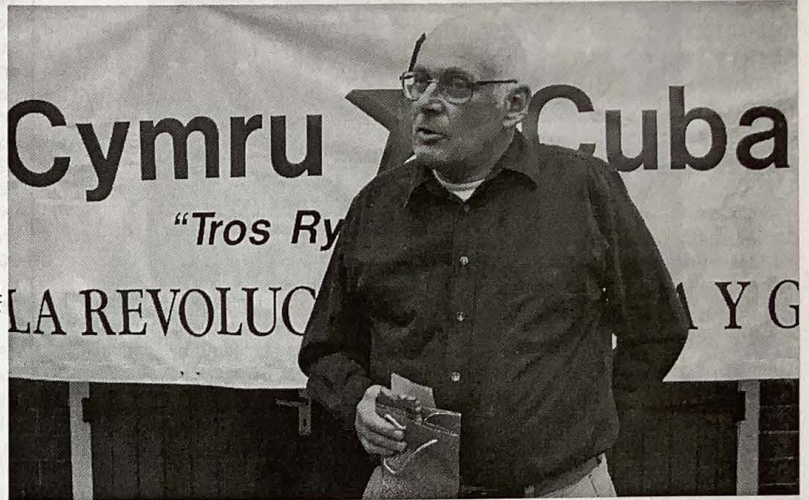
Persuasive

Throughout his illness, he showed this rare ability to absorb bad medical news and press on with the project in hand. Right to the end he was working on his *Wireless in Wales* project, which has since come to fruition in Denbigh.

One of David's great achievements was the creation of a centre for learning Welsh. The idea was conceived when he was Mayor of Denbigh, and within a miraculously short space of time, Canolfan Iaith Clwyd was born. The short gestation period was largely because of David Jones' quiet persuasiveness, so well employed to acquire the building and the funding.

International

David was equally a nationalist and an internationalist, something which seems to baffle some, although I can never see why. He practised what he preached, and he was not someone who veered to the right after the first flush of youth.



He can rest easily knowing that Wales has the One Wales Government, with Plaid playing such an effective role in the Plaid-Labour coalition.

Special

Denbigh Town Hall was packed out for the celebration of David's life, with people travelling from far and wide to be there, including Deputy First Minister

Ieuan Wyn Jones, and Plaid President Dafydd Iwan.

Amongst those celebrating the life of this extraordinary, ordinary man was Apolo Santana, a comrade from Chile, who spoke the words *David Jones presente, ahora y siempre*. They mean 'present, now and forever': the perfect tribute to our fallen comrade, David Jones.

David Bradley

nuclear power

The Nuclear Crunch

So now we know it: the Government's second 'consultation' on nuclear power was indeed as flawed as the first. That was the 16th October verdict of the official Marketing Research Standards Board, which issued a scathing criticism of the Opinion Leader Research - conducted survey's methodology: 'information was inaccurately or misleadingly presented, or was imbalanced, which gave rise to a material risk of respondents being led to a particular answer'. If the pro-nuclear power case is so compelling, why does the government need to rig its polls? Round Two to Greenpeace. The government's Strategic Siting Assessment has also been slammed by Dylan Morgan of PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) as yet another 'completely bogus exercise' in consultation, in that it barely refers to the risk of nuclear accidents or terrorist attacks.

Yesterday's news

Last May came the news that the 'Brown family firm' EDF had bought up land around Wylfa A. This was hailed in the local pro-nuclear press as clear evidence that the nuclear phoenix would soon be rising again in North Wales. However now that EDF finally has finally done its deal with British Energy, the land has been promptly put on the market again as part of the deal - to a resounding silence from the nuclear cheerleaders.

Profit vs. liability

When tricky questions of nuclear costs to the taxpayer are raised, the standard line of many politicians in Wales is that the new nuclear industry pays its own way and stands on its two feet. Surprise, surprise - under a new deal the URS-Areva-Amec

consortium will be passing on to the taxpayer all liability for any accident occurring during the decommissioning of Sellafield - even if it is their own fault. The public could be left with a bill of billions of pounds while private companies pocket the profits. Incidentally, no ministerial statement accompanied this dodgy deal, and details were not placed in the House of Commons library according to the correct procedures, thereby denying MPs the chance to question the decision. Paul Flynn MP (Newport West) has accused the government of a cover-up.

Curiouser and curiouser

The global economic crisis is already causing frantic number-crunching amongst energy experts from Milan to Washington DC and a brake on the much-heralded nuclear renaissance is now being contemplated even by its supporters. Nuclear economics just do not make sense, whether in the private or public sphere, whether in Finland (further delays and massive overspend at the showcase Olkiluoto 3 reactor site, by the way) or in Wales.

Urgency

The Wylfa B wagon is another project foisted on Wales that seems to be losing its wheels, though few of its supporters will admit as much in public. According to Hugh Richards of WANA (Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance), the nuclear lobby has in recent years distracted government from the desperate need to combat global warming by alternative methods such as energy conservation. As far as local economic concerns go, decommissioning Wylfa A will provide the Wylfa workforce with substantial employment for years to come, allowing the economy of Anglesey a chance to diversify. What should concern the Wylfa workers at the moment, says WANA, is any delay in the implementation of decommissioning plans.

Backyards everywhere

Watch your backs! Just across the South Wales borders, Hinkley Point is now seriously in the frame for nuclear expansion. Join that campaign too; please ... <http://stophinkley.org/> and sign up to support PAWB as well of course: <http://www.stop-wylfa.org/>. Let's have a renaissance in common sense.

Phil Steele

Atoms in Wonderland



The last time she saw them, they were still trying to make the public swallow the idea of nuclear power being cheap, safe and environmentally friendly.

'This is quite the stupidest tea-party I've ever been to in my life!' said Alice.

apologies & thanks to Tenniel, Carroll and Terry Mulvihill www.stophinkley.org

Aberystwyth Chooses White Poppies



Each year since 2004, Aberystwyth Town Council has voted in favour of laying a white poppy wreath - in memory of all victims of war - on the town war memorial at Aberystwyth Castle. This year the moving ceremony was facilitated by Rhidian Griffiths pictured here with Aberystwyth Mayor Sue Jones-Davies. Lotte Reimer of Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Group expressed appreciation for the Council's progressive stand and hoped that other councils might be inspired to follow Aberystwyth's lead. Lotte said 'And who knows - perhaps one day TV presenters will wear both a white and a red poppy! We all need to think a little harder about the true long lasting effects of war on civilians and the environment - there are no violent solutions to conflict.'

Obama on nuclear weapons

'It's time to send a clear message to the world: America seeks a world with no nuclear weapons'.

'As long as nuclear weapons exist, we'll retain a strong deterrent. But we'll make the goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons a central element in our nuclear policy.'

'I will not authorize the development of new nuclear weapons... And I will make the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide a central element of US nuclear policy.'

'I am committed to working with Russia and other nuclear weapon-states to make deep cuts in global stockpiles by the end of my first term.'

'Keeping nuclear weapons ready to launch on a moment's notice is a dangerous relic of the Cold War. I will work with Russia to end such outdated Cold war policies in a mutual and verifiable way.'

'I will work with the US Senate to secure ratification of the CTBT (Comprehensive test ban Treaty) at the earliest practical date, (and) prioritise diplomatic efforts with India and Pakistan to encourage them to move ...the ratification of the Treaty.'

'As president, I will set a new direction in nuclear weapons policy and show the world that America believes in its existing commitment under the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) to work to ultimately eliminate all nuclear weapons.'

'A world without nuclear weapons is profoundly in America's interest and the world's interest. It is our responsibility to make the commitment, and to do the hard work to make this vision a reality.'

We can only watch and wait. Can the US be so easily liberated from the military-industrial complex? It is up to the people of the US and the peace movement everywhere to hold Obama to his word and hold the president elect to what are surely some of the most important of all his promises.

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diary dates

2009

Nonviolence for a Change: Training 2009

From January to December 'Turning the Tide' will offer monthly workshops in nonviolent methods. Suitable for social change activists and available as either a year-long course or one-off workshops. Prior and early booking essential. Full course £250, one-day workshop £25; concessions available. Friends House, Euston, London. Venue is wheelchair accessible. More details: www.turning-the-tide.org/workshops/2009_info e: denised@quaker.org.uk or stevew@quaker.org.uk t: 020 7663 1061/1064.

15th - 31st January throughout Britain. Speaking tour by Gene Stoltzfus former director of the Christian Peacemaker Teams who, in 2003 spent time in Iraq consulting with Iraqi detainees, Muslim and Christian clerics and US soldiers. If you could like Gene to come and speak to your group e: cpt.unitedkingdom@gmail.com t: 0845 450 0214 as soon as possible.

24th January Cardiff 'Climate Camp Cymru 2009' All Wales planning meeting for Climate Camp Cymru 2009. Details: Quaker Meeting House, 43 Charles Street. Contact: m: 07886 719 873

27th January 7.00pm Bangor (venue tbc) Does Nonviolence Work? Gene Stoltzfus talks about his 40 years experience from Vietnam to Iraq. Pioneering Christian peace activist and organizer see above. Contact

3rd - 4th April Strasbourg Say No to NATO! Time to plan ahead to join CND at the international demonstration marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of NATO. Although ostensibly set up as a 'defensive' yet nuclear - armed military alliance NATO's mission statement has been rewritten to allow for offensive action across the Eurasian landmass. NATO has rejected a policy of 'no first use' of nuclear weapons. This means that the alliance would be prepared to use nuclear weapons in a first strike. More details, including transport information, will follow. Keep watching: www.cnduk.org/index.php/campaigns/no-to-nato page

24th - 25th April LONDON. Movement for the Abolition of War Peace History Conference. Imperial War Museum. More details to follow see: www.abolishwar.org.uk



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CND Cymru works to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction, for peace & human & environmental justice

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