



cnd cymru

campaign for nuclear disarmament



## Aldermaston Blockaded

***Inside: Vote Trident Out! \* News Updates \* From Aberporth to Mynydd Epynt \* St Athan - Public Inquiry \* Nuclear Free WAG? and more...***



## heddwch

is the magazine of Wales' Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND Cymru)

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

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# Vote Trident Out

2010 is a critical year for the campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are immoral and illegal under international law, but another issue brought to the fore by the General Election will be the need to cut public spending. Community projects, public services and jobs will be at risk. At the same time the current Government are planning to spend at least £75 billion on a new nuclear weapon system to replace Trident. This is an opportunity to let candidates know that it is time to stop wasting money on Weapons of Mass Destruction that we don't need, can't afford, and which make the world more dangerous.

In May 2010 representatives of Governments from around the world will gather in New York for the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) conference. We cannot expect to halt the danger of the spread of nuclear weapons technology if Britain orders a replacement for Trident.

Let your election candidates know what you think about nuclear weapons. Ask them the difficult questions – then you decide for whom you wish to vote! We have gathered together policies of some of the political parties who are fielding candidates and they appear on page 3. Policies of those parties which do not appear were not available at the time of going to press.

## heddwch action

\* Up to date information about Trident is available from CND Cymru (see contacts) and there is an excellent election pack available: [www.cndcuk.org](http://www.cndcuk.org)

\* Send standard email messages to the candidates in your constituency from the British CND website:

[www.cndcuk.org/election/](http://www.cndcuk.org/election/)

\* Go along to any hustings organised in your area and ask a question about Trident. Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Group organised a hustings for all their candidates – find out how they did it.

m: 0789 131 8805.

\* Write letters to the local or national press.

### Some websites to help:

[www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org)

[www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)

[www.globalzero.org](http://www.globalzero.org)

[www.acronym.org.uk](http://www.acronym.org.uk)

[www.tridentploughshares.org](http://www.tridentploughshares.org)

[www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)

[www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org)

[www.medact.org](http://www.medact.org)

[www.nuclearinfo.org](http://www.nuclearinfo.org)

## Useful Points:

\* One of the first decisions a new Government will face after the election will be whether to proceed further with the plan to replace the Trident submarines.

During the course of the next Parliament a decision is also due to be made on whether to build new nuclear warheads.

\* Whoever is in Government after the election, they are expected to cut public spending. This will affect services and public sector wages and will result in job losses. There will also be less money to fund local voluntary projects.

\* Trident Replacement will cost at least £75 billion. This includes the costs of building new submarines, constructing new facilities at Aldermaston and operating the system for 30 years. It is this expenditure on new Weapons of Mass Destruction that should be cut.

\* The plan to replace Trident has been criticised by a wide range of people including senior Conservative MPs, former government ministers & retired senior figures in the armed forces.

\* In May 2010 nations from around the world will gather at the United Nations to discuss the future of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. This Treaty must be renewed to prevent more countries developing nuclear weapons. But for this to happen the nuclear-weapon states, including Britain, need to make real progress towards getting rid of their own nuclear weapons. If we continue with Trident Replacement it will undermine these negotiations. As former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix said: 'it is like smoking a fat cigar and telling your youngsters not to smoke'.

\* Scrapping Trident would result in some job losses but far more jobs would be created or retained for less, if the cost of nuclear weapons were spent on public services and renewable energy.

# VOTE

# Which Party? You Choose.



*What the political parties say about Trident*

## Conservative Party

'Future defence procurement projects will be determined on five criteria: Capability; Interoperability; Adaptability; Affordability; Exportability.'

'We will ensure that NATO, not the EU, remains the cornerstone of our nation's defence. And we are committed to replacing Trident and maintaining the UK's independent nuclear deterrent.'

[www.conservatives.com](http://www.conservatives.com)

## Green Party

'Nuclear weapons are political weapons of terror, and are disproportionate to any threat. Further, since there is a finite possibility that the policy of nuclear deterrence will fail, and the ecological and social consequences of such a failure would be catastrophic, the deterrence system must be abandoned. The Green Party is committed to pursuing immediate and unconditional nuclear disarmament.'

'In the absence of effective international agreements on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and indiscriminate action, a Green Government would unilaterally dismantle and dispose of its stocks, while continuing to campaign for others to follow suit.'

[www.policy.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.policy.greenparty.org.uk)

## Labour Party

'In order to protect our national security Labour will replace the current Vanguard class submarines and Trident missile system. Trident will not be included in Labour's Strategic Defence Review.'

[www.labour.org.uk/defence](http://www.labour.org.uk/defence)

## Liberal Democrats

'Liberal Democrats want to work towards the global elimination of nuclear weapons. We would reduce the UK's stockpile of warheads to 50%. The current Trident nuclear system should be maintained and its operational life extended. A final decision on whether, and if so how, to procure any successor system will be taken at the point when the significant capital spending would begin to be incurred on a three-boat replacement around 2014.' 'Liberal Democrats would use this policy to kick-start multilateral disarmament at the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.'

[www.libdems.org.uk](http://www.libdems.org.uk)

## People's Party

'The proposed renewal of Trident at a cost of £76 billion is financially immoral at a time when frontline public services are under threat.'

'At a time when President Obama is advocating the scrapping of nuclear weapons, the United Kingdom should lead the world and stop the trident program now.'

[www.daidaviesmp.co.uk](http://www.daidaviesmp.co.uk)

## Plaid Cymru

'Plaid Cymru calls for the abolition of all nuclear weapons and reduction in military expenditure everywhere, and will continue to work for a nuclear free Wales and a nuclear free world. In addition, Plaid Cymru would establish a Wales Peace Institute with a wide ranging remit to promote and research into peace and reconciliation.'

[www.plaidcymru.org](http://www.plaidcymru.org)

## Socialist Labour Party

Britain does not need nuclear weapons. The Socialist Labour Party supports unilateral nuclear disarmament and wants an international ban on all weapons of mass destruction, including anti-personnel devices, Trident nuclear missiles and the removal of all foreign bases from Britain.

[www.socialist-labour-party.org.uk](http://www.socialist-labour-party.org.uk)

## Trade Union & Socialist Coalition

No more spending on a new generation of nuclear weapons, huge aircraft carriers or irrelevant eurofighters - convert arms spending into socially useful products and services.

[www.tusc.org.uk](http://www.tusc.org.uk)

## Welsh Communist Party

'Britain should pursue an independent foreign policy, based on the principles of peaceful co-existence and co-operation with all states irrespective of their social system. It should withdraw from NATO, unilaterally renounce nuclear weapons, dismantle nuclear war bases in Britain and remove all foreign bases.'

It should support a treaty to outlaw the manufacture and possession of nuclear arms by all nations and the similar prohibition of germ and chemical warfare, and should work for general and complete disarmament.'

[www.welshcommunists.org](http://www.welshcommunists.org)

This includes only the policies of parties we could find or who responded to our request for information. There may well be independent candidates standing who also oppose nuclear weapons.

## 'Now is the time' say Church Leaders

Three of the most senior church leaders in Wales are campaigning for a ban on nuclear weapons to secure a safer future for the world. The Anglican Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff, Peter Smith and the President of the Free Church Council of Wales, Rev Martin Spain, are joining an alliance of churches in Britain calling for the Government to commit to a world free of nuclear weapons.

The Churches' campaign, entitled 'Now is the Time', joins the World Council of Churches and others in pressing for governments to put all bomb-grade material under international control and commit to making the use and possession of nuclear weapons illegal through a new Nuclear Weapons Convention. They are asking people to sign an online petition expressing support for these aims. In a joint statement, the three Welsh church leaders said, 'We believe that the use or threat of use of

weapons of mass destruction is immoral. We call on nuclear weapons states to refrain from updating their nuclear arsenals and remind them of their 'unequivocal undertaking' to meet their obligations to eliminate all nuclear weapons under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). We owe it to our children and our grandchildren to seize the opportunity to put in place a new legally binding verifiable and universal agreement to eliminate all nuclear weapons. Now is the time.'

The church leaders are supported by Baroness Shirley Williams who calls nuclear proliferation and climate change 'the greatest threats to the survival of humankind'.

She said 'We have only a few years, at most a decade or so, to control and eventually abolish nuclear weapons.'

**heddwch action**

Sign up to the new online petition:

[www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk](http://www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk)

# Wales Blockades Aldermaston



Protestors from across Wales joined the 500 Trident Ploughshares and CND campaigners in effectively blocking every entrance to the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Berkshire for several hours on 15th February. This was the biggest blockade in years. Anti-nuclear campaigners were intent on obstructing building work

which is in preparation for the production of new nuclear warheads. Welsh protesters joined with international activists to send a strong message to government here and worldwide, that the abolition of nuclear weapons is the only answer to security and proliferation risks. Spending on new facilities at AWE Aldermaston has increased

seventeen-fold over the past decade, from £24m in 2000 to £420m last year. This is in spite of government denials that any decision has been made to go ahead with new warheads, with Ministers stating decisions will not be made until the next Parliament. (26 people were eventually arrested - 12 Spanish, 11 British and 3 Belgians.)

## Blockade Reports:

**Angie Zelter** (Knighton)

The Welsh were assigned the 'Construction Gate', which will probably be one of the most important gates for construction vehicles in the coming months. I arrived just before 6 a.m. to find the police waiting and a few Welsh people already putting up banners. Around 6.30am vans with the internationals arrived, followed quickly by Welsh groups, and the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhists. Protestors wearing effective metal lock-on tube and a lock-on drum wearers quickly positioned themselves in the lanes leading to the gates and the Aberystwyth Côr Gobaiith sang. MEP and CND Cymru chair Jill Evans, M.E.P., joined others from CND Cymru, Bangor, Swansea, Builth, Knighton, and Aberystwyth and Belgium, Spain and Chile. Protesters and supporters joined the happy throng and the police stood about smiling and engaging in conversation. Soon our gate was colourfully festooned with flags, and banners and silver emergency blankets to keep the blockaders warm. Hot soup arrived, and then tea and

cakes. Our gate was fully blocked by 7am and could not be opened without a major policing effort.

We soon heard that blockades were in place at every single gate. Cheers and high spirits - we had done it. The police started to take photos of the traffic queues piling up on the roads - no doubt for use in court to prove we had disrupted the life of the 'community' - a community going in to build weapons of mass murder! Then word came that someone had spotted that another gate had been opened and traffic was getting in. So Mell told us on the phone that she was blocking it with her bike. Then a student group moved and blocked that gate too! More cheers.

The Tadley Gate was thoroughly blocked with around 150 religious people singing hymns and praying. The Home Office Gate, with 50 women was blocked along with 2 Nobel Peace Laureates lying in the road - then we heard that the blockade was being broken up by the police cutting teams.

When we heard that the road had been cleared at the Women's Gate further up the A340 the Spanish and Belgian contingent decided to move from our gateway right across the A340

before the roundabout near us and the Welsh moved right up to the actual gates to continue blocking with fewer people. The police were taken completely by surprise and hurried to clear the road, but the Spanish and Belgian lock-ons took 2 hours to dismantle. It was clear that the police strategy was to leave the blockades in place at most gates and to concentrate on just clearing the Home Office Gate but that they would arrest people blocking the roads if they were in lock-ons.

After 7 hours we felt that had shown our strength despite 7 of the other 8 gates still being kept closed. Many interviews to local press as well as Welsh and International press had been given and the issue of Britain breaking the Non-Proliferation Treaty and encouraging state terrorism had been given a good airing. So, we packed up along with the other Gates and made our way around to the Main Gate by 2pm for a closing sing and dance and then made our way back to Reverend Ali's Church in Reading where good food and company awaited.

**Ray Davies** (Bedwas, Caerffili)

Our Welsh contingent spent the night before in the church hall in Reading discussing our tactics for the blockade. Adrenalin was running high as people tested out their lock-on tubes and equipment, and very little sleep was had by anyone. We left the church hall before dawn, and as we approached the Construction Gate in the darkness, we attached ourselves together with the tubes.



# Success comes in cans - failure comes in can'ts

**In CND Cymru we are never afraid of a challenge! That's why we have added another campaign to our list - this time a very positive one.**

We want a Wales Peace Institute. We want Wales to take its place alongside countries throughout the world with such institutes to guide the government and the peoples' work on peace and justice. The National Assembly is considering our petition on a Peace Institute at the moment. We have been inspired by the Flemish Peace Institute and its President, Nelly Maes when she came as our guest on a speaking tour around Wales a few weeks ago. The example of Flanders shows how much can be changed, given the political will to do so.

It was inspiring too to make new peace links between Wales and Flanders - two countries who have been linked so strongly by war in the past. I was delighted to take Nelly to the farm in Trawsfynydd where Hedd Wyn lived and worked before he was killed in Flanders

fields in 1917. There, in his home, we saw the Eisteddfod chair that was draped in black when his death was announced to a stunned crowd waiting for its winning poet. The magnificent chair itself had been carved by a Flemish carpenter. The scenery from high on the mountainside in Trawsfynydd was



*Jill Evans and Nelly Maes at the David Davies Institute Aberystwyth*

breathtaking, marred only by the occasional military jet screaming overhead. Nothing could have reminded us more clearly of how vital our project is.

We have started the debate about a Peace Institute/Academi Heddwch and what form it should take in Wales. I am certain that this is the focus we need at a national level to enable Wales to really contribute towards international peace as well as peace in our society. Everyone who has thought about the possibilities has been enthused and excited. Nelly Maes was accompanied in the Assembly Petitions Committee by the Flemish Peace Institute Director, Tomas Baum. When asked how Wales should go about setting up a body like this he answered "Just do it!". So there we are! We need to look at other countries, we need to look at resources and potential and the specific needs of Wales but in essence we just have to succeed. And we can.

**Jill Evans MEP, CND Cymru Chair**

## Blockade Reports continued

As we slowed down by the gate, we quickly threw ourselves in front of the gates, along with 15 of our Welsh colleagues and 15 internationals. The whole AWE was brought to a standstill. A band from the Basque country, and Aberystwyth's choir Côr Gobaith provided entertainment, with peace music from all over the world. The ground was soaking wet, and by 9 am misty rain was falling.

The atmosphere was electric. We were winning. News came from the other gates of the total success of the blockade. Nothing was going in, and nothing coming out. It was reported that there were tailbacks going back 3 miles in every direction. Police were in turmoil. Cutting equipment of all sorts was brought in to deal with the internationals, and this allowed the other 7 gates to maintain the blockade without interference.

By one o'clock, the police had had enough. Aldermaston had closed for the day. We all converged on the main gate, singing and dancing, proclaiming our fantastic victory - the best blockade at Aldermaston ever.

At 3.45 I was back in Reading railway station, full of aches and pains but happy in the knowledge that we had stopped production at Aldermaston. We had sent a powerful message to Gordon Brown and his government that it would be madness to proceed with the new breed of nuclear weapons instead of spending our taxes on education,

health and the things that matter to us all. Why did we get up at 4 am on a freezing cold wet morning? I did it for our beautiful but fragile planet, for my wife Wendy, children Tad and Carwyn, and so that the generations to come will have a future. And I don't think we need to worry about the caretakers of that future, because young people came to Aldermaston in their droves, and they will be back again and again until we had won the greatest prize - to rid the world of the horror of nuclear weapons.

### Nick Jewitt (Bangor)

How to fit four people, luggage, plastic pipes for lock-ons and a placard-on-pole into a Ford Fiesta? After much packing, still discussing the best route, it was 3.30pm by the time Heather, John, and I (of Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group) drove off, deciding on minimal stops for toilets and changing drivers; the placard was left behind.

We in the Ford Fiesta arrived mid-evening at a church hall in Reading for registration, briefing and a thick soup before departing to our incredibly cheap advance-booked Travelodge. Others slept in Church halls.

We do not know the full cost of replacing Trident. Estimates vary from £20 to £97 billion. Such money could be used combating the inevitable effects of climate change, improving the National Health Service etc. Recent opinion polls have shown that a majority of the public are against replacing Trident. It was clear that the police

had been told to be friendly and non-confrontational and not to arrest people blockading the gates. This last was disappointing as arrests increase publicity - the objective of the exercise, alongside disrupted access to and functioning of AWE. At the Construction Gate the internationals locked on across the road, whilst the entrance and exit gates were blocked by north Wales (Heather, Irene from Porthmadog and John locked onto each other) and south Wales (Ray Davies, and Jan Jones of Swansea) respectively. Many others provided support.

26 people were arrested, 21 of them for "obstruction of the highway", and of these 11 were released late evening after being cautioned. 10 were bailed for later court appearances, doubtless they refused cautions which require admission of the charge; they are probably intending to use the court appearances for further publicity. The other 5 were arrested and bailed after gaining "entry to a secure site". According to Thames Valley Police, these will be dealt with by Ministry of Defence Police when they answer bail.

Quaker activist John Lynes said: How can I pray for daily bread while our wealth that should feed the starving and heal the sick is spent on armaments? How can I expect other nations to abandon their nuclear ambitions when my own government continues to deploy these weapons?

### More photographs:

[www.flickr.com/photos/cnduk](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cnduk)

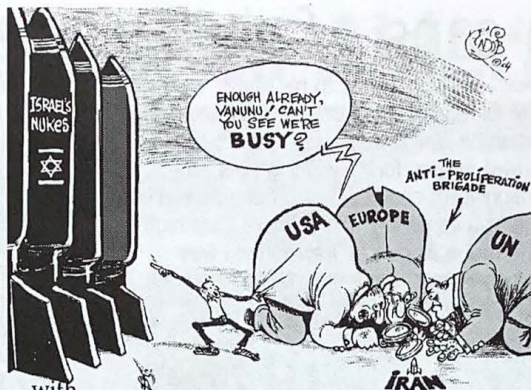
**Reports & future actions:**

[www.tridentploughshares.org](http://www.tridentploughshares.org)

**video:** [www.wri-irg.org/node/9816](http://www.wri-irg.org/node/9816)

# Vanunu

In 2004 Mordechai Vanunu was released after serving 18 years in an Israeli prison for revealing details of Israel's nuclear weapons programme. He was not free even then, as he still has restrictions on his freedom of speech, association and movement. In December last year he was re-arrested and charged with speaking to foreigners. There is already a 3 month sentence hanging over him for breaches of this condition. He is currently under house arrest pending trial. In February this year Vanunu asked to be removed from the list of Nobel Peace Prize nominees. He said that he did not wish to be 'associated' with Shimon Peres, a



former Nobel Peace Prize laureate and current president of Israel.

**heddwch action**  
Mordechai Vanunu is asking for donations to help cover his legal fees, and to start a new life in the future and to continue his work for a Middle East free from nuclear weapons. [www.vanunu.com](http://www.vanunu.com)

## Beware....by road

Military Convoys carrying armed nuclear warheads travel regularly between the nuclear warhead factory at Burghfield (England) and the Trident Nuclear Missile store at Coulport in Scotland. No radiation signs are displayed and neither local authorities nor the public are warned about the convoys. Each warhead contains up to 8kg plutonium and other highly radioactive materials. An accident or incident would contaminate a huge area indefinitely.

## ...by air

Special Nuclear Materials cargoes still fly from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire to the USA. The Flights cross south Wales. Nuclear warhead materials are exchanged between Britain and USA under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement. Who said that Britain's nuclear weapons were for national security?

More: [www.nuclearinfo.org](http://www.nuclearinfo.org)

# Deadly traffic in the Irish Sea

The first shipment of hot, highly radioactive waste, a by-product of nuclear fuel spent by Japanese reactors sent for reprocessing during the 1980s and 1990s, left Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria, for Japan in late January.

The process involves extracting reusable uranium and plutonium from the fuel, leaving behind a liquid waste. Over the next decade, high-level waste will also be returned to European countries. In volume, 65% of Britain's total radioactive waste derived from weapons and energy production is stored at Sellafield while accounting for about 95% of waste in terms of radioactivity when measured by volume. It is planned that 1,850 flasks of Highly Radioactive Waste will be returned to customers over the next 10 years, averaging about one shipment of 28 canisters per year in especially designed ships which pass down the Irish Sea off the coast of Wales before continuing with their journeys. A terrorist attack on one of these ships, or an accident during transportation could be catastrophic.

Radioactive waste from decades of weapons programmes, research and energy production will remain. There is no agreed method of dealing with this highly dangerous material. Current nuclear waste storage facilities are still only temporary solutions.

# US Missile Defense (NMD)

NMD continues to be a thorn in the negotiations for a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between Russia and the US. START expired in December and despite 7 rounds of talks for a replacement, Prime Minister Putin has identified the biggest problem for the talks as 'our American partners are building an anti-missile shield and we are not building one'. Reports last September that US National Missile Defense (NMD) bases planned for Poland and the Czech Republic were premature. Discussions around the issue continue between officials from the two countries and representatives of the US. The US and Poland have agreed to US deployments of Patriot PAC-3 "missile defense" deployments just 35 miles from the Russian border. Romania and Bulgaria have agreed to host US military bases and BMD systems are likely to be deployed there as well.

In Britain, a new directive signed by Defence Secretary Bill Gates proposes that if his proposed budget plan is accepted, British orders for 'interceptor missiles' will quadruple and triple from US arms companies Lockheed Martin and Raytheon respectively.

The bases at Menwith Hill & Fylingdales in Yorkshire continue to be part of the NMD plans.

**heddwch action**  
Write to your MP (see contacts page 14) and urge an end to British involvement with US NMD.

## Radical Bookseller takes on Amazon

Housmans, one of Britain's oldest and last-remaining radical bookshops, is offering an alternative on-line bookselling service to that of market-dominating Amazon. To support Housmans visit [www.housmans.com](http://www.housmans.com)

"Support the shop that supports your campaigns"



Housmans now has an extensive online bookshop, on which you can buy more than half a million different titles - delivered to your door - safe in the knowledge that you are still supporting independent bookshops.

The ethical alternative to Amazon.

**Housmans Online Bookshop**  
Over 500,000 titles available!

## Trident Network Relaunches



For many years Greenpeace has run a campaign network dedicated to its Peace and Disarmament work, and specifically their ongoing campaign against Trident. After a peak of activity around the Arctic Sunrise ship tour in 2007 (see

[www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/peace/the-trident-tour-finishes](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/peace/the-trident-tour-finishes)), the network has been less active. They hope to change this in the run up to the general election, and are asking for your help.

### heddwch action

To find out more about the Greenpeace Peace & Disarmament work:

1) Visit the online group:

[www.greenpeace.org.uk/groups/peace](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/groups/peace)

2) Click on 'join our group'.

## Keeping US Nuclear Weapons out of Kobe

The USA has over 130 military bases in Japan. A 1975 City Council resolution for the port of Kobe states that all foreign warships entering the port must certify that they have no nuclear weapons on board.

The US puts Kobe under pressure to renege on its resolve. Each year, CND joins groups

from all over the world in responding to the annual call by the citizens of Kobe and Hyogo Council against A&H Bombs for messages of solidarity.

### heddwch action

Write in support as individuals or groups to: [hqcm541@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:hqcm541@yahoo.co.jp)

## Obama Busy at the Bomb Shop

The Obama regime announced in its recent annual budget that it is to increase spending to £4.3 billion on the US nuclear weapons stockpile. This is an increase of £370 million over the amount spent by George Bush in his final year of office.

The US is also dispatching Patriot missiles to four countries – Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Kuwait – and keeping two ships in the Gulf capable of shooting down Iranian missiles. Washington is also helping Saudi Arabia develop a force to protect oil installations.

The US navy is in the process of upgrading all its Ticonderoga class cruisers and a number of destroyers to carry the Aegis ballistic missile defence system. This uses a surface-to-air missile to intercept ballistic missiles above the atmosphere. It has been tested on failing satellites. Each missile is over 6m long and costs more than \$9m.

## Doomsday Clock

As of January 2010, the Doomsday Clock reads 11:54pm. The hands on this barometer of nuclear danger since 1947 have been moved 1 minute further away from midnight. This has been decided by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists because of increased 'worldwide cooperation to reduce nuclear arsenals and limit effect of climate change'.

The Doomsday Clock is a symbolic clock face, maintained since 1947 by the board of directors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists at the University of Chicago. The closer the clock is to midnight, the closer the world is estimated to be to global disaster. The analogy originally represented the threat of global nuclear war. Since 2007 it has

also reflected climate-changing technologies and 'new developments in the life sciences and nanotechnology that could inflict irrevocable harm.' Reflecting international events dangerous to humankind, the clock hands have been re-set nineteen times, since its initial start at seven minutes to midnight in 1947.

## A Man of Passion and Principle

### Michael Foot 1913- 2010

CND Cymru joined others across Wales in mourning the death of Michael Foot on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Michael was one of the speakers at the founding meeting of CND on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1958. He believed that the way forward for nuclear disarmament was through Labour Party policy. He served as MP for Ebbw Vale between 1960 and 1992 and was even admired by many of his adversaries for his intelligence, strongly held principles and as a brilliant speaker.

Plaid Cymru leader Ieuan Wyn Jones who was an MP at the same time as Michael said that he 'learned much from his wealth of knowledge and commitment to social justice.'

In a 1960 newspaper article, Michael Foot wrote: 'A Britain which denounced the insanity of the nuclear strategy would be in a position to direct its influence at the United

Nations and in the world at large, in a manner at present denied us.'

In 1961, his opposition to defence spending led to the party whip being withdrawn from him for two years.

As leader of the Labour Party in the 1980s, Michael Foot continued to back nuclear disarmament. In a 1980 interview and with Greenham Common in mind, he said: 'Most liberties have been won by people who broke the law.'

When Labour lost the election in 1983, critics rushed to say that his defence policy was responsible for the defeat, despite the fact that the majority of Labour Party members, particularly in Wales were committed to nuclear disarmament. There were clear majorities in public opinion polls against Trident & US nuclear weapons bases in Britain.

A fellow comrade of Michael Foot, CND Cymru Vice Chair Ray Davies remembers: 'While Foot was not perfect, he fought against fascism and right-wing bigotry.

He supported the trade union movement with the red flag in his hand and fire in his belly. He was a beacon for all of us campaigning for peace and disarmament, and exposing the truth about capitalism.' 'Michael and Nye Bevan are still my working-class heroes. But it is not those heroes who change the world. It's ordinary working people standing together.'



# From Aberporth to Mynydd Epynt

John Pilger is one of the world's best journalists. He says 'It is too easy for western journalists to follow a government agenda that states which oppressors are good and which are bad, and that presents 'our' policies, as the harmless ones, even though the opposite is usually true'.

In December 2009, in an article in the New Statesman, under the heading 'Normalising the crime of the century', he said that the purpose of the Chilcot Enquiry was to normalise an epic transgression. And that when Tony Blair would make his appearance in January, he would play his part to 'loathsome perfection'.

And his prophecy was of course correct. There weren't any scandals that had been hidden until now, all questions were answered, no veering from the usual self-righteous path, and most importantly of all, there was not even an admission of regret, not to mention an apology to the families whose loved ones had died. And still, in Iraq, the confusion continues, as does the fighting in Afghanistan.

The work of developing WMDs (similar to the ones that Saddam supposedly had) also continues, in West Wales. As Tony Blair was busy rehearsing his overly-genuine answers, the Welsh Assembly Government was quietly publishing its response to the consultation that would permit UAVs to be developed and tested in the sky above Ceredigion.

And yes, without paying much heed to the numerous worries expressed, they have approved the application to allow these vile military weapons to be tested over an area of 600 square miles, over the heads of 50,000 Welsh inhabitants, from Aberporth to Mynydd Epynt.

Exactly 70 years since the War Office stole 54 Welsh homes, closed the primary school, the church, and the pub on Epynt, it is unbelievable that our very own devolved government has decided that the theft of land is not enough, and that our sky has to militarised as well.

Apart from Adam Price (who was truly excellent, by the way, when asked on Sky News, to analyse Tony Blair's boldness), none of the other 12 Assembly members, or any member of Parliament that represents the area in question, has opposed the plan. Worse still, they support it.

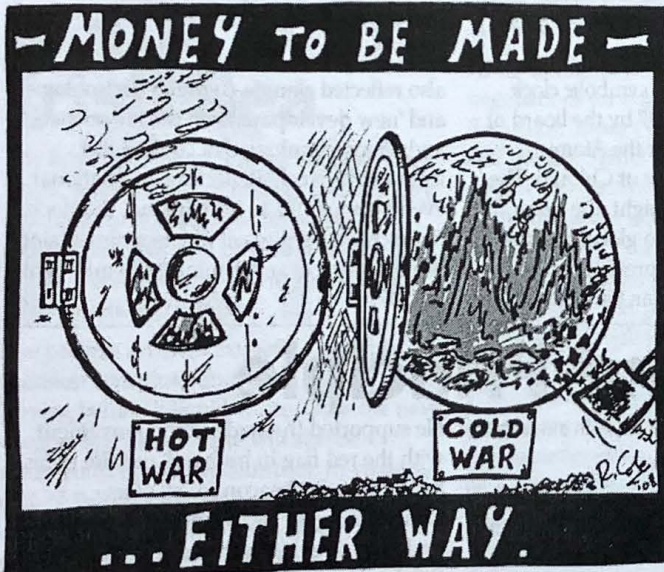
Why? In the face of the Chilcot Enquiry, you would expect politicians to be more careful when agreeing to military work. Surely, there must be many politicians who deeply regret by now, their agreeing to the war in Iraq, with cowardly non-questioning acceptance.

Perhaps the questions to ask are these: if our politicians truly believe in the virtues of testing these dangerous machines over West Wales, then why don't they insist on being given the praise for the development? Why are they so taciturn? Why isn't the story being highlighted in the press?

This brings me back to John Pilger's point. Saddam Hussein did not possess WMDs, but the threat of the possibility that he could develop them was sufficient reason to go to war. But we are supposed to believe that the work of developing WMDs, similar to Saddam's, in Ceredigion, is just and lawful. Yes, it is time for us all to start asking questions.

**Angharad Mair**

The article above first appeared in Golwg Magazine January 2010



## h e d d w c h \* a c t i o n

Write to your MP or AM. Politely tell them how you feel and ask them to represent your view, not just their own. Join the campaign see: [www.bepj.org.uk](http://www.bepj.org.uk)

## Palestine Festival - Bangor to Bethlehem

Bangor to Bethlehem – will not only be a weekend of speakers, discussion panels, workshops, music, films, cabaret and stalls to raise awareness of the problems facing Palestine today but also a celebration of Palestinian culture.

Speakers will include Tony Benn and other leading campaigners, from the International Solidarity Campaign and peace activists from Palestine. Two evenings of entertainment will include music from Banda Bacana, Steve Eaves and Gwilym Morus; films, poetry and art; food and stalls.

The festival will support the work in Bethlehem of former Bangor students. Some have founded a permaculture project, 'Bustan Qaraaqa'. This will enable Palestinians to live more sustainably in

conditions despite increasing oppression by the Israeli authorities. These same former Bangor students are fighting deportation and funds are desperately needed for the project to survive (see [www.bustanqaraaqa.org](http://www.bustanqaraaqa.org) for further information). The project has been proceeding very successfully until now, has attracted much support from the 'seam zone' – those Arab lands caught between the illegal wall and Israel.

The Bangor to Bethlehem festival takes place over the weekend of the 16/17/18th

April, at Hendre, Tal y Bont, near Bangor - a 19th century farm complex just 100 metres off the A55 at Junction 12.

Besides being an enjoyable and informative weekend, we hope the festival will lead to the creation of future projects and activities to support Palestine and create further links between Bangor and Bethlehem.

## h e d d w c h \* a c t i o n

Further information from Linda Rogers  
t: 01248 490 715  
e: [lindarogersbt@googlemail.com](mailto:lindarogersbt@googlemail.com)



# Return Journey to Gaza

- with three Swansea aunties

In December and January, the third international aid convoy Viva Palestina travelled over 3000 km in an effort to break the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. In Gaza, aid was handed to the Central Council of Charities - a non-governmental body of civic societies for hospitals and welfare centres. Ingrid Bousquet (who writes below), D. Murphy and Janet Hussain (The Three Aunties) together with Swansea Action for Palestine raised money to purchase a van, fill it with aid and drive with the Viva Palestine convoy across Europe and into the Middle East to Gaza.

Ever since I was a child I have tried to stand up to injustice and I've had strong humanitarian ideals. This is what drove me to volunteer with asylum seekers and refugees for various charities in Swansea. I had been restless for a while, wanting to rise to a challenge, explore the world and contribute to making a difference when I



heard about the convoy to Gaza. My friend D, who had travelled a couple of times to the West Bank and told me about the desperate living conditions out there, had applied to take part in the Viva Palestina convoy and I decided to join her.

A month before departure we met up with Janet, another volunteer, to devise an action plan to find a vehicle, medical aid and fundraise towards travelling costs. The response from individuals, unions, mosques and various organisations was incredibly generous and to our amazement we managed to reach our first goal.

We set off from London on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, joining over 80 vehicles and 160 people of diverse backgrounds, religions and ages.

Others later joined us along the route. During the first week we discovered that we had problems with weight overload, the CB radio didn't work and for a while we were held by the customs after some particles

similar to those found in bombs were found on our mini-bus. Slowly but surely the problems were resolved and we 'sailed' across beautiful landscapes down European motorways stopping late at night to camp at service station car parks.

## Greece and Turkey

We experienced our first big welcome in Greece with a speech from the Mayor of Thessaloniki and were fed and given a place to sleep in the Olympic Sports Hall. Crossing the border into Turkey we were cheered by hundreds of people who accompanied us all the way to Istanbul where a rally in support of Palestine took place on Taksim Square for the first time in 30 years. Here we were embraced by weeping Turkish women who gave us messages of hope and support to pass on the people in Gaza. The reception across Turkey was overwhelming; there were even people waiting by the side of the roads day and night, waving us through. The convoy grew at that point as 60 aid vehicles, provided by the Turkish Human Rights Charity I.H.H., 20 Americans and a few more Europeans joined us on our journey.

## Syria, Jordan and Egypt

In Syria the convoy was well looked after, fed and put up in hotels by various unions and organisations, while George Galloway gave press-conferences. I felt very humbled when meeting Palestinian refugee families in Jordan. They still held the keys to their home in Palestine as they had been told in 1948 and 1967 that they would be going back. They could see their homeland from the hills of Amman but were unable to go there. The journey became tougher in Aqaba after we were told on Christmas Eve that the Egyptians were not allowing us to cross the Red Sea. We demonstrated in the street,

started a hunger strike and held a minute silence in commemoration of the massacre of over 1500 inhabitants of Gaza by the Israeli Government in December 2008. The only solution open to us was to return to Syria and load the vehicles onto a Turkish ship.

In Al Arish, Egypt there was a definite shift in atmosphere. The



Egyptian Government had started to build a steel wall on its frontier with Gaza and we could feel that they didn't want us there as their police and agents provocateurs surrounded us at all times. There was no certainty that they would let us through to Gaza.

## Palestine

It was only when we passed the sign 'Welcome to Palestine' that we knew we had made it. Our short visit is hard to describe. The Palestinian people were so grateful for our presence, for the aid we had brought with us and especially to know that we care. They were so welcoming, sharing with us the very little they have. We learned that an Israeli drone had followed us on our way in and we could hear distant bombing throughout the day until the evening when a deafening bomb exploded so near that it shook the building we were in. Our Palestinian hosts were more concerned about us than themselves. There hadn't been a bomb so deep in the city centre since the massive Israeli bombardments in January 2009.

The situation is so outrageous and incomprehensible. How can people be left to die and starve in this big open air jail that is Gaza? The every day bravery of the Palestinians who survive with as much dignity and smile as they possibly can is an inspiration to us all.

Ingrid Bousquet

## heddwch action

There are many ways to protest against this crime against humanity, this huge tragedy. It is valuable to the Palestinian people to know that there are many in the outside world who care about their plight. Write to your MP, make links with universities and groups in Gaza, boycott Israeli goods...take a stand in your way, however small.

more: [www.swansepalestine.org](http://www.swansepalestine.org)



# Standing Tall with Tuvalu

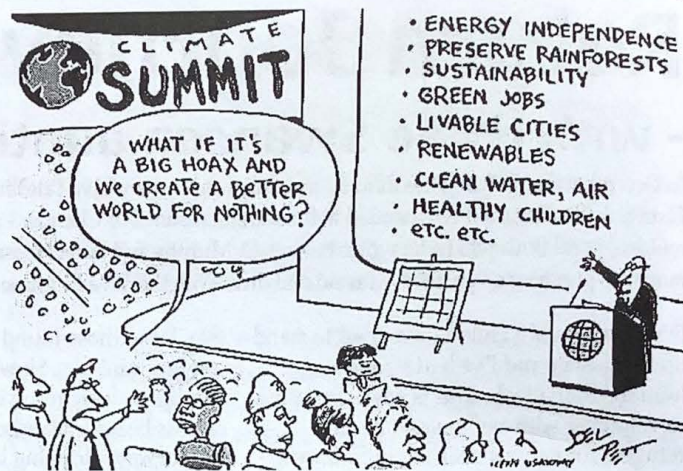
In December, the UN conference in Copenhagen (COP15) was called to respond to scientific reports of the effects of carbon emissions on the future of the planet. These emissions historically and currently result from the activities of 'developed countries' such as Europe and the US. Such emissions continue to be produced by the 'developing' countries as they aspire to 'more comfortable' living conditions. Whatever the source, these carbon emissions are causing such massive changes to the global climate that by 2050 (and when I am 64) our beautiful planet will no longer be recognisable or able to function in the way we now expect.

I realise how remote one can feel from such international decisions, especially in rural mid Wales where to make one's voice heard about the smallest issues can seem a big deal. But having seen COP15 for myself, I believe more than ever that it is here, in our local communities that the big decisions must be made, while politicians toy with their selfish trading of numbers.

The Copenhagen conference ended in a weak on-the-side deal between the US, China and India, with support from the EU. This agreement ignored the desperate calls from presidents and negotiators from Small

Island States such as the Maldives and Tuvalu to find some way of preventing the imminent small sea level rises which will totally eradicate their homelands.

Earlier in the December negotiations, the island state of Tuvalu, with a population of around 1,200 people, covering an area of 10 square miles, caused waves at the conference by blocking major negotiations until larger countries recognised that the results would still lead to the complete submersion of Tuvalu. This one small country amongst the 192+ negotiating states, halted discussions in a call to make the right decision.



And this is why I know that it is actually here, in our hearts and minds, in the cold and wet winter scenery of Wales (which seems one of the most distant places from such global resolutions), that such decisions should be made.

An understanding of the importance of international decisions – basically, to what extent the developed, rich countries are willing to assist those they have exploited and left impoverished and damaged over the years, in surviving the potentially catastrophic weather changes caused by their own 'success' -

cannot be lost on us in Wales. Here too we stand to lose significant land, resources, farming potential and healthy living conditions as a result of the worst effects of climate change.

As a small country also historically exploited by wealthier, more powerful countries, Wales and the Welsh people as individuals, families and communities must surely stand with Tuvalu and the 'ordinary' people of the world in asking for a sustainable future to preserve our land, our families and the future.

**Emily Freeman**

# In St. David's City Square...

Look closely - this print by Pembrokeshire artist Paul Baker Jones may bring St David's city centre to mind.

A long time advocate of peace and disarmament, Paul told us he believes that *'to encourage non-violence can only be a force for good in our confused and inhumane world.'* *'The peace symbol is to my mind a very spiritual and philosophical symbol of our time. Humanity must unite and firmly pledge to rid the world of nuclear weapons and an end to war.'*

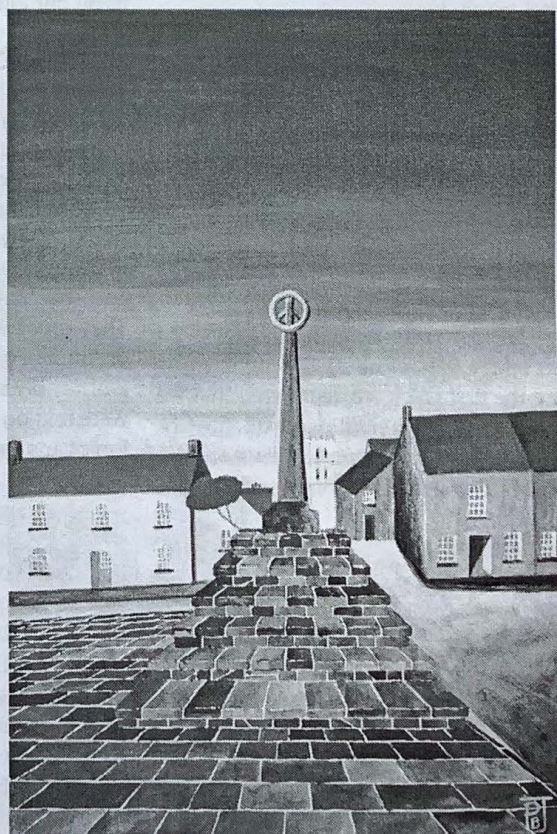
*'I believe in the advancement of civilisation and that humanity must collectively work towards creating a positive and peaceful future for life on earth.'*

The original painting (£375.00) or mounted 20"x15" limited edition of 100 signed prints (£40.00 plus p&p British. 1st Class - £4.99 Europe Airmail - £6.99 Worldwide Airmail - £11.99) available from

t: 01437 710 246

e: [info@manicmachine.com](mailto:info@manicmachine.com)

For more of Paul's work see [www.paulbakerjones.co.uk](http://www.paulbakerjones.co.uk)



# Public Inquiry : Private Defence College

A 4-week inquiry into the £12 billion privatised military training establishment to be based at St Athan, south Wales ended in February.

A case for compulsory purchase of land in the Vale of Glamorgan was presented by senior Ministry of Defence (MoD) figures and Welsh Assembly Government civil servants at the Public Inquiry, held in Barry. This land is to enable current plans for a defence technical college covering British army, navy and air force personnel to go ahead alongside an aerospace business park. Representatives of the Metrix consortium of private companies which successfully tendered for the defence academy were also present at the hearing.

There were two main strands to the opposition voiced there. Local residents raised questions about proposed new roads, accommodation blocks on green field sites, a powerful radar system, and re-located firing ranges. These will be the most obvious physical manifestations of the huge scheme, planned to open in 2013.

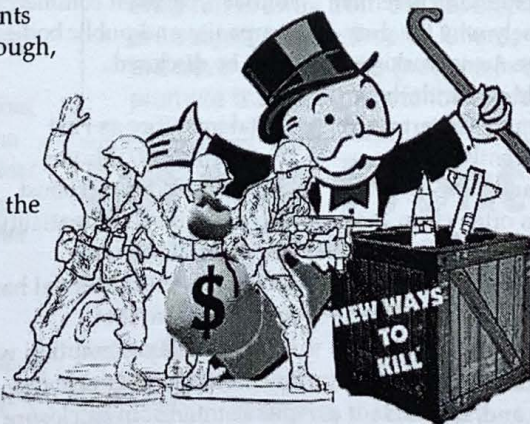
Peace and environmental campaigners however concentrated their concerns on issues relating to the wider picture behind this biggest-ever UK government Private Finance Initiative. For them, the *bona fides* of companies that form part of Metrix – such as arms manufacturer Raytheon and military research specialist Qinetiq – are crucial. The environmental assessments undertaken, while undoubtedly thorough, clearly came across as limited to local perspectives only. At no point for example have the real sustainability issues involved in training people for warfare been seriously considered by the proposing authorities. Nor has the acceptability of encouraging military and civilian aerospace firms to set themselves up here, when measured against the avowed low carbon targets of the Westminster and Welsh governments, been fundamentally queried in Welsh Assembly circles. So it took representatives of Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Cymdeithas y Cymod, Cynefin y Werin, Friends of the Earth and Green Party Wales to focus on these matters in their evidence and questioning.

The Inquiry was a further step in the process of finalising a 30-year agreement for this work. But there remain significant

hurdles prior to the MoD and Metrix actually signing a contract as scheduled in November this year. The general election is certainly one, since all 3 major UK parties are committed to undertaking a comprehensive Strategic Defence Review straight after it. With pressures on government finance in all departments, and significant cuts already announced this year by Armed Forces Minister Bob Ainsworth, the viability of the technical college at its current scale will be scrutinised in such a Review.

What also worries anti-St Athan campaigners is Metrix's keenness for military personnel from overseas regimes, some with dubious human rights traditions, to be trained here. If there are reduced needs for the 3 British armed forces, then spare training capacity at the college will be sold as a means of ensuring that the enterprise's business case does not falter. MoD top brass made reassuring noises at the Inquiry that troops from 'unacceptable' states would not be welcomed. But recent statements by Secretaries of State for Defence encouraging third party income from the use of spare places at St Athan do not augur well for tight control on this aspect of the privatised regime.

**Stephen Thomas  
UNA Wales**



## heddwch action

Regular readers will be aware of the campaign to stop the St. Athan Military Training College - see [www.cynefinywerin.org](http://www.cynefinywerin.org) and <http://www.cndcymru.org/lang/en-uk/2008/08/05/st-athan-wobbles/>

Although no political party opposed it when first announced, the coalition partners now face growing opposition to the plans.

August 14<sup>th</sup>  
De Valence Pavilion  
Tenby, Pembrokeshire  
**CND Cymru by  
the Sea**

**All Wales Peace Day**

Don't miss it  
Put the date in your Diary now!

**Afternoon - stalls and  
speakers**

(to be confirmed).

**Evening - live music**  
[organised for us by Wild West  
Wales]  
to include:

### Caroline Aiken

has been performing for 40 years. She has a nomination for a Contemporary Folk CD Grammy in 2006 and has recorded and shared stages with The Indigo Girls and Bonnie Raitt

### Nigel Mazelyn Jones

plays music described as traditional folk/roots/progressive and creates a unique sound on acoustic guitars with electric textures. He also plays Indian santor and clay pot. Much of his writing is influenced by his home - the land, sea and sky of the south west of Britain and some of his song writing cuts to the core of human life. At live gigs he often combines the music with powerful and evocative visuals.

### Hideaway Trio

formed in 2008 by Gareth Price Hideaway Trio from Haverfordwest; a power trio who blend Blues, Rock and Soul/funk into a sound of their own.

### Weird Naked Indian

perform songs written by singer and guitarist Dave Dale and drummer Conor Doig. They draw upon influences such as Red Hot Chili Peppers, Queens of the Stone Age, Tenacious D, Two Gallants and The White Stripes to produce a unique style of rock.

The Ticket price for the evening gig is £10 (£9 for usual concessions). Please come along for a great weekend by the sea - and help raise some funds for CND Cymru at the same time!

### MORE INFORMATION:

Watch [www.cndcymru.org](http://www.cndcymru.org)  
& [www.wildwestwales.com](http://www.wildwestwales.com)

Wild West Wales - "Doing the best we can to keep music live!"

**TO BOOK STALLS  
CONTACT CND CYMRU**

# Nuclear Free WAG?



Friends of the Earth Cymru have revealed that the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has agreed to maintain their stance against nuclear power as 'not needed in Wales'. Environment Minister Jane Davidson's written evidence to the Sustainability Committee's Scrutiny of the National Policy Statements in January emphasised the need to focus on renewable energy, rather than simply to argue against nuclear power\*.

Ieuan Wyn Jones, Deputy First Minister of the Assembly and the WAG Minister for Economic Development and Transport, as well as being the AM for Ynys Mon has consistently said that he is in favour of Wylfa as a constituency AM, but not as Plaid leader or Deputy First Minister. Carwyn Jones has yet to state his position on the matter.

The National Assembly itself has no say over energy generation projects involving the generation of over 50 megawatts yet still has responsibility for the waste any power station produces.

The Proposed Regulatory Justification decisions on new nuclear power stations, set up to speed up and bypass planning 'problems' also reduces the democratic process for the building and siting of nuclear power stations. The Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will soon decide on all new major infrastructure projects, including nuclear and coal power stations. National Policy Statements (NPS) will set Westminster government policy, and provide the basis for the IPC's decisions. But the consultation and parliamentary scrutiny process to look at these

NPS is very short and inadequate. More time should be spent on ensuring that the policy is properly looked at, with a real opportunity for people to influence the decisions made, taking Welsh Assembly Government's policies on sustainability, energy and planning into account.

\*paragraph 19: The Assembly Government remains of the view that the high level of interest in exploiting the huge potential for renewable energy reduces the need for other, more hazardous,

forms of low-carbon energy and obviates the need for new nuclear power stations. Full reference available from CND Cymru.

**heddwch\*action**  
Friends of the Earth Cymru are calling on us to write to our MPs asking them to sign Early Day Motion 545 calling on the Government to rethink the planning process. Use their excellent website tool for doing this see [www.foe.co.uk/cymru/](http://www.foe.co.uk/cymru/) and choose 'Planning for Change'. Please do this as soon as possible.

# Disclosure draws shortest Straw

Campaigners in Wales are finding that the much heralded Freedom of Information Act doesn't work so well for us in Wales. Max Wallis writes:

In early January, Jack Straw used the Home Secretary's veto in the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act to keep secret 12 year old Cabinet Minutes covering the discussion of devolution. He then used this veto on Cabinet Minutes relating to the Iraq war.

At the end of 2009 Jack Straw delivered a lecture to the Law Society in Cardiff about devolution of justice in Wales. He said that he supported further devolution but 'Wales is not yet ready to vote for further powers'.

In pressing him on supporting devolution of the Freedom of Information Act, I mentioned that Rhodri Morgan had promised us a stronger law in Wales and that unlike in Scotland and England; its application in Wales had never been reviewed.

Jack Straw replied that the Act is already strong and that it would be wrong for the English government to review its application in Wales. One would therefore conclude that this is precisely why the duty to ensure the Act is working in Wales should rest with the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). Currently, local authorities and WAG departments often claim that there are 'commercial' interests which over-ride the Act's presumption for disclosure; also Welsh local authorities charge for releasing information and, it seems demand excessive payments to deter public information requests.

It is easy to see how Jack Straw is wrong in his claims that the FoI Act is 'strong'. The 'commercial confidentiality excuse' is often invoked to refuse FoI requests. This can be

compared to Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) which allow such an excuse only if confidentiality is required by law. Under EIR, contracts between commercial companies and public bodies must be disclosed.

On taking office as First Minister in 2000, Rhodri Morgan called for a robust restriction on confidentiality, 'requiring significant probability of substantial harm in cases where the confidentiality exemption was to be used to over-ride the public interest in disclosure'.

He also promised that to make the facts clear, in briefings prepared for Welsh Ministers, factual information would be separated from policy advice\*. In practice, we find that some civil servants deny public access to information about such briefings with the excuse

that disclosure 'would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs'. They are sensitive to potential exposure of their briefings as biased. Cynefin y Werin has not yet carried through its intention to campaign on Freedom of Information in Wales. When we wrote formally to Rhodri Morgan for a review, his officials turned it down as a Westminster responsibility.

So far the Welsh Office mandarins have stymied Rhodri's promise of stronger enforcement of the FoI Act; indeed they've concocted excuses to weaken it. Can new First Minister Carwyn Jones be

**heddwch\*action**  
Please help us compile examples of bad practice in Wales - send your experiences to your AM with a copy to [info@cynefinywerin.org.uk](mailto:info@cynefinywerin.org.uk) The Campaign for Freedom of Information [www.cfoi.org.uk](http://www.cfoi.org.uk) offers some excellent help.

# Wylfa

Since Gordon Brown's government published two nuclear consultations on 9 November 2009, PAWB has been busy in the press and media, and lobbying in Policy and on the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation contributing to radio and television publication was especially busy for us. The reaction was striking, with increasing support for PAWB's position.

In the second half of November, Horizon (the RWE and E.ON partnership) exhibited their plans for Wylfa. A number of PAWB members went to these events to ask questions. Many of the answers were ambiguous, to say the least. For example, there was no indication on any map in the exhibition of a facility for storing nuclear waste on site for up to 160 years. They were also unwilling to say which of the two reactors under consideration they favoured.

There were also National Grid officials present. The officials acknowledged that if Wylfa B went ahead, the whole electricity grid would have to be upgraded, from Wylfa to Trawsfynydd and then across Snowdonia National Park all the way to the outskirts of Wreccsam – costly work which will have a huge impact on the environment and the beautiful landscape of north Wales.

During January 2010, PAWB was represented at three events organised by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The first was a local consultation at Wylfa Visitor Centre on January 9. PAWB members attended under protest at a far from neutral location, in order to emphasise the glaring defects in the draft national nuclear policy statement. The most unexpected contribution that morning was that of Tom Conway, a former engineer at Wylfa who revealed, in spite of his support for nuclear power in principle, that he did not accept the proposal to store nuclear waste on site for 160 years and would therefore be opposing Wylfa B.

In a national event held by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in Cardiff on January 20, Max Wallis of Friends of the Earth and Dylan Morgan from PAWB were able to challenge London civil servants about the nuclear policy statement, in particular, clause 3.8.20 which states, staggeringly: 'Having considered this issue, the Government is satisfied that effective arrangements will exist to manage and dispose of the waste that will be produced from new nuclear power stations. As a result the IPC need not consider this question.'

Bearing in mind that nuclear waste which is twice as hot and twice as radioactive as the current waste produced will have to be stored on site at any new nuclear station for 160 years, this statement is totally irresponsible and anti-democratic.

On January 27, Dr. Carl Clowes presented evidence on behalf of PAWB to the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy and Climate Change. He outlined our fears about safety and the risk of a serious accident in a new reactor, and evacuation plans for the island; a terrorist attack and Wylfa's proximity to RAF Valley; earthquakes; the effect of a new power station on the language and culture of Ynys Môn, and the



hazards of storing nuclear waste on site for 160 years.

The time has come to intensify the campaign and make it more visible.

**Dylan Morgan**

## heddwch action

PAWB has an email forum which posts all the latest nuclear news and campaigns correspondence for opponents of nuclear power. If you wish to subscribe to this list contact the moderator:

[huwjones7@googlemail.com](mailto:huwjones7@googlemail.com)

For Facebook users, PAWB participates in a wider-based Stop Wylfa – No Nuclear in Wales site. Do join in. The PAWB website is [www.stop-wylfa.org/](http://www.stop-wylfa.org/)

## Nuclear power stations:

- are extremely expensive and likely to require taxpayers' subsidy;
- use the same enrichment technology as for nuclear weapons manufacture;
- produce dangerous radioactive waste with no agreed means of disposal;
- are vulnerable to terrorist attack and air accidents;
- centralise 'power' in hands of elite groups;
- makes poor countries dependent on rich ones;
- permanently contaminate land and water with radionuclides;
- require uranium, which will become increasingly scarce;
- draw funds away from the development of renewable energy;
- are subject to catastrophic failure;
- are never built to time (not one in the world has, so far);
- promote the idea that economic growth can continue indefinitely.

## On the Front Doormat

Oldbury (Gloucestershire) and Hinkley Point (Somerset) are sites close to the borders of Wales named by energy and climate secretary Ed Miliband as two of the ten proposed sites for new British nuclear power stations.

Jim Duffy, Coordinator of Stop Hinkley (a nuclear site 14 miles from Wales across the Bristol Channel) believes that not only communities in the immediate vicinity of the stations should be consulted about the plans:

'People from Bristol were very involved in the previous Hinkley C inquiry in 1988-89. Being downwind from Hinkley and so close to Oldbury, Bristolians should not be excluded from deciding on something that could profoundly affect them.' As for Bristol, so for South Wales – Hinkley lies

just across the Bristol Channel from South Wales and Oldbury is just across the Severn from Gwent.

At the moment, the noisiest protests against the building of Hinkley C are focussed on the visibility of the 46 metre high 'giant' electricity pylons which would have to be built across the Somerset Levels. Communities are calling for expensive underground or undersea cables to be used instead.

[www.stophinkley.org](http://www.stophinkley.org)

## DIARY DATES

**April 1<sup>st</sup> 1.15pm BAE Systems, Monkwood (Glascoed, between Pontypool and Usk Gwent). Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil/Service.** The annual Prayer Service organised by Penarth Christian Network of Campaign against the Arms Trade (CAAT). As in previous years prayers will be said for those who manufacture and trade in arms. Flowers will be laid in memory of the casualties of conflicts.  
t: 029 20 705 458

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Dover - Southampton. Relay Race along south coast of England to carry a Flame of Hope for the abolition of nuclear weapons.** This flame will join another from Hiroshima to go to New York for the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Contact George  
t: 01323 844 269

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> European Day of Action against Nuclear Weapons.** One month before the NPT Review Conference direct action will be undertaken at every European NATO nuclear weapons base in Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Turkey, Britain and Belgium.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> Faslane. Demonstration** - part of a European Wide Day of Action against Nuclear Weapons. Assemble Faslane Peace Camp at noon to march to North Gate. Scottish Clergy against Nuclear Arms service at 1.15pm.

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** One year since Obama made his groundbreaking speech in which he pledged 'to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons'.

**April 7- 30th Oswestry. 'The Wall' An exhibition of images, statements, songs and facts about Israel and Palestine.** Oswestry Coalition for Peace. At First Edition Books. Open Shop Hours.  
e: [mgt2800@hotmail.com](mailto:mgt2800@hotmail.com)

**April 8<sup>th</sup> Oswestry. Seven Jewish Children ~ a play for Gaza ~** by Caryl Churchill ~ a production by Theatre Current plus Palestine Monologues: First-hand testimonies from the occupied territories Scripted by Sonja Linden Music by Bel Tones. At The Memorial Hall. Hosted by Oswestry Coalition for Peace. Entry Free. Collection for Medical Aid for Palestinians.  
e: [mgt2800@hotmail.com](mailto:mgt2800@hotmail.com)

**April 16 -17<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am - 5:15 pm London. Movement for the Abolition of War Conference 'Peace History - visions and experiments'** Imperial War Museum For programme and speaker details and booking form see [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk)

**April 18<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm Wallasey (almost Cymru) Wallasey CND Tea in the Park** with music and other refreshments.  
t: 0151 638 4666  
e: [dhardcastle@ntlworld.com](mailto:dhardcastle@ntlworld.com)

**April 16 - 18<sup>th</sup> Bangor. From Bethlehem to Bangor - Palestinian Festival and Conference.** Neuadd Hendre, Talybont

**April 24<sup>th</sup> 1.30 - 4.30 pm Aberystwyth. Cynefin y Werin Mtg,** Dept Int Politics  
t: 01286 882 134  
e: [benica@gn.apc.org](mailto:benica@gn.apc.org)

**April 26<sup>th</sup> Everywhere. Chernobyl Day (1986 - 2010)** - see the effects of a nuclear accident on a city and the contaminated zones of Belarus - [www.kiddofspeed.com](http://www.kiddofspeed.com)  
Read and see more: [www.rememberchernobyl.com](http://www.rememberchernobyl.com)

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> New York. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.** (NPT) is a treaty to limit the spread of nuclear weapons which came into force on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1970. There are currently 189 states party to the treaty, 5 are recognised nuclear weapons states: the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China. 4 non-parties to the treaty are known or believed to possess nuclear weapons. India, Pakistan and North Korea have openly tested and declared that they possess nuclear weapons, while Israel does not admit to having a nuclear weapons programme. North Korea withdrew from the NPT in 2003. The Treaty is reviewed each 5 years (Review Conferences). Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference take place in intermediate years. Many events are organised simultaneously by independent institutions, groups of experts, think tanks and NGOs worldwide, preparing reports

## Yes...you

A very big **Thank You** to all of you -who continue to support us through standing orders, donations and membership renewals. The value of your continuing support cannot be underestimated. Contributions of any size really do add up and allow us to continue to campaign and we want you to know just how much we appreciate it!

and recommendations to the Preparatory Committees. The Treaty was originally conceived with a limited duration of 25 years. During the 1995 Review Conference the signing parties decided by consensus to extend the treaty indefinitely and without conditions.

**May 6<sup>th</sup> [probable] Britain. General Election Day. Vote Trident Out.**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> Everywhere. International Conscientious Objectors' Day**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm Aberystwyth. Palestinian Nakba Day.** Speeches, readings, Côr Gobaith, film screening and stall. Morlan Centre. Aberystwyth Branch of Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

**May 24<sup>th</sup> WORLDWIDE. International Women's Day for Disarmament.** [www.ifor.org/WPP/networking\\_may24.htm](http://www.ifor.org/WPP/networking_may24.htm)

**August 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Hiroshima & Nagasaki 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Events** Start planning now.

## Please keep us up to date!

If you are receiving 'heddwch' but don't wish to, would like to continue receiving it but are not currently an up to date member or would like more than one copy to distribute, please contact the Membership Secretary, by post, phone or e-mail (see Contacts Page 2)

## August 14<sup>th</sup> De Valence Pavilion - Tenby CND Cymru by the Sea

**ALL WALES PEACE DAY**  
Don't miss it - bring your family, groups, friends and acquaintances!  
Put the date in your Diary now!

**Afternoon** - stalls and speakers (to be confirmed)  
**Evening** - live music  
[organised for us by Wild West Wales]  
See details on page 11



For further information  
watch [www.cndcymru.org](http://www.cndcymru.org) &  
[www.wildwestwales.com](http://www.wildwestwales.com)  
To book stalls contact CND Cymru  
[heddwch@cndcymru.org](mailto:heddwch@cndcymru.org)