



graphic: Dai Owen www.dai-owen.co.uk

Trident: apparently unmentionable

Inside: Trident Replacement: we want a say! * News Updates * Unarmed Forces at Aberporth * Nuclear Power subsidies * Aeschylus on Mynydd Epynt *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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TRIDENT

Nuclear Disarmament – the perfect moment

If the focus on Trident during the general election campaign gave us encouragement, it was short-lived. Every coalition involves compromise on policies. The Conservative - Liberal Democrat deal means that Trident is no longer one of the 'big questions' for Nick Clegg.

The Con-Dem coalition has published its first budget of the new parliament. They promised cuts, and they delivered. The glaring exception was Trident: not scrapped, not cut - untouched.

Plaid Cymru, SNP and Green MPs tabled an amendment to the Queen's Speech to include the Trident missile system in the upcoming defence review. Even aside from the moral arguments, it makes no sense that any spending review ignores a massively expensive and unnecessary project. This is particularly true when you consider the size of the Con-Dem government cuts. £11 billion has been cut from social welfare budgets and VAT will rise to 20%.

We - and it is 'we' the taxpayers - currently spend £2 billion a year on Trident. Compare that to less than one billion a year spent on primary education. Even the new tax on the bankers will only amount to £2 billion - just enough to pay for Trident. Six times that amount is being cut from social protection. But the amendment in parliament failed due to lack of support from the other parties. We will have to wait and see about the massive privatisation scheme at St Athan and whether that too, will be protected at the expense of our public services.

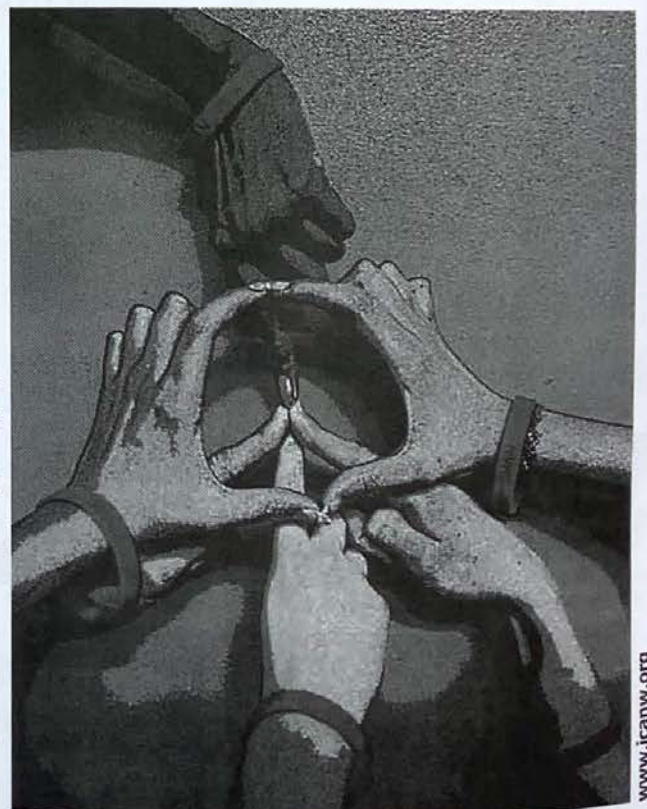
The estimated overall cost of the current and replacement systems is £115 billion. It's a scandal that the government is inflicting massive cuts on the people of Wales when they could save billions at a stroke by cancelling Trident. We've been arguing this for years but it's still true!

What makes this decision to maintain and upgrade British nuclear weapons

even worse is that it comes at a time when the United States and Russia have agreed bilateral nuclear warhead reductions and the United Nations Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty review conference endorsed a nuclear weapon free world. I know that many of you reading this will sigh, 'We've heard it all before'. Well yes we have. But at least it's still being said; which in turn means we can still hold world leaders to account.

In Wales we continue to work for our own Peace Institute which could make a real and unique contribution to peace and disarmament. We have to keep telling people about ALL the real costs of the aggressive British 'defence' policy, over which we have no say, and show how we could follow a different path in Wales. There has never been a better time.

**Jill Evans MEP
CND Cymru Chair**



www.icanw.org

Unaffordable, Unusable, Unmentionable

CND Cymru worked hard to make Trident an election issue during the campaign this spring. For many of us it was the first election where the topic did get a bit of an airing. Now, our new Conservative-led Westminster Government seems as determined as its Labour predecessor, to go ahead with a new generation of British nuclear weapons while at the same time, increasing regressive taxation and cutting spending on public services by £6 billion this year alone.

Many in Wales who voted Liberal Democrat, believing the Party to be anti-Trident and nuclear power and to keep Tories out, will now be feeling particularly aggrieved and un-represented.

In a Coalition Government statement we were told that the proposed renewal of Trident is being 'scrutinised to ensure value for money'. What can be their understanding of 'value for money' in the context of a weapon of indiscriminate mass murder? The scrutiny will only look at 'technical matters' and ignore the question of the 'necessity' of nuclear weapons.

Defence Secretary Liam Fox has also told us that it is time to move on from the cold war while deciding to exclude Trident - a symbol of the cold war - from the Strategic Defence Review. Given that 'terrorism' is professed to be our current enemy, one wonders at whom or what a nuclear weapon would now be aimed.

Despite the Liberal Democrats' pre-election stated desire for public scrutiny, there is no Cameron or Clegg 'change' here. British nuclear weapons decisions have traditionally taken place without any democratic process. MPs will not be informed of the scale of proposed spending for months, nor have they been able to scrutinise the decision. When other aspects of defence spending are likely to be cut in the Strategic Defence and Security Review it seems absurd to exempt the biggest single item of expenditure from scrutiny. There is no way that the replacement of Trident (no doubt with improved accuracy

and 'use-ability') is consistent with Britain's commitments as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It is difficult to believe that Britain has signed up to 'accelerate concrete progress towards nuclear disarmament' when the acquisition of new nuclear weapons would bind us in to another 50 years of being a nuclear weapons state.

It is important that campaigners challenge attempts to label us as 'naive unilateralists' as opposed to 'sensible' multilateralists. There are no multilateral disarmament talks taking place and our Government is making

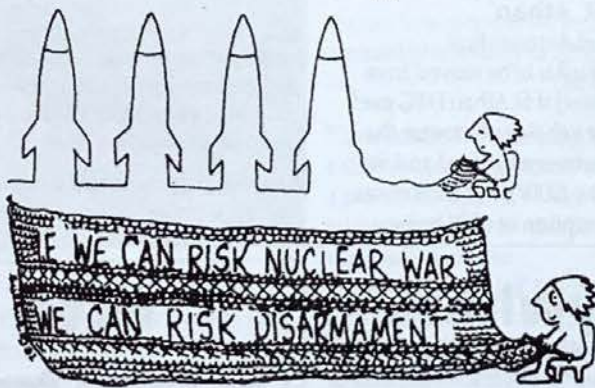
no effort to call for them. The NPT agreement calls on states to reduce and eliminate 'all types of deployed and non-deployed nuclear weapons, including unilateral,

bilateral, regional and multilateral measures'.

The economic argument against nuclear weapons is powerful and may actually lead people into realising just how much money is spent on these appalling mass-killing machines. The legal argument is important and a useful tool and the health and environment case against nuclear weapons is so important.

Most of all and as always, the moral argument sits at the heart of the matter. Sixty five years on from the dropping of nuclear weapons on the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we must be certain to remember that there are humans prepared to actually commit such abhorrent mass murder. Let's make certain that the tools of their trade aren't available to them.

Jill Gough



heddwch action

Write to Defence Secretary Liam Fox (with copies to your MP) asking him:

*To reconsider the decision to exclude Trident from the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

*To follow his words that 'we need to move on from the cold war' by real action - since there is nothing more symbolic of the cold war than nuclear weapons.

*To let you know which processes to ensure Liberal Democrat 'alternatives', as highlighted in the coalition agreement, will be considered by the government.

*If this government really does support the 'new politics' as it professes to, how is it that it appears to be stifling a national discussion and debate about nuclear weapons and Trident replacement.

Addresses:

*On line: www.writetothem.com

*Liam Fox, Secretary of State for Defence, Old War Office, Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU

*Your MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1 2AA
Please send copies of any replies to CND Cymru (see contacts page 2).

Some websites to help:

www.cnduk.org
www.quaker.org.uk
www.globalzero.org
www.acronym.org.uk
www.icanw.org
www.medact.org
www.nuclearinfo.org
www.tridentploughshares.org
www.greenpeace.org.uk



False figures and Deception

Scaled-down if still over-optimistic figures of potential jobs were given at the January Public Inquiry into the £13 billion St Athan Defence Training College (DTC). Despite this, the Welsh media along with the project's political and business champions continue to repeat the original, grossly inflated but now discredited figures and lies:

'3000-5000' jobs

The Inquiry was told that project would employ a maximum of 3,000 people. This would include 700 existing military staff who would be transferred into the project for a maximum of 3 years, and 300 non-project staff for the 'softer-side' of militarisation such as the military band and museum. Another 1000 are to be civilian trainer and senior managerial staff who are also expected to be transferred from other sites. Hence jobs for local people 'created' in cleaning, catering, security will be under 1000, and these mostly part time and on minimum wages.

'Integration saves cash'

The National Audit Office has warned that public sector comparisons lack data and had 'optimism bias' against them (House of Lords report HL Paper 63II, March 2010) while the credit crunch has increased private finance (PFI) costs. This one has increased by £1.5bn in 12 months (to £13.5bn in May). £830 million of the £13 billion capital expenditure for the DTC includes

£370M on new living quarters and other on offices, classrooms, church, eating and sports facilities at St Athan. This money could be mostly saved by upgrading facilities at existing bases.

'Jobs for skilled aeronautics engineers'

St Athan employees currently servicing VC10s for The Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA) are to lose their jobs, having to transfer elsewhere to use their skills

'Synergy with aerospace development'

The truth is quite the contrary as the College would force close-down of the noisy aeroengine testing and take up the 'superhangar' that accommodates refitting/maintenance of large aircraft.

'Cosford v. St Athan'

Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering Cosford is to be moved from Cosford (Shropshire) if St Athan DTC goes ahead. Originally a choice of sites for the DTC was made between Cosford and St Athan. At that time (2007), the choice was made on an assumption of 6000 trainee

places. The January 2010 Inquiry was told that there would be 2700 places (which may reduce to 2000 with defence cuts). Cosford could cater for this smaller number with little investment.

The result from the Public Inquiry into compulsory purchase is held up.

Welsh civil servants excuse the delay as waiting for the MoD. We suspect that the Inspector's report did not support the subsidiary land purchase for new roads (a mega-junction at Weycock Cross) and officials don't know how to handle this without risk of a judicial challenge.

Max Wallis

heddwch action

Do lobby politicians in support of the campaign www.anti-metrix.org support us at the Eisteddfod in the Peace tent, and help refute the establishment propoganda to friends and letters to the media.

The coming months are crucial for defence cuts!

UNARMED FORCES DAY - 1

Not in Wales, not anywhere

Cymdeithas y Cymod (Wales Fellowship of Reconciliation) made a pilgrimage to Aberporth, Ceredigion in June. Parc Aberporth was built with over £13 million of taxpayers' money and is where unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or drones) and their spying and tracking equipment are being perfected for use by arms companies, on behalf of the British army. The group were joined by CND Cymru, Bro Emlyn Peace and Justice Group and Cardigan and North Pembrokeshire Amnesty International Group.

The service and vigil was led by Cymdeithas y Cymod President, Guto Prys ap Gwynfor (see page 5), Robin Gwyndaf and Eirian James.

The use of unmanned drones as weapons of war in conflicts around the world has been called into question by one of Britain's most senior judges. Lord Bingham, a former senior law lord, said that they are 'cruel as to be beyond the pale of human tolerance'.



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Militarism- the tool of imperialism

The British state has now decreed that we should celebrate June 26th (this year) and the corresponding Saturday every year as Armed Forces' Day. What is the purpose of this?

The 'celebration' started last year; its main instigator was Gordon Brown. He had problems: an unpopular war in Afghanistan; his desire, as a Scot, to promote 'Britishness'; and the need to boost recruitment to the armed forces. Achieving that required popularising the armed forces by glorifying and romanticising them, and partying and celebrating is apparently an effective way of doing this. Remembrance Sunday in November is too concerned with death and suffering; something livelier was called for. More generally, it's part of a general glorification of imperialism, particularly in England where there are attempts to teach the 'benefits' of imperialism in schools, and the greatest weapon of imperialism is militarism. Western imperialism, past and present, is responsible for the problems in the Middle East (as in Africa and other places). Historically, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq are British creations, states created to safeguard British interests at the beginning of the last century. These are artificial units with borders which divide nations or force different nations to occupy the same state. One such example is the Pashtun nation straddling the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Many of the Taliban wish for a Pashtunistan state.

Why Aberporth?

Cymdeithas y Cymod has often made a pilgrimage to Epynt at this time of the year in an attempt to draw attention to the way Wales is being contaminated by militarisation. There is now, unfortunately, a connection between the two places, namely, the development of so-called 'drones' or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). These weapons are being developed here in Aberporth, and tested on the skies between here and Epynt.

War technology is changing at a fearsome pace. Large companies are making a fortune in a period of financial cutbacks. The latest development is UAVs which are even now being used to kill people in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The US has increased their use of drones: 2004 - 1; 2005 - 2; 2006 - 1; 2007 - 3; 2008 - 17; 2009 - 47; 2010 - 36. A total of 1,366 people have been killed, mainly in Waziristan. Sadly, it is Obama who has been responsible for this increase.

Until now, Britain has been using the US-bought 'Reaper' to play its part in the killing. In spite of the secrecy surrounding

all of this, Chris Cole of the Fellowship of Reconciliation disclosed the truth about what's going on earlier this year:

'British forces are relying increasingly on unmanned drones to attack targets in Afghanistan mirroring controversial tactics used by the US.

New Ministry of Defence figures show the RAF has fired 84 missiles from Reaper drones since they were first deployed there in June 2008, with more than 20 being fired over the past two months...

Chris Cole, director of the interfaith peace campaign Fellowship of Reconciliation....said: 'Drones are the latest in a long line of new weapons used in the mistaken belief that they will provide a 'clean and tidy' solution to a conflict - time and again history has proved that this is a myth.'

He added: 'We have a number of serious concerns not least because there is a picture beginning to emerge of high civilian casualties. In addition, the use of armed drones to target specific individuals could amount to summary or arbitrary execution.'

The Guardian 7.02.10

Now, Britain is developing its own drones in a £899 million programme implemented by a private company, Thales UK, and tests are taking place here in Aberporth according to the Thales website:

'In July 2004, the UK Ministry of Defence announced that Thales UK had been selected as the preferred bidder for the Watchkeeper tactical unmanned air vehicle (TUAV) system ...

Major flight trials of the Watchkeeper were completed in June 2009, allowing for further ground system and flight tests in the UK. These flight tests moved to Parc Aberporth in West Wales in late 2009. The Watchkeeper system will enter service in the British armed forces Royal Artillery in 2011.'

Another company working with Thales is QinetiQ, a weapons development company particularly connected with cluster bombs.

On 28 May 09 its website stated:

'QinetiQ readies Aberporth UAV centre for Watchkeeper - Watchkeeper trials scheduled to commence in the Autumn. A key milestone in the £899m MOD project to develop the Watchkeeper Unmanned Air System has been reached on schedule.

QinetiQ, working closely with other stakeholders, has delivered the necessary infrastructure and facilities at Parc Aberporth, Ceredigion, South Wales, as part of its ongoing £5m support contract - which means the Watchkeeper trials programme can commence here in the Autumn.

Thales, the Watchkeeper prime contractor, is now clear to migrate the trials programme to the UK by October 2009. Initial live flying elements of the operator training are expected to commence in March 2010 contributing to systems acceptance and deployment in October 2010.'

Note, this is the only place in Europe where such activities are allowed. 40,000 people live beneath these testing areas in Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Powys.

We must oppose all things that divide and destroy, all things that create hatred, enmity and vengeance. In the context of Aberporth and Armed Forces Day, all attempts to make war and oppression more effective, and to romanticise such actions and make them respectable must be opposed.

Guto Prys ap Gwynfor
(Part of an address given at Aberporth
26.06.10)



Green Pathways to Peace

At this June event at Little Wedlock Gallery near Tenby, five women artists, drawn together through the peace movement, invited visitors to share the joy of some of the creations they have made along the journeys of their lives.

Many readers of 'heddwch' may know or have known at least some of these women over the years - gallery owner Anne Gregson with Christine Barnes, Fran Rawlings, Annie Taber and Anna Cheetham. Also on display in the grounds were 1980s Cardiff peace banners made by Ann Lukes, as well as other works by Amy Scott and by members of the Pembrokeshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers. All the work on show was rich and interesting - but Ann Gregson's portraits of her family and friends are really outstanding and glow with the colour, the love and respect she obviously feels for her subjects. Anna Cheetham's serious but

enjoyable impish reflections on her continuing work for peace reflect the passion she obviously has for the cause. The exhibition itself may be over but the Green Pathways to Peace; the journeys of these hard-working women, some of whom became artists only later in life, continue. Being creative is both a celebration and expression of how we feel about the world we care about and of the bonds we form to keep what we value close to us. It must also be really therapeutic and healing to be able to share how we feel - in a world which often seems to have taken a wrong turning.



Liberty
Anna Cheetham

Little Wedlock Gallery, near Gumfreston (just off the B4318 Tenby -Sageston road) Pembrokeshire - well worth a visit. www.littlewedlockgallery.co.uk

Still at the Heart of the Matter

Recently the 'Western Mail' gave substantial publicity to a conference 'Cold War Wales: Politics, Peace and Culture' organised by the University of West Glamorgan in association with Llafur. The purpose of the conference was to 'debate how the ideological stand-off which brought the world to the brink of nuclear war shaped Welsh political and cultural life to discuss various controversies'.

One might well have thought that because the topics discussed were so obviously relevant to campaigners for nuclear disarmament - CND Cymru would have been invited to participate. To everyone's astonishment, we were not. The newspaper item was also picked up in London by a long-standing peace activist who sent this letter to the Western Mail:

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in the article published on Monday concerning the Cold War and the peace movement in Wales.

I have a personal involvement because I was the organiser-back in 1961!- of the coach which brought people down from London, in co-operation with our Welsh friends, to protest about the establishment, under NATO auspices, of a tank training centre at Castlemartin for use by West German forces.

It was the view of CND members then, and still today, that because of its responsibility for keeping nuclear weapons in Europe, NATO is a threat to peace.

I thought it quite disgraceful that although the University of Glamorgan and Llafur conference 'Cold War Wales: Politics, Peace and Culture' is very much about CND, which has been very prominent in Wales for a good many years, it seems that CND Cymru was not invited to participate.

How do the organisers explain this blatant bias, I wonder?

Yours sincerely,
P.J. Allen

Mr Allen is quite right, one would imagine that because the Western Mail gave a fair amount of space to the protests concerning Castlemartin they would be eager to hear the testimony of one of those actually involved, but no, not a word. CND Cymru is, and always has been open to people from every party or of no party; of every religion or of no religion.

We would be interested to know why the University and Llafur sponsored such a one-sided event.

Jill Gough

Preventing a Greater Evil

Seven protestors in the south of England were acquitted of charges of 'conspiracy to create criminal damage' at Hove Crown Court in June.

The jury accepted their 'defence of necessity' which recognises that there may be situations of such overwhelming urgency that a person must be allowed to respond by breaking the law.

On 17 January 2009, during Israel's attacks on Gaza, the anti-arms trade activists had entered weapons factory EDO/ITT in Brighton as 'citizens' decommissioners'. The company manufactures release clips for F15s and F16s and the Paveway system of munitions used by the Israeli military against civilians in Gaza. The activists broke computers and other equipment, and disabled an assembly area and machinery used to make bomb release mechanisms. EDO/ITT estimated the cost of the damage at £250,000.

www.smashedo.org.uk





BAE: The People's Jury

The date was 5th May; the event - the world's largest arms company, British Aerospace (BAE)'s AGM in London. The giant puppet was BAE Chair Dick Olver, and the thirty judge/jurors were Campaign Against Arms Trade activists. Chanting 'BAE can't you see: corruption is your legacy', the People's Jury pursued the 'giant' Dick Olver from 66 Victoria Street (home to the government arms sales department from which he receives so much support) 'to justice' outside the AGM.

Union Bans Nuclear Work

The Australian Electrical Trades Union (ETU) has banned its members from working in any part of the nuclear fuel cycle, including uranium mines and nuclear power stations.

ETU state secretary Peter Simpson commented 'We are sending a clear message to the industry and the wider community that vested interests in the uranium and nuclear industries are trying to hoodwink us about this dangerous product and industry.'

This is particularly significant as Australia has about 20 per cent of the world's known uranium deposits and the largest known deposits of high-grade uranium ore. The ETU expects other unions to follow its lead and join its campaign against the uranium and nuclear industries.

'Uranium Is the New Asbestos: Union Ban on Nuclear Work,'
Brisbane Times May 31 2010

Easy Ways to Save ££££s

Should any government be increasing support for the arms industry when public services are facing cuts?

The Westminster coalition government is asking for views on which cuts could be made. We think that in addition to giving up Trident and scrapping any plans to replace it, there's another obvious candidate: stop spending taxpayers' money helping arms companies market their weapons. But on the day the budget announced big cuts in public services in June, Conservative Minister Peter Luff said that there's no 'embarrassment in this

government' about selling arms, and pledged a 'very, very, very heavy ministerial commitment to the process'. The arms industry already receives huge taxpayer subsidies and has a whole department of civil servants devoted to marketing their deadly products to human rights abusers and conflict zones.

heddwch•action

Please email your MP today to say this support must end, not be increased!

<http://bit.ly/emailMP>
or House of Commons,
Westminster, London SW1 2AA

Yes, it is Possible

A new report from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) provides a day-by-day analysis of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference held in May, with a focus on the growing support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention and current efforts aimed at delegitimising nuclear weapons.

While nuclear armed states claim that they are fulfilling their legally binding obligation to disarm, such claims seem tenuous in light of the fact that there are 23,000 nuclear arms in the world 40 years after the inception of the NPT. ICAN further observes that the popularly adopted incremental approach to disarmament has not even satisfactorily curtailed nuclear proliferation.

The report describes the practice of applying different nuclear standards to different states as 'Nuclear Apartheid,' and urges immediate action. It reads, 'Pursuing a convention would fundamentally alter the discriminatory status quo of nuclear 'haves' and 'have-nots' by establishing a universal ban on nuclear weapons for all'.

www.icanw.org

Cities are Not Targets

4,037 member cities in 144 countries have joined the campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020.

The initiative, Mayors for Peace was founded at a Special UN Session on Disarmament in 1982. The network is headquartered in the City of Hiroshima where Mayor Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, spearheads an international campaign for nuclear weapon states to stop considering cities as targets for weapons of mass destruction. Of course, any nuclear weapon falling on any target in the world would affect huge swathes of people and other living things on land and sea, even if not directly targeted at a city.

In 2003 the organisation launched 2020 Vision, a campaign to abolish nuclear weapons by the year 2020. In 2008 Mayors for Peace published a clear roadmap to show the way to the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

The Cities Are Not Targets project, is a citizen-level petition drive supporting the abolition goal. Over one million signatures were submitted to the president of the NPT Review Conference at the UN in New York in May. To ensure that the cruelty of the 1945 dropping of US nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is never repeated anywhere on earth, the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have consistently sought to persuade the world that nuclear weapons are inhumane and have continually called for their total abolition. Of the 61 municipalities in Britain whose mayors/chairs have joined Mayors for Peace, 7 are in Wales: Aberystwyth, Bala, Caerffili, Chepstow, Gwynedd, Newport and Mold.

Find out more :

www.2020visioncampaign.org

Letter from America

I have recently returned from a week-long trip to South Korea, visiting several communities that are experiencing major expansion of U.S. military bases. Farming and fishing villages, each over 400 years old are being either completely destroyed or severely impacted as their lands are taken for the enlargement of U.S. bases.

The Washington Post reported several years ago that the U.S. would be doubling its military presence in the Asian-Pacific region in order to 'manage' China. Thus we now see U.S. base expansion on Guam, Okinawa, and in South Korea.

One such case is the small Gangjeong fishing village on Jeju Island in South Korea. The South Korean Navy is ostensibly building this base, but when members of our organization (*Global Network against Nuclear Power and Weapons in Space*) called the South Korean Embassy in Washington DC to support the opposition to the base by local residents they were told, 'Don't call us, call your own [U.S.] government. They are pushing us to build this base'.

The U.S. wants to deploy Aegis destroyers, built at Bath Iron Works in Maine, at the base on Jeju Island largely because of its strategic proximity to China. China imports 80% of its oil by tanker; a Navy base on Jeju would help give the U.S. ability to 'control' this vital Yellow Sea shipping lane. While the declining U.S. economy can't compete with China anymore, the Pentagon is embarking on a strategy to control access to declining supplies of oil and still hold the keys to the global

economic engine. A very provocative strategy indeed.

Gangjeong village is famous for growing tangerines, for their fishing and the soft coral reefs. UNESCO lists the sea coast there as one of the world's environmental jewels. The building of a Navy base in Gangjeong would require dredging of the sea bed and destruction of the coral. Gangjeong's rocky coast reminds me much of the coastline here in Maine. The Navy plans to completely cover the Gangjeong rocks, now full of aquatic life with cement in order to build docks for the ships. The village of 2,000 people held a referendum where 94% of the residents voted against the base. Unfortunately the right-wing South Korean government is keen to satisfy the will of the U.S. government and plans for the Navy base construction advance. Already over 50 of the residents have been

arrested for their non-violent sit-ins as they attempted to block construction equipment from beginning work.

This month Gangjeong residents will make their third week-long pilgrimage around the entire Jeju Island, to plead with their government to cancel plans for the Navy base. They are doing all they can to protect their fishing and farming culture. They talk about the need for someone to fight for the water, the coral, the fish, and their lands. Here in the U.S., the Maine Veterans for Peace recently held another protest at the latest 'christening' of an Aegis destroyer at Bath Iron Works. Few in our state think about where these ships go once they leave Maine's waters.

But I have now seen one community in South Korea that does not want these ships to come there. The mayor of Gangjeong told our visiting international delegation that 'Jeju Island is at a crossroads - either eco-friendly or militarized'. When he said that, I wondered how Mainers would feel if the Navy wanted to pour concrete over the rocks of our coastline? I bet Mainers would fight to the bitter end. That is what the villagers in Gangjeong intend to do.

Bruce

Bruce K. Gagnon
Coordinator Global Network Against
Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space,
Bath, Maine USA



Bruce and fellow campaigners on Jejung Island

A Story of War and Peace

The Buzzards of Zinn is a story of travel and adventure, and of trial and ordeal, set in an imaginary dystopia. The author, George Miller, is a long term CND supporter and, since 9/11, an active anti-war campaigner with Oswestry Peace and Justice Group.

He is described on the dust-jacket as a 'poet and pacifist', and these two strands come together in a novel which, in its descriptive power and filmic potential, is being compared with Tolkien and J.K. Rowling. Miller sees himself rather in the tradition of Swift and Orwell, using fantasy to

undermine the hypocrisies and expose the horrors of a contemporary reality.

Every war and every kind of warfare develops its own literature, which, with other art forms, comes to define it. The Buzzards of Zinn is perhaps the first imaginative portrayal of such current phenomena as 'war on terror', 'asymmetric warfare' and 'collateral damage', in which the most powerful nations attack broken and impoverished societies, destroying uncounted numbers of lives in the process.

The book's apocalyptic climax and uncompromising conclusion sets down a marker for the war fiction of the twenty first century.

THE BUZZARDS OF
ZINN



The Buzzards of Zinn: a Story of War and Peace
Published by Medlar Press ISBN 978-1-907 110-08-5 hardback £15
Order online www.medlarpress.com
or t:01691 623 225
or from good bookshops

Wales Peace Institute - latest

It's a year since the launch of our petition for a Welsh Peace Institute and, fair play to the Petitions Committee of the National Assembly, they have been meticulous in their efforts to understand the nature of what other Peace Institutes do.

To date they have heard in person from the Flemish Peace Institute, spoken by video link to the Catalan Peace Institute and even now continue to question the Frankfurt Peace Institute about their activities.

Sadly, all this evidence gathering has been at the expense of the actual purpose of our petition – which asked them to investigate “the potential for and practicality of Wales having a Peace Institute concerned with Peace and Human

Rights, comparable with those supported by state governments in Flanders, Catalonia and elsewhere ...”

In practice, their investigation has yet to discuss either the potential, still less the practicality, of a Peace Institute for Wales.

Whilst it is, undoubtedly, useful to know what is being done by others, what we hoped to do, by submitting our petition, was to widen the debate and encourage detailed examination

Singing in Cardigan



The brilliant Côr Cochion Caerdydd sang while CND Cymru supporters leafleted outside Cardigan Town Hall in May. Funds were collected for the work to establish a Wales Peace Institute /Academi Heddwch Cymru.

A great time was had by all!

of the specific aspects of Welsh life that would benefit from the creation of a Peace Institute. As nothing is now likely to be decided before the summer recess, we intend to submit the extra signatures that have been

collected for the petition over the past year in time for the September anniversary of our initial submission. Send any – even partly – filled petitions to CND Cymru (see Contacts page 2)

The Heart of Copenhagen

Never imagine you are alone in caring about peace and justice. Our brothers and sisters are everywhere. Just one of the thousands of active groups across the world include **Fredsvagten ved Christiansborg (Christiansborg Peace Watch)**. We found them outside Christiansborg, the Danish Parliament buildings in Copenhagen. This group of peace activists have kept a seven day a week vigil since the NATO invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001.



Fredsvagten ved Christiansborg works across divisions of political, religious and ethnic background; keeping a symbolic Flame of Hope alive for peace and for the impoverished peoples of the Earth. Their leaflet tells us that they ‘hope to represent a worm gnawing at the heart and the conscience of society, ‘a knot in the polished floors of the corridors of power and a splinter in the one-eyed media image of the world’. Their placards and banners interrupt the stern imperial backdrop of the

government architecture and these passionate and gentle members of **Fredsvagten** hand out leaflets and talk to passers-by. They ‘ask all good people to work actively to promote peace, as indifference and passivity represent support for Denmark’s participation in acts of aggression’.

A leaflet states clearly that ‘War is terror’ - ‘Hatred begets hatred and violence begets violence. Terrorism cannot be eradicated by using even greater terror: bombs against impoverished countries

and peoples. On the contrary - terrorism feeds on violence’.

Fredsvagten ved Christiansborg is a part of the whirlwind that hopes to become the storm that tears way the emperor’s new clothes.

heddwch action

See more – send messages of support, or join the support group **FredsVagtens Venner (Friends of the Peace Watch):** www.fredsvagt.dk

Glorious Devon?

Please mark your diaries now! You are invited to join the Wales contingency of the non-violent Big Blockade of all 6 gates of Devonport Naval Dockyard, from 6am on Monday November 1st.

A decade of Trident Ploughshares blockades and disarmament actions have helped build a strong and broad movement against nuclear weapons in Scotland. The Scottish Government was elected with a policy of nuclear disarmament. They were not afraid – now what about England?

Devonport Dockyard in Plymouth not only refits, maintains, and upgrades the submarines which carry Britain's immoral and illegal Trident nuclear weapon system,

but it is also increasingly becoming the dumping ground for old and out of service nuclear submarines. Plymouth is being rewarded for its role in the servicing of Britain's weapons of mass destruction by being given the role of 'Sellafield of the South West'. If you are interested in being part of a Welsh contingency for the blockade get into touch with CND Cymru.

For more information see Diary Dates Page 14 and Contacts Page 2.



Hands, Hearts, Skidlids and Football Boots

Groups and individuals across Wales have been stirred into greater action; voicing their concerns about the blockade of Gaza and the situation in The West Bank.

Events were held across the country. Bangor & Anglesey Peace Group participated in the 'Boycott 'Israeli' Goods' day; street vigils in Aberystwyth were held by 'Women in Black'; Côr Gobaith and Aberystwyth Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, the latter having organised an exhibition and talk about children's paintings from Gaza; Côr Cochion Caerdydd sing weekly on the streets of the capital in solidarity with the Palestinian people. A new Palestine Solidarity Campaign Group in Abergavenny has been leafleting shoppers outside Tesco.

Away Match

In July, a friendly football match between Welsh and Palestinian teams living in Swansea was arranged by Swansea Palestine Community Link. In October 2008, the Palestinian men's football team played its first home match on national soil. Previously, officially 'At Home' matches were played in neighbouring countries such as Jordan and Qatar.

Palestine was presented with the FIFA Development Award in 2008, 'in recognition of the difficult task that it had accomplished in keeping football alive'. Football in Gaza faces its own particular problems. The Gazan captain of the national side is unable to enter the West Bank and lives and plays in Jordan. During Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009,

footballers Ayman Alkurd and Wajeh Moshate were killed and the national stadium and the PFA headquarters were destroyed.

Swansea Palestine Link had raised £500 to buy building material which was on the convoy brought to a violent halt by the Israeli Defence Force in May.

Motorbiking

At Y Senedd, Cardiff Bay, a vigil and talk was held in support of a fundraising motorbike trip from Dubai to London. This journey, fuelled by commitment is for the benefit of children with special needs in Palestine. Wissam Al-Jayyoussi is riding 40,000 km across the Middle East and Europe, touching base in 36 major capitals over a period of 59 days en route to Britain. His ultimate target is to spread the awareness and raise the funds to build a dedicated and fully equipped school in Gaza for children with special needs.



h e d d w c h • a c t i o n

None of these campaigning groups are anti-Jewish or 'against' Israel as a state, but care about the human rights of all in the Middle East. It is here that a US backed nuclear government is bullying a people who, with their supporters across the region, feel increasingly driven to taking extremist and violent measures. There needs to be peace and justice for all in the Middle East.

Contacts:

Abergavenny: Ruth Iles

e: ruthnharry@btinternet.com

Aberystwyth: Elizabeth Morley

e: eimorley@rocketmail.com

Bangor & Anglesey Peace Group

e: mail@bangorpeace.co.uk

Cardiff: Ray Davies

t: 02920 889 514

e: wendya.lewis@sky.com

Swansea:

e: suningrid6@hotmail.com

Ride for Palestine:

www.goodwilljourney.net &

www.rideforpalestine.iparl.com/petition/

Knighton Action for Peace and Justice is considering the possibility of twinning with a Palestinian community. If you live in the area and are interested or would like to be involved, please contact Michael Green
t: 01588 650 780.

Llandrindod High School (Mid Wales) is twinned with the West Bank town of Kafr Jama (near Tulkarem) (grahamhaslock@googlemail.com) and the town of Llanidloes is twinned with As Sawiya (pots4@tiscali.co.uk). See www.twinningwithpalestine.net for more information.

Diolchiadau i Stephen

Deep felt thanks from CND Cymru are due to Stephen Thomas who retired from his job of Director of the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, based in the Temple of Peace (and Health) in Cathays Park, Cardiff in June.

Stephen has also held the post of Secretary of the United Nations Association Wales and of the Council for Education in World Citizenship-Cymru. Since 1996, he made the Temple of Peace in Cardiff available to peace and justice activists for meetings and events. The quiet ease with which he and his colleagues welcomed us made us feel much more included and acceptable, and helped us attract a broader band of supporters.

Following the setting up of Cynefin y Werin which brought 20 Wales-based human rights, environmental and peace and justice organisations together, initially to express the 'voice from the streets' during the Cardiff

hosted European Summit in 1998, Stephen helped those groups continue to network and meet. In addition he helped enable the ongoing work for the

setting up of a 'Wales Peace Institute/ Academi Heddwch Cymru'.

This is only the part of the story that we know, Stephen is modest and went quietly about his work and I suspect we only know a little of it all. Others will have their own appreciation of Stephen's contribution to human rights, peace and justice work in Wales and beyond. The Director has also held most of the Chief Executive posts of organisations based in the Centre. We look forward to working with Stephen's successor.

Diolch yn fawr iawn Stephen; 'pob lwc ac hwyl' with the next part of your journey!



Remembering Helen

21 years ago on 5 August 1989 22 year old Helen Thomas of Newcastle Emlyn, was killed while staying with other peace campaigners living at the women's peace camp outside former US cruise missile base at Greenham Common.

Helen was killed by a blow from the wing mirror of a passing police vehicle. Following an inquest on her death the family challenged the verdict through a judicial review in the High Court in which the judge criticised the coroner on two counts but refused to allow a fresh inquest.

On Sunday 1 August the occasion was marked by an event at the Greenham Common Memorial Garden, established in 2002. The garden is incorporated into the commemorative site at the former base. The site features a circle of seven stones brought from quarries in Wales set around an eternal flame sculpture.

Those taking part included Dafydd Iwan; writer and National Eisteddfod Literature Award winner Meg Elis; CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans MEP; Llinos Dafis; Dion, Catrin, Heledd and Gwenllian - pupils at Ysgol Dyffryn Teifi, Llandysul where Helen attended and Lowri Evans with other members of Aelwyd Emlyn.

Cen Llwyd
t: 01545 590 295
m: 07970 596887
e: cen.llwyd@btinternet.com

More about Helen:
www.beyondutility.co.uk/beyond/poets/helen/



CND Cymru and Côr Cochion Caerdydd at the National Eisteddfod Blaenau Gwent August 2010

War: always tragic

The human issues surrounding war go way back: one might well say that we have yet to learn the lessons. We repeat the same mistakes, suffer the same tragedies, feel the same horror and forget again and again that actually, no one wins in war.

This August, the theme was played out again – right in the middle of the Sennybridge Military Training Area on Mynydd Epynt. Many of our readers will remember that in the early years of the Eastern European Style village 'Cilieni', built in 1990 for military combat training, CND Cymru was involved in a series of direct actions, seeking to highlight the increasing militarisation of Wales.

Here, National Theatre Wales which was launched only this year, performed the earliest European play to have survived – The Persians by Aeschylus. This play, now adapted by Cardigan based playwright Kaitie O'Reilly was first performed in 472 BC and is based on Aeschylus' own experiences; specifically at the Battle of Salamis. It is unusual amongst Ancient Greek plays in addressing an actual historical event – not myth.

There are some curious twists that pull open the seams of the tragedy - in the 5th century BC, the Persians were the 'superpower' of the region and Greece had an army only one

tenth of the size; the drama is set in Persia, where news of a catastrophic Persian defeat filtered back to the families at home. The shock that such a powerful army could be defeated permeates through the army, the government, the community, family and the individual. Everyone is forced to rethink just who they are and what they feel. Of course, the play would originally have been written for and performed by Ancient Greeks.

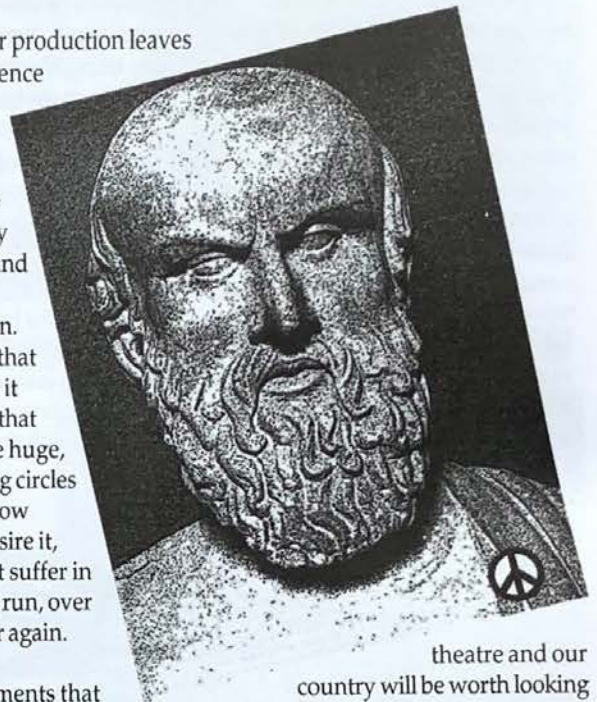
National Theatre Wales have chosen 12 venues throughout Wales as their 'national stage' for different productions this year. The setting for The Persians was in the village of Cilieni. The site sits isolated next to a live firing area in the bleak and beautiful uplands of Mynydd Epynt.

One of the houses used by the military is chillingly called a 'demonstration facility'. The military generally use it to demonstrate to their trainees 'how to clear a home'. The front of the house is cut away and action can be viewed on all four floors. This made a perfect stage set.

Talking to 'heddwch', Artistic Director John McGrath was clear

that their production leaves the audience to decide what message they may have found in the production. He said that it makes it obvious that there are huge, repeating circles in war, how some desire it, but most suffer in the long run, over and over again.

Any elements that resonate with current affairs – and with their personal experience – were for the observer to identify. Mr. McGrath hoped that the audience had taken the story and the experience home with them to consider at length. No direct reference was made to any current conflict that the British military is currently involved in, yet the manner in which war shakes a whole people – even when they are not directly or geographically involved in the fighting is clear. National Theatre Wales and their exciting approach to



theatre and our country will be worth looking out for.

As John McGrath commented: 'A National Theatre could be based in a huge building with pillars – in a capital city, or it could be out and about in our communities using the country itself as a stage, throughout the whole of this place called Wales. We want to help everyone be part of the Grand Experience of living here.' This includes the continuing and vital debate about our response to peace, justice, war and state sanctioned murder.

Elenydd

Cilieni Military Training Village, Mynydd Epynt



Subsidies for Nuclear Power

It is well established that nuclear power is one of the most expensive ways of generating electricity, despite misleadingly low figures for the cost of nuclear power published by the nuclear industry and repeated, apparently without critical examination, by other organisations.

There are now several reports showing how to decarbonise the world's economies without nuclear power, which itself is far from being zero carbon. There are more than enough alternatives and those quicker to build and with none of the headaches of nuclear power. There is absolutely no case for new nuclear power plants anywhere in the world. In terms of the fight against climate change, money spent on nuclear power is a serious mis-allocation of resources and alternatives are quicker and cheaper.

The Public Pays

The false claim that nuclear power is cheap can only be believed if research costs and capital costs are written off and if the several subsidies for nuclear power are ignored.

The main subsidies are described in the

Nuclear Subsidies report (www.energyfair.org.uk):

- Limitations on liabilities: operators of nuclear plants only required to pay a small fraction of the full cost of insuring against a Chernobyl-style accident or worse.
- Underwriting of commercial risks: for political reasons, operators of nuclear plants cannot be allowed to fail. In effect, national governments provide free underwriting of the commercial risks of operating nuclear plants.
- Protection against terrorist attacks: at least some of the cost of protection against terrorist attacks is born by the Government and the protection can only ever be partial.
- Short-to-medium-term cost of disposing of nuclear waste: operators of nuclear plants

are paying much less than the full cost of disposing of nuclear waste, and the Government takes on the risk of cost over-runs.

- Long-term cost of disposing of nuclear waste: much of the long-term cost of disposing of nuclear waste will be paid by people not yet born.
- Underwriting the cost of decommissioning nuclear plants: Government bears the risk of cost over-runs in decommissioning nuclear plants. In this area, cost over-runs are normal and, as we are seeing now, the cost to the taxpayer can be enormous.

£70,000,000,000

**Cost to tax payers of clearing old nuclear plants
What will new nukes cost you?**



**People Against Wylfa-B
Pobol Atal Wylfa-B**



- Institutional support for nuclear power: provided by the Government in various forms for example: the National Nuclear Laboratory, a 'nuclear academy' in West Cumbria, the Government's Office for Nuclear Development, a newly-established Nuclear Institute.

Straightforward paradox

Fortunately, the need for cuts in public spending has begun to shift the spotlight on to these unjustified subsidies for nuclear power. The Government has said that any new nuclear power stations that may be built in Britain should 'receive no public subsidy' ('The Coalition: our programme for government' page 17). If the 'no subsidy' commitment means what it says, then none of the above subsidies should be available

Unclear & Nuclear

Despite assurances from the new coalition government that they will allow new nuclear power stations to be built, the messages that have come out during the past few weeks have been mixed.

Firstly, Chris Huhne described himself as Secretary of State for 'Nuclear Legacy and other little bits' in the light of his revelation that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority faces a deep black hole deficit to the tune of £4 billion. Trying to clear up the mess of the current nuclear industry is effectively breaking the bank. Adding to this mess by producing even more hazardous waste from high burn-up uranium in possible new nuclear reactors is economic illiteracy and environmental vandalism.

Secondly, the decision to withdraw the promise of a loan worth £80 million made by Lord Mandelson to Sheffield Forgemasters to buy equipment to produce steel pressure vessels for nuclear reactors forces private companies to come up with the money to finance such a venture. In the present economic climate, are there companies who will gamble on such a venture?

**Dylan Morgan
Pobl Atal Wylfa B**

for any new nuclear power stations in Britain. Without those subsidies, or even a subset of them, it is unlikely that any new nuclear power stations would be built. More generally, subsidies for nuclear power are a clear breach of the principle of fair competition which invite legal action. By contrast with the new green technologies which do need support until they are fully established, nuclear power has received large amounts of support over many years: it is a mature technology, and it should be commercially viable without subsidies.

Gerry Wolff

Gerry Wolff is a member of PAWB and lives and works in North Wales.

The above article first appeared on Energy Fair www.energyfair.org.uk

A copy has been sent to all MPs.



September 2 - 6 Reading, Berkshire Trident Ploughshares Summer Gathering

A chance for new and experienced activists to get together & plot the end of those nasty nukes. A great few days of workshops, discussion and fun trips to the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment (where nasty new warhead developments are well underway)
 Contact t: 0845 45 88 361
 e: tpgathering@yahoo.com
 see www.tridentploughshares.org

September 4 Llandrindod CND AGM & Speaker Angie Zelter (Trident Ploughshares)

Quaker Meeting House, Temple Street 2.30pm. All welcome. Contact t: 01597 829 303
 e: vishenton@hotmail.co.uk

September 4 Machynlleth Latin American Celebration

At Y Plas. Latin American food from 5.30pm. Music from 7.30pm. Just a taster of the forthcoming 2011 Bi-annual Victor Jara Festival Contact t: 01654 702 166
tonycorden@hotmail.com.

September 8 Aberystwyth Siop-y-Pethe Palestine Solidarity Campaign 2-4 pm

Fundraising for the Lifeline for Gaza/Viva Palestina (which is due to depart London on Sept 18th).

September 18 University of London Students' Union 'Drone Wars' Day

conference exploring the growing use of armed drones (as being tested at Aberporth, Ceredigion). 'Net-centric warfare'

is a shift in the way that wars and undeclared wars are being fought where operators dispatch 'targets' at the touch of a joystick, behind the safety of a computer screen. Workshops and information sessions. £10/£6 concessions to include lunch. <http://tinyurl.com/2wsc9c3>
 t: 01865 250 781
mary@for.org.uk For more about the issue in Wales see www.bepj.org.uk

September 21 International Day of Peace Bangor Meeting (venue tba)

7 pm Bangor and Anglesey Peace & Justice Group in conjunction with The Soroptimists (www.soroptimist-gbi.org)
 contact:
 e: phil_steele@btinternet.com

October 2-9 Everywhere 'Keep Space for Peace' International Week of protest to Stop the militarisation of Space. Hold an event! see www.space4peace.org

October 9 - 10 British CND Conference see www.cnduk.org

October 19 Bangor Film & Talk: Outside the Law: Stories from Guantanamo

<http://tinyurl.com/3yqscr>
 e: phil_steele@btinternet.com



Until October 31: Petition Against Hinkley C Nuclear Power Station

Sign online: www.ipetitions.com/petition/petitionagainsthinkleycaug2010/
 Print off copies to collect signatures from your friends and neighbours:
www.stophinkley.org/Temporary/PETITIONJuly2010.pdf

Nuclear power is not cheap and it is not safe. Join the campaign to stop new nuclear power stations being built at Hinkley and Oldbury just across the water from Cardiff and Newport.
www.stophinkley.org/JoinDon.htm

November 1 Devonport Big Blockade

www.tridentploughshares.org
 Join those going from Wales - contact:
 e: heddwch@cndcymru.org

November 20 Central London 'Afghanistan: Time to Go' Demonstration

As a NATO Summit gathers in Lisbon, Portugal to discuss a new Strategic Concept, we will be gathering in central London to call for an end to NATO's occupation of Afghanistan.
www.stopwar.org.uk

November 25 Rheidol Centre (Council Offices) Aberystwyth Nuclear Power Debate

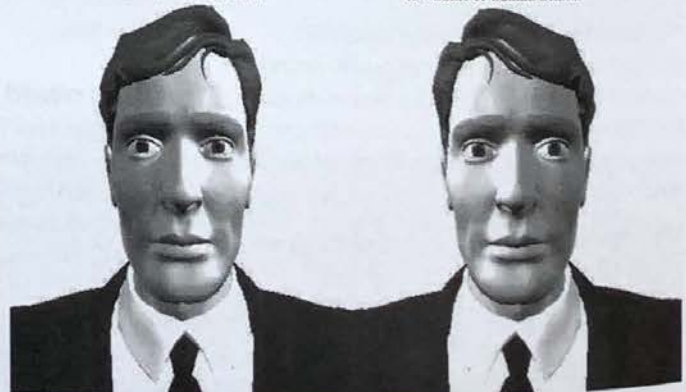
with CND Cymru, Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance, Nuclear Free Local Authorities, People Against Wylfa B. If you are interested in being kept informed about the event Contact CND Cymru and/or see www.stop-wylfa.org
www.nuclearpolicy.info & www.cndcymru.org

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)

"Offshore drilling for oil is perfectly safe for the environment. I can foresee no circumstances in which there would be any danger to wildlife or human health."

"Nuclear power is perfectly safe for the environment. I can foresee no circumstances in which there would be any danger to wildlife or human health."



BRITISH PETROLEUM 2009

BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS 2010