

cnd cymru

campaign for nuclear disarmament

> spring 2012 number 56

TRIDENT or its replacement...

NOT in Scotland...

NOT in Wales...

NOT anywhere.

GOT THAT, London?

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

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Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction. for peace & human & environmental justice.

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heddwch A message from Stephen Thomas

I am pleased to take on the role of chairman of CND Cymru, and it is an honour to take over in that capacity from Jill Evans MEP. Having been a member since its early days in the 1980s, it will be a way of my contributing more directly to the important work that CND Cymru does.

My background is in the field of dedication of a memorial stone international co-operation. I worked overseas for a few years for Save the Children in Mozambique, Somalia and Angola, then in the funding of international aid as Africa grants officer at Comic Relief in London. My most recent role was Director of the Welsh Centre for International Affairs based at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff. There, I was responsible opportunity to push our for a range of educational programmes and campaigns on global citizenship, promoting the role of the United Nations and advocating a more outwardlooking stance for our National Assembly for Wales. In that position there was overlap with CND Cymru

activities, in the joint work we did in opposing the St Athan military training academy and in promoting the Academi Heddwch/ Wales Peace

Institute. The

Temple of Peace was also the venue for various peace movement celebrations, such as that noting the 20th anniversary

of the Greenham Common women's march, and the

to conscientious objectors in the National Garden of Peace. It is good to see that the start of my period as chairman has coincided with a kick-start to the debate about the future of Trident, courtesy of the Scottish independence referendum's high profile. It is essential that we as campaigners rise to the challenge, and utilise this implacable opposition to Britain - or the 'rump state' that remains after possible Scottish independence - maintaining nuclear weapons. With Milford Haven having been mentioned as an alternative home for the nuclear submarine fleet and its back-up, should they be moved

> from their Scottish bases at Faslane and Coulport, it provides a focus for us in Wales to reiterate the unacceptability of contemplating having such weapons based on our beloved land. shores and seas. I hope you will join

me in the coming months in campaigning against such a prospect, and I look forward to working with you on that and other issues.

A Peace and Justice **Economy for Wales**

The newly-elected Leader of Plaid Cymru, Leanne Wood is a long-standing supporter of CND Cymru - so Heddwch was delighted to secure this exclusive interview with her

Heddwch: Are there any circumstances in which you or Plaid Cymru might support the use or possession of nuclear weapons?

Leanne Wood: Absolutely not. Plaid Cymru has always opposed the possession or use of nuclear weapons.

H: Are you sympathetic to the argument that a new nuclear power station on Anglesey will bring jobs to the area and help reduce global warning? LW: Creating jobs and strengthening the local economy in Anglesey is a top priority. The way to reduce global warming is to invest in renewables which, incidentally, is a far more effective way of providing employment. That is why I've produced an energy plan showing how that can be done.

H: What is your opinion of existing and projected militaryrelated activities in Wales - such as drone testing at Aberporth and the proposed "Defence Academy" at St. Athan?

LW: The economy is my top priority. I want to create sustainable jobs which is why I will be focusing on the kind of economy we want in Wales. Whilst we do want to see more employment coming to Wales, we should be making socially-useful products that benefit everyone not in making weapons of war or in training people to fight and oppress others.

Ban the Bomb! Don't Give

Let them know we haven't gone away.

Write to your MP and to Nick Harvey MP, Armed Forces Minister.

Some suggested points: There is widespread opposition to Trident in all sections of the public, and from senior military figures like Field Marshal Lord Bramall, General Lord Ramsbotham, General Sir Hugh Beach and Major-General Patrick Cordingley. Not surprising, when any use of

Trident would cause

unimaginable catastrophe to the world, its resources, its climate and all life - it is militarily useless

Can anyone think that the worldwide proliferation of nuclear bombs will enhance security?

Yet that is what the development of Trident will lead to. Other states will feel and be threatened. If we 'need' nuclear weapons for our own safety, doesn't everyone else? There are alternatives. People are capable of better than this.

Conflict between individuals, nation states, religious and ideological groups can be solved without resorting to threats, bullying and the potential for total destruction of all life.

Addresses: Nick Harvey MP, Armed Forces Minister, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB email: MinAF-PrivateOffice@mod.uk Your MP, House of Commons, London SW1A OAA online: www.writetothem.com

Bridgend Bunker Campaign

'We found it was not up to others, it was up to us. It was a victory over ourselves and our doubts that nothing could be done.'

Jean Bryant, Rhondda CND

Thirty years ago, on March 15th 1982 CND hailed a major victory in the campaign against nuclear war preparations at the site of the Bridgend Bunker. Groups from all over Glamorgan and other parts of Wales had occupied the site since 24th January.

Bridgend Bunker was part of Government civil defence preparations following the decision to base 96 US nuclear armed Cruise missiles in Britain. These plans had sparked the campaign by the women from Wales who marched to Greenham Common USAF base the previous summer. Activists led by the late Elisabeth Goffe linked our Bridgend action with Greenham.

At that time a 'secret army' of over 1000 officials were rehearsing nuclear war drills at the Governments Sub Regional HQ at nearby Brackla and at the refitted Armed Forces HQ at Brecon. The Bridgend Bunker campaigners had contacts in both places. Mid Glamorgan Council Chief Executive Hugh Thomas and other officials had been promised Home Office funding for an underground Home Office notice to guit the site, and County HQ on an industrial estate which cut their losses. was being equipped with blast doors, reinforced concrete walls, filter and communications. Many Councillors later claimed that they were unaware of the

professor of architecture who advised the campaign.

After seven weeks of constant lobbying by a dozen groups, mass meetings, picketing of County Hall and the 24hour occupation of the site, 'crunch day' came with the arrival of huge vehicles which started pouring concrete into the bunker walls. They then poured the stuff over our co-ordinator Steve Samuel, Mary Russell and myself on top of the shuttering. A large group of demonstrators made it clear they would not go away. The entire action was caught on camera and reported throughout the media as it had been since before direct action began. The County Council's resistance crumbled and they gave the contractors and the

I still maintain that the success of the campaign was picking the 'target' - not just the site but the seat of decisions at plans leaked to CND and confirmed by a County Hall, the Welsh Office and Home



'Occupy the Site' - 25th January 1982, Peace Camp, Day 2

Office, linking this to the wider issues of thing was a not worth the bottle (or 'warfare v welfare' and building constant and rising pressure among the local communities. Even people who argued for civil defence saw through the fraud; there were scores of letters to the press about the idiocy and wickedness of underground bunkers which diverted money from core services. The campaign first won over a minority of councillors and finally a majority who decided the whole bunker

their seats). While making continuous and effective use of media contacts, we also published our own materials including regular newsheets.

I and many others still feel inspired by this campaign and its human dimensions and hope over adversity by thousands of ordinary people. I feel privileged and proud to have shared their success.

Tony Simpson

heddwch ** action

CND Cymru will be staging an exhibition with photographs of the 1982 Bridgend Bunker Campaign at this year's National Eisteddfod. If you have any old photographs we could copy and perhaps use, please contact us (see page 2).

nits to Let at Aberpor

Assembly Members of all political parties are keen to tell us that we should be proud that Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are being developed and tested in west Wales as these aircraft have so many 'civilian applications'. However, it is now official that only 6 of the 45 employees at the so-called UAV Centre of Excellence at ParcAberporth (Blaenannerch, Ceredigion) are not working directly on military projects.

A February 2012 letter from Welsh Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science, Edwina Hart confirmed that 30 - 35 people work on the MoD Watchkeeper military drone project, 4 work for arms technology company QinetiQ and 6 work for West Wales Airport (WWA) - (presumably facilitating the testing of military drones).

Pick a number

When the Welsh Assembly directed a 'public consultation' in 2009 about creating a 500 sq mile UAV test zone over west Wales, the civilian uses and job-creating potential for drones were overwhelmingly emphasised and the military use of ParcAberporth barely mentioned. When the ParcAberporth development was first planned in the early 2000s, the possibility of hundreds of jobs in a UAV 'Centre of Excellence' helped to sell the idea to the Welsh Assembly. This cosmetic approach was apparent even at this stage, since the UAV/drone airspace test zone was to

accommodate flights between Aberporth on the coast of Ceredigion, and the established military training area on Mynydd Epynt over 35 miles inland. Flights of civilian aircraft over Mynydd Epynt are subject to restriction.

On seeing the letter from Edwina Hart, local resident and ACTYMA* campaigner Des Davies commented: 'I just wonder how many of those six WWA employees actually work at Blaenannerch, and how many are busy down in Ross on Wye where the airport seems to have its HQ. Anyone else remember the publicly made promise ... of 50 jobs at Blaenannerch? ...and what's this 'FOUR in the UAV Centre'?....I've never seen more than

'And how many working on Watchkeeper were local residents before the military arrived? This site was touted as 'jobs for the locals' and 'revitalisation for West Wales and the Valleys'....the trouble was, too many people were gullible enough to believe them!

Public purse to private pocket Well over £21 million of public money has gone into this project, but the main beneficiary appears to be the military. The dream of a civilian centre of excellence is dead - if indeed it was ever otherwise. The industrial units built to house UAV companies stand empty and are for rent on the open market to all comers - whether UAV related or not, and there appear to be no takers. We understand that prospective customers have even been flown from Cambridge free of charge (to anyone but the Welsh taxpayer of course) in order to view the empty buildings.

The best we can imagine? Once the Watchkeeper UAV tests come to an end, ParcAberporth will be left as a little used rural aerodrome with a collection of empty office buildings and fewer employees than a Tesco convenience store. Let's hope that this is not the best that our Welsh Government, Ceredigion County Council and the elected MP and AMs who have supported the project can do. UAVs or drones developed for spying, surveillance and targeting are much part

of the war machine as those which deliver the remote killing weapon itself. They are connected to the machinery of making war from and within space and, if the dangers to human rights, peace and privacy are not recognised now, are sowing the the seeds for a deeply unpleasant future. Even the so-called 'civilian applications' of drones, some of which come under the remit of 'security' may not be as benign as we are led to believe. Arms and aerospace companies are even now champing at the bit to be the leaders in this distasteful technology. Such technology plays no part in the future for the Wales that we hope for ourselves and our children.

* ACTYMA: Airport Action Taskforce -Yma Maes Awyr

heddwch#action

Keep up to date with this worldwide campaign against drones. The military machine and government bodies are currently very excited about the financial 'rewards' and control that this remote technology 'computergame' technology might deliver. See: www.bepj.org.uk http://tinyurl.com/343r2de

www.dronecampaignnetwork.org.uk/

Academi Heddwch Cymru/Wales Peace Institute

The campaign for an Academi Heddwch Cymru/Wales Peace Institute has now moved on to the next stage at the National Assembly with the cross-Party Human Rights Group tasked to come up with a blueprint for its early establishment. This blueprint is expected to be ready by May 2012 and a report will be submitted to the Petitions Committee for tabling at a Plenary Session of the National Assembly. The previous public consultation phase of the Petitions Committee deliberations led to the committee receiving more responses than for any comparable petition - 100% being in favour. The challenge now is for us to come up with firm proposals and funding to make the Peace Institute a reality.

Thank you everyone for your support – don't go away we still need you! Watch this space...

heddwch # action

More information from CND Cymru Vice Chair John Cox (Contacts page 2)

An Inspiring and Empowering Woman

Angie Zelter, from Knighton in Powys, founder-member of the anti-nuclear weapon campaign group Trident Ploughshares, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.



In nominating Angie, Mairead Maguire commented: 'Angie Zelter has dedicated her life to building peace and working for world nuclear disarmament. Her life is committed to working to prevent nuclear mass murder, and by her own personal example and through her organisational skills, she has inspired and empowered many people to mobilise to prevent their governments from nuclear genocide, and begin seriously the work of abolishing all nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.'

Angie has recently returned from supporting the villagers of Gangjeong on Jeju Island, South Korea who are resisting the destructive development of a naval base of the island. She was one of four women who, in 1996 tried for causing an estimated 1.5 million pounds worth of damage to a British made Hawk aircraft bound for the oppression of East-Timor resistance in Indonesia. They were acquitted by an English Jury for preventing this major crime against humanity. In 1999 Angie was one of three Trident Ploughshares activists who damaged equipment onboard a Trident research barge in Loch Goil. All three were acquitted at the subsequent trial on the basis of the illegality of British nuclear weapons, under international law.

Bright and Llandudno

It may not be know to some of us that social reformer and pacifist John Bright MP had a strong connection with Wales.

Born November 16th 1811 in Rochdale, Lancashire, he entered Parliament in 1843. As a member of William E. Gladstone's cabinet he was active in campaigns for free trade, lower grain prices, and parliamentary reform. His Quaker beliefs shaped his politics of demands for an end to inequalities between individuals and between peoples. Bright was also Chair of the Dylife Mining Company and alongside Richard Cobden and the Carmarthenshire Chartist and Rebecca-ite Hugh Williams greatly improved working conditions in the lead mines.

Bright had a long association with Llandudno in North Wales. He holidayed here with his wife and son in 1864 and while visiting the Church of St. Tudno on the Great Orme, his five year old son said: 'Mamma, when I am dead, I want to be buried here'. Just a week later, the little boy fell victim to scarlet fever and died. John Bright returned to Llandudno at least once each year for 25 years until his own death in 1889. The principal secondary school in Llandudno is known by his name.

Another St Athan Tale Ends

The last RAF flight out of the MOD St Athan base in Wales has been heralded by the trade union Prospect as 'the final nail in the coffin of a red dragon that never managed to fly'. In 2000, the base was a bright hope developed as a 'centre of excellence' to provide a public sector benchmark for aviation work, cutting the cost of maintaining and repairing the UK's military aircraft. The MoD built a 'super hangar' for fast jet repair costing £77million of public money with the Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA) as the principal tenant. They then made an 180° turn, deciding to lease equipment from private manufacturers, making DARA's facilities and its employees redundant. Privatisation soon followed.

destructive development of a naval base on the island . She was one of four women who, in 1996 tried for causing an estimated 1.5 million pounds worth of damage to a British made Hawk aircraft bound for the oppression of East-Timor bound for the oppression of East-Timor the control of the c

Censure for the Census Collectors

Judith Sambrook from just over the border in Shropshire is one of many who refused to complete their census forms last year.

She was protesting at the involvement of weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin which has a lucrative contract with the British Government to collect and process census data. Judith appeared at Wrexham Magistrates Court in November where Wrexham Peace and Justice Group held a demonstration and vigil in solidarity with Judith and all census resisters, and against Lockheed Martin, and all those involved in the arms trade and all wars.

Just for the record, Lockheed Martin: *manufactures F-16 fighter jets, as used by Israel to murder civilians in Gaza in 2009. http://tinyurl.com/88vl9bq

*developed and manufactured Britain's Trident nuclear missiles and has a £5.3 billion contract with the Westminster government to design and build new and illegal weapons of mass destruction at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment. *developed the Aegis destroyers which the USA is pressurising South Korea to site at a planned naval base on Jeju Island, South Korea.

*manufactures cluster bombs, sells arms to Bahrain and makes surveillance drones used in Afghanistan.

Count Me Out is raising awareness about the arms trade's involvement in the 2011 census, and bringing together different individuals & groups across Britain taking action against the census. It is determined not to let Lockheed get quietly away with a whitewashed reputation, access to personal data and £150m of tax payers' money.

heddwch*action

Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum www.wpjf.org.uk www.countmeout.me.uk e:info@countmeout.me.uk Facebook: count me out Twitter: @countme_out !



No Peace without **True Justice**

The group Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice is asking people to write to prisoners in Britain some of whom have been detained for over 13 years, without ever being charged or undergoing any trial. Others have been released under control orders and forcibly relocated far away from their families in remote parts of Britain; or released on bail conditions, more stringent than control orders. Some face the threat of deportation to their home countries where they may face detention and torture: others face extradition to the USA where their human rights may be endangered.

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More information:

http://tinyurl.com/6p4gfhvl

& on Facebook: http://tinyurl.com/7elmdgl The group has also been campaigning against the cuts in public services. Bangor & Ynys Môn Peace and Justice meets every Monday at 6.30pm during term-time in the Friends Meeting House, Dean Street, Bangor.

Peace Pilgrims on Gower

To celebrate this year's tenth anniversary of the Swansea based Peace Mala project, a sponsored five day walking Pilgrimage for World Peace will visit holy wells, springs, and churches on Gower. The walk will begin on July 18th from Bishopston. Here at the Church of St Teilo, The Bishop of Swansea & Brecon will take part in a peace service. After four days of pilgrimage a short thanksgiving service and prayers for world peace will take place in the Church of St Rhidian and St Illtyd (Llanrhidian).

heddwch # action

All are welcome to join the pilgrim leader Ruth Davies for all or part of the pilgrimage. t: 01792 891546 e: ruth@zen-acupuncture.co.uk Also: http://tinyurl.com/7zgb6xo

Free Bradley Manning

Bradley Manning follows in the illustrious footsteps of whistle-blowers such as Daniel Ellsberg (Pentagon Papers) and Mordechai Vanunu (Israel's secret nuclear weapons programme) but many people still don't know who he is, what's happening to him or the crucial importance of a public outcry against his continued incarceration. He stands accused of leaking hundreds of thousands of letters, documents etc. to WikiLeaks, material which reveals wrongdoing, corruption and the grim reality of the wars being fought by the US with our support.

If the Obama presidential campaign rhetoric was to be believed, Bradley Manning would have been protected as a whistleblower. Instead, he has been held without trial for almost two years and for eleven months of this time in solitary confinement and other torturous conditions. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has still not been allowed a private meeting with Bradley and has concluded that 'imposing seriously punitive conditions of detention on someone who has not been found guilty of any crime is a violation of his right to physical and psychological integrity as well as of his presumption of innocence'. President Obama has already declared that he's guilty. Manning cannot possibly get a fair trial at the court martial, due to be held some time this year (next hearing 24th-26th April). The campaign to free Bradley Manning continues. It is particularly relevant here in Wales as Bradley's mother is Welsh and he still has family here.

True Drama

The acclaimed National Theatre Wales (NTW) will be touring Wales with Welsh playwright Tim Price's play 'The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning' this April (Haverfordwest 12th-14th, Cardiff 15th-21st, Connah's Quay 25th-28th). Performances will be streamed live on the internet, with a potentially world-wide audience. The launch is to take place at



Tasker Milward, the comprehensive school in Haverfordwest that Bradley attended as a teenager.

See: http://nationaltheatrewales.org/ whatson/performance/ntw18 for more details and booking information.

Talking and Learning about Bradley

The network 'WISE Up for Bradley Manning' (WISE = Welsh, Irish, Scottish, English) is coordinating a series of events around Wales in April to coincide with the play along with other groups and organisations. Events include an exhibition with the focus on war and war veterans in Haverfordwest (Fri 13th), an evening with Craig Murray hosted by the WCIA in Cardiff (Mon 16th), a panel discussion in Cardiff (Sat 21st), a special sneak preview screening of Oscar nominated film 'Incident in New Baghdad' at a CND Cymru/ UNA Cardiff and District meeting (Tue 24th), a meeting of whistleblowers in Denbigh (Fri 27th) and an evening of music and poetry in Wrexham (Sun 29th).

Details and more events to be confirmed.

Genny Bove

heddwch#action

Can you organise an event for Bradley Manning, however small? Let us know if you do t:0845 330 4505 e: wiseupforbm@yahoo.com For events & local actions see:

www.wiseupforbradleymanning.wordpress.com International campaign: www.bradleymanning.org

Lost Youth - Songs Of Solidarity

This CD is a fine eclectic mix of songs and tunes from a variety of genres. Traditional Irish and Basque tracks nestle comfortably between thought-provoking political folk and Palestinian hip-hop contributions. Lost Youth - Songs Of Solidarity has been released to raise money for 15-year-old Palestinian performer Mohammed Sameh Hashash. Mohammed was arrested by the Israeli authorities in 2005 as his youth theatre group were crossing the border at the West Bank while leaving for a tour of Ireland, Scotland and England.

No real reason for the arrest was forthcoming and funds raised from this project will be used to help Mohammed to continue his studies when he is released, hopefully later this year.

Performers on Lost Youth include David Rovics, Pol Mac Adaim, Lowkey and the great Damien Dempsey.



For more information visit; http://lostyouth-palestine.com/2011/ 10/19/lost-youth-songs-of-solidarity Lost Youth - Songs Of Solidarity is available from www.fourdogsmusic.co.uk (an highly ethical company based in Wales)

NEWS ROUND UP - BRITAIN

Trident unacceptable in independent Scotland

Speaking in the referendum debate in the Scottish Parliament First Minister Alex Salmond (First Minister) said at the beginning of 2012:

'It is inconceivable that an independent nation of 5.25 million people would tolerate the continued presence of weapons of mass destruction on its soil. I do not believe that any Government that put forward such a proposition would be elected by the people of Scotland. Patrick Harvie (Green Party MSP) and I will have to express our joint trust in the good judgment and wisdom of the people of Scotland on whom they elect and for what purpose.

The MoD has admitted that they are considering what to do with Trident if Scotland votes for independence. The reality is that there is nowhere for Trident to go. It would be too expensive and controversial to rebuild Coulport in Cornwall or Wales. In theory, David Cameron could ask Nicolas Sarkozy or Barack Obama to host our Trident submarines but this would pose insurmountable political obstacles. No one, not Scotland, the south west of England or Wales should be forced to accept these Weapons of Mass Destruction, just because no one else will

heddwch # action

A copy of the report 'Trident Nowhere to Go' has been sent to all Welsh AMs France and Britain. The Teutates and MPs in Wales. This new report looks in detail at potential alternative locations for Trident and argues that none are viable. Report available for download from http://tinyurl.com/ 75tvktp or by post from CND Cymru (see Contacts Page 2).

Imagining a post-**Trident Future**

In 'Dropping the Bomb : A Post Trident Future', independent liberal think tank CentreForum urges the Westminster Government to cancel its nuclear deterrent programme and use the savings (quoted as £25billion in capital costs alone) to shore up conventional military capabilities. The report warns that Britain is sleepwalking into replacing its Trident missiles and points out that 'To spend a major part of the defence budget to protect against the distant possibility that a potential threat might arise on the outer edges of the UK's strategic interests...seems irrational'. It recommends that the expertise at AWE Aldermaston in Berkshire could be used to develop verification technologies, which

disarmament. Supporters of nuclear disarmament have 4 years before the 'main gate' or final decision is made on whether or not to replace the now ageing Trident nuclear weapons with another new nuclear weapons system. Time is running out, and it has been observed that even before this decision is made, £billions are already being spent in updating part of the British nuclear weapons development and manufacturing facilities (see below).

heddwch * action Artist in High Court

Dropping the bomb: a post Trident future March 2012: www.centreforum.org

New facility at AWE **Aldermaston**

Despite protests by demonstrators at West Berkshire Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting on February 8th, permission was granted for a Technical Development Centre at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE).

The new facility, which is to replace the cancelled, highly-contentious Project Hydrus, will house a radiographic development hall, laboratories, workshops, offices, plant rooms, conference and welfare facilities. Project Hydrus was cancelled in September 2010, when Britain and France signed a joint treaty to construct a shared research facility. This treaty agrees construction of new facilities (planned to be operational by 2015) in both Labour MP for Newcastle East and

Technology Development Centre is planned for Aldermaston and the Teutates Epure facility is planned to be built in Valduc. France.



This will allow some of the extreme conditions found inside a nuclear explosion to be recreated in a laboratory setting. The results from such tests could then be used to 'improve' computer simulations (and thereby theoretically 'comply' with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty'). Members of 'No to Atomic Weapons Development', a local network of Berkshire Greenpeace, Reading Peace Group, and the Nuclear Awareness Group who had been campaigning on the streets of local towns during the previous weeks, gathered outside the meeting. They had dressed as mad scientist and wearing gags, to symbolise the fact they didn't feel their objections were being listened to.

heddwch ** action

Despite the postponement of the 'Main gate' decision on Trident replacement, major developments are underway at Aldermaston AWE. CND

believes that the purpose of many of the new facilities is to develop a new generation of nuclear weapons. This major redevelopment at Aldermaston ties in with the parliamentary decision in 2007 to develop a new generation of nuclear-armed submarines to replace the current system Trident after 2028. www.cnduk.org/ campaigns/no-to-trident/aldermaston

Dancing domestic extremists turned up at the High Court (London) on 9th February in support of John Catt's case against his inclusion in the National Domestic Extremist Database. John Catt is requesting the deletion of 66 entries related to his presence at peace and anti-war protests.

It was argued in court that the refusal, by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), to delete the entries violates his right to privacy under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The data is held by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and, in some cases describes how 87year-old John would turn up at demonstrations, take out his sketch pad and draw the scene. The Court's decision is awaited.

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http://www.aldermaston.net/news/481

One Down - More to Go

former Chief Whip Nick Brown has announced that he has changed his mind and now opposes Trident Replacement.

In a contribution to a debate on the Strategic Defence and Security Review, he said 'the money that we spend on Trident could be used to bring down substantially the tuition fees of every student. I think that cutting a generation adrift from higher education poses a bigger threat to our nation than the idea that a foreign power with nuclear weaponry would uniquely threaten to use it against us, and not the rest of NATO, and would somehow be able to disapply NATO's founding terms.' 'The real nuclear dangers of the future come from rogue states and terrorism. The possession of an independent nuclear deterrent does not make us safer. A better investment would be in anti-terrorism capabilities.'

heddwch ** action

Please write to your Labour MP and/or to Labour Leader Ed Milliband and ^{ask} that he reconsider his support for any replacement for Trident.

Address:Your MP (& Ed Milliband MP), House of Commons, London SW1A OAA or online: www.writetothem.com ed.miliband.mp@parliament.uk

are necessary for global nuclear

Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA)

The NFLA is the local government voice on nuclear issues aiming to increase local accountability over national nuclear policy; identify the impact of national nuclear policy on local communities and working to minimise nuclear hazards and increase public safety.

Not only seriously concerned at Government plans for nuclear power to be part of the mix of energy supply for Britain over the next 40 years, it also raises awareness that the Government spends



fbillions of public money each year on maintaining, transporting and deploying nuclear armaments . The NFLA is keen to encourage local authorities to adopt antinuclear policies as these are relevant to every local and unitary authority in Britain and the North of Ireland.

Only a few years ago, every Unitary Authority in Wales was affiliated to the NFLA. Now there are only three NFLA affiliates in Wales - Gwynedd, Caerphilly, Cardiff and Bridgend. Affiliates receive policy advice from experienced expert consultants who produce research to influence policy decisions; briefings on current issues with recommendations for local action; and liaise nationally and internationally through an established network of MPs, MEPs, journalists and public interest groups.

Forums in England, Scotland and Wales meet quarterly and members receive progress reports and advise on policy priorities in their localities.

heddwch * action

Please canvas your Unitary Authority councillors and election candidates and ask that they push for your Unitary Authority to affiliate to the NFLA and/or contact the Leader of your Unitary Authority. If you live in Gwynedd, Caerphilly, Cardiff and Bridgend, commending your Councillor of Local Authority on being a member of the NFLA would be an excellent idea!

To find the address of your current councillor and/or Unitary Authority see the website:

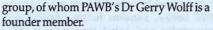
http://tinyurl.com/7yjbje5

More information about the NFLA and reasons to affiliate: www.nuclearpolicy.info

Smoke & mirrors, reactors & bombs

In the current programme of nuclear new-build, the whole planning and consultation process for 8 new nuclear power stations is predicated on Britain's perceived 'need' for 10. This assumption, which trumps all other planning considerations, is claimed to be based on scientific research into the nation's energy needs. However a new cross-party report issued this January shows that it was the then Labour government which decided that 10 new nuclear power stations would be a nice round figure, and then commissioned scientific research to back up this arbitrary political decision. So, another day, another 'Dodgy Dossier' – as in the false prospectus used to justify the Iraq War in 2003. It is now clear that MPs have been repeatedly misled by both Labour and Tory governments about the need for nuclear power.

And it seems the Lib Dems have even been misleading themselves: new Environment Secretary Ed Davey has decided to forge ahead with the new nuclear programme, despite the fact that until he got this important new job, he always said that nuclear power is far too dangerous, far too expensive and indeed impossible without heavy public subsidy. Existing illegal subsidies are at the heart of a legal case to be brought to Europe by the Energy Fair



Incredulity and anger met the representatives of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (HSE) when they visited Bangor recently to photograph themselves with the public, sorry, I mean to enter meaningful dialogue with aforesaid suckers.

The logical flaws in their defence of the Weightman report and the criteria for stress testing were mind boggling. Terrorism not included? Aerial impact? The impossible evacuation of Anglesey? Ah now that's the one on which all authorities pass the buck, with the skill of an Olympic relay team. Meanwhile on Anglesey the campaign is hotting up and gaining broader support. On a gloomy afternoon, in January, some 300 people joined a jolly red dragon (a veteran of Faslane) to march through the streets of Llangefni. In the crowd and amongst the speakers were supporters of PAWB (People Against Wylfa B/Pobol Atal Wylfa B), Greenpeace, Stop Hinkley, SWAN



(Southwest Against Nuclear), CND Cymru, the Farmers' Union of Wales and the Celtic League. The Welsh Language Society, shocked by the likely devastating impact on language and culture, were key organisers of the rally, which was also addressed by Richard Jones Caerdegog, the farmer who is standing up to Horizon's bullyboy land-grab tactics. It

was nice to see Aberystwyth intrepid clown army on the streets of Llangefni, where clowns are more routinely seen in the Council chamber.

A PAWB rally held at Menai Bridge on 11th March, commemorated the first anniversary of the ongoing Fukushima disaster in Japan and mirrored those held all around the world. Evidence about the risks of radioactivity has been augmented with a new French study which appears to corroborate the German KiKK report's findings about childhood leukaemia near nuclear power plants: http://tinyurl.com/7f9dlkd Just what is it about nuclear technology that makes blundering politicians and blinkered scientists charge into the Valley of Death like the Light Brigade? Perhaps the answer lies in Paris, where this February, Cameron and Sarkozy did a cosy deal on civil and military nuclear power. That's right, all in one bundle, the same technology.

Oh, those Iranians! But that's another story.

Phil Steele



Grim Fast Forward

As reported in previous editions of heddwch, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists maintains a 'Doomsday Clock' as a gauge of how close the world is to nuclear war.

In January 2010 the clock hands were moved back, to reflect optimism following the election of President Obama. On 10th January 2012 the clock hands were moved forward to 5 minutes to midnight, reflecting the inadequate progress in tackling nuclear disarmament and proliferation. Representing the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists Lawrence Krauss said: 'Unfortunately, Einstein's statement in 1946 that 'everything has changed, save the way we think,' remains true... Faced with clear and present dangers of nuclear proliferation and climate change, and the need to find sustainable and safe sources of energy, world leaders are failing to change business as usual. Inaction on key issues including climate change, and rising international tensions motivate the

No Military Base on Jeju Island!

movement of the clock."

http://tinyurl.com/7p8sycj

A 5 year battle to prevent the construction of a controversial South Korean-US naval base on Jeju Island has reached a climax this spring. Officially named the 'Island of World Peace' by late President Roh Moo Hyun, Jeju was the site of a 1948 massacre in which more than 30,000 civilians were estimated to have been slaughtered during a democratic uprising.

Angie Zelter, a peace activist from Knighton in Powys is one of many international activists who joined with islanders to resist plans to construct the base on the sacred Gureombi rocks in Gangieong village on the island just a few hundred miles from mainland China. The base is to become a port for US navy aircraft carriers and Aegis destroyers fitted with SM-3 missile interceptors. This is part of its global US 'national missile defense' program which risks heightening international tensions and risks precipitating owned banks Lloyds and Royal Bank of a new global arms race.

Despite determined opposition and a poll which showed that 98% of the islanders oppose the base, Samsung - the South Korean navy contractor - began blasting in March despite an emergency appeal to suspend construction by the local Governor Woo Keun-min issued to the South Korean government.

Protesters entered the blasting site in an attempt to halt the detonation but were forcibly removed.

Angie Zelter was arrested during the actions and as we go to press we have learned that South Korean Police are

seeking her removal from the island. She

'Building the naval base does not advance the security of Jeju or South Korea - it just adds to military tension on and around the Korean peninsula. This affects us all. Dave Webb of British CND who also took part in the protests on Jeju said that the base was being 'sold' as a joint civilianmilitary installation but that there was no question that it would be predominantly for military use.

Some activists are imprisoned and currently engaged in hunger strikes.

CND Cymru has sent messages of solidarity from Wales to the people of Jeju Island.

heddwch # action

The Jeju situation is a bigger story than we can report here. Find out more, show support and get involved even from a distance! www.savejejuisland.org On Facebook? - 'Like' the No Naval Base on Jeju! page.

Don't Bank on the Bomb

ICAN - the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons has launched a report on the global financing of the nuclear weapons industry which identifies more than 300 banks, pension funds, insurance companies and asset managers in 30 countries with substantial investments in nuclear arms producers.

In his foreword to the report, Archbishop Desmond Tutu calls on financial institutions to 'do the right thing and assist, rather than impede, efforts to eliminate the threat of radioactive incineration' and notes that divestment was a vital part of the successful campaign to end apartheid in South Africa. He says: 'Today, the same tactic can - and must - be employed to challenge man's most evil creation: the nuclear bomb. No one should be profiting from this terrible industry of death, which threatens us all." Britain is home to 41 of the 322 financial institutions found to be supporting major nuclear weapons companies. Those most heavily involved in financing nuclear arms include Barclays, HSBC and the part-publicly Scotland.

5 of the twenty major nuclear weapons companies listed in the report - Babcock International, BAE Systems, Redhall Group, Rolls Royce and Serco Group - are based in Britain (mostly England).

heddwch * action

Use this report as the basis for coordinated campaigning such as meeting with bank representatives, organising protests outside their branches, raising public awareness. finding allies and promoting boycotts to discourage financial institutions from investing in nuclear weapons companies.

On www.dontbankonthebomb.com find useful suggestions for action & a download of the report itself; or contact CND Cymru (Page 2) for a copy or ican europe@icanw.org

Don't attack Iran

Hans Blix, former UN Weapons Inspector has pointed out in a New Statesman article that any bombing of Iran would be another action in disregard of the UN Charter with no authorisation by the Security Council. He said 'Iran has not attacked anybody and despite Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's wild, populist declarations that Israel should be wiped off the map there is no imminent Iranian threat that could be invoked to justify pre-emptive action'. Blix says 'bombing Iranian nuclear installations may be a path to disaster rather than to a solution' and condemns the "outrageous, gangster-style" killing of Iranian scientists.

Condemning plans for any aggressive counter-proliferation policies, Kate Hudson of British CND warned: 'the lessons are clear: current escalation of tension over Iran's nuclear programme must not take us there again. All the indications are that an attack on Iran would start a protracted war which would be ruinous for the region and have significant economic and resource consequences for the wider world. It would be good to see the nuclear weapons states getting off their soapboxes about Iran, reflecting on the consequences of their own nuclear weapons possession, and taking some serious diplomatic steps to resolve the actual nuclear problems of the region. This year sees a major UN conference to secure a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. Backing from the US and UK to bring all parties to the table - including nucleararmed Israel - would be a major step forward for the region.'

An agreement between the parties in the Middle East - including Israel and Iran - to renounce possession, acquisition or development of weapons of mass destruction, and the means of their production would need verification going beyond IAEA safeguards, as well as outside security guarantees and assurances of supply of nuclear fuel for civilian reactors. It would also require that Israel admit to and give up its nuclear weapons, stockpiled fissile material and capability to produce enriched uranium or plutonium. It would require Iran to do away with its enrichment plants and a number of other installations. All states in the zone would agree between themselves not to acquire or develop capabilities for the enrichment of uranium or production of plutonium. It could be done and would certainly be the preferable option. Hudson: http://tinyurl.com/843zuor Blix: http://tinyurl.com/87x4uyx

he cry was 'Stop Hinkley C!'

On March 10th and 11th CND Cymru and Côr Cochion joined the blockade of Hinkley Point in Somerset to protest against the construction of a new nuclear power station on the site, which would cast a nuclear shadow over the entire south west England and of south Wales.

As we approached the site we could see the tents of the protest camp. We could also see a massive presence of police and security guards who stood at the gates and inside the fences. They also stood in the area which nuclear company Electricité De France (EDF) has illegally cleared for construction, despite not yet having gained planning permission.



The crowd surged up the narrow country lane; over a thousand strong. There was storytelling and singing. Children passed around plates of fruit, offering it to protesters and police, Buddhist monks, activists old and young, clowns and musicians. Two groups walked around the base pinning mementoes and banners to the fence to remind those inside of the many dangers posed by nuclear power to life on earth; to the water; the air and to the land.

Thirty miles from Hinkley Point, a plaque on Redwick Church commemorates the great flood of 1607 caused by a seismic shock at the mouth of the Severn, which killed thousands and devastated the land from Gower to Somerset. What if that were to happen again?

EDF arrogance

A mass trespass then followed the footpath around the proposed site, banners flying, and the sound of music proclaiming defiance. It passed through the already



destroyed nesting grounds of larks, habitats Back to the barn of badgers and barn owls, and woodland earmarked for destruction. All of this vandalism done by EDF and flouting proper legal planning process.

As protestors took down part of the high security fence and occupied the barn for 15 minutes, security officers with guard dogs raced towards us.

In the Foggy evening

When Côr Cochion left for home in the late afternoon, I agreed to stay the night and blockade the plant.

Later, with no 'security' in sight a group of us broke into Hinkley Point and covered the walkway into the plant with anti nuclear messages and placards. As we crept back under the wire and through the fields we could hear the commotion from the power station. I took off my red beret and merged with the blockade which was growing by the minute. There was food and drink; bands, drums and Jonathan Porrit and Caroline Lucas MP made speeches to huge applause.

A group of us decided to trespass to Langborough Farm, from which protestors had been evicted the previous week. I had just finished attaching a banner 'No Nuclear Power' to the rafter when three security officers arrived to say that our trespass would be reported to the management of EDF with a view to civil prosecution.

Back on the blockade, everyone was preparing for the long night; two braziers were burning brightly. Small tents sprang up everywhere; there were bales of straw and firewood, all given freely by local people. We enjoyed music, chanting and singing, videos about Fukushima, and - one last trespass with Theo from Seize the Day. I spent the rest of the night around the brazier with hundreds of blockaders, police and security.

Blockade for breakfast

Daylight brought sunshine, hot tea, soup and rolls. With the protest back up to over 1000, we continued blockading, trespassing, and protesting. It all ended at 2 pm on Sunday, when we joined a huge procession led by the Buddhist drummers down to the radioactive sea where we placed beautiful Tibetan lanterns on the water, and for a prayer.

At the final action at the gate I gave the police a message on behalf of CND Cymru and the people of Wales. 'We will blockade Hinkley, Sizewell, Wylfa, Oldbury, and we will keep returning until we stop the nuclear madness'.





DIARY DATES

March 31st 10am- 3pm Newport Gwent

Newport Green and Ethic University City Campus. free and open to all contact Suzannah on suz.newportfoe@yahoo.co.uk www.newportfoe.co.uk

March 30th 7.30pm Tregaron

Shop - Rhiannon 'Henry Richard' 1812 - 2012 Exhibition Opening

Before there was 'conflict resolution' there was Henry Richard. Before Gandhi, Henry urged passive resistance. Before Alfred Nobel, Henry and the Peace Society were involved in international peace congresses. Before the United Nations and international disarmament talks, Henry Richard succeeded in passing the first ever Parliamentary Bill (1873) calling for a system of International Arbitration, to prevent war.

March 31st 2.00pm Tregaron, Capel Bwlchgwynt Lecture: 'Henry Richard – Heddychwyr a Gwladgarwr' by Gwyn Griffiths

April 1st 2.30pm London

Abney Park Cemetery (at Henry Richard's grave). Henry Richard Commemorative Event Special guest: Diane Abbott MP All welcome

April 1st 6.30pm Morlan Aberystwyth

Rabbi Ahron Cohen from Neturei Karta. Followed by questions and answers. An evening to mark Palestinian "Land Day". Free entry. Donations to Marda Village Fund. Presented by the Aberystwyth branch of Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Details: 07816 477 827

April 5 1.00pm BAe Glascoed Gwent Prayer vigil led by Penarth Christian Network of Campaign Against Arms

Trade All welcome. Please bring flowers to lay at the perimeter fence. t:029 2021 4555

April 3rd 6.30pm Tregaron Square Open Air Service to Celebrate Henry Richard's 200th birthday.

April 9th 7.30pm
Carmarthen
Vestry of Capel Tabernacl,
Waterloo Terrace
An evening with Emily Johns and Milan
Rai, the editors of Peace News.
Organised by the Carmarthen Cell of
Cymdeithas y Cymod.

April 12th - 28th
Haverfordwest & beyond - see below
The Radicalisation of Bradley
Manning
A play by Tim Price directed by John E

Mcgrath. Performed by the National

Theatre of Wales. Bradley Manning is the 24-year-old US soldier accused of the release of thousands of US embassy emails to Wikileaks. On Friday 16th December 2011, his pre-trial hearing opened in Fort Meade in Maryland. Manning faces a maximum sentence of life in custody with no chance of parole. But just a few years ago, he was a teenager in west Wales. How does his story impact on the people he left behind, and who is responsible for his 'radicalisation'?

11th – 14th April Haverfordwest Tickets: The Torch Theatre 01646 695 267 17th – 21th April Cardiff High School Tickets: Wales Millennium Centre 029 2063 6464

25th – 28th April Connah's Quay High School Tickets: Clwyd Theatr Cymru 0845 330 3565

www.nationaltheatrewales.org/whatson/performance/ntw18

Performances will be streamed live on the internet, with a potentially world-wide audience. The launch is to take place at Tasker Milward, the comprehensive school in Haverfordwest that Bradley attended as a teenager.

Talking and Learning about Bradley The network 'WISE Up for Bradley Manning' (WISE = Welsh, Irish, Scottish, English) is coordinating a series of events around Wales in April to coincide with the play along with other groups and organisations. Events include an exhibition with the focus on war and war veterans in Haverfordwest (Fri 13), an evening with Craig Murray hosted by the WCIA in Cardiff (Mon 16), a panel discussion in Cardiff (Sat 21), a special sneak preview screening of Oscar nominated film 'Incident in New Baghdad' at a CND Cymru/UNA Cardiff and District meeting (Tue 24), a meeting of whistleblowers in Denbigh (Fri 27) and an evening of music and poetry in Wrexham (Sun 29). Details and more events to be confirmed.

April 21st 10.30am-4.30pm Cardiff Chapter Arts Centre 'Campaign Day' organised by Campaign Against Arms Trade. Training, discussion and planning. For more information and to book your place: www.caat.org.uk/events/ campaignday2012.php

April 21st 2.30pm Tregaron, Y Talbot Peace Fair commemorating Henry Richard with Bruce Kent and others. All welcome!

April 24th
Temple of Peace
Cardiff
A joint UNA/CND Cymru meeting about
Bradley Manning to include a screening
of 'Incident in New Baghdad' the Jim
Spione film nominated for an Oscar in
2012 about Ethan McCord and the

'Collateral Murder' incident. The screening will be followed by discussion. All welcome – more information contact Genny Bove: t: 0845 330 4505 e: vg@riseup.net

April 26th Anniversary of Chernobyl (1986)

May 3rd Local Government Elections

June 2nd 2pm Llandrindod CND Cymru Annual Meeting Resolutions and/or nominations for Chair and Vice Chairs welcome. Please send to National Secretary (Contacts Page 2)

June 9th 10am- 4pm Llanrwst

Maes y Bryn Caravan Park, Carmel Peace Festival. Details to follow

June 23rd Aberporth

Cymdeithas y Cymod AGM and drones protest.

Details: www.cymdeithasycymod.org

June 30th

Faslane All Wales Day of Action as part of: 30 Days of Action at Faslane Peace Camp, Scotland Faslane Peace Camp has announced 30 days of non-violent direct action against nuclear weapons at the Faslane Naval Base to mark the 30th birthday of the Peace Camp and the ongoing travesty of nuclear weapons. The actions will commence on Saturday 9th of June 2012 and continue until the 9th of July. The Peace Camp has grown into a healthy and happy place to facilitate direct action against Trident and is inviting local, national and international groups to take responsibility for a day of anti-nuclear activities

For more information contact Kelvin Mason: kelvin.mason@mail.cat.org.uk also check www.cndcymru.org

August 4-11th
Eisteddfod Cenedlaethol
Vale of Glamorgan
Welsh speaking and welsh learner
volunteers to help in Y Babell Heddwch
welcome. Please contact CND Cymru
Trading (Contacts Page 2)

Henry Richard

1812 - 2012

A new bilingual briefing sheet 'Henry Richard' is available from CND Cymru. If you would like a copy (or copies) for yourself, friends, or family; your local library, church, chapel, school, or indeed anywhere or anyone else, please contact CND Cymru (Contacts Page 2).

Membership Matters!

Rationalising our bank accounts

I have recently taken over as treasurer and am busy trying to rationalise the accounts to save some money. For various historical reasons, CND Cymru has three bank accounts. These are expensive and we now only need one.

I will be sending letters to those members who kindly pay their membership fees, often monthly, into those accounts asking them to make the payments to our main account. If you are one of these members, please accept my apologies for this but it will save us a lot of money and I will do all I can to reduce the inconvenience this might cause you. Thanks to those who have already responded to this request.

Updating your membership fees

Some members are still paying old membership fees and I will be asking you if you would consider increasing your membership to the current fees. In some cases you might be paying more than the current fee, for example, if you have retired recently, or have become eligible for a concessionary membership.

We will quite understand if you

wish to continue paying your existing fee.
We welcome all financial

We welcome all financial contributions.

Bequests

Please consider CND Cymru in your will. We are not a charity and rely on contributions from members. Just a few hundred pounds will go a long way.

Michael Freeman

Membership Secretary

and Treasurer