

# Merseyside CND Newsletter



June/July/August 2011

54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD 0151 702 6974 mcnd@care4free.net www.mcnd.org.uk

*Militarism is the characteristic not of an army,  
but of society*

*R.H. Tawney British Socialist thinker 1880-1962*



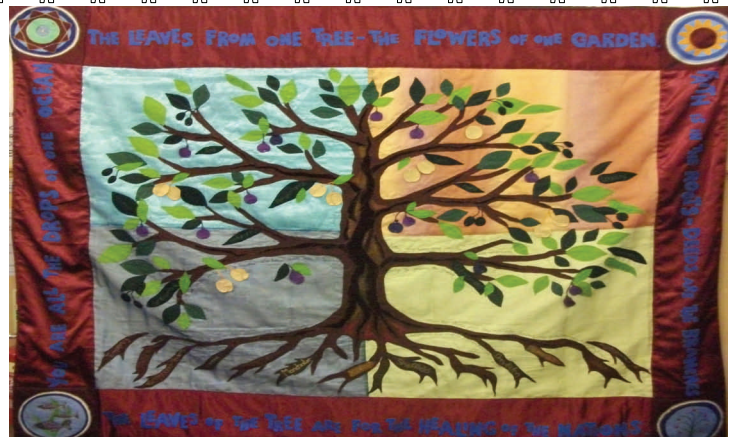
## Countdown to Zero

Showing at FACT, Wood St,  
L1 6.30pm Tues June 21st  
Tickets £7.50 concession.  
MCND has a few tickets at £5  
- Phone Janet 677 1133

Get ready for the most important film of the year and join audiences across the UK and Ireland taking part in Demand Zero Day. This nationwide premiere will see Countdown to Zero screened simultaneously across the UK and Ireland before venues link up live to BAFTA for a panel discussion with special guests Her Majesty Queen Noor of

Jordan, Margaret Beckett, Lawrence Bender (Quentin Tarantino's producer) and ex-CIA operative Valerie Plame Wilson.

Countdown to Zero is directed by Lucy Walker and produced by the Academy Award winning producers of An Inconvenient Truth, Lawrence Bender and Participant Media. The film is a fascinating and frightening exploration of the dangers of nuclear weapons, exposing a variety of present day threats and featuring insights from a host of international experts and world leaders who advocate the total elimination of nuclear weapons.



## Women to Women for Peace 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition

21<sup>st</sup> June - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011

9 am ~ 5 pm

Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King  
Mount Pleasant, LIVERPOOL L3 5TQ

An exhibition showing the activities of a small group of ordinary women doing extraordinary work with women in many countries to lay the foundations of a more peaceful world for our children

Contact Gwen Backwell 0151-709 2407 or Eileen Brown 639 3577

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## Change of address

From now on Merseyside CND's address will be 54 Mount Pleasant and telephone number will 0151 702 6974 (709 3995 is cut off). We are in the same room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor but access has changed. You can no longer reach us through the main entrance at 52 via reception as this is now for the use of the Language School only. There will be an intercom door pad on No 54 to let us know you are waiting outside. It's advisable to phone us in advance to check the office is staffed.

## Email list

We are compiling an email contact list for members and supporters - let us know by email to mcnd@care4free.net if you'd like to go on it. We won't bombard you with emails just occasional ones notifying you of MCND events and how you can help us.

**Peace and Ecology Festival**

\*Free Event\* \*Free Event\*



2011

**Sat 16th July 12noon-6pm**  
**St Luke's Church**  
 (Top of Bold Street, Liverpool City Centre)

Dance, Music, Poetry, speakers, refreshments, stalls & more... Start the summer with fun and help support peace, ecology and anti-nuclear campaigns

Event Sponsored by:  
 National CND, Liverpool Trades Council, Socialist Labour Party, MPAC, USL, Unite

Organised by Merseyside CND: 0151 7026974 mcnd@care4free.net - www.mcnd.org.uk

Merseyside CND invite you to join us for a relaxed and entertaining afternoon in a green and peaceful city centre garden - and all for no charge. Campaign stalls, music, poetry, dance, a few short speeches, badge-making, lovely veggie/vegan food ..

**Help needed**

Pre festival publicity: poster and leaflet display and door to door delivery, badge making etc.

On the day: can you spare an hour or two between 10am - 7pm - setting up, minding stalls, dismantling. **Please display the enclosed leaflet.** More leaflets and posters available for passing round.

Contact Kai or Janet: 0151 702 6974

Back up venue if weather forecast is wet, wet, wet: St. Bride's Church, Catharine St./Percy St. L8

**Stall in Bold St.** July 9<sup>th</sup> 11am-2pm outside News from Nowhere to advertise P&E, get signatures on Stop Trident petitions and hand out No New Nuclear Power leaflets.

**Annual 'Independence FROM America' demonstration**

**Monday 4 July 2011 - 3 pm to 8 pm.**

Outside the main entrance to the American base at Menwith Hill, near Harrogate North Yorkshire.

Come and **'BLOW THE WHISTLE ON MENWITH HILL'**

(in the light of the WikiLeaks documents and what Menwith Hill is up to - secretive, unaccountable and out of control of the UK government)

**Speakers:**

**Peter Tatchell** (human rights campaigner); **John Sloboda** (one of the founders of Iraq Body Count), **Yvonne Ridley** (journalist and convert to Islam)

**Musicians:**

**Roy Bailey** (folk singer); **Les Vegas and the International Playboys of Rhythm** (band) **East Lancs CND choir**; **Samba Tigers**; **Mr Niblo** (escapologist!)

**Reading of the Declaration of 'Independence FROM America'**

Walk round the base; share food and much more....

Organised by Campaign for the accountability of American bases (CAAB) Contact 01423 884076 www.caab.org.uk  
 For Merseyside contact Jan Harper via MCND if you're interested in going from Liverpool

Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1945      Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 1945



**Remember Hiroshima & Nagasaki**

August 6th - 11am Peace Garden  
 St John's Gardens (Behind St. George's Hall)  
 Wreath laying - with Lord Mayor  
 Music, poetry, speeches to be arranged  
 Full details nearer the time

**Welsh Eisteddford**

Wrexham July 30th - Aug. 6th  
 MCND are helping for one day in the Peace Tent. If you'd like to join us let us know, asap, by email or telephone. Janet



# Peace Direct

Peace Direct is an organisation that supports local groups that are working for peace in countries where conflict is endemic. It supports projects in many African and Asian countries. It is so often the local people who have the understanding of the problem that makes effective work possible and a little financial help can make all the difference. You can find more information on [www.peacedirect.org](http://www.peacedirect.org). Here are two examples of the work they support.

## Youth Alliance for Peace and Environment, Nepal

**Peacebuilder:** Borhaj Timilsina  
Achievements: 14 violent conflicts resolved in 2010; freephone set up across Kavre District so Borhaj and his colleagues can be contacted whenever violence threatens.

### Public desire for change

Nepal is struggling towards peace after ten years of civil war. Political riots and manipulation are still commonplace, and as people begin to rebuild their lives there is a need for adequate compensation and justice for the victims of conflict, so that calls for vengeance do not threaten a fragile future.

The government provides compensation to victims of conflict, but the complexity of the political situation means that often government officials will only process the claims of people who belong to their party - breeding further hate and anger. Local organization YAPE, run by peace builders Borhaj and Kishor, aims to counteract this by acting as a non-biased intermediary which can use its networks to apply pressure and ensure compensation is granted to those who deserve it.

In celebration of Nepalese New Year, Borhaj and Kishor organized a mass rally for peace in the centre of Kavre town. People flocked to the rally - men, women and children from all

sectors of society. It was a clear indication of the desire for change in society.

Following the rally, Borhaj and Kishor held an open meeting for conflict victims in their office to discuss how they might be able to help people secure compensation. Their office was filled with people and many more stood outside, craning to enter the room. By coming to YAPE these people who been through so much are engaging in peaceful dialogue instead of returning to violence.

*In 2010 Borhaj and his colleagues resolved 14 violent conflicts ranging from street riots to attacks on school. This year they have set up a hotline for peace - a free phone line that means they can be contacted at any time.*

## Centre Resolution Conflicts

**Peacebuilder:** Henri Ladyi  
Achievements: 14,000 displaced people accompanied home; 1,020 rebel soldiers disarmed and integrated; 650 child soldiers rescued; 364 local conflicts resolved.

### Congolese Government brings halt to cash-for-weapons programme

Disarming rebel soldiers and stopping them from returning to war is one of the biggest challenges facing Congo today.

*When Paluku was 20, war came to his village. Unable to sit and watch, Paluku joined the Mai Mai - an armed group set up to protect the lives of villagers. As the war escalated in Congo, and resources became scarcer, the Mai Mai became more embroiled in the fighting.*

War has ravaged Congo since 1996. Many of the men do not know why they are fighting, but they simply do not know how else to survive.

*In Paluku's regiment there were 1,000 men and over 500 children. Renowned for his battle skills for 14 years Paluku taught the men how to fight tooth and nail for territory - irrespective of the women and children caught in the crossfire.*

There are many organisations working to disarm fighters in Congo - many offer a cash-for-weapons incentive. But the money offered to hand over weapons is often more than the market value of the weapon, and these programmes have been accused of increasing rather than reducing the number of weapons. The Congolese Government has recently stated that these programmes will no longer operate.

Local peacebuilder Henri Ladyi's programmes do not work on this basis. Instead former rebel soldiers living in peace are mobilised to reach out to their former colleagues. The soldiers who then join Henri's programmes do so because they have a genuine desire to lay down their arms.

The move by the Congolese government is encouraging. It shows an awareness of the faults of quick-win solutions. In 2010 Henri assisted 1020 rebel soldiers to lay down their arms. He did this at a cost of under \$200 per combatant. This is a fraction of the \$5.5 million budget that the UN in Congo allocated to their demobilisation Programme.

*Paluku and 180 other men came to seek Henri's assistance. Paluku received clothes, water, an ID card and training to help him live in peace. Today Paluku oversees a co-operative of 440 former militia set up by Henri. Together they pool their resources for farming and animal husbandry.*

*Sent by Tony Forder*

## George Strattan Music Scholarship

Awarded annually to a local musician to attend the Workers' Music Association SummerSchool for amateur musicians of a left-leaning bent. It is on 12-19 Aug. this year, at Wortley Hall nr Sheffield. The six-day school normally costs a very reasonable £460. See [www.wmamusical.org.uk](http://www.wmamusical.org.uk) for more details of the school itself, and contact [isla@whi-music.co.uk](mailto:isla@whi-music.co.uk) [about the](#)





## **CND Annual Conference & AGM**

**Saturday October 15th 2011**

**Bradford University Student Union**

**Registration 9.30-11am**

**AGM & Conference: 11am - 6pm**

**Day of Action at Menwith Hill**

**Sunday Oct. 16th 12.30-4pm**

**Transport available from Bradford  
returning by approximately 5.45pm**

**Registration fees: £12 individuals**

**£40 organisations - up to 5 delegates**

**Full details contact Luke Massey:**

**officemanager@cnduk.org 020 7700 2393**

## **Birkenhead CND**

**Next meetings : Thur 14th July 9pm at Shirley's,  
Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd. No meeting in August.**

**Stall – at Peace and Ecology Festival in L'pool Helpers  
needed: contact: Shirley: 0151 652 3768**

## **Merseyside CND 50 Club**

**Recent winners: April draw: Val Morrison;**

**May draw: John Middleton**

**Thanks to all members of the 50 Club for your  
continuing financial support.**

**For £5 per month you too could be a winner of £50  
per month or £250/£100/£50 annual draw. For  
further information or a member-ship form contact  
Janet – 0151 702 6974**

## **Dialogue Project to Promote Truth and Reconciliation.**

**Launch meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011 10.30 - 13.00**

**Free lunch (halal and kosher food provided)**

**Venue: 18 Stanlaw Abbey, Dover Drive,  
Ellesmere Port, CH65 9BF**

**A series of recent events in the N/W of  
England revealed that discussion of Palestinian  
health in NHS hospitals and Liverpool University  
was being blocked by lobby groups.**

**Free speech is a universal human right.**

**Academic freedom is essential for calm and  
responsible discussion of key issues in society.**

**This project aims to develop and join others in  
promoting dialogue and peace with justice across  
religions and cultures to achieve healthy  
relationships, from which we can move forward.**

**All interested parties are invited to attend.**

**To register your interest, please contact:**

**Siobhan Harkin: 0151 355 4008**

**healthyinclusion@yahoo.co.uk**

*We apologise for severely cutting this item due to receiving  
it just as we went to print - email mcnd for full version. Ed.*

## **Wallasey CND**

**Planning Meetings: Mon July 4th 3pm at**

**Eileen's, 54, Egerton St., New Brighton**

**Tea in the Park: 2pm- 4pm – Sun. July 17th**

**music by Phil Chisnal & friends, Aug. 21st,**

**Sept. 18th – live music to be arranged**

**My Generation Rock Concerts 2-5pm Vale Park**

**Sat. Sept. 17th – WCND stall**

**Peace One Day: Concert on Wed. Sept. 21st 7pm**

**at St. Alban's Church, Liscard**

**Help much appreciated at all above events.**

**Contacts Barbara 638 3967 & Janet 677 1133**

## **MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM**

To receive regular newsletters please complete form and return to address below.

Name..... Phone.....email.....

Address.....

I/we wish to \*join/ rejoin Merseyside CND.

Subscription rates: \*waged-£4/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £1.

I/we \*would/ would not also like a new member's pack at a cost of £1.

I/we understand that Merseyside CND needs funds for its campaigns and donate £\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed £..... (Please make cheques payable to Merseyside CND)

Signed..... Date.....

(\* Delete as appropriate)

Merseyside CND, 54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD

**MerseysideCo-ord  
meeting: Wed. Sept.  
7th 2pm in the Office  
54 Mount Pleasant  
All members welcome**

*If you receive a  
separate renewal form  
with this newsletter it  
means your subs are  
due – Thank you.*

This edition of the newsletter  
edited by Cathy and Janet.  
Thanks to Barbara and Kai  
for printing it.