

# Merseyside CND Newsletter



Sept/Oct 2011

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*September 21st UN International Day of Peace*

*October 2nd UN International Day of Nonviolence*

*October 24th - 30th UN Disarmament Week*

*About time the world  
started taking these  
on board*

## STOP the ARMS FAIR

After the recent street disturbances Cameron condemned a "culture that glorifies violence", neatly forgetting that his government is co-organising the world's largest arms fair in London from 13th -16th September. Campaign Against the Arms Trade is calling for actions in London and around the country to highlight and hinder the evil dealings of the DSEi. To join actions in and around ExCel in Docklands, East London go to Stop the Arms Fair Coalition website: [www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk](http://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk) or [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)

**from Death to Life.....an Interfaith Vigil  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 7.30-8.30 PM  
the Steps of St Luke's Church, Bold Street  
Liverpool City Centre**

The reaction to 9/11 and the suffering caused led to reciprocal suffering and violence in many parts of the world. Across North Africa and the Middle East 2011 has seen uprisings and civil wars, In virtually every country British arms companies have profited, A massive British delegation attended an arms fair in Libya just months before weapons were turned on those seeking democracy. Liverpool Pax Christi in solidarity with those gathering in London invite you to join them for one hour at a candlelit vigil for peace on the eve of the Arms Fair.

Please bring a candle, and any symbols of peace.

Supported by CAAT (Christian Network), Pax Christi, Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission. Contact Jan: 0151 263 5623  
Email: [janharper1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janharper1@yahoo.co.uk)

## Eliminating Militarism

Compass on Merseyside invite you to a series of discussion sessions over the Summer months: 'Politics in the Cafe' at Friends Meeting House, 22 School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BP Sessions begin at 7.30pm 'Eliminating Militarism' discussion led by Alex Scott- Samuel on **Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Further details contact: Cynthia Dereli: [cylindereli@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cylindereli@hotmail.co.uk) or tel. 01704 895247

## Scrap Trident Bus Ads

Look out for CND ads on local buses during September aimed to jolt the Labour Party Conference into sense. Cost: £7k for 70 buses - contact us or NCND if you'd like to contribute.

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# Peace One Day - Sept 21st



## Background to Peace One Day

In 1999, preoccupied with questions about the fundamental nature of humanity and the most pressing issues of our time, film-maker Jeremy Gilley launched Peace One Day and set out to find a starting point for Peace. He had a mission : to document his efforts to establish the first ever annual day of global cease-fire and non-violence with a fixed calendar date. Remarkably two years on, he achieved his primary objective when the 192 member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted 21st September as an annual day of global cease-fire and non-violence on the UN International Day of Peace. We call that day Peace Day. It is now celebrated in many countries world-wide with events

"commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace within and among all nations." In the UK the day is increasingly marked by civil society bodies - local UNA branches, peace & justice and environmental groups, churches and other faith communities. *Overcoming Conflict* can be a key theme, as UN urges the international community to observe 21st September as a 'Day of Global Cease-fire' in conflict zones.

## What's on locally

**Wednesday 21st 7.30pm Concert for Peace at St. Bride's Church Catharine St. L8** The Liverpool Socialist Choir will be singing. Contact Gina: 0151 259 2232 E: peacedrums@talktalk.net

**Friday 23rd 8pm St. Albans Church Hall, St. Albans Rd. Liscard, Wallasey**  
An evening with The Phil Chisnall Band, Speaker: Allan Williams Quaker Peace Initiative  
Bar, refreshments, doors open 7.30pm  
Tickets: £5.00 - contact: Janet: 0151 677 1133 or Barbara: 0151 638 3967

## Peacepool

Present a free event in support of the UN Internat'l Day Of Peace.  
**Venue: The Liner Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, L3 5QB**  
**Date: Sunday 25th Sep 2011**  
**Time: 2.00pm - 5.00pm**  
There will be short films, guest speakers, music and free refreshments. Entrance is free and everyone is welcome.  
[www.peacepool.blogspot.com](http://www.peacepool.blogspot.com)  
[www.internationaldayofpeace.org](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org)  
Contact Kelvin: 07815444452 (mobile rates). Sherry Peltz.  
**All venues have disabled access**



## UN Day of NonViolence: Sunday Oct. 2nd

**Quaker Peace Initiative**  
**'Peace begins with me'**  
**Venue: Williamson Square**  
**Sunday October 2nd**  
**12:00 midday onwards.**

A day of activity, to allow the people of Merseyside regardless of their religion or politics to make a commitment to peace.

Organised by Quakers and part of Quaker Week this idea is backed by the City Centre Hub, a network of churches and ministries serving the city.

So far we have a commitment to the following events:

- A map of the world - the public can place a candle/tea-light on a country or region for peace
- A 'healing' tree - the public can hang leaves on the tree with their own personal wishes for individuals or for communities across the world.
- Making paper doves - the public will be shown how to make the doves and then display them in the area

· Entertainment - live music, readings and dance - we hope to have two choirs and a couple of bands.

There will be an invitation sent to all organisations campaigning for peace and social harmony to display their work and literature .  
• Stalls will be set up around the area.

Further information contact:  
Allan Williams: [allanvw1@gmail.com](mailto:allanvw1@gmail.com)

***Nothing is set in stone except the determination that there should be a day when the voices of peace and reason should be heard.***

# Picasso Anti War Art and Peace Campaigning Part I

Monday 26 April 1937. A sunny spring morning. Market day. The small Town of Guernica, the ancient capital of the Basque region of Spain, lay ten miles from the front and was crowded with refugees and retreating soldiers. Over the day it would fill with peasants from the surrounding countryside who had come to sell their wares. The bombing began soon after half-past four and would last for over three hours. The Nazi planes also bombed isolated farmhouses for a distance of over five miles around Guernica. People were machine-gunned from the air as they fled the town. Even flocks of sheep were machine-gunned.

In Paris Dora Maar was in tears and Picasso had found the subject for the painting he had been commissioned by the Spanish Republican Government for the Spanish Pavilion at the International Exhibition that was due to open in the French capital in May. With time running out, the exhibition finally opened on the 1900 exhibition site between the Champ De Mars and the Trocadero in June. The Spanish Pavilion was not ready until July.

Picasso worked quickly with an intense fury of creativity, trying out ideas on the huge (3.5x 7.75m) canvas that he had crammed into his studio in the Rue des Grands Augustins. The final painting confronted the viewer, as it has confronted viewers ever since, with a graphic depiction of the horror of the bombing of a civilian population.

In an interview he gave in May 1937, Picasso said, "The war in Spain is the battle of reaction against the people, against liberty.

My whole career has been one continual struggle against reaction and the death of art. In the painting on which I am now at work, which I shall call 'Guernica'- and in all my recent works - I am very clearly expressing my horror at the military caste which has plunged Spain into a sea of suffering and death". (quoted in Pierre Daix, 'Picasso', 1964, Thames and Hudson, 1965, p166)

In 'Guernica' Picasso has not attempted to paint a recognisable image of the ruins of the town but has

instead painted the suffering caused by the bombing at the time of the bombing.

The paintings in greys and blacks and whites so we focus entirely and without distraction, on the figures who are compressed into this scene. It is one of great movement and noise. On the right, a woman, her arms raised above her head, is looking and gesturing in terror at the sky. She can also be read as falling from a burning building. On the left, a woman holding the limp body of her dead baby, her head thrown back in agony, screams at the sky. In the centre a wounded horse, screaming in pain, collapses on the broken body of a warrior.

From January to April 1938, after the closure of the International Exhibition, 'Guernica' was shown in Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Goteborg as part of a group exhibition with works by Matisse, Braque and the sculptor Henri Laurens as well as Picasso before being returned to Picasso's studio in Paris. Roland Penrose, surrealist painter and friend of Picasso, who was also a Quaker pacifist and prominent member of the anti-fascist Artists' International Association, worked hard to arrange for 'Guernica' to tour the U.K.

In his 1958 biography of Picasso, Penrose writes, "When the moment arrived for the painting to be shipped to London with sixty-seven of the preparatory paintings and sketches and studies, the political situation, culminating in Chamberlain's visit to Munich, looked so sinister that I telegraphed to ask Picasso what he wished us to do. His reply was immediate and definite. I was to continue with the arrangements. The purpose of the picture was to draw attention to the horrors of war and it must take its chance." (Roland Penrose, 'Picasso: His Life and Work', 1958, Pelican Books 1971, P328)

In October 'Guernica' and the preliminary studies were shown at the New Burlington Galleries in London. Then the preliminary studies alone were shown at Oriel College, Oxford, before going to Leeds City Art Gallery in December. In January 1939 they

returned to London, to the Whitechapel Gallery, where they were shown with 'Guernica'. The earlier exhibitions had raised money for Spanish Relief; here the price of admission was a pair of boots in a fit state to be sent to the Spanish front. In February 'Guernica' was shown in a car showroom in Manchester for two weeks.

By the end of March 1939 Franco had won the Spanish Civil War and his reprisals against supporters of the Republican Government were about to begin. Picasso decided that 'Guernica' should go to the United States to raise funds for refugee relief. It would tour the country from city to city ending in the Picasso retrospective at New York's Museum of Modern Art in November. Picasso agreed that the museum should keep 'Guernica' until it was deemed safe for it to return to Europe.

In 1970 he signed an agreement that he wanted 'Guernica' to be kept at MOMA 'until such time as individual liberties returned to Spain.'

Picasso died in 1973. Franco died in 1975. 'Guernica' returned to Spain in 1981. It is now on display in its own special room in Madrid's museum of modern art, the Museo Reina Sofia.

An exact tapestry copy of 'Guernica' hangs in the corridor outside the debating chamber at the United Nations Security Council in New York.

In February 2003 when the US tried to win approval for invasion of Iraq the tapestry was mysteriously covered with a blue shroud. A UN spokesman said that blue was a more appropriate colour as a backdrop for television cameras. Picasso's mixture of blacks, whites and greys was visually too confusing.

In 1970, talking to the Argentinian photographer Roberto Otero about Franco's treatment of the Basques, Picasso said "The truth of the matter is that by means of 'Guernica' I have the pleasure of making a political statement every day in the middle of New York City" *Roger Stephenson*  
*NB Roger has supplied us with a fuller bibliography available on request from MCND Office - 0151 702 6974*

# 'Libya's ragtag rebels are dubious allies.'

While we all celebrate the liberation of Libya by its people, we must be on our guard against the manipulation of their achievement by Nato, and the west. We are still supporting rotten regimes such as Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and not a word of condemnation of Israel and its treatment of the Palestinians.

Although partly overtaken by events we print the following article from the Independent 11/8/11 by Patrick Cockburn entitled 'Libya's ragtag rebels are dubious allies.'

"Rebels, from the Wars of the Roses up to the present civil war in Libya, usually try to postpone splitting into factions and murdering each other until after they have seized power and are in full control. However deep their divisions, they keep them secret from the outside world.

Not so the Libyan rebels. Members of their Transitional National Council (TNC) in Benghazi last month detained their military leader, General Abdel Fatah Younes, on suspicion of treachery, lured him away from his bodyguards and murdered him. This week the head of the TNC, Mustafa Abdel Jalil, sacked his whole government on the grounds that some were complicit in the killing. He was apparently forced to do so in order to quell the rage of the powerful Obeidi tribe to which Younes belonged.

A ludicrous aspect of the whole affair is that at the very moment the rebel leaders are at each others throats, they are being recognised by country after country as the legitimate government of Libya. This week TNC diplomats took over the Libyan embassies in London and Washington and are about to do so in Ottawa. In a masterpiece of mistiming, Britain recognised the rebel government on the day when some of its members were shooting their own commander-in-chief and burning his body.

If this is how the rebels behave today, when it is much in their interests to make a show of unity, how will they act once they are installed in power in Tripoli? But Nato's sole policy is to do just that. A UN Security Council resolution, intended to stop Gaddafi's

tanks taking Benghazi for humanitarian reasons in March, transmuted rapidly into a bid to overthrow him. Britain and France, with essential backing from the US, still maintain that the good of the Libyan people requires the replacement of Gaddafi with those sturdy democrats from Benghazi and eastern Libya represented by the TNC.

Could a strategy of brute force work in a purely military sense? Could the rebel columns of pick-up trucks with machine-guns in the back advance to capture Tripoli behind a creeping barrage supplied by Nato firepower? The Libyan capital is increasingly short of fuel, consumer goods and electricity. The rebels have been making gains on the ground to the east and south-west of the capital. But even with the support of Nato air strikes the advance has been slow. If the rebels make such a meal of taking a town like Brega, with a population of 4,000, on the Gulf of Sirte, can they really fight their way into Tripoli with a population of 1.7 million?

Gaddafi may fall, but it looks increasingly that, if he does, it will be at the hands of a rag-tag collection of militias ever more dependent for success on being backed by tactical support from Nato aircraft. Given that the rebels lack a coherent leadership or a united military force, the outcome is unlikely to be a clear-cut victory. Even if victorious, the rebels will depend on foreign support at every level to exert authority over this vast country.

As with Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003, the US and Britain found it was one thing to overthrow the Taliban or Saddam Hussein and quite another to replace them. Treating dubious local allies as the legitimate government has a propaganda value, but it is unwise to pretend that the local partner carries real authority. With this experience under its belt, it required real fecklessness for Britain to plunge into another conflict on the assumption that this time we were betting on a certain winner. Gaddafi may be overthrown but the struggle for power between internal factions is likely to

continue.

The foreign media had its failings in Iraq, was worse in Afghanistan but has reached its nadir in covering the war in Libya. Reporting has become largely militarised. Much of it is colourful stuff from the frontline about the dashes backwards and forwards of rebel militiamen. It takes courage to report this and reporters naturally empathise with the young men with whom they are sharing a trench. Their coverage tends to be wholly in favour of the rebels and in opposition to Gaddafi.

When Abdel Fatah Younes was murdered almost nobody in the foreign media had an explanation as to how or why it had happened. The rebel leadership, previously portrayed as a heroic band of brothers, turned out to be split by murderous rivalries and vendettas. Some reporters simply regurgitated the rebel authorities' unlikely claim that the general had been killed by pro-Gaddafi fighters with camps in Benghazi, while others mentioned that there were 30 different Islamic militias in the city. To this day politicians justify Nato's intervention in Libya by citing atrocities supposedly carried out by pro-Gaddafi forces such as mass rape or extensive use of mercenaries. Human rights organisations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch long ago revealed that there was no evidence for most of the atrocity stories, as did a UN commission headed by the distinguished legal scholar Cherif Bassiouni. These well-researched reports were almost entirely ignored by the media which first published the Gaddafi atrocity stories.

The militarisation of reporting in Iraq and Afghanistan was boosted by the system of 'embedding' reporters with military units. This was inevitable to a degree given the danger from Iraqi insurgents or Taliban. But the outcome has been that war reporting has reverted to what it was during imperial skirmishes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the world getting only a partial and often misleading account of what is happening in Libya."

# CND Annual Conference & Menwith Hill Day of Action

## AGM 2011

Sat. October 15th  
Bradford University Student  
Union, Richmond Rd.  
Bradford BD7 1DP

Registration 9.30-11am

AGM & Conference 11am-6pm

Join us to meet staff, council members, and other members; debate and vote on CND policies and campaign priorities in the coming year

Details for registering, fees, timetables & agenda are on CND's Website: [www.cnduk.org/conference](http://www.cnduk.org/conference)

Merseyside CND will be sending a delegation - contact us if you would like to be part of it. You must be a member of both National and Merseyside CND: 0151 702 6974 [mcnd@care4free.net](mailto:mcnd@care4free.net)

Sun. Oct. 16th 12.30-4.00  
Keep Space for Peace Week

Menwith Hill is run by the US National Security Agency (NSA) and is part of a global network of bases used to spy on international telecommunications - including private phone calls, emails and faxes. We cannot know for sure how they use all the information as the base effectively operates outside the law and is unaccountable to both the UK and US governments. The distinctive "golf balls" or radomes cover radars that download information from satellites providing intelligence for US-led military attacks. As such it is a vital part of the US war fighting machine and since 2007 has officially been part of US Missile "Defence".  
Transport: 11.30am from Bradford University. Returning to Bradford by approximately 5.45pm.

[www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/menwithaction](http://www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/menwithaction) or contact CND office manager: 0207 7700 2393 [officemanager@cnduk.org](mailto:officemanager@cnduk.org)

## CND Fringe Meeting

Labour Party  
Conference

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept.  
7pm The Novotel  
Hanover St. L1

Open to all - Contact MCND Office if you can help staff Merseyside CND's stall  
0151 702 6974  
[www.mcnd.org.uk](http://www.mcnd.org.uk)

## CND Raffle

A new national CND fund raiser with very generous prizes:

1st prize: £3000, 2nd £1000 and 4x£100 gift hampers.

Every ticket sold will help get nuclear weapons scrapped for good. Please contact MCND if you'd like to buy a ticket or

## REBELLIOUS MEDIA:

MEDIA, ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL CHANGE

8-9 October 2011, Central London

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

Frustrated with the mainstream media's coverage of war, climate change

and the economy, or already making your own media? Interested in acquiring new skills, or finding out more about exciting radical media projects from around the world? Want to join the resistance to the corporate takeover of the internet, or discuss how we can harness the digital revolution to help bring about radical social change?

Then the Radical Media Conference is for you.

Speakers include: Noam Chomsky; John Pilger (The War You Don't See);

and many, many more

Organised by Peace News, Ceasefire, Red Pepper, Undercurrents and visionOntv, and supported by the New Internationalist and Quaker Peace

and Social Witness.

The draft programme for the Rebellious Media Conference (RMC) is now on-line: <http://visionon.tv/web/rmc/programme>

Buy Tickets: <http://rebelliousmediaconference.org/tickets/>

## "The End of the Line"

Title track, sung by Neville Grundy, of a new cd, dedicated to the memory of George Strattan, of songs by Geoff Parry sung by various artists to raise funds for Queenscourt Hospice, Southport. The launch night for the cd is Oct. 22nd - details: venue, time etc. tbc.

Readers can buy a cd from Geoff by post by sending a cheque made out to "Queenscourt Hospice" - minimum contribution £5-00. [geoff@geoffrey3.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:geoff@geoffrey3.wanadoo.co.uk)

## Mary McClelland

Long-time CND friend, died in July - we'll include memories of her in the next issue.

## Birkenhead CND

Next meetings : Thurs 8th Sept and Oct. 13th 9.00pm at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd.

For next stall in Milton Square  
Contact: Shirley 0151 652-3768

## Maghull and Lydiate

The group is ticking over for the moment as various members are on the mend. Contact: Sylvi: 526 7293 for future meetings/socials

## Wallasey CND

**Planning Meetings: Mon.** Sept 5th, Oct. 3rd 3pm @ Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd.

**Tea in Central Park: Sun.** Sept 18th 2-4pm with music by Phil Chisnall and friends

**Peace One Day Concert** Friday Sept 23rd 8.00pm St. Albans Church Hall, Liscard  
Phil Chisnall's band will perform  
Speaker: Allan Williams Quaker Peace Initiative  
Bar and refreshments

Contacts Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

## Merseyside CND 50 Club

July and August draws will take place at Co-ord 2pm in the office on Sept. 7th  
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 in the annual draw. Phone the office for a membership form – 0151 702 6974

## A Perfect Day

Raiko awoke to the sun shining through her bedroom window to hear the summer leaves gently caressing the glass.  
It was a perfect day to have breakfast in the park.  
The fresh smells on the morning air drew her irresistibly to pack her light lunch of fruit and rice into her square aluminium box.

Hope soared with the song bird's greeting of the sun;  
today would be different.

Today the world would change

She rode her bike through the rays  
of the early morning sun  
enjoying the clear cool air  
blowing her long black hair behind her.

Today was the day to be alive,  
experience all of nature's wonders  
awakening her senses anew.

Raiko went to her favourite hill  
and settled on grass so green  
in that gentle morning sun.

With careful precision  
she laid out her breakfast;  
held the box to see  
if she had missed a cherry

and saw the aluminium  
melt into her hands and  
felt the incredible pain  
of skin burning from her face  
as another cruel sun  
seared her existence  
into dust.

Hiroshima 1945

*John Middleton,*

This poem, read at our Hiroshima Day memorial event is set on August 6th 1945. The title "A Perfect Day" was the call signal sent to the Enola Gay to permit release of the bomb.

## 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

**MCND Co-ord:**

**next meeting:**

**Wed. Sept. 7th – 2pm  
in the Office 54 Mount  
Pleasant – press buzzer  
for attention**

**Apologies – no disabled  
access**

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

This edition of the  
newsletter run up by Janet  
Laycock and duplicated by  
Barbara Hardcastle