

Merseyside CND Newsletter



Nov Dec 2011

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



"The Angel of Death has been abroad throughout the land; you may almost hear the beating of his wings"

John Bright MP, House of Commons, 23rd February 1855, on the effects of the War in the Crimea see p2

Remembrance Day

In

The Peace Garden

Behind St George's Hall

Friday Nov 11th

Gather by 10.45

Wreath laying followed by
2 minutes silence at 11am
Poetry readings/
Music to be arranged

'Peace upon earth!' was said.

We sing it,

And pay a million priests to bring it.

After two thousand years of mass

We've got as far as poison-gas.'

Thomas Hardy 1840-1928

Merseyside CND AGM and Seasonal Social

Friends Meeting House,
School Lane Liverpool L1
Saturday December 3rd

- 1.15 Members' Business Meeting
including discussion of prospects for
Merseyside CND's future
- 2.15 Social - Refreshments
- 2.45 Black Lamp, local Socialist and
Internationalist Band
- 3.00 Break

3.30 - 5.00 Film and discussion

This is a crucial moment for Merseyside CND. To keep going as we have done since 1982 we need more help campaigning and maintaining a central base/office.

Please join us on Dec. 3rd to let us know how you think we should proceed or whether we should wind up MCND. If you can't come we'd like to hear your views anyway.

Please contact: mcnd@care4free.net 0151 702 6974

White Peace Poppies

Available from Merseyside CND at 50p

They were introduced by the Women's

Co-operative Guild in 1933 in order to spark debate and rally support for resistance to war. They saw that the 'war to end all wars' could be followed by an even worse war.

Contents

- P2 Greens motion to get rid of Trident. John Bright Peace Campaigner
- P3 Mordechai Vanunu update; Chris Lawrence poems; Fuel on Fire; What price nuclear blackmail?
- P4 Picasso – peace campaigner; Mary McClelland remembered
- P5 Palestine – right to statehood
- P6 Peace News; Housmans Diary; Group News, 50 Club, Americana Gig

Greens motion to get rid of Trident

Peter Cranie requests your help

Information below on our Green Party motion to Liverpool City Council proposing we adopt a local position of opposing the renewal of Trident and asking for money to instead be used to fund local services.

We gained the backing of both Steve Radford's Liberal group and even the Liberal Democrats to vote in favour of the motion (27 councillors), but we would have needed 18 of the 63 strong Labour group to back us as well.

As you can see, the item was not debated due to a decision by the Labour group to keep it off the agenda.

However, that is not the end of the matter. The motion is now sent to Joe Anderson directly as leader of the council who will decide whether to in principle support or oppose our proposal. He could also choose to ignore it because it would put him into a difficult position due to Ed Miliband's support for Trident renewal and a continuing nuclear

deterrent.

The Green group on Lancashire County Council will be proposing a very similar motion at their monthly meeting later this month and are working hard to get cross party support there.

Would you be interested in working jointly with us, CND, Greenpeace and potentially other organisations in lobbying the leader of the council to support our motion?

If so please contact Peter:

Motion by Councillors John Coyne, Sarah Jennings, Paula Keaveney, Steve Radford and Hazel Williams

Council recognises that the financial situation is leading to a series of difficult funding decisions. These may lead to cuts in services that Liverpool citizens would like to see maintained or need to have maintained.

Council believes that if ways can be found of securing more funding for local councils they should be pursued and that this should include helping government identify where money can be found.

Council notes that according to figures available in the most recent Ministry

of Defence White Paper, the cost of replacing Trident will be £26 billion, double the original cost estimated by the government in a previous 2006 White Paper.

Were the replacement of Trident to be cancelled and an additional £26 billion distributed to councils according to the Total Formula Grant, Liverpool would receive an additional £302 million in funding. Council notes that while that would not entirely offset the cuts in funding imposed on the annual budget of the Council last year and in these coming years, it would enable Liverpool to preserve services that would otherwise be lost.

Council therefore calls on Liverpool City Council to support the positions of Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn, Liberal

Democrat MP Julian Huppert, Green MP Caroline Lucas and many others in opposing Trident renewal.

Council calls on the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Liverpool's MPs to indicate that Liverpool City Council has adopted a position against the renewal of any new nuclear deterrent with funding that could have been better used to defend essential local services.

Furthermore, this motion calls on the leader of Liverpool City Council to use his influence to push for wider support of this initiative across Merseyside.

(Referred to the Leader of the Council)

John Bright - Peace Campaigner

16.11.1811 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of John Bright, MP, and peace campaigner.

He was born in Rochdale of a Quaker, cotton merchant. His upbringing as a Quaker made him very aware of Peace issues.

As a young man he got involved in politics and joined the Anti-Corn Law league., and in 1843 he was elected to represent Durham in the House of Commons. The Corn laws were repealed in 1845.

He also supported those Whigs advocating universal suffrage and the secret ballot.

As a Quaker he was opposed to the aggressive foreign policy of Lord Palmerston. Bright joined with Richard Cobden to campaign against the Crimean War (1854-1856). The two men were much abused by the press and some MPs even accused them of treason. As a result he lost his seat in 1857 but was elected back in a by election for Birmingham. He blamed the Indian Mutiny on British misrule and advocated that the Indian people should be allowed to elect their own government.

Bright was now one of the leading advocates in the House of Commons for universal suffrage. In a speech made in 1858 he pointed out that only one out of six adult males had the vote in Britain and that

fewer than 200,000 voters regularly returned more than 50% of all MPs. Bright called for an end to all rotten boroughs and the introduction of the secret ballot. As a Quaker he was totally opposed to slavery and was a passionate supporter of Abraham Lincoln.

There are several events taking place to commemorate his life - including showing of Nick Wilding's film 'John Bright and the Angel of Death' on 16 Nov and 13th Dec in Manchester

for info email raecnd@gn.apc.org or nickwilding40@hotmail.com or Greater Manchester CND: 0161 273 8283

Modechai Vanunu Update

Dear Friend and Vanunu supporter,

Recently, numerous people have asked us where Mordechai is now living; in fact he continues to live in Tel Aviv at the same address that he moved to when he left Jerusalem. On October 3rd he was once again in court to appeal against his continuing restrictions. Unfortunately, but not unexpected, three days later the appeal judges turned down the appeal, also refusing Mordechai his human right to leave Israel, which he wishes to do. It is now 25 years and 10 days since Mordechai was brutally kidnapped from Rome and put on trial. Having then endured an 18 year sentence he is still being punished when he should be free! On October 13th Mordechai was 57 and you may wish to send him belated birthday greetings. His email is - vanunuvmj@gmail.com

Also, Mordechai is still waiting for an answer to his letter of some months ago, to the Interior Minister, petitioning for his citizenship to be revoked. (Mordechai's petition was based on a new Knesset law to annul the citizenship of anybody convicted

of treason or espionage, which Mordechai was so many years ago).

In July, in response to his appeal, the High Court ruled that, a decision should be made within 30 days - by August 13th. At this moment, now almost two months after that High Court directive, no decision has been communicated to Mordechai or his lawyer. The Israeli Government continues to do what it has done so often in the past; both ignore the human rights of its critics and its own High Court.

Finally, we are still waiting, after many months to hear from Jeremy Browne - Lib/Dem Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, about our request for a meeting to raise our concerns regarding the continuing abuse of Mordechai and his human rights. However it seems whenever Mordechai Vanunu is mentioned Government departments seize up.

Our very best wishes and thanks for your continuing support for Mordechai, and hopefully you will find time to send him a message. Adeline, David and Ernest

Campaign for a Nuclear Free Middle East cnfme@gmail.com

kyochikuto/ oleander

from Chugoku to the Ota
nothing remained
upon debris strewn
red earth
in the silence
that came with time
shoots with elliptic leaves
to five bright petals
vivid signal that
survival is the future
that through resilience
we find a peace
and learn that for
no other reason
it should happen
again

(the above is entered in the UN
Poetry for Peace competition)

seeing

water on earth
reflecting from
shell hewn holes
broken promises
and failed dreams
never still
ceaseless in time
we must reflect
and gather in peace.

(written especially for the
newsletter 17/10/11)

Chris Lawrence

Fuel on the Fire

Oil and Politics in occupied Iraq
By Greg Muttitt

'Oil lies at the heart of Iraqi politics. Yet in the 8 years since the bombs began to fall on Baghdad it has been a taboo subject. In Greg Muttitt's gripping and far reaching investigations we are taken behind the scenes of the occupation to answer one of the war's most pressing questions: **what is happening to Iraq's oil?**

In the context of NATO military intervention in Libya and upheaval in the Middle East, this detailed account of how Western forces extend their influence in the Arab world makes for essential and timely reading"

What price nuclear blackmail??

By General Sir Hugh Beach

The ninth of a series of occasional papers on defence and disarmament issues in memory of Frank Blackaby.

The British Government has currently decided to retain our nuclear weapons after the present generation of Trident Missile-armed V-class submarines reach their expected service limits.

But is there any historical evidence that such weapon systems are indeed 'credible' deterrents? Against what or whom do they deter?

Hugh Beach, with a substantial and distinguished military background, writes from personal experience and a knowledge of history to demonstrate that nuclear weapons, unused for 65 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, have almost certainly never acted as 'credible' deterrents. Governments must listen to Hugh Beach.

The whole paper is available to read on line at www.abolition2000uk.org or to borrow a copy contact Merseyside CND office: 0151 702 6974

Picasso's Anti-War Art and Peace Campaigning

Part 2

"What do you think an artist is? An imbecile who only has eyes if he is a painter, or ears if he is a musician, On the contrary, he is at the same time a political being, constantly alive to heart-rending, fiery or happy events to which he responds in every way. How could it be possible to feel no interest in other people?" Picasso to Simone Tery, 'L'Humanite, 5/10/1944

In his preparatory studies for a mural that would show the horror of the bombing of Guernica Picasso produced images of bulls, wounded horses, women in agony and despair, and a fallen warrior. The image he returned to most frequently was a woman weeping.

He did not depict a weeping woman in the final version of 'Guernica', but for the poster announcing the painting's exhibition with over sixty preparatory works in London in October 1938, and for the front of the gallery programme, he used a reproduction of the 'Weeping Woman' he had painted on June 26th 1937.

In this one simple image Picasso captures the extreme agony in her tortured eyes and wailing mouth and encapsulates the suffering caused by war. Picasso used this image rather

than part of 'Guernica' to represent the whole exhibition.

After he had completed 'Guernica' Picasso continued to paint, draw and etch 'Weeping Woman' images. From May, when he first started, to the middle of December he produced nearly sixty.

Picasso's 'Weeping Woman' images are a continuation of the theme of 'Guernica' - the devastation of human lives caused by war - but they are also depictions of the most important women in his life at that time - his estranged wife Olga Koklova, his lover Dora Maar and his secret lover Marie-Therese Walter. "I paint", he said, "as others write their autobiographies. My paintings, whether they are finished or not, are the pages of my diary and are valid as such."

The etching of a 'Weeping Woman' of 1 July is almost unbearable to look at the grief is so strong. With each new image Picasso finds yet another, and often more intense, way of expressing a woman's reaction to tragedy.

During the Nazi occupation of France Picasso remained in Paris and continued to work. His most frequent subject over these years was still life. In these powerfully expressive works Picasso is reminding the viewer of the transience of human existence. They can also be seen as reflections of the time they were living through and as a

protest against those times. Unlike 'Guernica' these works do not refer to specific world events.

In February 1945, five months after the liberation of Paris, Picasso began painting 'The Charnel House', completing it in May. This was his first large-scale work since 'Guernica'.

Based on a short documentary film he had seen with Dora Maar, it shows a Spanish Republican family - a mother, father and their baby - who had been murdered in their own home, their mutilated bodies piled next to the kitchen table. It is a continuation in the style of 'Guernica' and uses the same limited palette of greys and blacks and white. The impact is of suddenly coming across this dreadful scene in the flickering light. On the table is a cooking pan and a pitcher, which suggest the family has been interrupted in their simple domesticity.

Picasso was drawing attention to one brutal massacre in the Spanish Civil War and he was reminding the world of, and mourning, those who had died fighting Fascism in his homeland. He had also created an image, which, like 'Guernica', is a condemnation of all war.

Roger Stephenson Oct. 2011

[Slightly edited, with detailed references to the works described, removed, apologies to Roger - Ed.]

Memories of Mary McClelland

Mary died early in August. At her funeral at Anfield Crematorium on Aug. 10th her old friend Sam Watts gave a fitting eulogy to our old friend, comrade and co-worker, a flavour of which follows with tributes from other friends:

"Typewriter - Gestetner

Communist - C.N.D.

Rosenburgs - Paul Robeson

Anti-Apartheid - Vietnam

Where did it start? When will it end?

Will it end? "Yes it will end."

The struggle goes on, and on, and on.

Their oil "is our oil"

Yes you was there, in the heart of the struggle, you played your part well.

"No one is forgotten".

"No country is free till all women are free"

Bye Bye Comrade

We Salute You"

From Sam Watts

" My Mum had indeed known Mary for a very long time - I cannot remember a time when her name was not familiar to me, and hers was one of the faces that I saw, year after year,

throughout my childhood, at the annual Daily Worker Christmas Bazaar."

From Lorna Froom

I got to know Mary in the 1980s when we starting working together in the CND Office. These were the heady days of Thatcher's government, Cruise missiles, miners' strike so much action on all fronts. We talked and laughed a lot. I remember holding hands in a Circle Dance with her on thick ice at Molesworth - a mysterious, unsteady game, laughing, bumping into each other, falling - but it did warm us up. She was a loving, warm friend. I miss

Palestinian right to Statehood

With Hamas and Fatah entering into a Unity deal 4th May 20011, the prospects of Palestine gaining State recognition is strong. Since 2006 when Hamas was elected as the winning party in the election, Israel with the support of the west imposed brutal sanctions against Gaza in the hope of breaking Hamas. This was allied with a policy of divide and conquer where Fatah was favoured by the west and Hamas was demonised. The brutality of Israeli policy towards Hamas and the Palestinian people was evident in the invasion of 2008-2009 which resulting in 1,000s dead and maimed and the west doing nothing.

Israel, America and the rest of the west have degraded and humiliated Fatah, promised much and delivering little. The Israelis contempt for Palestine is evident by the continued building of illegal settlements. Fatah believed that working with the west would in the long term benefit the Palestinian people, but now they are wakening up to the fact that the small favours they received were part of a tactic of divide, humiliate and conquer. Favour one side against the other and weaken the Palestinian struggle.

Egypt under Murbarak supported the western policy of supporting sanctions and blockade against Hamas, which resulted in collective punishment against the men, women and children of Gaza. With Murbarak gone, the new regime of Egypt is opening the border with Gaza which brings renewed hope to the Palestinian people.

Fatah and Hamas now have the opportunity of settling their differences and working together for the benefit of Palestine. Towards September of this year they will be approaching the United Nations Assembly and pushing for a vote where Palestine will be recognised as a state.

Contact your Member of Parliament and your EU Member and ask them to contact the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, and to recognise the Palestinian right to statehood.

28 September The UN security council has moved the issue of recognising a Palestinian state to a committee which could take weeks to reach a decision.

The move came as US and European efforts to launch fresh peace talks – and avoid a diplomatic confrontation after Washington said it will veto the statehood bid – were undermined by Israel's "provocative" announcement that it will build more than 1,000 more homes in a major Jewish settlement.

The Palestinian ambassador to the UN, Riyad Mansour, said the security council should approve the statehood request because much of the world already recognises Palestine as a country.

"We hope that the security council will shoulder its responsibility and address this application with a positive attitude, especially since we have 139 countries that have recognised the state of Palestine so far, meaning more than two-thirds majority," Mansour said. "We are ready to govern ourselves."

But the Israeli ambassador to the UN, Ron Prosor, said that recognition of statehood is meaningless without a peace agreement.

"A real Palestinian state, a viable Palestinian state, will not be achieved in composing things from the outside but only in direct negotiations," he said. We had peace with Egypt. It wasn't imposed; we negotiated. With Jordan, the same thing."

The UN committee on new admissions, which is made up of the 15 members of the security council, will meet on Friday morning. It could vote immediately on the Palestinian request or agree to study the matter further.

Last week, the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, resisted US pressure to abandon the request for statehood. But at the urging of Washington, London and Paris – which were keen to avoid voting on the issue because of the impact on opinion in the Middle

East of failing to support the Palestinian bid – he privately agreed to the slow tracking of the issue while fresh attempts are made to restart negotiations.

Those efforts were immediately compromised when the US ensured that a statement by the quartet of the US, UN, EU and Russia proposing a framework timetable for talks, and the immediate addressing of the contentious issues of borders and security, **did not call for a halt to construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories**. But the statement did ask both sides to refrain from provocative actions.

This week, Israel announced that it will build 1,100 new houses as well as public buildings and an industrial zone in Gilo settlement. This move, said Mansour, was a deliberate snub by Israel to peace efforts, because the Palestinians have said that continued construction of housing for Jewish settlers on occupied land is a barrier to talks.

"They gave 1,100 answers of saying no to the effort of the international community to open doors to negotiation, and I think speaks clearly that Israel is not interested in negotiating with us - in spite of the fact they say they would like to do so," he said.

Prosor said the settlement expansion is inside Jerusalem and therefore distinct from other parts of the occupied territories. "Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish people. This is our heart. Jerusalem, if I may say so, was the capital of the Jewish people when London was still a swamp."

"Palestinian objections are an excuse for not negotiating" said Prosor.

The US has called the new settlement construction "counter-productive" and "distressing". But the Palestinians have little confidence that Washington will do anything about it after Obama made what was widely seen as a strongly pro-Israel speech to the UN, dashing any lingering hope of change under his regime.

Contact mcnd@care4free.net for links to local campaigners on this issue.

Peace News

For people who want to
change the world

**Special Subscription offer
£10 for 10 issues**

Topics - Afghanistan Arms trade
Climate change CND Direct
Action Drones Free Gaza Non-
violence Nuclear Power Trident
War resisters

"Peace News has compiled an
exemplary record... its tasks
have never been more important
that they are today"

Noam Chomsky

[Www.peacenews.info](http://www.peacenews.info)

Housmans Peace Diary 2012

This is the 59th Edition of the
Housmans Peace Diary, a non profit
service to movements around the
world working for peace, social
justice and the environment. This
year's feature pages take a look at
the control and use (mis-use) of
technology. The directory lists over
1500 national and international peace,
environmental and human rights
organisations. £9.95 per copy
includes postage. E
orders@housmans.com

Americana Ten Celebrating 10 years of Americana UK Alt- Country & alternative music Sat. Nov. 12th 2-11pm Contemporary Urban Centre Greenland St. L1

A multitude of bands playing
Tickets: £22 708 3529
[Www.americana-uk.com](http://www.americana-uk.com)
All proceeds to charity
Americana UK have invited
CND to run a stall - please
contact the office *at once*
if you can spare an hour or
more to make this happen!

Maghull and Lydiate

Contact Sylvi for information: 526 7293

Birkenhead CND

Next meetings :Tues Nov 8th and Dec 13th 9.00pm at
Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd.
Stall, Dec 2nd 6-8.30pm Festival of Light Xmas Fair at
Prenton High School, Hesketh Ave. Volunteers wanted.
New Year Party 5th January – 8pm also at Shirley's
Contact: Shirley 652-3768

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: July draw: No 22 Liz
Heydon; August: No. 16 Wallasey CND
Annual Prizes (drawn at the Sept. Co-ord
meeting) 1st £250: No 30 Doreen Dixon; 2nd
£100: No 16 Wallasey CND; 3rd £50: No 14
Tom and Ivy Griffin

A big thank you to all members of the 50
Club for continuing financial support. For
£5 per month you too could be a winner of
£50 per month or £250/£100/£50 annual
draw. Ask Janet for a membership form –
702 6974

Wallasey CND

Planning Meetings: Nov. 7th & Dec. 5th 3pm at
Barbara's 4 Taunton Rd.
Phil Chisnall Band at the Guitar Festival: Nov. 12th
12.30-2pm Floral Pavilion Piazza, New Brighton. Free
AGM – Business Meeting for members: Sat. Jan. 7th 2pm
followed at 3.30pm by New Year's Social, friends and
relations very welcome to join us at Barbara's
Contacts: Barbara 638 3967 and 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

**MCND Co-ord: next
meeting will be on Nov.
2nd 2pm MCND Office
54 Mount Pleasant L3
Press MCND pad by the
door to gain access
AGM 1.15 & Social:
2.15 Sat. Dec. 3rd FMH
School Lane See P1**

*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 Cathy Page and Janet
Laycock. Duplicated thanks to
Barbara of Wallasey CND