

Merseyside CND Newsletter



July/August/September 2012

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"Anyone who claims to understand energy policy is either mad or subsidised."

Simon Jenkins, Guardian, 22.05.12



**Saturday 21st July 12 noon to 6pm
St. Bride's Church, Catharine/
Percy St Liverpool 8**

Stalls, Music, Speakers, Children's
entertainment, vegan cafe

Planning is coming together nicely but we could do
with more volunteers to help in shifts from 11am-7pm.
We are financing it ourselves this year and would like
to run a raffle but need someone to organise it.

To offer any help please phone Janet or Kai:

0151 702 6974. Email: mcnd@care4free.net

It's FREE so please spread the word!

Please help us by displaying the enclosed leaflet

Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki

**St. John's Garden, St. John's Lane
Monday 6th August 11am**

Wreath laying- The Lord Mayor (invited)

Intros :- (Merseyside CND)

Music, poetry, Peace Prayer

Organised by Merseyside CND (details above)

Thursday August 9th 7.30pm

In The Basement at 96 Bold St.

Documentary Film Night will mark the Anniversary of
the nuclear bomb dropped on Nagasaki Aug. 9th
1945. Refreshments and discussion. Further info.
nearer the time from MCND - see www.mcnd.org.uk

Stall in Bold St.

Sat. July 14th 11am-2pm by News from Nowhere
Help needed to collect signatures on Cut Trident
postcards to send to your MP. We've sent over 200
signed pcs collected in Birkenhead, Wallasey and
Liverpool this summer - this is your last chance to
join this phase of the campaign to have Trident
cancelled. We'll also be advertising the P&E Festival
at St. Bride's the following week.

Contact: the office if you can help: Details above

**NB: Urgent message from CND on EDM 96 – Trident
Replacement:** 69 MPs - 1 in 10 MPs - have now signed.
Please ask yours to sign. If you've already done so, please let
us know her/his response. Please pass this message on and
share the link on facebook or twitter! www.cnduk.org

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"Unbridled" spending on Trident escalates, as government announces £1bn contract

This week the Ministry of Defence (MOD) announced a £1.1 billion contract with Rolls Royce for building nuclear submarine reactors. This has caused quite some controversy and Defence Secretary Philip Hammond was immediately called to answer an Urgent Question in the Commons on the implications of this spending and whether it pre-empts a future decision on whether or not to replace Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system.

The contract itself will see £500m spent on the refurbishment of Rolls Royce's Raynesway plant in Derby, while £600m will go on building new nuclear reactor cores to power Britain's submarines. Most of these will be used in Astute Class submarines (conventionally armed), but Hammond has stated that they will also be used in the first of the proposed 'successor' submarines to Britain's 'Vanguard Class' (nuclear-armed) submarines. MPs were right to remind him that parliament is yet to vote on whether or not to replace these subs.

CND has condemned the "unbridled expenditure" on Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system. Kate Hudson, CND General Secretary stated:

"It is no surprise that the public are incredulous when they are told that Britain doesn't have any money. The Ministry of Defence keeps finding further billions to pile into a Cold War nuclear weapons system which a majority of people are opposed to."

"When local services are being slashed, this really shows the government's skewed priorities. Just recently the MoD announced another £350m spending on designs for the as-yet-unauthorised next generation of nuclear armed submarines. Now they're spending vast amounts on the reactors for them."

"This kind of unbridled expenditure shows the need for greater Parliamentary scrutiny of, and public opposition to, the wild commitment to

an economically disastrous and strategically moribund nuclear weapons system."

A parliamentary decision on whether or not to replace Britain's nuclear armed submarines is not due until 2016, yet reactor cores manufactured as part of this deal would be used in a successor fleet.

Kate Hudson stated:

"MPs, alongside CND, have long voiced the concern that so much money will have been spent by the time that parliament comes to make a decision, that Trident replacement will be presented as a *fait accompli*."

"Worryingly, this morning Nick Harvey [Minister for the Armed Forces] seems to be confirming these fears." "He told the BBC's Today programme: 'The money that has been committed today is a spend over an 11 year period, so if we decide in 2016 not to go ahead with some of these engines the government of the day would have to negotiate its way out of that, and give them some alternative work on the next submarine programme instead.'"

"Pre-empting the decisions of a future parliament is an outrageous and unacceptable way for a government to conduct business. While we, the public, are being told to tighten our belts, it seems to be open season for wild spending at the MoD. Just weeks ago they announced £350m contracts on designing new nuclear-armed submarines. Now they're spending on the reactors for them before parliament has even voted on whether or not to build them."

The Lib Dems Trident Review

For the Lib Dems and their supporters, another crucial issue also needs to be addressed: the fate of the Lib Dem-led Trident Alternatives Review.

With party policy opposed to 'like-for-like' replacement of Britain's nuclear weapons system, Nick Harvey

(Minister for the Armed Forces) is overseeing a review into alternatives to Trident replacement. However, despite saying just last week that, "the review is making good progress and is on target to report... at the end of the year", Mr Harvey has now been placed in the uncomfortable position of having to justify MoD spending which pays zero attention to the possible outcomes of his review.

Concerns have previously been raised that the much-vaunted review - which was a serious Conservative concession to the Liberal Democrats on a subject of deep concern to MPs and party members - could be a damp squib.

Firstly, the government's assertion that there are no plans to publish either the review or the evidence which it draws upon (based on security grounds of course!) was rightly met with outrage.

But these recent developments threaten to do worse than that: to spend on the 'successor' submarines now is to prejudge the findings of the review *de facto* - or simply to ignore it. What good is a review if its conclusions will not be considered? And why would the government pursue a particular course of action ahead of those findings? These are the questions which Lib Dem MPs and activists must demand answers to.

All of this is of course compounded by the fact that the 'Main Gate' parliamentary decision on whether or not to replace the nuclear-armed fleet is not due until 2016 (in the next Parliament).

The Lib Dems' party base has made its opposition to Trident replacement clear, and Lib Dem Ministers still have considerable clout on this issue in government. Translating this into government policy is the real challenge: and the fight is now on.

Peace One Day - Sept 21st

10th Anniversary



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

Friday 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

Strawberry Tea to raise funds for the UN Peace Day/Peace One Day on Saturday 14th July 2-4pm at Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey Tickets £3/£2 children

Exhibition in Earlston Rd. Wallasey Central Library - July 17th to 22nd - Highlighting what Peace One Day is all about and what we have done to celebrate it over

the past 10 years.

Peace one Day Concert Friday 21st Sept. 7.30pm at Park View Social Club, Liscard Rd, Wallasey

An evening with

a) **Claire Mooney singer/ songwriter**

b) Video clips from UN and POD websites showing achievements with the day of ceasefire, e.g. clearing landmines, inoculations etc.

c) Local poets

Bar, refreshments, doors open 7.00pm

Tickets: £2.00 - contact: Janet: 0151 677 1133 or Barbara: 0151 638 3967

All venues have disabled access



Doreen

Winterburn

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Doreen last month. She had been a church member since 1933 and played a full and active role in the life of the church until ill health forced her to slow down a bit. In many ways Doreen was born before her time. She had an active interest and commitment to many different causes, particularly the Peace Movement and CND as well as numerous hobbies including Guides, craft skills, gardening and people watching. She enjoyed many different careers until finally settling on being a

health visitor. When she met and married Jack she took on the role of step mum, grandma and great grandma with her usual determination and commitment as she thought up games for the children to play; joining in with great enthusiasm.

The two key things that made Doreen the person she was were her faith and deep desire to see our world be at peace. She wanted to go as a missionary to Africa in the 1930's, but the start of the second world war meant that dream was unfulfilled. Her dream that if Esperanto became a universal language and we could reach every child at an early age, peace was possible remained with her and she

devoted herself to fulfilling the call on her life to try and achieve that dream one person at a time.

She joined many CND marches and demonstrations. She was a regular helper on street stalls and in the Parks with Wallasey CND and came every year to the Hiroshima Day event in Liverpool on Aug. 6th, her birthday! Doreen was an inspiration to all who knew her. Her passion, commitment and total dedication to the things she believed in and treasured should encourage us all to follow her example and live life to the full, showing loving concern and compassion to those who have no voice and following the path God has mapped out for our lives.

Picasso's Anti-War Art and Peace Campaigning Part IV

The USA continued to attack North Korea.

"From early November 1950 onwards [General] MacArthur ordered that a wasteland be created between the front and the Chinese border, destroying from the air every installation, factory, city and village.."

¹ On 14-15th December the USA Air Force hit Pyongyang with seven hundred 500lb. bombs, napalm and 175 tons of delayed- fuse demolition bombs, timed to blow up at odd moments up to seventy-two hours after they landed.

In February 1951 in Kochang in the South "some 600 civilians, women, children and men were herded into a ditch [by the South Korean police] and mown down by machine-gun fire - on the grounds solely of being suspected of being communists."²

On March 29th Rear-Admiral Allen F. Smith said that UN ships had been bombarding Wonsan, the largest city on North Korea's east coast, for forty-one "straight days and nights ... the longest sustained naval or air bombardment of a city in history. ...you cannot walk in the streets. You cannot sleep anywhere in the twenty-four hours, ..." ³ Songjin and Chongjin, two smaller towns on the east coast, were being given the same treatment.

In Paris in May 1951 Picasso exhibited his 'Massacre in Korea' which shows a group of defenceless women and children being shot by a firing squad that looks both futuristic and archaic. (See Part III)

People had been expecting Picasso to produce a work in the style of 'Guernica' which used the fractures of Cubism, expressionistic distortions and symbolic images to express condemnation of the bombing. But he had chosen not to depict a bombing - he could not do 'Guernica' over again. This painting showed the war as a massacre of the innocents. The idea may have come from an actual event in the war, filtered through his knowledge of Goya's 'Execution of 3rd May' and Manet's 'Execution of Maximilian' but it was not a

"naturalistic" representation - it was expressionistic and symbolic. Its symbolism made the image universal, but the painting angered everybody.

The Right accused Picasso of slavishly painting propaganda for the Communist Party. But the Party, expecting him to support North Korea, said one could not tell which side was doing the shooting and which side was being killed. Also, it was wrong to show a massacre, he should have shown the heroic resistance of the Korean people. (How they kept going in the face of the US onslaught was truly heroic.)

Helene Parmelin, who, with her husband, Edouard Pignon, shared a villa with Picasso in Vallauris in the South of France, recalls how the following summer Picasso was selecting canvases for an exhibition. He brought 'Massacre in Korea' onto the grass: Picasso looked pensively at his canvas.

What a trade! Poor painters!... They fight against war... and war is declared against them. They paint the man with the machine gun, the massacring robot, the man with the repeating rifle ... and people tell them they cannot distinguish the uniform. They paint the massacre of the innocents; and they are told that the innocents ought to look prettier than that. ⁴

In January 1950, recognising his importance to the town, Vallauris had made Picasso an honorary citizen. A small de-consecrated 14th century chapel in the central square was subsequently put at his disposal to decorate as he wanted.

In April 1952, still disappointed at the poor reception for his 'Massacre in Korea' and with the war still going on, Picasso decided to decorate the chapel at Vallauris as a Temple to Peace.

He began making sketches for two panels - one either side of the windowless, barrel-vaulted nave. One was to show war, the other peace. He worked on this project throughout the summer. By September he had made two-hundred-and-fifty drawings and

studies, but the completed panels would not be ready until later in the year. The young Communist poet and novelist Claude Roy had been watching the work as it evolved, so, Picasso, anxious for his message to be seen, quickly released copies of his sketch book with commentaries by Roy.

Picasso completed the two large panels in early December. In both paintings the image is simplified and archaic and drawn with an apparent clumsiness. In 'War' this adds to the brutality and at the same time makes war look ridiculous. At the right a naked man is standing on a rickety chariot pulled by three decrepit-looking horses. The man is wielding a dagger in one hand, holding a bowl from which germs are escaping in the other and carrying a sack of skulls on his back. Appearing beyond the horses are the silhouettes or shadows of five figures attacking with ancient weapons of war - dagger, spear and axe. Because these shapes loom up as the black shadows of unseen figures they feel all the more menacing. At the left, standing holding his ground against this procession of warmongers is a naked warrior for peace. In his right hand he holds a spear towards the base of which is a scales of justice, and in his left hand a shield on which is drawn the outline of a dove. Tall stalks of barley and wheat, symbols of life and fertility, grow at his feet.

The artist Françoise Gilot who was Picasso's mistress and mother of two of his children recalls how he had difficulty in choosing images for his panel depicting Peace. "Willing to help, I proposed a logo of my own making: "In peacetime all is possible. A child could plough the sea." ⁵ "Picasso liked this idea. In 'Peace', on a deep blue ground, a boy is ploughing holding the reins of a winged horse. Picasso has returned to the world of Greek Myth, painting Pegasus the winged horse whose stroke of hoof on Mount Helicon caused the fountain of Hippocrene to flow - the source of poetic inspiration. Picasso's vision of Peace is an idyllic world of the arts - a

man is playing reed flutes, two women are dancing, a woman is suckling her baby and reading, and a man is writing. He also depicts a world of childhood, where everything is possible. Birds fly in a fish bowl, fish swim in a birdcage and both cage and bowl are held in balance by a young boy who himself is balancing on one end of a scales which in turn is balanced on the tip of the finger of one of the dancing women. Everything is connected.

In May 1953 'War' and 'Peace' and 'The Charnel House' were shown at a Picasso retrospective in Rome. Later in the year the exhibition moved to Milan where 'Guernica' and 'Massacre in Korea' were added to it. This is the only time these five major works on the subject of war have been shown together.

The 'War' and 'Peace' panels were fitted to the chapel in Vallauris in February 1954, but the Temple of Peace (noe[in 2012] called the Musee National Picasso, Chapel of War and Peace) was not inaugurated and opened to the public until September 1959. The two panels cover the side walls and meet in the centre of the ceiling to form one continuous painting that surrounds and engulfs the visitor. Picasso had completed the decoration of the chapel with a semi-circular panel that covers the back wall. Four large, simplified figures representing the races of the world - black, white, yellow, red - hold each other and together hold the sun above them on

which there is the outline of a peace dove with an olive branch in its beak.

Talks to end the war had been going on intermittently since May 1951. In May 1953 both sides reached agreement on the repatriation of prisoners-of-war after the war was over, but at the same time the US escalated the war by bombing five dams north of Pyongyang. These supplied water for the irrigation system of the area that produced three-quarters of the country's rice. Apart from destroying most of the year's rice crop; towns, villages, railways and roads over a vast area were flooded. Untold numbers of people were drowned.

In June the Communists launched a massive counter-offensive on the South, but the war ended in a stalemate and on 27 July an armistice was signed by the North Korean and Chinese commanders on one side and the US on the other. South Korea has never signed.

Picasso decorated the chapel at Vallauris as a Temple to Peace as a protest against the Korean War, but since the war ended in 1953 and the chapel was not opened to the public until six years later one could say that it had no impact or importance in the campaign against the war. Except for one thing.

When the 'War' and 'Peace' panels were shown in Rome in May 1953 the 'War' panel caused controversy with

its depiction of the warmonger in his chariot as carrying a bowl from which deadly germs are escaping. In 1952 North Korea and China had accused the USA of dropping diseases, including plague, anthrax and cholera from the air. An investigation by a group of independent scientists concluded that the charges were true, but the USA always denied this. Western governments dismissed the report, but Picasso's accusation still hurt. As with 'Massacre in Korea' Picasso simply accused the warmongers of being warmongers.

Roger Stephenson

References:

- 1,2 and 3: Halliday, Jon and Cumings, Bruce 'Korea: The Unknown War' Viking, London, 1988 pp115, 146 and 156.
- 4: Parmelin, Helene, 'Picasso Plain - An intimate portrait', Secker and Warburg, London 1963 pp193 and 194
- 5: Gilot, Françoise, 'Matisse and Picasso A Friendship in Art' Bloomsbury, London 1990 p284

Additional Bibliography

- Morris, Lynda and Grunenberg, Christopher (eds.) 'Picasso Peace and Freedom' exhib. cat., Tate Publishing, London 2010
- Penrose, Roland, 'Picasso His Life and Work' Third edition, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1981
- Utley, Gertje R., 'Picasso The

Nuclear Power: NFLA Report; Waste; Fukushima Effect

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities has published a report: 'Spinwatch', outlining the subsidies that will be given by the UK Government to the nuclear industry. The NFLA believes that the draft legislation will go against the Coalition Agreement that there would be no public subsidy for nuclear power.

It says that offering new nuclear operators a fixed unit price for the cost of spent fuel management and disposal represents a subsidy of about £427 million per reactor. It concludes that subsidising new renewable technologies is a sensible government

policy, but ' *subsidising a technology which has already existed for over 70 years without achieving the expected cost reductions, and which produces a dangerous waste that has currently not been adequately dealt with, is certainly not in the interest of the taxpayer or the electricity consumer.*' www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA_PR_Nuclear_subsidies.pdf

WISE - World Information Service on Energy - has produced a report on nuclear waste in 34 countries, "Management of spent fuel and radioactive waste..." which clearly

shows that none has a final disposal facility and most are not even close. www10.antenna.nl/wise/.

The ONR has produced a report saying that the operators of nuclear plants at Sellafield and Aldermaston have failed to properly assess the risks of flood, fires, extreme weather, earthquakes and power failures following the Fukushima accident. [Www.robward.com/2012/05/the-75-ways-in-which-uk-nuclear-plants-failed-to-respond-to-fukushima.html](http://www.robward.com/2012/05/the-75-ways-in-which-uk-nuclear-plants-failed-to-respond-to-fukushima.html)
From: *West Midlands CND Mailing June 2012*

Peace News Summer Camp

26-30th July

Near Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Cost £20-70 (depending on income)

The Peace News Summer Camp helps to build a radical movement for the future by building a living community today.

Making Non-violent Revolution is this year's theme, with a whole-day workshop co-facilitated by renowned US activist **George Lakey**.

Other workshops include: **Eyewitness Afghanistan; Diversity of tactics; Chomsky's politics; Occupy and the limits of consensus; Smash EDO; Inside prison; Cake-making** ... and much more. Plus: practical skills sessions, delicious vegan food cooked by Veggies of Nottingham, music, film, fun and participatory entertainment, a bar, campfires, and activities and facilities for kids and families. We will be camping in a family-friendly and renewably-powered way in the beautiful grounds of Crabapple Community, near Shrewsbury in Shropshire.

Join Us! Book on-line now:

www.peacenewscamp.info peacenewscamp@gmail.com
Peace News, 5 Caledonian Rd. London N1 9DY
Tel: 020 7278 3344 MCND Office also has booking forms

Maghull and Lydiate

We are closing for the summer

Next Meeting: Contact: Sylvi: 0151 526 7293

Birkenhead CND

Next meetings : Tues 17th July 9.00pm at

Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd.

Stall – 21st July in St. Bride's Church, Liverpool at the Peace and Ecology Festival – Volunteers needed

Contact: Shirley 0151 652 3768

Birkenhead Fruit and Flower Show: Sun. Aug.

12th 12- 5pm Birkenhead Park, Birkenhead &

Wallasey CND will share a gazebo to advertise CND and UN Peace Day

Wallasey CND

Planning Meetings: Mon July 2nd, Aug. 6th & Sept. 3rd 3pm at Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd.

Tea in the Park: Sun. July 15th, Aug. 19th & Sept.

16th 2– 4.00pm – with live music! Helpers welcome

Sat. July 14th 2-4pm Strawberry Tea fundraiser at Barbara and Dave's for UN Peace Day local events

Birkenhead Fruit and Flower Show: Sun. Aug.

12th 12- 5pm Birkenhead Park, Birkenhead &

Wallasey CND will share a gazebo to advertise CND and UN Peace Day

UN Peace Day: Fri. Sept. 21st 7.30pm Concert with video clips, poetry and singer/songwriter Claire Mooney at Park View Social Club, Liscard Rd. Wallasey

Mon. Sept. 17th – Sat. 22nd Exhibition in Wallasey Central Library, Earlston Rd. Highlighting achievements of Peace One Day 2002 – 2012
Contacts Barbara 638 3967 & Janet 677 1133

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: April draw: Gina Shaw; May draw: Birkenhead CND

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

We would love to have more members of the 50 Club (now standing at 30 members).

For £5 per month you could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 in the annual draw.

For further information or a membership form contact the Treasurer, Janet: 0151 702 6974 or home: 677 1133
mcnd@care4free.net janmike@care4free.net

MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name.....Phone.....

Address.....

Email.....

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

Merseyside CND next Co-ord meeting:

Date to be decided

but probably not until after events on page

1. Contact MCND if you want to come.

All members welcome

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 & Janet Laycock. Thanks to Barbara Hardcastle for duplicating it.