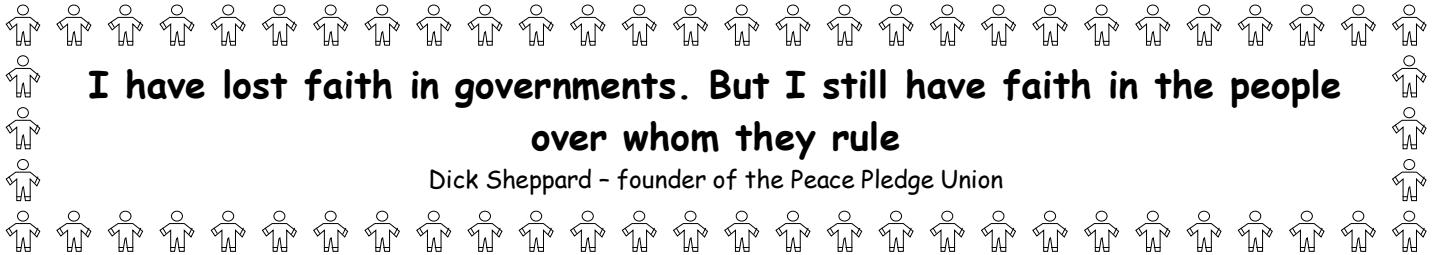


# Merseyside CND Newsletter



October/November/December 2012

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



**I have lost faith in governments. But I still have faith in the people  
over whom they rule**

Dick Sheppard - founder of the Peace Pledge Union

## Remembrance Day

In

**The Peace Garden**

Behind St George's Hall

**Sunday Nov 11th**

**Gather by 10.45**

**Wreath laying and 2 minutes silence  
at 11am**

To be confirmed by Merseyside CND



## CND Conference Oct. 13/14<sup>th</sup>

Saturday 13th is an International Conference :  
Building towards a nuclear weapons-free Middle  
East.

10am to 7pm free

This will be a unique opportunity to meet and discuss  
with anti-nuclear campaigners from the Middle East and  
to feed our views into the planned UN Helsinki  
Conference.

Sunday 14th will be the AGM and Policy conference.  
Both events take place at the Institute for Child  
Health, University College, London 30, Guildford St  
WC1N 1EH www.cnduk.org 020 7700 2393

## LOST! STOLEN or STRAYED

This historic banner has gone missing this year - we  
would dearly like to have it back - Does anyone know  
its whereabouts?

## 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.

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## March For - A future that works

Saturday 20th October

Assemble at 11am -1.30pm for march to Hyde Park  
rally. Details [www.afuturethatworks.org.uk](http://www.afuturethatworks.org.uk)  
Contact Jack Jones House - 0151 203 1907

# Keep Space for Peace

Thank God men cannot fly, and lay waste the sky as well as the earth.

*Henry David Thoreau*

Well now they can!

## International week of protest to stop the militarisation of Space October 6th to 13th

Satellites - the eyes, ears and brains of modern warfare

Satellites capture the images of targets (including individuals) that war makers wish to destroy.

Satellites pick up conversations and sounds that further identify targets while GPS systems provide the gunsight that directs weapons to their destination.

Drones and other new age weapons bring us closer to removing humans from the decision-making loop.

While the satellites orbiting miles above our heads may be out of our sight, the ground stations they depend upon, such as **Menwith Hill, UK**; Pine Gap, Australis; and Buckley A.F.B., Colorado, are vast bases with worldwide impact.

## Alarmingly drones WILL be operating on British soil from next month.

Basically drones are a form of remote controlled killing: British military currently in a base outside Las Vegas are dropping remote controlled bombs on Afghanistan, on targets who are more often than not civilians. During my recent 3 week visit to Kabul I met a young man who had lost family members (non militants) to a NATO drone attack. His story is not an anomaly.

The week of action against drones starts Saturday 6th October there's a peace walk across Lincolnshire protesting against the opening of the first drone base on British soil at RAF Waddington.

Drones are not just a concern for people in Afghanistan, they're increasing being used in this country for surveillance. They were used in high crime areas such as Liverpool, and also in London during the Olympics.

Please do whatever you can in your communities to stop this rapidly

developing form of remote controlled warfare.

Maya Anne Evans

## Sign the petition to ban weaponized drones.....

Meticulous researchers have documented that U.S. drones are killing many innocent civilians in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere. Drones are making the world less stable and creating new enemies. Their remoteness provides those responsible with a sense of immunity.

Weaponized drones are no more acceptable than land mines, cluster bombs, or chemical weapons. The world must renounce and forbid their manufacture, possession, or use. Violators must be held accountable. *Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space*

## Northern Friends Peace Board -

Have a monthly vigil outside RAF Waddington, near Lincoln. Contact Shirley Johnson for further information 0151 652 3768

# Peace One Day 2012

To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Peace One Day 2012 Wallasey CND organised a concert on the day itself, Friday 21 September, and a week long exhibition in Wallasey Central Library. The concert took place at Park View Social Club, Wallasey, the venue provided free of charge ( a peaceful gesture!) The programme included poetry by Eventpoets and songs by Claire Mooney in which the audience were invited to join generating laughter and a feeling of happy "togetherness". Video clips of previous Peace One Day activities organised by CND in Wallasey, a Traidcraft stall, raffle and a buffet added to the interest and enjoyment of the evening.

The exhibition in the library recorded, by photographs and other memorabilia, Peace One Day events organised by Wallasey CND over the past ten years including a photograph of Barbara Hardcastle when she spoke passionately about POD from a plinth in Trafalgar Square in 2009. Also recorded were activities in other parts of the world, one example being the cessation of military conflict in Afghanistan to allow immunisation programmes to be carried out. The exhibition was said to have created a "lot of interest" by library staff. However, only three comments were left by viewers but are worth recording:

1. "Have never heard of Peace One Day before but what achievements globally and locally."
2. "There can never be world peace. Countries need oil - land - also too much religious conflict. It can never

be halted - ACCEPT IT!"

3. "The above entries clearly show the need for Peace One Day."

Eileen Brown (Wallasey CND)

## The Peace One Day Concert - Liverpool

Held at St. Bride's on Sept. 21st, was a huge success and had a large turnout of about 250 people. There was an excellent speech by Sheik Haroon from the local mosque, The Socialist Singers and the Children's Tree House Choir each added to the success of the evening along with other young talented musicians. All performers, Alan Runswick on PA and Kai with his camera gave their time for free. I would like to single out Gina who did an excellent job as M/C and also congratulate her for running the whole event.

Yours in peace,

Gerry Poole, Co-Chair Merseyside

# Newsletter from Palestine

## September 2012 Settling Back into "My" Palestinian Village

This is the first of my newsletters this autumn from the village of Deir Istiya in the Salfit region of the northern West Bank - for those of you who want to locate it on a map. But your map will not show you the reality on the ground here. Only specialized maps produced either by OCHA (the UN Office of Co-ordination for Humanitarian Affairs), or those of the Good Shepherd Engineering Company in Bethlehem, will reveal this reality: of some twenty ancient Palestinian villages that make up the Salfit Governorate nestling in rolling rolls but surrounded on all sides by modern phalanxes of mass-produced housing of illegal Israeli settlements. Your maps will not reveal how Deir Istiya, Kifl Hares, Bruqin, Marda, Qiri, Karawat, Jinsaffut, Jit and thousands of similar villages in this land of Palestine, are now surrounded by such places as Immanuel, Revava, Qarna Shamron, Yakir, Barqan, Kafr Tappuah and the city of Ariel - with a combined population of 600,000 throughout the West Bank and E. Jerusalem. All have been built in the last 45 years of this military occupation and every one of them - including the horrific takeover of East Jerusalem and its surrounding villages - are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention. Every one has been built with the connivance - even encouragement - of western governments that have wilfully turned a blind eye to their own obligations under international law. These settlements and their accompanying military and industrial installations, settler-only roads, the Wall which encloses them into Israel itself - the huge infrastructure of this occupation - affects every single aspect of Palestinian life adversely and catastrophically. More has been written about this catastrophe - this nakba - than most around the world. And yet no trouble spot remains as intractable and none is so hidden,

distorted or lied about in the western press, as this one. However many times I come here it never fails to shock.

It can perhaps be witnessed most clearly in three ways: in the collapsed state of the Palestinian economy, kept - through international agreement - in the stranglehold of Israel, making Palestinians artificially dependent on outside aid; in the cruel restrictions on freedom of movement both externally by border controls and internally by the Wall and checkpoints throughout the West Bank; and in the apartheid legal system by which all Palestinians are subject to military law and all settlers - who live next door to them - are subject to regular Israeli civil law. This is the purest example of a racist infrastructure, making Israel a clear example of a classic apartheid state.

### IWPS

2 of us arrived here in Deir Istiya to re-open the house rented by the International Women's Peace Service on 14<sup>th</sup> September. We quickly built up to the 5 people we are now - from Britain, New Zealand and Germany, and soon we shall have our maximum number of 8, adding women from the United States and Montenegro. We shall be a mini United Nations!

We are hoping very hard that one of our experienced volunteers, Ellie from London, will be able to join us as planned on Tuesday, but we won't know that until tomorrow as she is at the moment under house arrest in Tel Aviv after being arrested nine days ago at the harsh demonstration in the nearby village of Kafr Kadum. We shall know tomorrow whether she and the 3 other internationals arrested with her, and brought to court on the ridiculous pretext of stone-throwing, will be deported. (I will write a separate newsletter about this when we know the outcome.)

The short time we have been here has been concentrated upon preparing for the olive harvest which begins next

week. We have attended two co-ordinating meetings in Nablus and Ramallah to discuss with village representatives, the UN and other human rights organizations how best to spread our availability to provide a protective presence to those farmers who fear settler attack as they pick their trees. We are also painstakingly ringing round our contacts in all the villages of the region to repeat our offers to help - not an easy job at all but a function that lies at the heart of our work.

We have also participated in village rituals surrounding both marriage and death, for life goes on here in all its normality and intensity.

Gwen Backwell

She goes on to relate various incidents which have taken place since her return. If you would like the whole of the newsletter please contact MCND.

## Are We?

A little girl whilst holding her mother's hand asked of her mother, 'Mummy, why do we have bombs?' 'To keep us safe'

Replied her mother:

'Safe from what?'

asked her daughter:

'Other bombs'

replied the little girl's mother.

Knowing that her questions were not really being answered, with great disappointment, the little girl gave up asking questions, and simply said, 'But bombs make me scared Mummy' The little girl's mother triumphantly declared,

'That's what makes us safe.'

After a very long time, with huge tears in her eyes, the little girl reluctantly let go of her mother's hand, and said,

I  
don't  
want  
to  
be  
safe.'

Anthony Tinsley, Rhyll

# Peace History Conference

'From local to Global'

Friday 9/Saturday 10th November Manchester

Organised by The Movement for the Abolition of War the conference aims to increase understanding of past peace movements and activity and alternative ways of responding to conflict, to inform the present and the future.

Friday starts with a Peace and Social Justice Trail - a walk through Manchester's rich, progressive history at 3.30pm, followed by a shared meal then a session on 'The Threads of Occupy - Peterloo to St Paul's'.

Saturday's programme includes Rae Street talking about outstanding forgotten women against War.

For full details google Peace history Conference 2012 and then download the 'flyer' Booking is required. £20 /£5 concessions

Housmans 2013 Peace Diary: £8.95  
from News from Nowhere, 96 Bold St.

## Merseyside CND 50 Club

**Recent winners:** June: John Middleton; July: Gerry Poole; August: Liz Heydon; Sept: John Middleton but with a different ticket number. Some of us have 2.

**The Annual Prizes** will be drawn at the next Co-ord meeting 2pm December 5th in the CND Office  
Thanks as always 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 in the annual draw. Contact Office for form.

**CND Annual Raffle:** tickets included to sell and return to address provided by Nov.16th - we hope you don't mind!!!

## Breakfast for Palestine

Sunday 4th November, 2.00.-5.00.pm

St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall, Queens Drive, near the junction with North Mossley Hill Road. Join us to enjoy the company of friends, Middle Eastern food (mainly) and to learn more about the Palestinian struggle. Stalls with Palestinian crafts and campaign info. Speakers to be announced.

## Maghull and Lydiate

We regret to report the death of Eric for 20 years writer of our Maghull newsletter.

To stay in touch contact: Sylvi: 0151 526 7293

## Birkenhead CND

**Next meetings:** Tues Nov 13th 8.00pm at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd.

**New Year Party:** 8pm 3rd January - also at Shirley's -

**Stall:** Fri. Nov 30th 4-8pm at Prenton Girls High School, Hesketh Ave., Bebington.

Volunteers wanted.

Contact: Shirley 652-3768

## Wallasey CND

**Planning Meetings:** Nov. 5th & Dec. 10th 3pm at Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd., Wallasey Village

**Christmas Tree displays:** St. Nicholas Church, set up on Dec. 11th. Switch on - Dec.14th Marlowe Rd. Church - to be arranged

**AGM** - 2pm Sat. Jan. 5th followed by 3.00pm

**New Year's Party** (family and friends invited too) also at Barbara and Dave's.

Contacts: Barbara 638 3967 or 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 Wednesday Dec. 5th 2pm in MCND Office, 54 Mount Pleasant

### AGM and New Year

**Social to be confirmed:**

Sat. Jan 12 or 19 or 26th in the Church in the City at News from Nowhere

*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 and duplicated thanks to Barbara, Wallasey CND