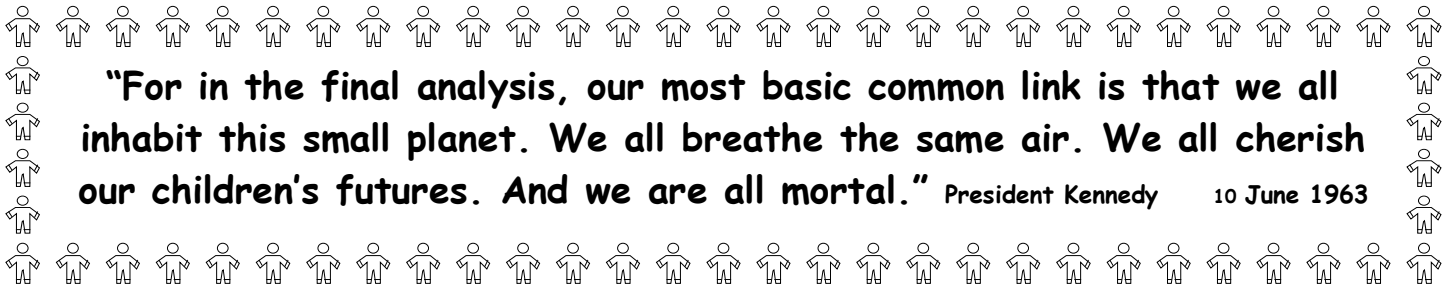


Merseyside CND Newsletter



July/Aug/Sept. 2013

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



"For in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's futures. And we are all mortal." President Kennedy 10 June 1963

7th Peace and Ecology Festival



dubbed

"LIVERPOOL'S GOT TALENT"
Saturday June 29th 12noon to 6pm.
St. Bride's Church
Catharine Street/Percy Street, Liverpool 8
with buses passing by frequently on Catharine Street.
See p2 for details

Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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

Aug 6th
1945

Aug 9th
1945



Wreath laying - 11am

Full programme available nearer the date from Merseyside
CND www.mcnduk.net mcnd@care4free.net

CND annual conference

October 12/13th

Liverpool JMU
Art and Design Academy
Duckinfield St. L3

Volunteers needed

to offer overnight accommodation and to show
delegates round etc
See p 2 for details

Office Move

We have been given notice to quit (as have all the other tenants at 54 to make way for the expansion of the Language School) by July 31st. We will let you know asap where we are going and suggest that for the time being you don't post letters to us after mid July. If contact by mail is urgent send to Janet Laycock, 88 Rosslyn Drive, Wirral CH46 0SZ Tel: 0151 677 1133

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Peace and Ecology Festival



On offer is our usual mix of original Music, Dance and Performance Poets aplenty...

It's a great atmosphere and all FREE and makes a great summer day out... It's incidentally on 'Armed Services Commemoration Day' which was pure coincidence as we moved to June as we always seemed to clash with other events in July nearly every year.

PERFORMERS CONFIRMED SO FAR (as of June 7th)

Al-najoum
i-Choir
Waltones
Dave Clayton

Socialist Singers
Shifting Sandz
Stuart Todd
Wes Burns
Wrecked Career
Claire Mooney

We start with Dance and the i-Choir and finish with Wrecked Career who comprise a local singer/song writer and Kalimba player. Then the grand finale features Claire Mooney who is a well known local musician and crowd-pleaser who returns after playing a successful set at the P+E Festival at St.Luke's back in 2010.

There is plenty of local talent, poets and acoustic musicians and bands, all playing original music and mostly their own songs, so we're proudly a "non-Karaoke event" which helps to support, encourage and promote local musicians and performers while also promoting peace and anti-nuclear policies.

INFORMATION STALLS confirmed as of June 7th Cuba Solidarity Campaign, Liverpool Friends of Palestine, Philosophy In Pubs (PIPs) group, Socialist Labour Party. To book table space contact Janet as soon as possible through Merseyside CND. We get a good local audience which will hopefully be far bigger than last year, with a lovely relaxed atmosphere. What better way of getting your campaign information out to the public and people of Liverpool than at our event?

Food and refreshments are provided by the vegan Next To Nowhere cafe.

All in all a great afternoon, Kai Andersen, Event Wrangler @MCND

NB - Enclosed with your newsletter there should be a leaflet - please try to display it wherever you can - churches, shops, schools or hand it to family friends or neighbours. Thanks!

CND Annual Conference

Saturday's programme
AGM and policy conference

Including elections for officers and council members. This will be followed by the strategy debate and resolutions.

Sundays programme

'Working with Workshops'
Expert speakers will be discussing how to work with a range of sectors to campaign against Trident in the run up to 2016, including parliamentarians, trade unionists, development organisations, faith communities, young people and students.

Although run by national CND we at Merseyside CND are helping to make things run smoothly.

Volunteers are needed on the days to show delegates round and **free overnight**

accommodation will be needed by some delegates mostly over Saturday night but some will need to come on Friday and a few will want to stay over Sunday night as well - maybe to enjoy the tourist attractions of Liverpool and wider Merseyside.

If you can help us please let Janet know asap - including details of how many you can put up and

whether single or double beds. Although delegates will have meals during the day a breakfast provided if you are a host would be very welcome. We already have about 12 volunteer hosts but are looking for another 12 or so. Living near bus or train service into Liverpool would be an asset. Contact: janmike@care4free.net 0151 677 1133 or mcnd@care4free.net 0151 702 6974

To register as a delegate contact Hannah Altendorff: officemanager@cnduk.org 162 Holloway Rd. London

Merseyside Fabian Society Public Meeting

Thursday 27th June 7-9pm
Jack Jones House,
1 Islington L3

'Upholding the UK's national security in times of austerity'
Speakers: Jim Murphy, Labour Shadow Defence Secretary and Peter Wilson, Co-chair, Merseyside CND

When the defence budget cannot be increased, there is lots of scope to discuss security through cooperation, the waste of money that is Trident, the importance of linking disarmament and development and questioning what is defence and a critique of neo-con interventions. Further info. contact: Mike Homfray: merseymikeuk@gmail.com

Lessons of investment in post-war Britain

A meeting took place in Prestwich between councillors and the local community to discuss the cuts being imposed by the Government's austerity programme.

No alternatives to the cuts were put forward by the councillors, just an acceptance of the Government's policy. I have it in writing from the Treasury that - working on figures of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - the National Debt in 1945 was two-thirds greater than when this government took office. This letter took me back to the situation after the Second World War when the Labour Party inherited this tremendous debt but invested in the massive building of council houses, giving jobs to hundreds of thousands of construction workers with factories

making all the necessary things that make a house a home.

Then came nationalisation of the railways, coal mines, steel and energy companies, which kept prices stable as it did with the price control of basic foods and Remploy factories providing work for disabled people.

What a wonderful day it was when Aneurin Bevan brought in our National Health Service when we could take the children to the doctors or have him call without worrying about the bill as well as their illness.

Better education was taught in many schools and children had school dinners and free milk. There was no unemployment, these were days of hope and a future for young people.

Now the situation is dire with over two

million unemployed unable to find work being called "skivers" and on receiving benefits "wanting something for nothing" by this government of millionaires who have had their wealth handed to them and never produced anything. During the debate in Parliament on the Austerity Bill only 14 Tory members were present, so who are the skivers?

The time for change is now, but it will only happen when the trade unions co-ordinate the activity together with local organisations and replace this government with one that has learned the lessons of 1945 which shows that there is another way which will take the country out of this misery imposed by this government of millionaires.

Betty Tebbs

Prestwich and Whitefield Guide Feb. 7th 2013

An open letter from Bruce Kent to His Holiness Pope Francis 1

Dear Pope Francis,
Whether this letter will ever reach you I have no idea, but it is worth trying to contact you. As an ordinary Catholic I wish you well in the great task to which you have been called. You are in the prayers of millions who need your leadership in this, our poverty and war-torn world.

I am a Vice-President of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and of Pax Christi UK which has done its best over many years to promote Papal teaching on peace. Over 50 years ago I was inspired to start on this work when I heard another member of the Society of Jesus, Archbishop Thomas Roberts SJ, make it clear that nuclear weapons involve immoral actions: the destruction of thousands of innocent people and a willingness to perform such acts in given circumstances.

For years we have heard, ever since the signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968, that the political goal is the elimination of all nuclear weapons everywhere. But the actions of the major nuclear weapon states point in a very different direction. The UN representative to the Holy See said in 1997 that 'Nuclear weapons are incompatible with the peace we seek for the 21st century... They deserve

condemnation. The preservation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty demands an unequivocal commitment to their abolition.' Today there is no such commitment. In various ways major nuclear weapon states are 'improving' their nuclear arsenals. While from politicians there are vague expressions of hope for a nuclear-free world, in practice all of the major nuclear weapons states - except perhaps China - are refusing to negotiate nuclear weapon abolition. This is to ignore the call from the International Court of Justice in 1996 to negotiate abolition 'in good faith'.

In Britain the Government is planning to spend £100,000,000,000 on building and maintaining another generation of nuclear weapons to replace our current Trident system. This will ensure that we British are nuclear weapon armed for at least another 50 years. This massive sum of money is, to use the phrase of President Eisenhower in 1953, 'a theft from those who hunger and are not fed'. It also makes nonsense of any British commitment to rid ourselves and the world of nuclear weapons. Meanwhile our Government tells non-nuclear countries that they cannot have the 'security' which we claim for ourselves.

So far in Britain the Methodist, Baptist,

United Reformed Churches and the Society of Friends have made clear their opposition to this planned new generation of nuclear weapons. So have the Catholic Bishops of Scotland. The Church of England and the Catholic Church in England and Wales have not yet given a collective view on this replacement of Trident. Our Catholic Bishops in 2006 did urge the Government to decommission British nuclear weapons. That call was not heeded.

It would help the worldwide Church if you were to give us your own views. There is a consistent Catholic opposition to nuclear weapons of mass destruction that goes back to Pope John's *Pacem in Terris* but which now needs restating. Holy Father, please speak to the world about the elimination of war and all weapons of mass destruction. The human race can and should live in peace, free from the threat of weapons of mass destruction which, as a result of accident and misunderstanding, have several times brought us close to disaster in the recent past.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Bruce Kent

sent on May 7th 2013

Reprinted from 'Mouth Peace' Liverpool and Shrewsbury Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission newsletter Issue 82 Summer 2013

Picasso's Anti-War Art and Peace Campaigning

Part V

"Curiously enough, Picasso the artist and Picasso the fighter for peace are one and the same person."

In November 1950 Picasso came to England to attend the second World Peace Congress in Sheffield. Travelling overnight on the cross-channel ferry, he was held for twelve hours by the immigration authorities at Dover before he was allowed into the country. On Saturday 11 November Roland Penrose met him off the train at Victoria Station. Penrose was surprised to see that Picasso in his grey suit and black beret was all alone.

1,728 delegates were expected to attend the congress which was due to take place at the City Hall in Sheffield for the week starting on Monday 13th, but, because of heightened tensions over the Korean War, which had started in June, hundreds were refused entry to the UK as Communists or suspected fellow travellers. These included the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, the American singer Paul Robeson, the Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovic, the Italian painter Renato Guttuso and the French Nobel Prize-winning nuclear physicist Dr Frédéric Joliot-Curie, who was also president of the congress. So, artists and intellectuals from all over the world were coming to Sheffield. Picasso was going with a group of delegates from Paris. Of these he was the only one to be allowed in.

It is recorded in the file that the FBI kept on Picasso that the immigration officials told him that in his capacity as artist he was very welcome in England [but not as a fighter for peace]. Picasso, the dangerous revolutionary, declined the invitation saying, "Curiously enough, Picasso the artist and Picasso the fighter for peace are one and the same person." (See Utley, 2000, p114.)

Picasso was very distressed after his ordeal and angry that he had been allowed into England while his comrades

had been barred. After spending Sunday with Penrose and his wife the photographer Lee Miller at their home in the Sussex countryside Picasso returned to London and took the train to Sheffield. In protest at his treatment and that of his comrades by the immigration authorities he refused to attend the opening of an exhibition of his recent work later in the week at the New Burlington Galleries in London which had been organised by the Arts Council, which he saw as an arm of a repressive government.

Despite the numbers that had been barred from the country, the City Hall in Sheffield was filled to overflowing. Picasso gave a short speech in French, which received a standing ovation. He spoke of how as a child he had learned from his father to draw doves, and said, "How it would please him if he were alive today and could see how my modest doves have circled the world. I have contributed to the utmost of my ability - and with the same ardour that I have given to my art - to fight for the greatest and most just of all causes. I stand for life against death. I stand for peace against war!"

Later in the evening Picasso, unable to understand the speeches in English, spent time making a pencil sketch of the type of doves he and his father used to make. It was auctioned at the meeting to raise funds, in the end going to an American businessman for 20 guineas.

Because so many delegates had been denied visas, the World Peace Committee had taken the decision over the weekend to postpone the congress to Warsaw a week later. So the Sheffield Congress which should have lasted a week only took place over one evening.

In the weeks preceding the Congress there had been questions in Parliament and reportage and discussions in newspapers about Peace, Communism and Freedom of Speech. On Friday 3

November the Daily Mirror published the full text of a speech Prime Minister Clement Attlee had given to the Foreign Press Association about the planned Peace Congress in Sheffield, under the heading 'Attlee's Exposure in Full: The Great Red Peace Lie' "... We have no power to prevent such a congress being held. Ours is a free society ... all people enjoy the right of free assembly and free speech. However ... we are not willing to throw wide our doors to those who seek to come here to subvert our institutions, to seduce our fellow citizens. ... "

On the train back to London Picasso told an Evening Standard reporter, "I think that the action of Attlee in banning the World Peace Congress in Sheffield has done a great deal for world peace. It has given a tremendous amount of publicity when we might otherwise have had little."

Picasso did not go to Warsaw but instead returned to Paris where in January he started work on 'Massacre in Korea' which he exhibited at the Salon de Mai - a massacre of the innocents in war, which was denounced by the Right as being Communist propaganda and by the Left for not being Communist propaganda. (See Part IV.)

He had been a member of the Party since October 1944 and from 1949 onwards created peace doves* for them, but he always painted the world as he saw it, never as others wanted him to see it. (Including his representation of doves.)

*Picasso's doves will be discussed in Part VI.

Roger Stephenson

We remember Pat Allen CND UK volunteer who died last week. His last communication with us said how much he enjoyed Roger's articles on Picasso's peace work.

President Kennedy's greatest speech for peace

50 years ago Nuclear annihilation was averted by some amazing diplomacy from Nikita Khrushchev and John F. Kennedy in 1963.

In the 1960's after Khrushchev had come to power following Stalin, there had been hopes of some kind of nuclear arms test ban - but attempts at negotiations were constantly thwarted by CIA bungling. First there was the Spy plane shot down over Russia and then the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The CIA bungled at attempt by Cuban exiles to invade Cuba then a Soviet ally. Kennedy stupidly lied about the US involvement in this. "To say that matters quickly spiralled out of control is an understatement. Kennedy increased defence spending; completed the placement of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Turkey, practically on Russia's doorstep; and generally stepped up cold war rhetoric. Khrushchev, too, dramatically raised the stakes, declaring that the Soviet union would soon take unilateral action in divided Berlin to deny western access to the Western portion of the city. And then came the coup-de-grace, Khrushchev's impetuous decision to place intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Cuba to give the US a taste of its own medicine, a tit for tat response to the Bay of Pigs and the missiles in Turkey.

JFK's greatness began in the famous 13 days of the Cuban missile crisis. While demanding the removal of the Soviet missiles, he bought time through a naval quarantine of Soviet ships to Cuba, and kept open communication channels with Khrushchev. He repeatedly imagined himself in Khrushchev's position, in order to assess his motivations and to induce him to withdraw the missiles without humiliating the Soviet Union. One crucial part of that strategy was Kennedy's secret commitment to Khrushchev, that the US would remove its Jupiter missiles from Turkey. As Kennedy would say eight months later in the 'Peace' speech: "And above all, while defending our own vital

interests, nuclear powers must avert those confrontations which bring an adversary to a choice of either a humiliating retreat or a nuclear war. To adopt that kind of course in the nuclear age would be evidence only of the bankruptcy of our policy - or of a collective death wish for the world."... Kennedy's decision, an act of statesmanship and wisdom, played a powerful role. Khrushchev appreciated Kennedy's gesture. It established a bond of mutual trust and common understanding that would serve them well in the test ban negotiations....

... The crisis was therefore a catharsis for the leaders of the two superpowers, a break of the fever of self feeding escalation of arms and conflict of the preceding two years.. Most importantly, for JFK it was a wake-up call. If the world was to be saved, if nuclear was to be avoided, the president would have to lead. War and peace could not be left to the generals, the CIA, or a confused and fearful public. Obama told the Israeli young people to "create the change you want to see". JFK instead decided that as president he must lead that change....

... The notion of a test-ban treaty might seem rather obvious today, yet at the time it was as likely as a substantive US-Iran or Palestine-Israel treaty would be today. Making peace with the Soviet Union was hardly high on the political to-do list in the spring of 1963, and very few were even arguing it should be tried... The US public was deeply sceptical that any peace could be possible. Hard-liners on both sides believed that any treaty would be tantamount to unilateral surrender, as it would be followed by secret aggression - even a nuclear first-strike by the other side. Kennedy was determined to pull back from the brink. There could be no better start for his peace campaign than the American University on commencement day.....Instead of using the speech to list a set of demands on the Soviet Union, as earlier presidents had done, JFK called on Americans to

"re-examine our own attitudes, for ours are as important as theirs". Kennedy's basic point was simple, powerful, direct and shocking; both sides of the cold war are human, and both sides want peace. Kennedy didn't speak of Russian perfidy. Instead he spoke of Russian valour. "No government or social system is so evil that its people must be considered as lacking in virtue. As Americans, we find communism profoundly repugnant as a negation of personal freedom and dignity. But we can still hail the Russian people for their many achievements in science and space, in economic and industrial growth, in culture, in acts of courage."The humanisation of the foe, the emphasis that both sides are rational and desirous of peace, not only formed the bulwark of JFK's core vision, but also the greatest lyricism of the speech, in soaring phrases with the capacity to inspire across the generations:

"So let us not be blind to our differences, but let us also direct attention to our common interests and the means by which those difference can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For in the final analysis, out most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's futures. And we are all mortal."

Towards the end of the speech Kennedy made the important announcement that he, Prime Minister Macmillan, and Chairman Khrushchev would resume talks on a test-ban treaty."

Extracts from an essay by Jeffrey Sachs in the *Saturday Guardian* 1.6.13

"To Move the World: JFK's Quest for Peace" by Jeffrey Sachs is published by Bodley Head.

Birkenhead CND

Next meetings : **Thur 18th June & July 9th 9.00pm** at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd.
Stall – **13th July – Volunteers needed**
Contact: Shirley 0151 652 3768

Wallasey CND

Planning Meeting: Mon July 15th 2pm at Hope's, 46 Mockbeggar Drive, Wallasey Tel: 638 4666
Tea in the Park: Sun. July 21st, Aug. 18th & Sept. 15th 2 - 4.30pm – Help serving and making cakes very welcome

Strawberry Tea – very tasty fundraiser – Saturday July 27th 2pm at 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey Tickets £3 adults, £2 children includes home-made scone, jam, cream, fresh strawberries, tea/coffee/squash to raise funds for UN Peace Day Project – last year we gave nearly £500 to 2 children's vaccination schemes. To book phone Janet 0151 677 1133
Directions: 10 mins. from Grove Rd. station, 2mins. from 409 bus stop, top of Sandy Lane

UN Peace Day: Sat. Sept. 21st Earlston Library 10-5pm Peace Market, stalls, children's activities
Exhibition at Earlston Library Sept. 16th – 21st

Bil'in Photo Exhibition

The children's photo exhibition is on continual display in a variety of venues - at present in St. John's Church Tuebrook (corner of West Derby Road and Green Lane). Its last venue was St. Mary's Church in Alsager where it was visited by 3 classes from a local school. These sessions were carefully prepared by the local peace group and were extremely positively received by both children and staff. Clearly the photos can be used as an excellent educational aid and we look for similar imaginative uses in some of the coming venues, which include Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre, Hope University and Conwy Peace Group. We anticipate that the exhibition will move to all kinds of venues, including to other parts of the country and will run for a very long time.

If you know of a likely venue of any kind please tell us about it and we will investigate. It needs to be a public space and also safe and secure, and the minimum hanging time is 2 weeks. Please contact Colin on colinmckean@silkserv.com Gwen Backwell

If you'd like to read comments by some of the teachers involved about the value of the exhibition and how the children responded email mcnd@care4free.net and we will forward Gwen's email.

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: March draw: Wallasey CND; April draw: Neville Grundy. Thanks to all members of the 50 Club for your continuing financial support. For £5 per month you could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 annual draw. For further information or a membership form contact Janet – 0151 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

Merseyside CND

Co-ord meeting: 2pm
Wed. July 10th or 17th
54 Mount Pleasant
to be confirmed!!
All members welcome

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

This edition of the newsletter run up by Cathy Page and Janet Laycock. Duplicated at Merseyside Play Action Council, Bridport St. L3