Merseyside CND Newsletter

Jan/Feb/Mar 2014

151 Dale St. Liverpool L2 2AH 0151 229 5282 mcnd@care4free.net www.mcnd.org.uk

Merseyside CND AGM

Wednesday Jan 15th 6.30-8.30pm 151, Dale St, Conference room 1

This will be the usual reports and election of officers, **BUT** there will also be **amendments** to the **constitution** to be voted on. If you intend to come to the meeting please let the office know so that they can send you the relevant papers the week before, preferably by email, if you have it. If you want to discuss the changes to the constitution in advance please contact Peter Wilson 0151-924 2981 wpwilson48@hotmail.com or Kai Andersen 0151 229 5282 mcnd@care4free.net.

In order to vote at the AGM you must be a paid up member of Merseyside CND or an affiliated local CND group.

If there is time after the AGM we will discuss 2014—what we are hoping to achieve etc.

Nerve Anti-war calendar

The aim of this calendar is to counter the glorification and justification of war by the government and media in the coming year. It has Pictures of anti war protesters, artwork, and lots of reminders of dates. A fuller description is on p3 So if you haven't got your copy it is free from CND office, but donations of $\pounds 1-2$ are welcome. If you want us to send it to you please send s.a.e. with large stamp for $\pounds 1.0$

Housman Diaries

The Housman Peace Diary is not just a diary but also a mine of information on Peace issues. We still have a few left in the MCND office at $\pounds 8$

Joseph Rotblat

Bruce Kent is suggesting to Liverpool University that there should be a commemorative plaque for Nobel Prize winner Joseph Rotblat—for more info see p 5 and also for info about Pugwash conferences.

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Turn up the heat: send the UK to Mexico

The UK hasn't RSVP'd to an invitation from Mexico to attend a crucial conference in 2014 on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons – a follow-up to this year's landmark meeting of 127 states in Oslo.

We know that pressure works.

Last time round we saw a leaked email from the government panicking about the flak they were getting from all of you over their non-attendance in Oslo.

Let's turn up the heat. Get your MP to pressure the Foreign Office to attend the Mexico conference Email them now to add their name to: EDM 854: HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS



In the name of Peace not War

"Somebody should visit John's grave". A vivid childhood memory is hearing my granny urge that a family member pay respects at her brother's grave in France. It was 1969 and John had been dead for 51 years, but she often reminisced about his death on 15 October 1918. He had been serving Mass in the trenches as poison gas yes, he was a victim of chemical warfare - wafted onto the congregation, closely followed by German soldiers with bayonets. Well, granny didn't live to see myself and other family members visit his war grave in Northern France in 1986. I don't recall her perceiving John's death as anything other than a personal and family tragedy. He wasn't a dead hero. He was simply dead.

Well, in the UK more than £50m has been allocated by David Cameron's government for a commemoration of the centenary of the start of World War I in 2014. **But**, alongside, is another campaign which calls for an approach to the anniversary to ensure that it is used to promote peace and international co- operation. The text of a campaign letter says: Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. Far from being a "war to end all wars" or a "victory for democracy", this was a military disaster and a human catastrophe.

We believe it is important to remember that this was a war that was driven by big powers' competition for influence around the globe, and caused a degree of suffering all too clear in the statistical record of 16 million people dead and 20 million wounded....."

This campaign, bringing together Stop the War and other anti-war groups and individuals, will involve a series of events and actions next year. Go to www.ww1.stopwar.org.uk to add your name to the letter and check the site for regular updates.

And a number of peace groups have produced a document 'Opposing World War 1: Courage and Conscience', extracts of which appear in our centrespread. It celebrates those who opposed the war and highlights relevant initiatives going on next year. From Vocation for Justice Autumn 2013

Merseyside CND will be joining with other groups such as Liverpool Quakers, Catalyst Media, News from Nowhere, Pax Christi, to plan a variety of events marking significant dates during 2014. We have set up a sub-group for this if you would like to join this please contact Peter Wilson 0151-924 2981 wpwilson48@hotmail.com or Kai Andersen 0151 229 5282 mcnd@care4free.net.

One of the things already organised is the showing of the film 'Oh What a lovely War' on Friday 24th January at 7pm at the Parade, Hoylake. Tickets £5 including light refreshments from Janet Laycock or Barbara Hardcastle—contact details see p6.

Petition: Stop recruitment of 16 year olds into the UK armed forces

We call on the UK Government to stop its policy of allowing 15 year olds to apply and 16 and 17 year olds to be recruited into the Armed Forces. The recruitment and targeting of young people and vulnerable groups has been criticised by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. 2014 is the year to end this policy. Why is this important? What better way to commit our country to peace during the commemoration of World War One and remember the hundreds of thousands who died from the UK alone, including boy soldiers like Rifleman V J Strudwick who was killed at 15? Why is it that in 2014 the UK is the only country in Europe - and the only country among the permanent members of the UN Security Council - to recruit 16 year olds into its armed forces?

Link ForcesWatch.net Sign the petition

War resisters International Set up in 1921 it:

- supports those who oppose war and who challenge its causes.
- Supports Conscientious Objectors (Cos), especially those facing repression, including attending trials, visiting Cos in prison, lobbying governments to hear their demands.

Counters the militarisation of youth by identifying and challenging ways that young people are encouraged to accept wars and militarism as normal.

Www.wri-irg.org

Trident Updates

Ministry of Defence is to spend another £37 million in a US programme to extend the life of the missiles which fire the Nuclear warheads from Trident submarines to beyond 2016 - when the decision about renewing Trident subs is to be made.

EDM 150 Time to Cut Trident

MPs have tabled Early Day Motion 150 Trident Replacement which calls on the Government to cancel plans to replace the Trident nuclear weapon submarines, arguing the case on both security and spending grounds.

Email your MP and make sure they add their name in support. If you go on the

CND website you can link up to them direct www.cnduk.org .

Rebecca Johnson

CND vice President and Co-Chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN) will be travelling the country this winter to inspire NTI-Trident action. In Merseyside we are hoping to set up a seminar and debate at the various universities in the area.

She is convinced that anti-nuclear campaigners have won the argument against replacing Trident. What we have to do next is "create unstoppable political momentum and make it impossible for MPs to support nuclear modernisation and proliferation".

" Although several billion pounds have

already been spent on upgrading facilities in Aldermaston, Burghfield and Rolls Royce in Derby, we must convince people and politicians to stop more money being flushed down the nuclear toilet. Concerted action now will change history. We have to break through the defeatism and political cynicism and intensify disarmament pressure on all fronts."

Tactics against Trident—

training and strategizing day January 18th 11-4 at Wharf Chambers, 23-25 Wharf St, Leeds LS2 7EQ Lunch provided. Please let Yorkshire CND know if you are attending for catering purposes. info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk 01274730795

Nerve 2014 Anti-War Calendar

'What passing bells for these who die as cattle? Only the monstrous anger of the guns.'

Wilfred Owen, Anthem for Doomed Youth, 1917

Welcome to Nerve 2014

Our aim is to counter the glorification and justification of war that will be pushed by government and the media in 2014 to mark 100 years since the slaughter of 1914-18.

War isn't just about the battles that kill people. It's about a profiteering arms industry, including a hugely expensive and dangerous nuclear regime. It's about atrocities committed in the name of 'freedom'. It's about suppressing liberties with a state of emergency, banning strikes and imposing censorship.

There has been no 'war to end all wars': World War became Cold War became the War on Terror that continues today. It is (as Clausewitz said) the continuation of politics by other means.

In these pages we are proud to document the efforts of people on Merseyside to stand up against the war machine. Some refused to fight and went to jail. Others would not stand for nuclear weapons on their doorsteps. Yet others campaigned for a better deal for those fleeing war and claiming asylum. There are many other heroes and heroines besides the ones we mention.

Thanks to everyone who submitted photographs and art. We received some stunning anti-war images, and what you see on the following pages is only a tiny part of this. Our criteria for selection include relevance to Merseyside, the effect produced on the printed page, and variety of image; it in no way reflects an order of merit.

www.catalystmedia.org.uk

Catalyst Media

Catalyst Media (producers of Nerve, our 32 page arts, cultural and social issues magazine) utilises and develops underused talent and resources in the creative communities on Merseyside. We develop the skills of new writers, journalists, photographers and artists, helping them to promote their work through our magazine and website.

Catalyst Media was set up in January 2003, and trains writers and journalists, publishing a selection of their work in Nerve, thus providing valuable skills, training and confidence.

From dance to theatre, painting and music to the digital arts and critical discussion, our editorial scope is fully inclusive, and the exposure gained by those artists featured helps to build their audience. Catalyst Media is fully committed to promoting the many wonderful talents in the arts and journalism that Liverpool possesses in abundance, and firmly believes that our featured artists and writers have much to gain from the existence of the magazine and website.

We want to work with as many grassroots artists as we can, so that their work may be highlighted and widely appreciated. We distribute Nerve in libraries, community centres, colleges, supermarkets, cafes and bars.

We want to hear from Merseyside artists, as we appreciate how difficult it is for non-established artists to gain publicity. Email us about your work at nervemagazine@gmail.com or phone us on 0151-709 9948 during office hours. We can't always guarantee that we can fit you in the magazine, as there are a lot of articles competing to go in every issue, but we can always fit you in on the website!

Catalyst Media aspire to the highest standards of professionalism in our output to maintain readability, prestige and social responsibility.

As part of our core remit, we only accept advertising from ethically committed, community orientated businesses and public institutions or bodies. Our aim is to build firm and lasting relationships with our clients and partners who wish to promote their activities and services through us and to serve them to the best of our abilities. We want to ensure a vibrant partnership is established between those featured in Nerve, their communities and Catalyst Media. For a discussion about advertising with us, contact us at 0151-709 9948.

Fukushima woes

Fukushima's woes just keep mounting and mounting.

On 10 August 2013, the New Scientist reported that radioactive water was still seeping into the ocean from the crippled nuclear reactors at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

On 20 August 2013, The New York Times and many newspapers and media outlets around the world, reported another leak. This one involved 300 tons of highly radioactive water from storage tanks which had been built on the site of the ravaged Fukushima power plant. The radioactive release is so serious that the NRA declared that a "radiological release incident" had occurred. The company had not discovered the location of the leak. It is suspected that it had happened at a seam on the plant or at a valve connected to a gutter. A spokesman for the Tepco management said that workers had attempted to place sandbags around the tank in order to stem the flow of this highly radioactive water. However, it conceded that the contaminated water could enter the ocean, adding to the tons of radioactive water already leaked into the ocean since the accident in March 2011.

Merseyside CND are planning to mark the anniversary, March 11th, in some way to be decided early next year.

Meanwhile Japan Against Nuclear (JAN) are organising a demonstration in London on Saturday March 15th which we hope to support by running transport—to be decided by Co-ord in the new year. Please contact Merseyside CND if you are interested in joining this campaign.

Close Capenhurst

Close Capenhurst Campaign had a successful launch meeting in November showing a power point presentation of the plant followed by a discussion on how to find out more about developments there and how best for the group to move forward. We need to draw in more members. So far Wirral and Liverpool Green Parties have shown an interest. One idea is to hold a public meeting in south Wirral, another to have a demonstration at Capenhurst but we need to do some ground work first so please let Andy know via the office if you'd like to get involved.

Remember: we are all downwind of a nuclear power station

Nuclear Free L.A. tribute to Nelson Mandela

The NFLA's respect for Nelson Mandela derives partly from the positive role he played in the international campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons. NFLA note that, following Mandela's release from prison, South Africa took three major steps to nuclear disarmament (1):

It scrapped its nuclear (1) weapons programme, involving the dismantling of six complete and one partially assembled) nuclear device in February 1990, following which South Africa acceded to the United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and signed a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1991. (2) It scrapped its ballistic missile programme, which led to its admission to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 1995. It dismantled its biological (3) and chemical warfare programme.

As such, NFLA acknowledges the unique position South Africa occupies in the world as being the first country to have voluntarily dismantled its nuclear weapons capability. It calls on all nuclear weapon states to consider similar actions under the auspices of a Nuclear Weapons Convention. The South African decision to scrap its nuclear weapons programme has boosted its moral authority on the issue of non-proliferation and it remains an active part of the international community seeking to build a nuclear weapons free world.

On the 21st September 1998, President Mandela gave an impassioned speech to the United Nations General Assembly calling on the Nuclear Weapon States to make a firm commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons and on the global community to eradicate poverty. He said: "The very first resolution of the General Assembly, adopted in January 1946, sought to address the challenge of 'the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction'.

We must face the fact that after countless initiatives and resolutions, we still do not have concrete and generally accepted proposals supported by a clear commitment by the Nuclear Weapons States to the speedy, final and total elimination of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons capabilities.

We take this opportunity to salute our sister Republic of Brazil for its decision to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and urge all others that have not done so to follow this excellent example.

In an honest attempt to contribute to the definition of the systematic and progressive steps required to eliminate these weapons and the threat of annihilation which they pose, South Africa together with Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia and Sweden will be submitting a draft resolution to the First Committee for consideration by this Assembly.

This is appropriately titled: 'Towards a Nuclear Weapon Free World: The Need for a New Agenda'.

I call on all members of the United Nations seriously to consider this important resolution and to give it their support. We must ask the question, which might sound naive to those who have elaborated sophisticated arguments to justify their refusal to eliminate these terrible and terrifying weapons of mass destruction - why do they need them anyway!

In reality, no rational answer can be advanced to explain in a satisfactory manner what, in the end, is the consequence of Cold War inertia and an attachment to the use of the threat of brute force, to assert the primacy of some States over others." (2)

As the world remembers the legacy of Nelson Mandela, the NFLA publicises this speech at a time of slow progress in moves to reduce current stockpiles of nuclear weapons. We hope Mr Mandela may rest in peace.

NFLA Chair Councillor Mark Hackett said:

"The anti-apartheid and the antinuclear weapons movements were greatly enhanced by the pivotal role played by Nelson Mandela. Both movements arose out of a feeling of injustice that powerful States were ignoring the will of the great majority of the people of this world. Mandela was instrumental in leading South Africa to a democratic future and removing its capacity to be a nuclear weapon state. NFLA will work with Mayors for Peace, other groups and national governments to fulfil Mandela's wish for a world free from nuclear weapons.

NFLA Media release

Red Cross and Red Crescent

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement at a meeting of their Council of Delegates has adopted a resolution reaffirming another of 2011,

'appealing to all States to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used....(and calling) on all governments to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination, negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding international agreement'. The delegates from the UK did not vote in favour of this resolution. How about writing to the Red Cross to ask them to review their decision.

Bus Adverts

Buses will be trundling around Liverpool carrying CND Advertisements from February 17th to March 16th 2014.

Please look out for them and twitter them around friends not forgetting to twitter to CND as well.

Twitter: @CNDuk Facebook: /cnduk

Twitter - twitter.com/CND_Merseyside

Or just phone them up especially if you've managed to get a picture of one you could send. 0207 700 2393

Joseph Rotblat and the Liverpool Connection

Joseph Rotblat was born, brought up in Poland. He studied nuclear physics and in 1939 was invited to study in Paris with Marie Curie and at Liverpool University with James Chadwick. They were both involved with the Manhattan Project in the USA. He left the Project in 1944 when it became clear that Germany had abandoned the idea of a nuclear bomb. He was the only physicist to leave the Manhattan Project on the grounds of conscience, though others later refused to work on atomic bombs after the defeat of Japan.

Nuclear fallout

Rotblat returned to Britain to become senior lecturer and acting director of research in nuclear physics at the University of Liverpool. He decided not to return to communist Poland and naturalised as a British subject, and was joined by his mother, sister, and one of his brothers. He felt betrayed by the use of atomic weapons against Japan, and campaigned for a threeyear moratorium on all atomic research.

Rotblat was determined that his research should have only peaceful ends, and so became interested in the medical and biological uses of radiation. In 1949, he became Professor of Physics at St Bartholomew's Hospital ("Barts"), London, shortly before receiving his PhD from Liverpool in 1950.

At St Bartholomew's, Rotblat worked on the effects of radiation on living organisms, especially on aging and fertility. This led him to an interest in nuclear fallout, especially strontium-90 and the safe limits of ionising radiation. In 1955, he demonstrated that the contamination caused by the fallout after the Castle Bravo test at Bikini Atoll nuclear test by the United States would have been far greater than that stated officially.

Peace work

Rotblat believed that scientists should always be concerned with the ethical consequences of their work. He became one of the most prominent critics of the nuclear arms race, was the youngest signatory of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto in 1955, and chaired the press conference that launched it. After the positive coverage of the manifesto, Cyrus Eaton offered to fund the influential Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. With Bertrand Russell and others, Rotblat organised the first of these in 1957 and continued to work within their framework until his death. Despite the Iron Curtain and the Cold War, he advocated establishing links between scientists

from the West and East. For this reason, the Pugwash conferences were viewed with suspicion. Initially the British government thought them little more than "Communist front gatherings".

By the early 1960s the Ministry of Defence thought that the Pugwash Conferences were "now a very respectable organization", and the Foreign Office stated that it had "official blessing" and that any breakthrough may well originate at such gatherings. In parallel with the Pugwash Conferences, Rotblat also joined with Einstein, Oppenheimer, Russell and other concerned scientists to found the World Academy of Art and Science, which was proposed by them in the mid-1950s and formally constituted in 1960. After the breakthrough of the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Rotblat was in 1965 made a CBE.

Wikipedia

In 1995 He jointly with the Pugwash organisation won the Nobel Prize for Peace.

In 1997 he was invited to be the guest speaker at the convocation of Liverpool University.

About Pugwash

The purpose of the Pugwash Conferences is to bring together, from around the world, influential scholars and public figures concerned with reducing the danger of armed conflict and seeking cooperative solutions for global problems. Meeting in private as individuals, rather than as representatives of governments or institutions, Pugwash participants exchange views and explore alternative approaches to arms control and tension reduction with a combination of candour, continuity, and flexibility seldom attained in official East-West and North-South discussions and negotiations. Yet, because of the stature of many of the Pugwash participants in their own countries (as, for example, science and arms-control advisers to governments, key figures in academies of science and universities, and former and future holders of high government office), insights from Pugwash discussions tend to penetrate quickly to the appropriate levels of official policy-making.

The Pugwash Conferences take their name from the location of the first meeting, which was held in 1957 in the village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada, birthplace of the American philanthropist Cyrus Eaton, who hosted the meeting. The stimulus for that gathering was a Manifesto issued in 1955 by Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein -- and signed also by Max Born, Percy Bridgman, Leopold Infeld, Frederic Joliot-Čurie, Herman Muller, Linus Pauling, Cecil Powell, Joseph Rotblat, and Hideki Yukawa -- which called upon scientists of all political persuasions to assemble to discuss the threat posed to civilization by the advent of thermonuclear weapons. The 1957 meeting was attended by 22 eminent scientists (seven from the United States, three each from the Soviet Union and Japan, two each from the United Kingdom and Canada, and one each from Australia, Austria, China, France, and Poland).

From that beginning evolved both a continuing series of meetings at locations all over the world -- with a growing number and diversity of participants -- and a rather decentralized organizational structure to coordinate and finance this activity. By late 2002, there have been over 275 Pugwash Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops, with a total attendance of over 10,000 (there are now in the world over 3500 "Pugwashites", namely individuals who have attended a Pugwash meeting and are hence considered associated with Pugwash and receive our newsletter).

The Conferences, which are held annually, are attended by 150 to 250 people; the more frequent topical Workshops and Symposia typically involve 30 to 50 participants. A basic rule is that participation is always by individuals in their private capacity (not as representatives of governments or organizations).

, Wikipedia

If War is the answer it must be a very stupid question

Movement for the Abolition of War—http://www.abolishwar.org.uk

The Green Party Spring Conference 2014

28 February to 3 March in St George's Hall, Liverpool. We may run a stall-though all Green Party delegates and activists support us on nuclear issues so there wouldn't be much need for arguing. If you'd like to be on the rota please let us know in the office and we'll let you know times etc. if we are to be there.

Wallasey CND AGM 2pm Saturday January 11th followed by social 3.30pm at Barbara and Dave's, 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey Planning meeting detect to be devided in 1000 Planning meeting dates to be decided at AGM Film Show: 'Oh What a Lovely War!' Friday Jan. 24th 7pm at The Parade, Hoylake, junction of Hoyle Rd and North Parade. Tickets £5 including refreshments available from Wallasey CND members

Contacts: Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

Birkenhead CND

New Year Party January 9th at Shirley's 8.00pm Next meetings Tues 11th February 8.00pm at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd. Contact: Shirley 652-3768

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: Oct. Liz Heydon; Nov. Gerry Poole Thanks to all members of the 50 Club for your continuing financial support. For £5 per month you too could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 in the annual draw. Ask Janet for a membership form -0151 229 5282 mcnd@care4free.net

NB Some groups and individuals pay 2 memberships per month - hence have twice the chance of winning the draw! It's not a fix-honest!

Chester CND

Meet regularly, hold stalls in city centre Venue for monthly meetings is Friends Meeting House, Frodsham St.

Benefit Gig at Alexanders in Chester on 23rd Feb. Contact— Allison Challen on chestercnd@gmail.com

Liverpool CND

A meeting to launch this new city wide group was held in November and then a card signing session for Prisoners of Conscience followed on Nov. 30th. Activities will include regular stalls in Liverpool City Centre and planning/discussion meetings. The Liverpool CND website is up and running. If you'd like to help this group raise CND's profile in Liverpool please contact Andy Morton via MCND office 229 5282 usually on Thursday or Friday.

Liverpool Pax Christi (International peace movement of the Catholic

Church)

Meet at 7.00pm on the first Tuesday of the month usually at St.Michael's Church, junction of West Derby Road and Horne St. L6 5EH. Occasionally meet at Sacred Heart Church next to the Royal Liverpool Hospital (Father Arthur Fitzgerald'is Parish Priest at both churches). Next meeting 7.00pm Jan 7th 2014

Peace Sunday—Jan 19th Pat Gaffney guest speaker on the WW1 100th anniversary from a peace movement perspective Venue: LACE, Croxteth Dr. L17 Further information contact: Jan Harper 263 5623

Maghull and Lydiate

Temporarily taking a break send good wishes to all members for 2014. Contact: Sylvi: 526 7293

MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM To receive regular newsletters please complete form and return to address below. Name	Merseyside CND AGM 6.30—8.30pm Wednesday January 15th Room 1 151 Dale St 0151 229 5282 All members welcome
I/we wish to *join/ rejoin Merseyside CND.	If you receive a separate
Subscription rates: *waged-£4/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £1.	renewal form with this
I/we *would/ would not also like a new member's pack at a cost of £1.	newsletter it means your subs
I/we understand that Merseyside CND needs funds for its campaigns and donate £	are due – Thank you.
Total Enclosed £ (Please make cheques payable to Merseyside CND)	This edition of the newsletter
Signed	run up by Cathy Page and
(* Delete as appropriate)	Janet Laycock. Duplicated by
Merseyside CND, 151 Dale St, Liverpool L2 2AHD	Barbara Hardcastle