

Merseyside CND Newsletter



July/Aug/Sept. 2014

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First World War: 'Organised Murder'
"Why should the British Government call me up and take me out to a battlefield to shoot a man I never knew, whose language I couldn't speak? All those lives lost for a war finished over a table. Now what is the sense in that?"
Harry Patch, the 'last fighting Tommy' 1898-2009

**Merseyside
Peace Network
2014 - 2018**
brings you

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE
an alternative WW1 Event

Saturday 5th July
Friends Meeting House
School Lane Liverpool
1pm - 5pm
Admission Free
Further info p2

the
Peacemakers
and
**Liverpool
Socialist
Singers**

Remembering the 'Great War'

Sat July 5th 2014 8pm
The Casa, Hope St £5/£3
Or £4/£2 in advance from Merseyside CND
0151-229 5282 mcnd@care4free.net

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Remembering Nagasaki and Hiroshima
Liverpool Sat. August 9th 11am.
A Wreath will be laid in the Peace Garden, St. John's Garden, behind St, George's Hall with music and poetry
Further details nearer the time. If you'd like to take part in shadow painting the night before contact Gina through the Merseyside CND Office.

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

an alternative WW1 Event

Saturday 5th July

Friends Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool

1pm - 5pm

Admission Free

Programme

1pm-1.30pm booking in and refreshments

1.30pm-2.30pm workshops

2.30pm-3pm break - opportunity to chat and visit various stalls & displays; refreshments available

3.00pm-4.00pm workshops

4.15-4.45pm Plenary discussion and plans for future.

Workshops

First World War Artists: Colin Dilnot

Anti-violence project:

Ecumenical Accompaniment in Palestine and Israel

Singing workshop with Liverpool Socialist Singers- new words to old songs.

Film show "Days That Shook The World - Christmas Truce"

Conscientious Objectors then and now: Martyn Lowe

We hope to launch a fund for a stone or plaque in memory of COs to be dedicated in 2016 in Liverpool

All welcome including accompanied children

For more information contact below

WEB: <http://merseysidepeacenet.com>

E.MAIL: contact@merseysidepeacenet.com

PHONE: 0151 229 5282

Merseyside Peace Network

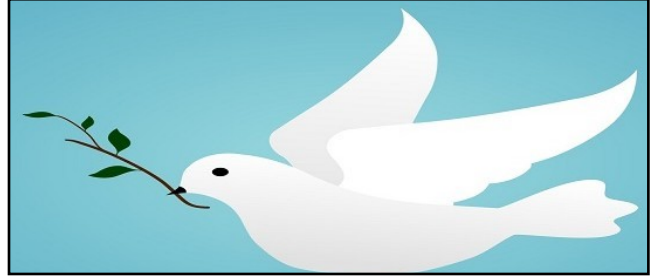
A number of local peace groups have been co-operating over the past few months in activities to counter the notion in the year of the 100th anniversary of WW1 that there is 'Glory in War'.

Quakers and others celebrated Conscientious Objectors as 'Heroes of War' on May 15th at a street stall and on May 16th during 'Light Night' at News from Nowhere.

They also devised a play about one CO, **Ernest Everett**, who was the first WW1 Conscientious Objector to be imprisoned for his beliefs, sentenced to 2 years. The play is set in Walton Prison where Ernest (a school teacher from St. Helens) recalls the details of the Tribunal and reflects a little about life for CO's in Walton HMP. The play re-enacts his tribunal appearances and was performed at a lecture (Constructing Conchies by Lois Bibby) at the Maritime Museum.

Transcripts of tribunals were destroyed by order in the 1940s but this case (the first to result in imprisonment) was reported in the Liverpool Echo and Post so survives. Everett was not a Quaker, he was a non-conformist school teacher from St Helens. He was sentenced to 2 years hard labour which was condemned by many, including Bertrand Russell. Jon Marrow, Education Director of the Maritime Museum said "Thank you for such a wonderful performance! The audience was clearly captivated and it gave a fascinating insight into a local tribunal and what was going on in Walton prison. The lecture and reconstruction complemented each other brilliantly and the audience was the biggest yet in the three years I've been involved in these adult lecture programmes."

The transcript of the tribunal can be downloaded from the home page of the Liverpool Quaker website as a PDF we hope that it might be used by schools to provide insight into the experiences of Conscientious Objectors during WW1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGI8cV8zG00>



Liverpool activists picket a major arms fair

Last week the arms trade rolled into Liverpool for the annual Undersea Defence Technology (UDT) conference, and local activists were there to greet them.

UDT is an arms fair that focuses on naval arms and technology, it brings a number of oppressive regimes together with some of the biggest arms companies in the world. We have requested a list of the countries in attendance, but we know that this year's event included representatives from major arms companies such as BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin and Babcock.

On the first day of the conference members of the newly-established Merseyside Peace Network welcomed the conference participants with a leaflet which was headed: "Merseyside Peace Network Opposes Arms Fair in Liverpool City Centre". The conference delegates were also welcomed with the C.A.A.T. banner which said: "Arms Dealers Here Today. This is not OK".

On the second day of the conference we tried to present the organisers with a wreath to commemorate the lives of those who will lose their life due to the arms trade and events like UDT. Somewhat predictably they didn't want to accept it, so, consequently, we affixed it to the notice next to the International Peace Monument not far from the Conference Centre.

This is the first time such a conference has been held in Liverpool, and we hope it will be the last. Unfortunately UDT is an annual event and happens all across Europe. In 2013 it was in Hamburg and next year it is scheduled to take place in Rotterdam.

Whenever and wherever these events takes place it is important that they are met with opposition. Very few people in Liverpool knew that they were playing host to an arms fair and those that we spoke to were appalled.

The arms trade is an immoral trade that hates being held accountable. It is a trade that thrives on conflict and oppression and it should never be normalised. The arms companies need to be made to answer for the crimes they facilitates. That is why local protests and campaigns like this one are so important, and why it's important that local people oppose the arms trade wherever it is.

Andrew Smith CAAT

Giants Visit July 25-27th

Liverpool Socialist Singers and members of MPN may stage a melodic, noisy anti-war protest in Newsham Park on one of the above days. Email or phone Merseyside CND if you'd like details

A letter from Paris - UNESCO, the Art Miles Project

From my studies of Picasso I knew that in 1958, as a further contribution to the cause of peace, he had painted a large mural for the new UNESCO building in Paris. I wanted to go and see it. The May 2014 edition of the Rough Guide to Paris says the building "houses artworks by Giacometti, Calder, Le Corbusier, Miro and Picasso, as well as the so-called "Nagasaki Angel" - a rare survivor of the atomic atrocities of August 1945". Now I had to go to Paris.

The Rough Guide says you can join a guided tour of the building if you book in advance by email. I thought: no - I'll just turn up. I'm from Merseyside CND - they'll let me in!

Before going to the entrance (on the Avenue de Suffren) I walked round the side of the complex on the Avenue de Saxe. Through the railings I saw an area of grass and trees next to the building - the Square de la tolerance en homage a Yitzhak Rabin. In the lawn stands a large concrete slab. On the side facing the street the following words are written in nine languages:

'Since wars begin in the minds of men it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed'.

Some people were walking across the lawn. I wonder if I will be allowed into that garden, I thought.

I walked round to the entrance of the building and asked the people on security if I could come in to see the works of art and the Nagasaki Angel. "No, I'm afraid you'll have to apply in advance by email"

Oh well, I thought, I will look at the paintings and text fixed to the railings either side of the entrance. There were eleven works from the Art Miles Mural Project.

"To build the defences of peace in the minds of men [and women] this is the purpose of UNESCO created in 1945 to cultivate peace through education, sciences, culture and communication.

A culture of peace is a lasting peace, which is based on a complex and fragile web of daily practices, ... and on the creative maintenance of the most ephemeral links between individuals and communities ... This presumes inter alia respect for human rights and intercultural dialogue...

The Art Miles Project, an international program based in the United States, allows children and youth from around the world to express their vision of a world where peace prevails.

Since its start in 1997 the project has facilitated the creation of more than 4,000 1.5x3.5m murals on canvas with over half a million people in 100 countries taking part."

Of the works on display two particularly caught my eye - the one from Japan and the one from South Korea.

The one from Japan is a beautiful image of a dove in flight seen from above - a white outline against a deep blue background.

"This mural was created in Japan to reflect a quest for peace and harmony and to convey the suffering of both culture and population that results from conflict and war (Peace, Unity and Healing Mile)"

The mural from South Korea **"depicts children planting seeds to grow a Culture of Peace (centre) to prevail over a Culture of War (background)."**

The image is of a young black child (a boy) and a young white child (a girl) planting a white sunflower. A Korean child (a young girl) is pouring water over the flower from her watering can. The children are surrounded by soldiers with rifles who oppress and threaten this new life.

This exhibition ran for a month (6 May - 3 June). Throughout the year there is a programme of exhibitions and concerts in the building that the public can go to on presentation of a piece of identity. To see the permanent collection or the Nagasaki Angel you either have to work in the building or go on a guided tour.

Roger Stephenson

Hiroshima

'August 6 1945 was a still day and already hot when people went to work that morning. Those who survived the blast did not recall any noise, they heard no roar, just saw a blinding flash of white light, which seemed to move from east to west towards the surrounding hills; however, 20 miles away, fishermen heard a tremendous explosion. A huge column of fire and smoke rose in the air, sucking air beneath it, and causing a firestorm. The mushroom-shaped cloud billowed upward eventually reaching a height of 45,000 feet. The crew of the Enola Gay could see it as a distant pillar of smoke and ash, towering in way above them.

"My God, what have we done?" co-pilot Capt. Robert Lewis wrote in the plane's log book.'

Barry Miles, 'Peace, 50 Years of Protest'.
2008, p23
Sent in by Roger Stephenson

Action Against Rail Transport of Nuclear Waste

Crewe Sat. July 19th

Direct Rail Services [DRS] is the train company which transports radioactive "spent" fuel rods removed from nuclear power stations to the Sellafield spent fuel plant in Cumbria.

These waste trains are transported through some of the most highly populated areas in the UK.

They have to be carried within special containers to prevent them heating up. The flasks continually leak low-level radiation.

DRS have two depots. One of them is at Crewe, and the other one is at Carlisle.

On July 19th DRS will be holding an open day at the Crewe depot.

Activists from Merseyside CND and a number of other groups will be leafleting it between 11.00. & 14.00.

On the same day members of Merseyside CND will be leafleting outside Warrington station, which is one of the many towns through which this waste is transported. There will be activists leafleting outside other stations throughout the UK.

More information about this will be available on the MCND website within the next few weeks.

For more information about this issue see the Nuclear Trains Action Group (NTAG) website:

<http://www.nonucleartrains.org.uk/>

Palestine visit

While visiting the Holy Land in May, Pope Francis, witnessed by the world's media, stopped his car to pray at the Israeli Apartheid Wall that now imprisons the men, women and children of Bethlehem, many of them members of his own Catholic flock, as well as other Christian and Muslim people. The Pope's action demonstrated that he has not forgotten or abandoned any of those denied justice or freedom by the illegal Israeli Occupation.

Also in May, and just before the Pope's visit, Teresa Jaggar and I (John Usher) joined a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This was Teresa's first visit. I had been there with my late wife Margaret, back in 1966, but that was before Israel's 1967 invasion and seizure of Palestine's West Bank and Gaza Strip, and I knew that it would be a very different Holy Land now, changed but not for the better.

For me, there were three main objectives of our pilgrimage, which was led by an English Anglican clergyman, and a group of experienced local Palestinian guides. All objectives were achieved.

Firstly, we saw and experienced the very places where Jesus was born, lived, taught and died, the very source of our Faith, and found the experience moving and uplifting.

Among the inspiring places we visited in the area of Jerusalem, were the Mount of Olives and the little Chapel of the Ascension; the Chapel of Dominus Fleuit (the Lord Wept) where Jesus wept on Palm Sunday over the future fate of Jerusalem; the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed the night before his arrest; the Western Wall (the Jewish Wailing Wall); the beautiful Golden Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque, the world's third most holy place for Muslims; the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of Christ's Crucifixion (Calvary), burial and Resurrection. ... In Bethlehem we visited the Church of the Nativity where Jesus was born, ... and at the Sea of Galilee we visited the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus preached his wonderful Sermon on the Mount.

Secondly, we had the opportunity to meet with Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, suffering under the Israeli Occupation, families in their homes, and two families whose homes had been demolished by the Israelis without any compensation, one of them more than once, and rebuilt with the help of volunteers. They still lived under the threat of the Israelis

returning to demolish yet again, making the families homeless yet again. We met a farmer who showed us where illegal Israeli settlers had entered his farm and killed his sheep and goats, and when he tried to protect the animals, the Israelis attacked him as well, and seriously injured him. Two days after we visited the Palestinian 'Tent of Nations' farm, the Israeli Army arrived at 8am and using bulldozers, uprooted and destroyed 1500 fruit trees upon which the livelihood of the Palestinians depended. The Israelis cared nothing for the people or the Holy Land environment. We tried to show those we met, friendship and solidarity, and assure them that good people abroad had not forgotten them. We also met with humanitarian workers and educators, and brave Israelis of conscience, a minority I know, who oppose the wrongdoing of their own government, because they are isolated and vilified, and also need our encouragement and support.

Thirdly, we saw for ourselves the effects of Israeli Occupation in all it's ugliness. A normal life for Palestinians is made impossible by the Occupation, now in it's 47th year, no Palestinian there under the age of 47 has ever known the freedom we take for granted. The Palestinian economy is in ruins because of the Wall, the illegal settlements on stolen land, house demolitions, hundreds of checkpoints at which Palestinians must queue for hours, prevent people from reaching their jobs, farms, children from getting to school, the sick to their doctor or hospital, and most upsetting, many women going into labour on their way to hospital, have not been allowed through the checkpoint, and have given birth at the roadside. Not surprisingly, many of the babies died through the lack of proper care, and some mothers died as well. Mary would face this if she was trying to reach Bethlehem next Christmas.

We ourselves were delayed at Israeli checkpoints, but the inconvenience we experienced was nothing compared to the frustration and humiliation that the Palestinians are forced to bear. A young woman who had returned from America to teach Palestinian children, told us she was held for hours at an Israeli checkpoint, she was worried about reaching her pupils and was reduced to tears, she asked the soldiers what she had ever done to them, that they should treat her like this, but they wouldn't listen. I am aware of another young Palestinian woman, a student, who was going to visit her grandfather, and came to a

checkpoint where the soldiers were very bored. So to have fun they said to all the girls in the queue, that they had to make two queues: one for the beautiful girls and one for the ugly girls. Then one soldier walked down and he stopped at one girl and said you are not beautiful, move to the other queue. Then he came to a beautiful girl who was wearing a scarf. He told her to take it off so he could see her hair. 'I didn't wait my turn', she said. 'I didn't want to face this, so I turned round and came home'. Israeli men with guns who derive pleasure from bullying and humiliating defenceless young women over whom they hold power are not fit to be called men.

Israel has stolen all of Palestine's water, and supplies uninterrupted mains water to Israelis. Palestinians on the other hand, never know when the Israelis are going to turn their water supply off, often for weeks on end, so when the water comes on they must save some in a tank on the roof, ready for when the Israelis turn the taps off again. This is a game of cat and mouse, while Israelis have no problem filling their swimming pool or watering their lawn for example, nearby Palestinians don't have enough water for essentials. These rooftop tanks on Palestinian homes, but not on those of Israelis, are blatantly obvious for all to see, including visitors from around the world, but Israel shows no shame for this disgraceful racial discrimination.

We felt shocked, disgusted and outraged by what we saw and heard. As Christians ourselves, we noted that Israel is forcing Christians to leave their homes in the Holy Land in large numbers. Christians can be found living all around the world, but unless Israel can be persuaded to change it's behaviour, eventually the only place where no Christians will be found will be the Holy Land itself, the homeland of Jesus, and the land where Christianity was born. We have returned home with a conviction that good people everywhere must demand that the injustices and wrongs inflicted on the people of Palestine by the illegal Israeli Occupation must be brought urgently to an end, and this must be our message to all our elected politicians, even those MPs who consider themselves 'Friends of Israel' must find the backbone to tell Israel some home-truths, which is what true 'friends' would do anyway.

A shortened article sent in by John Usher - full version should appear in the next Justice & Peace publication 'MouthPeace' contact Steve Atherton: s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk 0151 522 1080



Wrexham Demo at Armed Forces Day - June 21st



Extract from Genny Bove's letter to Wrexham Council. It is about Wrexham Council's support for an event at which army recruiters will be targeting children, and Wrexham Council's use of this picture to advertise an event at which military recruiters will be targeting children.

How do we know that the event will be a military recruitment exercise aimed at children?

We know from advertising that the event is being billed as a family day out, that there will be a military village and climbing wall and many other activities aimed at children. An advert for last year's event that was held in Flintshire states clearly that this includes army recruitment stalls. North Wales Armed Forces Day Ambassador James Wharton has made a video with Wrexham Council in which he recommends that children aged 16 and 17 should sign up for the armed forces, and we know from the previous Head of Army Recruitment Strategy David Allfrey that the army targets children from the age of 7 and tries to build interest at events like this through a process he calls 'drip, drip, drip'.

What's wrong with the army targeting children?

We are signatories to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which includes the duty to protect our children from harm. Britain is the only EU country that still signs children (aged 16 and 17) into the military. After years of pressure, the military has stopped sending under 18s into war zones but it still trains children in warfare and the unexplained deaths of four young recruits including local girl Cheryl James and two 17 year olds at Deepcut Barracks should give us all pause for thought. We also know from research undertaken by the organisation Forces Watch that it is the youngest soldiers - i.e. those who have signed up at 16 or 17 - who are most at risk of suffering mental health problems like post traumatic stress on their return from war zones, and that these risks are compounded if the young people come from disadvantaged homes. Against this background, we know from information obtained by AM Leanne Wood that military recruiters visit schools in the poorest areas of Wales 50% more than less deprived areas. In times when it's hard for young people to find civilian jobs, children are more

likely to opt for military careers. We have an obligation to protect our children and to stop the military from putting them in harm's way. The best way to do that would be to stop the recruitment of child soldiers and to end all military recruitment activities aimed at children. In the meantime, we call on Wrexham Council not to support such events.

A 'family fun' day will not give children a realistic view of life in the military. How can we 'celebrate' our armed forces when we know that politicians (who don't go and fight themselves and whose children rarely sign up) have in recent years sent British troops into illegal and futile wars that have resulted in millions of other people's children being killed, maimed, traumatised and displaced? This is the reality of modern warfare, in which civilians make up around 90% of the casualties. War makes big money for the arms companies, but for humanity it is a disaster.

As the late Harry Patch, WWI veteran said: **"War is organised murder, and nothing else."**

Genny Bove

Chester CND

Meetings: 7.30pm Friends Meeting House, Frodsham St. Chester: 17th July, 21 Aug (venue change this month only, to be confirmed), 18th Sept, 16th Oct, 20th Nov.

Wool Not Weapons

Aldermaston Demo Aug. 9th On the 69th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki join CND's 7 mile peace scarf linking UK's nuclear bomb factories at Aldermaston and Burghfield. Minibus departs 7am from Chester Station. Tickets £10 (approx.) To reserve a seat please contact Allison Challen: chestercnd@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Wallasey CND

Planning Meetings: Monday July 7th, Aug. 4th, Sept. 1st 3pm @ Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey
Strawberry Tea July 12th 2-4pm at Barbara's to raise funds for ForcesWatch and Peace Direct
Tea in Park: Sun. July 20th, Aug. 17th, Sept. 14th
Wirral Flower & Vegetable Show Aug. 10th Birkenhead Park Sales/info table with Birkenhead CND—help needed
TT West Kirby, St. Bridget's Field Fair, Sept. 13th info/sales table shared with B'dCND
UN Peace Day Sept. 21st 2-5pm Serpentine Rd. Contacts Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

Birkenhead CND

Next meetings: Tues. July 22nd, and Sept 9th 8pm @ Shirleys
Keep Sun. Aug. 10th free to help on our shared stall at the Wirral Flower and Vegetable Fair in Birkenhead Park West Kirby St Bridget's Field Fair Sept 13th shared stall Contact: Shirley 652-3768

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: March: Barbara Hardcastle; April: Wallasey CND; May: Peter Wilson; 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 annual draw. Ask Janet for a membership form - 0151 229 5282 mcnd@care4free.net NB Some groups/individuals pay 2 memberships per month - hence have twice the chance of winning the draw! It's not a fix—honest!

Liverpool Pax Christi

The International Catholic Peace Movement meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church, Low Hill, next to the Royal Liverpool Hospital. Next meeting: July 1st Contact Jan Harper: 263 5623

Close Capenhurst Campaign

The Lush Fund has kindly donated CCC £1,250 to cover campaigning materials and public meetings about Capenhurst, Urenco and nuclear power. If you'd like a speaker please contact Martyn: 07951965499
www.close-capenhurst.org.uk

CND Annual Conference & AGM

Sunday 19th October
Park Crescent Conference Centre,
229 Great Portland St, London W1W 5PN
"Britain needs to scrap Trident—steps towards the general election"
Deadline for registration is Sept. 22nd Fee is £12 or you could be one of Merseyside CND's delegation @£5. (You must be a member of CND UK)
www.cnduk.org/conference for papers and info.

Saturday 18th October TUC demo: "Britain Needs a Pay Rise".

11am The Embankment: Join CND 'Scrap Trident' bloc to march through central London to a rally in Hyde Park. Further details: 020 77002393



Peace News Summer Camp
31 July – 4 August 2014

Peakhill Farm, Theberton, Suffolk IP16 4TG

Book now: www.peacenewscamp.info
Sliding scale of costs £20-£100 Under-14s FREE

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, 151 Dale St, Liverpool L2 2AHD

MCND Co-ord: 2pm Wed.
July 2nd CND Office

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.



PEACE
ONE DAY