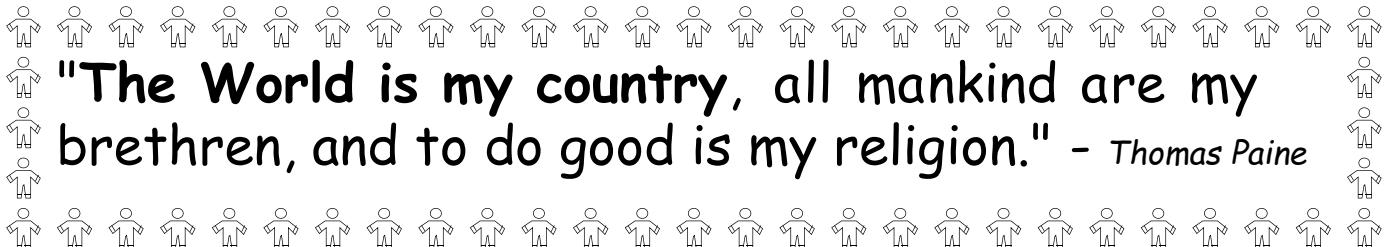


Merseyside CND Newsletter



April/May/June 2015

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



General Election 2015



64% of the British public oppose Trident replacement, but these 3 men all support it...

The final vote on Trident replacement will take place in 2016, so the MPs that are voted in at this election will be the ones that get to make the final decision on Trident. It is important to understand that this is not only a party political issue, but one of personal conscience - the last vote in 2007 saw a massive rebellion on the Government benches. 88 Labour MPs voting against the motion despite Labour imposing a '3 line whip' the strongest instruction a party can give to force members to vote a certain way, alongside all SNP and Lib Dem MPs. It is therefore vital that we demonstrate to candidates our opposition to Trident and let them know that our support relies on what way they would vote in 2016 if they were to win.

The following parties do not support Trident replacement:-
Green Party, Plaid Cymru, Scottish National Party, Respect, Socialist Labour Party, Socialist Workers Party

CND are asking you to: 'vote online for or against renewal'. Lobby all the local candidates and publicise the findings Run a People's Ballot with as much publicity as possible Organise or prepare a question for a local 'hustings' meeting Let CND and MCND know the results of your efforts.

Trident For or Against Street Ballots

We are aiming to run Street Ballots around Merseyside in the 6 weeks between now and the General Election giving as many people as possible the chance to choose whether or not the 'UK should replace its nuclear weapons system'.

Leaflets give facts about the cost of renewing Trident and the alternatives on which this vast sum of money could be spent. You can display whether your local candidates would vote for or against Trident Renewal in 2016.

Stalls so far arranged:
Saturday March 21st at 11am in Moreton and 2pm in Liscard
Saturday April 18th 10-4pm in Milton Square, Birkenhead
Please let us know if you could run a ballot stall. We can help with the set-up and advice
Please contact the office asap.

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Meeting your MP to discuss nuclear weapons

Contact your MP

- Find your MP and their contact details here: <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk>
- You should receive a reply to your questions - a letter may have more impact than an email
- Arrange to meet them face-to-face in Parliament, their local office or a public surgery

The basic facts about Trident

Trident is Britain's nuclear weapons system. It is made up of four nuclear submarines. Each submarine patrols the seas at all times, with eight missiles on board: each missile carries up to five nuclear bombs. The submarines, which came into service in the 1990s, reach the end of their service life in the late 2020s. The government wants to replace them, ensuring that we are nuclear-armed until the 2050s.

In 2007, Parliament voted to begin the design process for the new submarines, but the final decision on whether or not to build them will be taken after the next election, with a vote in Parliament expected in 2016. CND campaigns to scrap the current Trident system and cancel the planned replacement.

Positions of the political parties

The Green Party, the Scottish National Party (SNP) and Plaid Cymru are all opposed to nuclear weapons. The Liberal Democrats are calling for a reduction in warheads and submarine numbers in a replacement system.

The Conservative and Labour Party are officially in favour of Trident replacement but there are dissenting voices in both parties, more noticeably in the Labour Party.

Points to raise with your MP

- **Morality** Nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction which are intended to kill indiscriminately. Their use would breach international law and rules of war.
- **Expense** The total cost of replacing Trident will be more than £100 billion. This money would be better spent on employing more nurses and teachers, developing renewable energy, building houses or scrapping tuition fees.
- **Strategy** In a post-Cold War world, no-one seems to be able to identify who Trident will defend us from. Nuclear weapons are useless against the real threats we face today such as terrorism, cyber warfare and climate change.

- **Humanity** One nuclear weapon would kill hundreds of thousands of people and have a devastating impact on the world's climate, leading to a fatal drop in food production. The International Red Cross doubts any government or aid organisation could adequately respond.

- **Diplomacy** The majority of states - over 150 - have indicated support for a global ban on nuclear weapons. The UK agreed to disarm in 1968 by signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but now risks being left on the sidelines of a new global disarmament Initiative.

What you want your MP to do

- Pledge to vote against Trident replacement
- Support CND by joining Parliamentary CND, chaired by Jeremy Corbyn MP.

Resources

- More resources and detailed information can be found on CND's website: <http://www.cnduk.org>
- Please contact CND's campaigns team if you have any questions: 020 7700 2393 or email : parliamentary@cnduk.org

Posters for Peace in a Nuclear Age

Part 1 The Founding of CND

In 1950 the British Peace Committee collected one million signatures for the Stockholm Peace Appeal, which called for "an absolute ban on atomic weapons and weapons of mass destruction."

In 1951 the Peace Pledge Union called for the withdrawal of US forces from Britain and for Britain to stop manufacturing nuclear weapons.

In 1952 the editor of Peace News, Hugh Brock, investigated a destination that had no name on the bus timetables - only the initials A.W.R.E. It was near Aldermaston in Berkshire. Over the following months he, with other protesters from London, held several demonstrations outside the Atomic Weapons Research

Establishment and discussed the issues with the workers.

By the end of 1957 there were so many different groups opposed to nuclear weapons they (the groups) decided to set up an organisation which could combine their campaigns. The inaugural meeting was to be held in Central Hall opposite the Houses of Parliament on 17 February 1958.

At the same time, The Direct Action Committee against Nuclear War (DAC) were in contact with Peace News and together they decided to arrange a four-day march from London to AWRE Aldermaston over Easter 1958. After much discussion CND agreed to back the march and then worked with DAC to organise it.

From the outset, textile designer Gerald Holtom, a member of the Twickenham branch of DAC, was involved in planning the march. He ran his own graphic design studio and was asked to design banners and placards to be carried to Aldermaston. Towards the end of February he arrived at the offices of Peace News carrying a roll of designs for banners. These included a new symbol he

thought could represent the campaign against nuclear weapons. He had chosen a visual shorthand for Nuclear Disarmament.

The starting point for his design was the semaphore system of ship to ship communication used by the British Navy - flags held in different positions to represent letters of the alphabet. One flag was held in each hand. The two flags pointing downwards at 45 degrees represented the letter N. One flag held vertically upwards with the other vertically down represented D. Thus Nuclear Disarmament. In creating the symbol Holtom simplified the design by removing the flags. It was now just white lines on a black background. A broken cross inside a circle. Holtom later explained to London Region CND that, as well as standing for nuclear disarmament, "the broken cross could also mean the death of man, whereas the circle symbolised the unborn child. In combination it represented the terrible threat nuclear weapons posed to humanity, including the unborn."

(Barry Miles, 2008, p78)
Roger Stephenson

Liverpool Quakers

Liverpool Quaker Peace Group meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm in the Quaker Meeting House, School Lane. All are welcome who support our aim to build peace by peaceful means. We have a particular interest in exposing and opposing everyday militarism. We also work closely with Northern Friends Peace Board which allows dialogue and shared working with others in the North West and with Young Friends General Meeting who have recently focused their attentions on opposing the replacement of Trident. We are also committed to working with peace groups across Merseyside as part of the Merseyside Peace Network.

For Quakers our commitment to opposing all wars is part of the bedrock of our faith stemming from the belief that there is that of God in everyone. As the declaration to Charles the second says in 1660 "The spirit of Christ which leads us into all truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world."

In the next couple of months we will be sharing a stall with MCND and MPN groups at the Live a Better Life Fair on the 11th April at The Black E (please stop for a chat if you are there).

On the 15th May we will be marking International Day of Conscientious Objectors with a stall on School Lane and on the evening of May 15th (Light Night) Emily Johns of Peace News will be speaking about and displaying "**The World is my country**" celebrating the people and movements that opposed the first World War. This event is free, our cafe will be open and there will be other events in the Meeting House as well.

To get in touch about any of these events please contact Lisa Hoyle (outreach@liverpoolquakers.org.uk) tel: 709 6957 or Ed Bruce (Convenor, Peace Group.) by leaving a message with the Meeting House staff.

International Day of Conscientious Objectors—15th May

Liverpool Quakers joined by other groups in the Merseyside Peace Network will be holding a stall in School Lane near the Bluecoat or, if wet, in the Quaker Meeting foyer during the day (approx. 11-3pm). We will display information about local COs then during WW1 and now world wide. In the evening as part of Liverpool Light Night Emily Johns will be speaking in the Meeting House about the 'World is my country' her exhibition of posters, poems, songs associated with WW1.

'The world is my country'

To celebrate the people and movements that opposed the First World War, Peace News is producing a series of 10 colour posters bringing this history alive for a new generation. Featuring the distinctive graphic art of Emily Johns, they tell a story of police raids and clandestine printing presses, jailed philosophers and striking German munitions workers. Emily and friends are touring the UK talking about the posters and the WW1 anti-war movement. If you'd like to host an event or arrange an exhibition near you please call 0207 278 3344 or email promos@peacenews.info or turn up on the night.



Chas Raws

October 31st 1939 – 30th December 2014

The Memorial Meeting to celebrate the life of Chas in Heswall Hall, Wirral on January 20th was one of the most inspiring such events I've ever been privileged to attend. The Hall was packed with his relatives and friends from many walks of life. It was a truly joyful occasion much in keeping with the Quaker faith he had discovered in the 1960s.

His memorial tribute told how he found great strength, inspiration and solace through his faith. Many Quaker and followers of other faiths paid tribute to his life.

Some of us present had known him through one branch of the peace movement or other CND, World Disarmament Campaign, Church House and M/side Peace Council. His tribute card and speaker after speaker revealed his many interests and enthusiasms.

"He cared deeply about his fellow men and women and worked tirelessly behind the scenes for many causes, sharing his skills, knowledge and understanding. He was committed to building bridges and to advocating for some of the most disadvantaged in our society and abroad, particularly for those who suffer unjustly because of their beliefs or their status.

Despite his active contribution to the local community and to national campaigning and development work he always maintained a calm and gentle profile. He was a man who truly put his faith into practice".

Perhaps for me the most moving tributes were paid by members of the asylum seeker community based at St. Anne's Church in Kensington, Liverpool where he was Chairman of Merseyside Asylum Link until

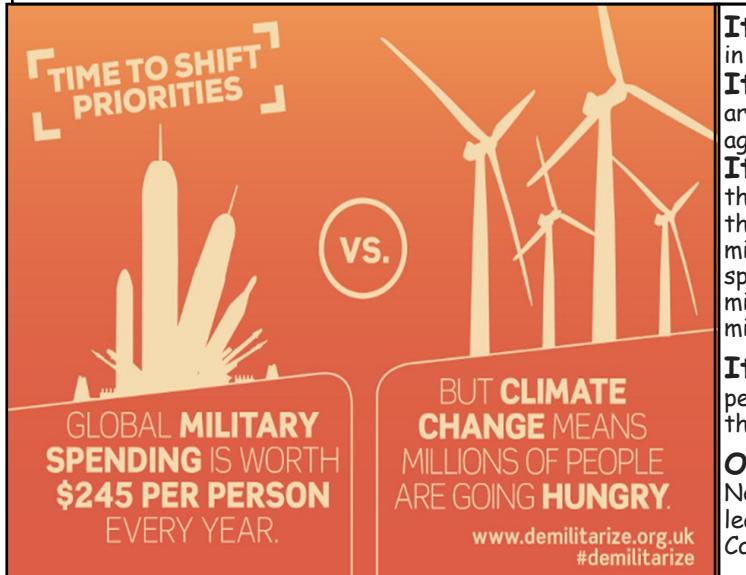
recently when ill health forced him to give up this role. His kindness and open handed generosity to people at their lowest ebb were paid tribute to in heartfelt appreciations.

Those of us who knew him less well found out about his love of music and books and his poetic and acting talents. In fact playing the role of Rev. Dr. Chasuble in The Importance of Being Earnest as a student led to him adopting the name Chas for the rest of his life rather than Joseph or Graham his given names.

He drew inspiration from George Fox, Wilfred Owen, William Morris, Nelson Mandela and Richard Wagner Oh and he also had a lifelong passion for teddy bears.

Such a remarkable and lovely man. RIP Chas.
Janet Laycock

Global Day of Action against Military Spending- 13 April



It is a scandal that 1 in 4 children in the UK grow up in poverty.

It is outrageous that thirteen times more people are relying on food banks to survive than did five years ago.

It is all the more scandalous when you realise that the UK's military spending is among the highest in the world - £38,000 million in 2014, with £45,000 million just announced for 2015. In the same year we spent £12,000 million on overseas aid, a mere £3,100 million on energy and climate change and only £1,360 million on diplomacy through the FCO.

It's time to shift priorities. Take action with people **across the world** to challenge military spending on the Global Day of Action - 13 April 2015.

Our Action:- Stall in Liverpool outside News from Nowhere to highlight the cost of renewing Trident and leafletting against military recruitment outside Army Careers Information Office, 14 N John St (time tbd)

Arms to Renewables

Work for the future: create more and better jobs and a safer world for all.

Campaign Against Arms Trade have just launched this new campaign Arms to Renewables

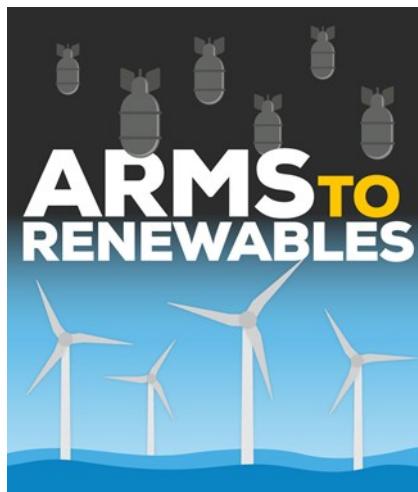
The UK is pouring resources into an industry which has a devastating impact on human and international security.

UK-made weapons have been used in **Israel's** attacks on Gaza, and to repress democracy movements across the Middle East. We armed both Russia and Ukraine - and supplied all sides in **Libya's** civil war. The wars we've waged, such as those in Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan, have caused devastation and fuelled further conflict.

Arms sales don't enhance security: they fuel conflict, support repression and make the world a more dangerous place for all of us.

We all pay the price. We're **subsidising arms companies** by hundreds of millions of pounds a year to export misery and destruction around the world and, at home, the government is spending billions on **military technology** we do not need, while vital public services are being cut.

The government justifies its support for the arms trade by arguing it needs to protect high skilled manufacturing jobs. But **despite all these resources, the number of jobs in the arms industry is on a long-term decline**, and today the industry is, in its own words, 'flat-lining at best'.



A safer world

We have another vision - one which guarantees highly skilled manufacturing jobs that will be there in the future - and which creates the kind of future we might want to see.

Real **security** involves tackling the causes of problems, not creating more, and climate change is one of the biggest that we face. It threatens all of our lives: Millions of people already face food and water shortages. Extreme weather events, flooding and droughts will displace populations and create conflict over resources. **If we really want a safer world, we must cut carbon emissions fast.**

The UK is in a powerful position to play its part. Offshore wind power has amazing potential in the UK. We have the largest wind resources in Europe and already have as much capacity installed as the rest of the world combined. We also have substantial wave and tidal resources.

Better jobs

CAAT's research shows that a move towards offshore wind and marine energy could produce more jobs than the entire arms industry.

These jobs would provide alternative employment for arms trade workers. Like arms, the renewable energy sector is highly skilled. It has a similar breakdown across broad categories of skill levels and employ many of the same branches of engineering.

There would also be appropriate work available in most areas where arms workers are located, with tens of thousands of supply chain jobs that could be located anywhere in the country.

These would be better jobs for the workers and for all of us: jobs in an industry which is growing not declining, which create a safer, rather than a more dangerous world.

If we invest now the UK would be in a leading position in technologies that will be in high demand, will have major export potential, and will also help other countries cut their carbon emissions. But this potential won't be realised without action.

★ It needs investment and concerted UK government effort at the level currently devoted to the arms industry.

★ It desperately needs highly-skilled engineers - like those currently working in the arms industry.

★ And it needs all of us: to make the government shift priorities and create more and better jobs and a safer world for all

Edith Eskrigge

On the eve of the First World War, just over a century ago, the militant "Suffragette" movement demanding votes for women was in full-swing. The names of Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia, who founded the suffragette Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1903, are still widely recalled, as is their campaign of direct, often violent, agitation. But mention of the peaceful "Suffragist" movement, which had been going for almost fifty years by 1914, produces blank looks nowadays. My great great aunt Edith Eskrigge (1872-1948) was an active suffragist, and deserves to be celebrated for her lifetime of selfless public service.

Unlike the Pankhursts and their followers, Edith did not go in for window-smashing, or fire-setting, or painting-slashing or attacking cabinet ministers with dog-whips. Nor did she endure terms of imprisonment and bouts of force-feeding. She was also unlike the socially influential Pankhursts in having a provincial middle class upbringing, being the sixth child of seven born into a prosperous merchant's family at Liscard Vale, Wallasey, on the opposite bank of the Mersey from Liverpool. Her father worked as a cotton broker in Liverpool, and a photograph, taken in the 1890s, has the family posed outside their large house (which stood where Vale Park is now, in New Brighton) in all their sober, but splendid, late-Victorian self-assurance.



A keen sense of social concern was instilled in Edith by her non-conformist background (Quaker on her mother's side and Congregationalist on her father's), which discouraged bright girls from living lives of moneyed idleness. Starting out working in London's East End at the Canning Town Settlement, she became immersed in voluntary social work. On her return home, she taught disabled children and undertook charitable work on their behalf, particularly in establishing Invalid Children's Aid, later the Child Welfare Association. During the First World War she was Chief Officer of the Soldiers and Sailors Family Association in Liverpool, when she worked closely with Eleanor Rathbone. Afterwards she became Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool Women's Citizen's Association, which was concerned with preparing women for their duties as citizens. Later she took an active interest in the Lancashire and Cheshire Child Adoption Society. But she declined to become a magistrate, being dubious of

the value of imprisonment and unwilling to be responsible for imposing it.

In 1913 the suffragist NUWSS staged a Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage, wherein its constituent federations marched to London during June and July and combined in a great demonstration at Hyde Park on July 26. Edith organised and led her federation of the NUWSS's contingent (of about 450 participants) which joined members of other federations to march on the "Watling Street" route from Carlisle to London. *The Times* estimated that about 50,000 people attended the eventual Hyde Park rally, which was conducted in a peaceful atmosphere designed to show the strength and extent of the non-violent suffrage movement. Suffragette Emily Wilding Davison had stepped to her death in front of the king's horse at the Epsom Derby only weeks before, and it is interesting to note that this lone act of horror is routinely replayed in modern media accounts of the period whilst the peaceful activities of thousands of women like Edith seldom rate a mention.

Terry Irving

**The Friends of Vale Park
in commemoration of Edith
are offering prizes for
children's art-work and
poetry**

Age groups 5-10 years and 11-16 years
Closing date 31st August 2015 followed
by an exhibition

For more info please contact:
t.irving36@btinternet.com

Sam Watts

Without any doubt, Sam Watts who has died aged 89 was the most enduring of the old school comrades in Merseyside CND. His background was belonging to a very poor working class household in Liverpool. As a child he told us how he often went hungry, clothed in rags and shoeless. This and the living conditions all around him led to his lifelong commitment to Communism. He fought passionately all his life for social and political change. My abiding memory is of him visiting our office every day with the Morning Star, putting the world to rights and leaving with the cry "to the barricades!"

His family was doubly cursed by fate in the 1st World War when Sam's uncle, William was sent home to convalesce, suffering from shell shock and a gas attack

but was arrested by Military Police in Liverpool, escorted back to France, court-martialled and executed by firing squad. His father, Thomas, demobbed after the war also suffering from shell-shock and the effects of a gas attack, finding that his brother William had been executed, became mute and was detained at Rainhill Lunatic Asylum where he spent many years dying in 1943. (His eldest son Thomas was also a casualty of WW2 killed in action at the Battle of El Alamein in 1941.)

Sam fought in the long campaign to obtain pardons for the 306 men who, suffering from shell-shock, were executed for cowardice in WW1. The pardon was finally granted in 2006.

Sam was a fighter till the end—he sent us a *Guardian* report Feb. '14 'Britain's 100 Years of War' with the comment that "it works out if

1 million were killed in each war it would total 1 billion killed plus another billion serious casualties and it goes on and on. Working class cannon fodder ... the price for 100 years of Capitalist Wars."

Sam also wrote very movingly in his poems: '100 Years of War' and 'Shot at Dawn'

*In Memoriam, Uncle Private
William Watts, executed by firing
squad in the First World War*

*The Court Marshal reads
"He's from the lower class,
He's just the type who can't sniff
the gas.*

*The lower working stock-
just the type who can't take shell
shock.*

*Just too bad, that's how you were
born,*

*Take him down, you'll be shot at
dawn."*

(sorry only space for 1st verse)
Memories gathered from here and there
Janet Laycock



Liverpool Pax Christi

Ash Wednesday Act of Repentance

Photo John Usher

One of many actions Pax Christi has organised or joined in this year

Meetings are at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month at St.Michael's Church, Horne St off West Derby Road, L6 5EH. For further info. please contact Jan Harper 263 5623

Wallasey CND

Planning Meetings: Wednesday April 8th 3pm, Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey; May and June to be decided

Cast Your Vote stalls: April 11th. and 25th venues to be decided — Helpers needed

Tea in Park: Sun. April 19th, May 17th, June 21st—any help on the day in Central Park Walled Garden or in advance making scones, cakes etc — much appreciated. Contacts Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

Birkenhead CND

Next meetings: Tues. April 14th, May 12th and June 9th 8pm @ Shirleys

Next stall in Milton Square - Saturday April 18th for the ballot.

Contact: Shirley 652-3768

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: Dec. Alasdair Ibbotson; Jan. Terence Cunningham; Feb. Tom Griffin;

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

Remember Chernobyl April 26th Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)

is celebrating 25 years of activity taking aid and medical supplies to Belarus and arranging recuperative holidays for children and their parents affected by the nuclear disaster in 1986. There is a CCP group on Merseyside. Full information: ccoprojectuk@gmail.com Linda Walker: 01457 863 534

www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

Merseyside CND may mark the day. Contact the office or view www.mcnd.org.uk

Chester CND

Campaign non-violently to bring about peace and social justice. Want to axe the Trident nuclear weapons system, not jobs, healthcare, education, disability benefits? Come along and join us. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Friends Meeting House, Frodsham St. Chester CH1 3LF contact Allison Challen: 07873125051 chesterrnd@gmail.com ***facebook.com/ChesterCND

Maghull and Lydiate

Still functioning but at a sedate pace due to health issues. Anyone in the area wanting to know how s/he can help please contact: Sylvi: 526 7293

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
Wednesday April 1st
CND Office 151 Dale St.

If you receive a separate renewal form with this newsletter it means your subs are due. - Thankyou. We will try to remember to remind email members too.

This edition of the newsletter run up by Cathy and Janet.

