

# Merseyside CND Newsletter



July/Aug/Sept. 2015

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



One of the banners at the Anti Austerity March June 20th

## 70 years on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Exhibition in Central Liverpool Library—including effects of nuclear bomb on Liverpool  
August 3-31st

Exhibition in Earlston Library, Wallasey July 31st to August 1st

Days that shook the World-Hiroshima — Film — Earlston Library, Wallasey  
Saturday 1st August 2pm

### August 6th Main events

Wreath laying 11am in St John's Garden (behind St George's Hall)  
by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Tony Concepcion

Guest speakers, music and poetry

Followed by silent procession, wearing white, from St John's Garden to the  
Liverpool Friends Meeting House Peace Garden (School Lane).

Atomic shadows and a Die-in may take place.

Liverpool Pax Christi Aug. 6&9 stall and display of Pax Christi's work  
Metropolitan Cathedral 10 - 3.30pm

Chester CND Flower Memorial 8pm Aug. 6th See page 6

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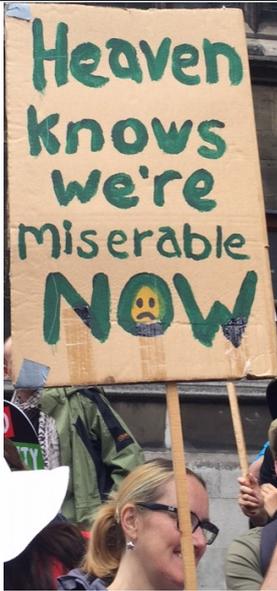
P2 Gloom or not?  
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P5 & 6 Quaker Meeting report, UN Peace Day, Space  
Conf. Groups, membership, 50 Club etc...

### Correction

Last magazine's article about suffragist Edith Eskrigge was  
written by her descendent Russell Croft..  
NB competition entries for the Children's Art work and poetry  
exhibition in her memory should be in by 31st August.  
Further info t.irving36@btinternet.com

# Post Election Blues

## or tiny green shoots of optimism



A good place to start the slow recovery from the depressing election night result would have been at the Anti-Austerity March in London on June 20th. This was a March to rival the famous Anti War March of 2003. 1/4 million people turned out from a wide variety of organisations such as Stop the War, CND, FBU (fire brigade union-see attached picture), Teachers unions, NHS workers unions and

student unions, Green Party, SNP, Anti-Fracking, Anti-Fascism, Anti-Racism, Anti-fox-hunting, No TTIP, Save the badgers and many more....

Janet Laycock's comments—Uplifting, inspiring, entertaining, eye-catching and imaginative banners, noisy, musical, and very good-natured. Congratulations to all the organisers and participants!



Furthermore according to CND's website:-

**"Poll after poll shows that a consistent majority of the British population are against nuclear weapons. Here is a selection of polls from the last few years:**

A [Survation poll](#) in January 2015 showed 47.2% of Scottish people opposing a new generation of nuclear weapons being based on the Clyde, with 31.6% in favour.

79% of respondents to a [Guardian poll](#) in April 2014 did not think the UK should replace Trident.

In a February 2014 [ComRes poll](#), 65% said they would feel uncomfortable living near a nuclear weapons base and 64% think there should be an international convention banning nuclear weapons.

63% of the public said they'd back scrapping Trident to reduce the deficit in a [BPIX survey for The Mail on Sunday](#) in June 2010.

58% of people say that 'given the state of the country's finances, the Government should scrap the Trident nuclear missile system' in an [Independent/ComRes poll](#) of September 2009 (Table 7)

54% of the public say Britain should "no longer have any nuclear deterrent" in a [Guardian/ICM poll](#) of July 2009 (Table 8)

Only 30% of the public would spend £20bn on Trident when offered alternatives of spending on nurses salaries or affordable homes, in a [YouGov poll for The People newspaper](#) from July 2009 (Page 4)

72% of the British public, in a poll in March 2007, did not support the government's plans to replace Trident -

### [More4/Populus poll.](#)

59% of the British public oppose replacing Trident when presented with the cost of £25 billion just to acquire a replacement system. (The equivalent of building around 1,000 new schools at current prices) -[ICM poll, July 2006](#)  
73% of Scottish people thought it was wrong that £50 billion might be spent on a replacement for Trident.[ICM poll, January 2007](#)

64% were against nuclear weapons being based in Scotland for another 50 years. [ICM poll, January 2007](#)"

As well as the good news in the polls quoted above, we also know that many of the candidates at the general election, including some who were elected, were not in favour of renewing Trident.

Political parties should seize the moment, stop being scared of opposing Trident renewal and take the bold step of joining the majority of countries who have non-nuclear defence policies. There would be so many advantages.

Ask your MP to sign [EDM 73](#) calling for Trident to be included in the current Strategic Defence and Security Review. With MPs due to vote on Trident replacement next year it is vital that the changing international security situation and cost implications are considered in detail, especially at a time of continuing cuts in other government departments. [Ask your MP to sign the EDM by clicking <http://act.cnduk.org/lobby/edm73> or visit or write to them.](#)

# Posters for Peace in a Nuclear Age Part 2

## Polaris

No

Earl Russell OM FRS  
Sir Herbert Read  
Rev Michael Scott  
Hugh MacDiarmid

Trafalgar Square  
Rally Sat 18 Feb 2pm

Contact the Secretary  
Committee of 100  
13 Goodwin St. N4  
ARChway 1239

In October 1960 the philosopher Bertrand Russell resigned as president of CND. He could now concentrate on helping found the Committee of 100 for Civil Disobedience Against Nuclear War.

The US was planning to base a fleet of Polaris nuclear submarines in Holy Loch, 30 miles west of Glasgow. This required urgent action. The first demonstration organised by the Committee of 100 was the one advertised above in February 1961. Russell and the other members of the committee were prepared to take non-violent illegal action in pursuit of their campaign, but CND was "bound by conference decisions to use legal and democratic methods of argument . . . to achieve its aims." (Canon L. John Collins, 1966, p321) and could not take part.

20,000 supporters of the Committee of 100 gathered in Trafalgar Square and, after speeches, walked slowly to Whitehall. 5,000 sat down or lay down outside the Ministry of Defence, but no arrests were made. In his autobiography Russell noted that the Government had asked the Fire Service to use their hoses on us, but that to his relief they refused.

That summer, with the arrival of the Polaris submarines, there were ongoing Committee of 100 demonstrations at Holy Loch, which CND would not take part in but expressed support for.

In about 1967 artist/designer Ian McLaren produced a very powerful poster for CND - vertical format in three horizontal bands. At the top a nuclear cloud spreading out over the sea. Below this the word NO. In the bottom band a CND symbol and information in equivalents about the cost of "our" nuclear weapons:

1 Polaris = 4 new universities  
1 V-bomber = 7 new schools  
1 aircraft carrier = 2 new motorways  
1 TSR2 = 5 modern hospitals  
1 guided missile destroyer = 9,800 tractors'.

The price of freedom the Government and the right-wing press would have us believe. And we must be willing to turn an enemy country into a radioactive desert, though this latter part of the deal is never mentioned.

In an obscene attempt to convince the population that nuclear war is moral and survivable, and somehow "normal" the Conservative Government in 1980 produced a booklet, 'Protect and Survive', which was sent to every household. CND then produced two booklets which laid bare the stupidity and utter falsehood of the Government's position: 'Civil Defence: the Cruellest Confidence Trick' by Phil Bolsover, and 'Protest and Survive' by E.P. Thompson, which was co-produced by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation.

In October 1980 CND held a major national demonstration in London with the theme 'Protest and Survive'. The poster for this was a photomontage by the artist Peter Kennard. A missile poking through one of the spaces in a CND symbol has been broken by the symbol. Below this are the words 'PROTEST AND SURVIVE' and the place, date and time of the march and rally.

This image of a missile being broken by a CND symbol is one CND have used several times over the years, with different wording depending on the demonstration. In 1981 the message was simply 'No Nuclear Weapons'. In February 2007 it was 'No Trident'.

Kennard also did a photomontage of a skeleton reading a 'Protect and Survive' booklet, which is a frightening illustration of the absurdity of Margaret Thatcher and her Government.

John Constable painted 'The Haywain' in 1821 and exhibited it at the Paris Salon of 1824. This image of a cart, pulled by two horses, standing in a river under a sky filled with clouds, in the heart of the Suffolk countryside was painted with great naturalism. It seems to be a "real" scene, but it is an Arcadian idyll that over the years has become an iconic representation of rural England when times were good. (Of course they weren't for the poor.)

In 1983 Peter Kennard took this idyll and subverted it. Not to make a comment about the poor but about nuclear weapons. He produced a photomontage of "The Haywain" (reproduced in black & white) with the hay cart carrying cruise missiles. The three missiles stacked pointing skywards in the cart look surreal and incongruous, but above all they look threatening.



The two country labourers on the cart make the scene even more menacing. Each is now shown wearing an army helmet and a gas mask. These men and these missiles have invaded the rural idyll of the painting. A shocking desecration of a great work of art, an English icon. But Kennard is not just being iconoclastic with the image, he is illustrating one reality of rural England in the 1980s - exposing the US nuclear invasion of the UK that

Cont. over .....

was taking place - an invasion that had been taking place since 1950 and was now hotting up.

Kennard also did a version of this poster in which the Constable landscape is reproduced in colour and the cruise missiles and the men transporting them are in black and white. This contrast highlights the fact that the missiles are invaders and totally out of place in this landscape.

In the 1970s the US developed cruise missiles. These had a range of about 2,000 miles, could travel at about 500 miles per hour and fly very low thus avoiding detection by enemy radar and carry nuclear warheads fifteen times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. In 1979 NATO decided to deploy 464 of these in Western Europe, targeted at the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries. 96 were to be based at USAF Greenham Common in Berkshire and 64 at USAF Molesworth in Cambridgeshire. The missiles were scheduled to arrive at Greenham Common from 1983 and Molesworth from 1986. These were weapons that could be used in a "limited" nuclear war in Europe. The threat level would be the same as the US argued they faced when the Soviet Union based some of its missiles in

Cuba in 1962.

Seeing this and worrying for the world and their children's and their grandchildren' future, a group of about forty women calling themselves 'Women for Life on Earth' set out on 27 August 1981 to walk the 120 miles from Cardiff to Greenham to talk to the commander of the base. The commander wouldn't talk, so the women stayed and set up camp - Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp. Over the next years many more joined them and took part in several creative non-violent direct actions against the base which kept this "secret" base in the public eye. By their continual presence the women were a permanent witness against the US military invasion and nuclear weapons, and they were inspirational to the rest of the Peace Movement.

The cruise missiles were kept in silos in the base. They would be carried by special lorries from which they could be launched. The idea was that in times of international tension the missiles would be dispersed around the countryside and the enemy would not know where they were. The missiles at Greenham were regularly taken on practice dispersals, but thanks to the vigilance of the women who informed Cruisewatch, local groups around

the country who distributed leaflets in

city centres, they never managed to "melt unseen into the countryside".

Peter Kennard's Haywain poster also ensured that the presence of cruise missiles in the English countryside was not forgotten.

At this time the Peace Advertising Campaign also produced a poster against cruise missiles. The designer was John Parke.

An idyllic scene of rural England. A large ploughed field, the furrows stretching away from us towards a church with a spire and the bare trees of winter. Just in front of the trees and the church is the silhouette of a cruise missile launch vehicle. A cruise missile is being launched. Cutting across this scene are three lines of barbed wire. We are trapped behind the barbed wire, excluded from our own country. In the sky a handwritten question: AMERICA RULES UK? At the bottom of the poster, below the barbed wire, the message:

"The only British control of Cruise missiles is to say No!

SAVE BRITAIN,  
STOP CRUISE"

Roger Stephenson,

## The Friends of Nukes are losing

*And the tail wagged the dog - but who cares?*

By Gunnar Westberg, TFF Board  
Lund, Sweden, May 29, 2015

The 2015 Review conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) ended Friday May 22 in New York without a final document being accepted.

Up till the very end it seemed that the conference would produce a non-committal final document.

The outcome which a majority of the states desired, a plan for a total ban on nuclear weapons, as there is for chemical and bacteriological weapons, was unacceptable to the nuclear weapon states.

Consensus means in the NPT that the nuclear weapon states decide. They wish to keep their capacity to exterminate mankind for generations ahead.

The American government had told its allies, the NATO states, Japan and others, not to support a ban on nukes, and the allies obeyed.

However, the *Friends of Nukes* did not have to take the blame for blocking a final document. Instead the blame fell on Israel, a country which is not even a member of the NPT.

The proud United States of America choose once again to heed the instruction from Mr Netanyahu: No agreement on a nuclear weapons free Middle East!

Perhaps it was easier for the USA to take the blame for blocking a hopeful outcome of the NPT if it was for the sake of the pro-Israel lobby than for love of nukes?

In doing so, the USA relieved the other nuclear weapon addicted states from the responsibility of this defeat for the NPT.

Even France, the most hypocritical of the Friends of Nuclear Weapons, could pretend to be a Friend of Disarmament.

### The important outcome

This would all seem like a great disappointment. But the important outcome of the conference was just the opposite: *There is more hope today for a ban on nuclear weapons than we have seen for twenty years.*

No less than 159 states agreed that the humanitarian consequences of any

use of nuclear weapons would be so catastrophic that they must be abolished.

Even more important, 107 countries asked for legal measures for a prohibition of nuclear weapons - use, threat, production, storage.

Read the speeches by South Africa, or Costa Rica, in [Xanthe Hall's excellent account](#), referring to the three humanitarian conferences held in the last two years, which offer hope where NPT fails:

"The humanitarian conferences demonstrate that democracy has come to nuclear disarmament, even if democracy is yet to come to the NPT... Despite what has happened at this Review Conference, there is no force that can stop the steady march of those who believe in human security, democracy and international law. History honors only the brave, those who have the courage to think differently and dream of a better future for all.

This is not the time to lament what has happened here, as lamentable as it may be. Now is the time to work for what is to come, the world we want and deserve. Let us all, boldly and finally, give peace a chance."

*Transnational Foundation for Peace & Future Research - emailed by Jan Oberg*

# "Helping other Voices to be heard"

Following an article of this name in a recent copy of Quaker news, the Liverpool Quaker Peace Group invited Nimrod Evron to speak at a public meeting in June. Nimrod is an Israeli citizen who stands in opposition to Israeli state policy and the Occupation. He has played a pivotal role in setting up organisations working with youth who oppose conscription and is currently studying for an MA at Birkbeck College, London.

The first part of the talk described the population of Israel and in particular how the status of Mizrachi, Ethiopian and Russian Jews is lower than the Ashkenazi Jews who hold much of the economic, political and cultural power. Mizrachi Jews, hailing from the region, are more likely to be settlers and thus create a buffer zone. During national service Ashkenazi Jews typically work in Intelligence services and this period in a young, privileged person's life is often a valuable time to build networks enhancing future career prospects.

We heard that the Israeli state integrates militarism into every facet of life. Young women on active service might serve as primary school teachers (one was depicted working with children in full uniform). There is no separation of State and religion and inter-marriage between different faiths is forbidden. Despite this, Israel does bear some of the hallmarks of a liberal democracy, the Judicial system, for example can oppose State policy and military action on occasion.

Perhaps the most insidious aspect of life in Israel is the perpetuation of

fear. Nimrod outlined how most of the population had recent familial memory of terror and said that in his view the state actively sought to maintain this. He showed us one slide which depicted a Primary School poster translating as, "Who wants to kill us?" with the answer "Pharaohs, Arabs, Hamas, Nazis"

The talk went on to describe the current political parties and recent movements in Israel (feminism, rights for LGBTQ, animal rights) which he took encouragement from. He also described those opposing occupation as a tiny but very active group, nearly all of whom are Ashkenazi (as they have the money and influence to be able to act). He described some actions that are taken such as acting as human shields or occupying houses to prevent demolition and pointed out that it was difficult to build trust "I grew up in a house in Jaffa which had been taken from Palestinians - not my fault - but this creates a particular relationship between us." It was clear that the social and economic consequences of speaking out against state policy were very high indeed.

We broke for questions "Is Zionism a racist philosophy?" Answer: "Zionism is a philosophy of emancipation which has developed racist features by seeking to create sovereignty" Question "How real is victimhood, is it propaganda" Answer "The problem is it is difficult for many to understand you can be both victim and oppressor."

Nimrod spoke about the boycott of settlement goods (currently British Yearly Meeting - Quaker - policy) and voiced the opinion that they can be

counter productive and feed into the idea of victimhood and being picked on by countries that only two generations ago sought to annihilate the Jewish people. He suggested that supporters of the rights of Palestinians could usefully engage in their own countries with Jewish communities to articulate the specific aims of the boycott (i.e. to end the occupation, deal with the refugee crisis) so that this was better understood.

This was an excellent and important talk that needs further thought. I learned much and wanted to make some record of what was said and whilst quotes are accurate, there may be key points that were missed or inaccuracies with terminology - these faults are mine. Nimrod agreed to make slides available to the peace group (these can be emailed to others).

Lisa Hoyle, Peace Group member and Quaker Outreach worker.  
[outreach@liverpoolquakers.org.uk](mailto:outreach@liverpoolquakers.org.uk)  
tel : 0151 709 6957

**Liverpool Quaker Peace Group meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Contact Ed Bruce or Lisa Hoyle for details. Our next large public event is the John Hamilton Memorial Peace Lecture on 8th October with Professor Joanna Bourke author of "Wounding the World" on everyday militarism in schools. This is a free but ticketed event (Eventbrite Liverpool Quaker Peace Group).**

## UN Peace Day And Global Ceasefire Sept. 21st

Wallasey Peace One Day/CND will celebrate on Sun. 20th in Central Park Walled Garden with Teas and children's activities.

## Wirral Earth Fest 2015

Transition Town West Kirby  
Saturday 12th Sept.  
St. Bridget's Church Centre and Fields: local music, food, arts, workshops and community activity  
Birkenhead and Wallasey CND share a pitch (contact details over)

## Strawberry Tea July 11th

2-5pm 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey  
Tickets: £3.00 Children £2.00  
Pay at the door  
In aid of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders)

## U.K. Space Conference

July 13-15th BT Convention Centre, Merseyside CND will be leafletting on the 15th when the Military Space and Security seminar is held: 12-2.30  
Meet 12 noon John Lennon Memorial Scrap Trident! Ban Nuclear weapons!

## Nuclear Trains Action: July 18th

to coincide with a national action at Carlisle Station meet: Chester Station 11am-1pm to leaflet passengers  
A new leaflet is being prepared for future actions. Contact: MCND office or Close-Capenhurst.org.uk

## Helen Clarke

We remember Helen who died on March 8th for her cheerfulness of spirit and commitment to all things green and peaceful. These combined in her centre for Yoga and the Yoga festivals in Sefton Park—a joy to be part of even in the pouring rain—RIP Helen

## GMD CND

### Greater Manchester & District Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St, Ancoats,  
Manchester, M4 7HR  
Tel: 0161 273 8283 Fax: 0161 273 8293  
Email: [gmdcnd@gn.apc.org](mailto:gmdcnd@gn.apc.org)  
Web [www.gmdcnd.org.uk](http://www.gmdcnd.org.uk)  
Campaigns Outreach Worker  
(part time, temp 12 month)

**We are looking for an  
enthusiastic campaigner to  
promote the work of CND in  
Greater Manchester and  
district. area**

This is a 14 hours per week post.

Salary: £26,071 pro rata

Please contact us at the address above  
for a job description and application  
form.

Closing Date – 9am 6<sup>th</sup> July.

## Chester CND

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Flower Memorial on the 70th anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

**Thursday August 6th**

Meet at 8.00pm on The Groves in Chester by the bandstand. There will be readings, the dropping of white flowers on the river from the suspension bridge and a final reading at the Peace Tree on the south bank.  
All welcome - bring white flowers to drop on the river if you wish

## Maghull & Lydiate CND

Cath Mason— our much appreciated, long-serving Treasurer and general factotum died in May after a long illness borne with great endurance. Her courage and determination are an example to us all to keep the faith against all obstacles.  
We miss her very much and send love and best wishes to Bob and the family.

Group contact: Sylvi: 526 7293

## Wallasey CND

**Planning Meetings:** Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sept. 7 2pm @ Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey

**Strawberry Tea** July 11<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm at Barbara's to raise funds for MSF (Doctors without Borders)

**Tea in Park:** Sun. July 19<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

**Wirral Flower & Vegetable Show** Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> Birkenhead Park Sales/info table with Birkenhead CND—help needed

**TT West Kirby, St. Bridget's Field Fair, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>** info/sales table shared with Birkenhead CND

**UN Peace Day** Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm Central Park Liscard  
Contacts Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

## Merseyside Peace Network

Next quarterly meeting: Wed. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 11am  
Friends Meeting House, School Lane L1 3BT

## Friends of Bil'in Fundraising Concert

Crosby Symphony Orchestra annual charities concert is in aid of Bil'in at the Philharmonic Hall on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm Tickets £15 Concessions £5. Tickets from Helen Marks—[helenmarks@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenmarks@yahoo.co.uk) £5 from each ticket sold through Helen goes to Bil'in  
Kefah Mansour, Head of the Friends of Freedom and Justice Committee in Bil'in was denied a visa to UK in June for a planned speaking tour. A letter writing protest is planned to highlight the lack of freedom to travel both ways between Palestine and Britain (since the Israelis often deny access for international visitors to Palestine). Contact Gwen for further details: [gwen.backwell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gwen.backwell@hotmail.co.uk)

## Birkenhead CND

**Next meetings:** Tues. July 14<sup>th</sup>, and Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 8pm @ Shirley's

Keep Sun. Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>th</sup> shared stall.  
Contact: Shirley 652-3768

## Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: March: Liz Heydon; April: Gordon Nash; May: Wallasey CND; 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](mailto:mcnd@care4free.net)  
NB Some groups/individuals pay 2 memberships per month - hence have twice the chance of winning the draw!

## CND Annual Conference & AGM

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October  
Arlington Conference Centre,  
220, Arlington Road, Camden St,  
London NW17HE

Deadline for registration is Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> with accom and 9<sup>th</sup> October without accom. Fee is £12 or you could be one of Merseyside CND's delegation @£5. You must be a member of CND UK to attend & vote [www.cnduk.org/conference](http://www.cnduk.org/conference) for papers and info.  
Telephone: 020 7700 2393 or phone MCND office

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Open Conference—"No Trident Replacement—Strategising for success in 2016: "**

## 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 1st  
CND Office

Meetings are usually on the  
1st Wed. in month

*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.

