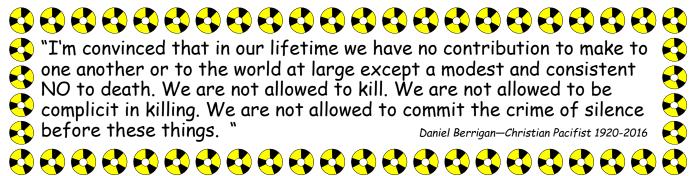
# Merseyside CND Newsletter

July/Aug/Sept. 2016

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







Brilliant news: the Stop Trident lobby on July 13th is set to be our biggest lobby of parliament yet. But it will be the last chance we're likely to have to meet MPs in big numbers before they vote on Trident. So we need your help to step up the work now.

The more MPs we can reach, the closer we'll get to halting plans to replace Trident.

If you haven't donated yet to help fund the lobby, please donate today. It only takes a minute, and anything you can spare will help make a difference on the day, go to: www.cnduk.org If you cannot get to London on July 13th could you lobby your MP at their local surgery? Contact the MCND Office if you can.

Merseyside CND Scrap Trident stall Monday July 4th Bottom of Bold St. next to the Lyceum Building, 12noon - 2pm

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## Anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Saturday 6th and Tuesday 9th August

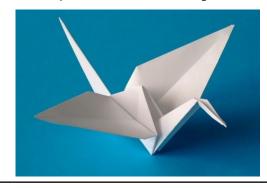
Liverpool

Aug. 6th: Gather in St John's Garden near the peace garden at 10.45am to observe 1 min silence at 11am. The Lord Mayor has been invited to lay a wreath of White flowers, followed by poems, songs and music.

11.30: we <u>may</u> proceed through the shopping centre handing out peace cranes and leaflets. Further details of procession to be confirmed.

Liverpool Pax Christi: Sunday August 7th 10am-4pm Stall at the Metropolitan Cathedral to mark both anniversaries. We will have copies of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations' briefing on Trident for use in parishes/churches. It would be good to make some paper crane so if you can help with this that would be appreciated. Contact: Janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

Chester: Saturday August 6th Hiroshima and Nagasaki Flower Memorial 8.00pm 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: chestercnd@gmail.com



## Frankie Boyle on Trident

I wrote a joke the other day, along rifle. the lines of: "Our greatest fear is that we die alone - which is why I intend to take quite a few people with me." And it would be funnier, I suppose, if it didn't constitute Britain's actual policy on defence.

It's hard to make a moral or strategic case for Trident, so its cheerleaders have resorted to metaphor. Trident, we're told, symbolises Britain's place in the world. Of course, I understand Cameron saying he thinks Britain is still a great country (talking something up is a good way to get the best price when you're selling it), but we don't actually have much sense of history, and don't really travel, so it seems odd that we're being told to spend hundreds of billions of pounds projecting a version of ourselves that we barely understand on to people we will never meet.

Perhaps Trident is really a symbol of the era of late capitalism, where most things we buy are unnecessary to the point of ludicrousness. Persuading austerity Britain to spend billions on Trident is like convincing a tramp he needs a bazooka.

What is the British way of life? What do we value? Daytime drinking; freedom of speech (for anybody who isn't joking); a big centre-forward who can hold the ball up; making drunken, sexual online threats to respected academics; hating people from a broadly similar town 30 miles away; watching strangers bake; watching someone we know fail; and whatever the opposite of reading a history book is. I'm not saying it's all bad, I'm just saying it doesn't justify heating up a 100 million civilians to a temperature where their shadows catch fire.

Perhaps we need to face up to the fact that Britain is becoming a sort of redneck country that doesn't give a shit about education or health, but needs to have the latest weapons; the renewal of Trident casts Scotland as the wife who has given you one last chance, listening wearily to your story about how you've blown the benefits money on booby-trapping the driveway and a new sniper

Cameron has eroded so many flood defences it might just be an act of tactical military genius. Which of our enemies would expect a

Trident submarine to be bobbing around a Morrisons car park in York?

The PM has derided Jeremy Corbyn's idea of keeping the subs without missiles as patently ridiculous, and in no way comparable to building two huge aircraft carriers with no aircraft. Scaling down Trident might actually better suit our military requirements over the next

Persuading Britain to spend billions on Trident is like convincing a tramp to buy a bazooka

century, as it has to be easier hauling two submarines through a desert rather than four. Or maybe the subs could find a non-military role: becoming a place where we put Britain's worst sexual deviants, perhaps eventually replacing the Premier League.

If we are wiped out in nuclear war, the planet will need to be repopulated by the staff of the submarines, so the fact that they now let women serve could actually be seen as a deeply pessimistic move. The officers in charge of launching the missiles are trained to "fire and forget". That's fire up to 160 nuclear warheads, and forget that the world has been reduced to a cursed sandscape where the strongest mutants will rule as Petrol Sheriffs.

The government insists that we are prepared for cyber attack, but to be honest we're rarely prepared for snow in winter. Having Trident (which genuinely has an operating system called Windows for Submarines) might almost be like a half-hearted suicide attempt.

As for the supposed threat of North Korea, with their current missile delivery technology it would take years for them to save

up for the necessary stamps. Yes, they launched a satellite recently, but remember that it's much easier to hit a target that is basically The Universe. I'm going to stick my neck out and say that people doing eight hours of gymnastics a day while living on acorns aren't going to build a viable, targeted intercontinental missile. And if they do, it's going to be an absolute coupon buster if they decide to send it 3,000 miles to Britain rather than - just to pick a country at random - South Korea.

Corbyn said he would never launch nuclear weapons. He has commissioned a report into the renewal of Trident, and hopefully it will change his mind. It takes a truly humble and magnanimous man to say: "Well, I have to respect the decision of the committee and, if the occasion arises, I will now destroy all life on Earth." In any case, launching Trident is surely too big a responsibility for one person. The truly democratic method would be to have a giant button somewhere that can only be pressed by the weight of 51% of the population. Think of the fun we will have coming from all over the country to fire our missiles. Peace campaigners waving bedsheets with sad-face emojis from motorway bridges at jeering megabuses of drunken pro-war monsters. Hordes of people living for days on the open Bakelite savannah of the button waiting for their numbers to build. The cheer going up as they finally reach critical mass with the screeching arrival of the Chelsea team coach. It will be an event that the whole country will talk about for ever, which will be a matter of a few minutes.

In the final moments of life on Earth, someone will think of arranging their hands to make a shadow puppet, creating a dragon or a dove to be immortalised by the bomb. They'll know that nobody will ever see it, but they'll do it anyway. And this, I think, is what it is to be any kind of artist these days, with no posterity to address but still compelled, for reasons you don't understand, to work in the terrible now.

Article from The Guardian 18th May 2016

## Trident Replacement and my MP

Last October, preparing to lobby my MP on Trident replacement, I came across the following document on my computer:

Replacing Trident: Background Briefing for Parliamentarians' by Dr Nick Ritchie, Department of Peace Studies at Bradford University. This broad and very detailed account includes the following in Section 3:

"In March 2007, Parliament voted on the Labour Government's motion to take a decision in principle on whether to replace the Trident system and therefore began a process to design, build and commission replacement submarines to carry the Trident missiles.

## The government provided three assurances:

- There will be renewed efforts to secure measures pursuant to nuclear disarmament under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- The replacement system will not involve any upgrading or expansion of current nuclear capability.
- The decision to authorise research and design on a new fleet of submarines will not bind a future government or parliament to that decision and there will be opportunities in the future for Parliament to revisit the decision."

I did not use the information in this document when I saw my MP last November, but after the Merseyside CND/Stop the War Coalition meeting

on Trident in February this year I decided to send her an email. I asked her since the 2007 vote in Parliament what measures pursuant to nuclear disarmament under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty had been taken, and were being taken, by the Government. Her reply is very illuminating.

"LOUISE ELLMAN LABOUR/CO-OPERATIVE MEMBER of PARLIAMENT for LIVERPOOL RIVERSIDE

Dear Mr Stephenson,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the UK's nuclear deterrent. Nuclear proliferation and aggressive Russian policy remain of deep concern. This is why Britain should maintain its commitment to a minimum, credible independent nuclear programme.

You ask about Labour's efforts towards nuclear disarmament after the March 2007 vote to renew Trident. In June 2007, the then Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett, made a speech at Carnegie Hall in which she committed the UK to a goal of no nuclear weapons - the first permanent member of the UN Security Council to make this commitment.

This led to an international network of leaders committed to the "Global Zero" movement and the UK began to discuss how it would disarm and steps required to verify this. Discussions on nuclear disarmament between the five permanent members of the UN

Security Council took place and discussions amongst their scientific communities are still ongoing. I support multilateral disarmament and recognise the success of past international bans on weapons of mass destruction, such as landmines, cluster bombs and biological and chemical weapons.

There will no doubt be much debate on this issue.

Yours sincerely, Louise Ellman MP

SERVING the CONSTITUENTS of LIVERPOOL RIVERSIDE"

From the horror of the media and of some Blairite Labour MPs and former MPs when Jeremy Corbyn, as new leader of the Party, said he would not press the nuclear button you wouldn't know that since 2007 the Labour Government had committed the UK to a goal of no nuclear weapons.

Ms Ellman is humanitarian and enlightened in many ways, as her letter shows, but she is still trapped in the mind-set where nuclear weapons are an essential part of UK foreign policy. And, like many, she is not aware that our nuclear weapons system is not independent but relies on the USA, and our nuclear strategy is dependent on NATO. Section 4 of Dr. Richies's 'Replacing Trident' deals with both these issues and I hope that, Ms Ellman reads it before the vote in Parliament.

Roger Stephenson

## Mohammed Ali was a peacemaker

Doesn't it make you sick listening to the drivel from President Obama and Prime Minister Cameron about how great Muhammad Ali was? Let's get this right Muhammad Ali was a champion of peace and an anti-racism activist who stood against everything these two men stand for.

We have in President Obama a man who has killed more people by drones than any other US president in history. A president who is overseeing one of the biggest re-armaments in American history with over a trillion dollars being spent on new nuclear weapons. A president who continued George Bush's war in Afghanistan and started with David Cameron a new one in Libya which destroyed the country and effectively handed the place over to an al Qaeda type Islamic Fundamentalism.

We ought to remember Muhammad Ali's famous statement when he was sent to jail for refusing to fight in Vietnam, "My conscience won't let me go shoot my brother or some poor hungry people in the mud for big powerful America. Shoot them for what? They never called me no n\*\*\*\*\*."

And this is the point they'll always gloss over isn't it? Soldiers like to think they are real men when they are sent to fight but sometimes to be a "real man" is to see the truth of it and refuse to fight. The world would be a better place if more soldiers followed his example!

Yours Sincerely

Mark Holt

Letter to the Editor of the Echo - 8.6.16

#### Mordecai Vanunu update Among all the talk of whistleblowers as

Among all the talk of whistleblowers as heroes—Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange, the Panama Papers leaker—one is rarely mentioned. Mordecai Vanunu came to Britain in 1987 to tell the Sunday Times the story of the nuclear weapons facility at Dimona in the Negev desert in southern Israel.

Walking around London, frustrated by the time the newspaper seemed to be taking to run his story, he was lured by "Cindy" a woman from Mossad. They flew together to Italy where he was kidnapped, drugged, and smuggled out of the country to Israel. Sentenced to 18 years in jail, he spent more than 10 years in solitary confinement.

Released in 2004 he was banned from speaking to foreigners without official permission and prevented from leaving the country. Last Sunday Vanunu, now aged 61 was charged with violating the terms of his release and given a further 6 months prison sentence.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/

mordechai-vanunu

## Peace Activist Fr Daniel Berrigan SJ has died

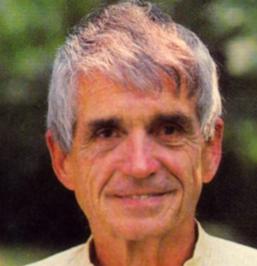
The American Jesuit priest and poet Daniel Berrigan - famous for leading defiant protests against the Vietnam War - died on Saturday April 30 in

New York aged 94. Father
Berrigan emerged as a radical
Catholic voice against the war in
the 1960s and won fame when he
and his younger brother Fr Philip
Berrigan seized draft records of
troops about to be deployed in
Vietnam. Together with seven
others they burned the files. The
group (the Catonsville Nine) were
convicted of destroying
government property and
sentenced on 9 November 1968 to
prison terms ranging from two to
3.5 years.

Through his life Fr Berrigan went on to protest against the Gulf War, the Kosovo War, the US invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, and abortion. in 1980 he founded the anti-nuclear weapons Plowshares Movement in 1980. He is reported to have taken part aged 92 in the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York's Zuccotti Park.

Fr Berrigan was born into a German-Irish Catholic family in Minnesota and joined the Jesuit order in 1939, becoming ordained in 1952. Berrigan credited Dorothy Day, founder of The Catholic Worker movement, with introducing him to pacifism and influencing his thinking about war. He wrote more than 50 books, with his first volume of poetry, Time Without Number, winning the Lamont Prize in

1957. He also wrote a play: The Trial of the Catonsville Nine. Berrigan's writings include "Prison Poems," published in 1973; "We Die Before



We Live: Talking with the Very III," a 1980 book based on his experiences working in a cancer ward; and his autobiography, "To Dwell in Peace," published in 1987. Asked in a magazine interview for an inscription for his gravestone, Fr Berrigan said: "It was never dull. Alleluia."

Fr John Dear writes:
"Dan was my greatest friend and
teacher, for over thirty five years.
We travelled the nation and the world
together; went to jail together; and I
edited five books of his writings. But

all along I considered him one of the most important religious figures of the last century, right alongside with Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day and his brother Philip. Dan and Phil inspired millions of people around the world to speak out against war and work for peace, and helped turn the Catholic Church back to its Gospel roots of peace and nonviolence. I consider him not just a legendary peace activist but one of the greatest saints and prophets of modern times. For now, I celebrate his extraordinary life, and invite everyone to ponder his great witness and how we all might continue his peace work. "

#### Bruce Kent writes:

"Berrigan remained a faithful, conscience-pricking peacemaker all his life. In 1980 the brothers were among a group who raided a General Electric nuclear plant in Pennsylvania and beat missile warheads with hammers to disarm them. This pioneering anti-nuclear 'Plowshares' action has been repeated in many places, including the UK, since then. Dan's unique gift was to combine an understanding of biblical prophecy with the language of a poet, and by word and deed to name evil, expose complicity, and light up truth - often bold, blunt and controversial. Berrigan died in the Jesuits' care home, an inspiring but not always an easy man. Prophets rarely are.

## In the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

The May edition of 'Geographical', the magazine of the Royal Geographical Society, carried a feature on Chernobyl thirty years on: 'In the Zone' '... As scientists start to discover the true environmental legacy of the region, Mary-Ann Ochota visits those trying to rebuild their lives despite the legacy of radioactive contamination'. In telling their story, Ochota also tells a story of the day of the disaster and the aftermath.

"The majority of the nuclear fallout, containing radioactive isotopes Iodine-131, Caesium-137 and Strontium-90, settled in the regions directly around the stricken power plant . . . The Strontium and Caesium isotopes have half-lives of 29 and 30 years respectively, but scientists have calculated that heavily contaminated areas will be dangerous for anything up to six centuries."

She spoke to Professor Timothy Mousseau, some of whose work at Chernobyl I reported on in Merseyside CND's April newsletter. Commenting on the description of the Chernobyl area as an unexpected nature reserve where wildlife - particularly large mammals - is thriving, he said: "Large mammals can roam through areas of the Exclusion Zone. They're liable to be spending more time in less contaminated areas, so their exposure may be limited. If you look at species that are geographically constrained - voles and mice, for example, or small bird species - there are clear impacts. In more contaminated environments there are fewer species. Among the animals that are present, there are more mutations: deformities, albinism, tumours, cataracts. Breeding adults have fewer offspring, and their young show evidence of reduced brain size.

"Early results from another study team suggest that supplying rodents with antioxidant-rich 'superfood' supplements can significantly reduce the negative health impacts of radiation. ... Professor Mousseau believes the research should also help the dispossessed human communities from Chernobyl, whose poor health has, until now, been attributed more to psycho-social trauma than radiation."

I would certainly recommend the May edition of 'Geographical'. As well as Ochota's feature on Chernobyl, there is a short piece: 'Radiation-free Reindeer Thirty years on the Chernobyl disaster still leaves a radioactive footprint on Norwegian reindeer. However, could the worst of it be over?' There is also a feature on the greening of London and the proposal to turn it into a National Park City.

Roger Stephenson

## Fetes, Fairs and Festivals

#### Peace News Summer Camp 28th July -1st August

Crabapple Community, Shrewsbury 30th July is the the 20th Anniversary of the acquittal of the four Seeds of Hope women after they disarmed (hammered on) a Hawk jet due to be exported to Indonesia. It will be celebrated with Andrea Needham one of the Seeds of Hope women, who has just published an account in her book 'The Hammer Blow'; and Natalie Bennett, Green Party leader. Book at www.peacenewscamp.info

#### National Justice and Peace Network Annual Conference

15-17th July at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire The theme is 'Justice and Power and responsibility: How can Democracy work for the Common Good. Speakers include Jon Cruddas MP; Jenny Sinclair—daughter of late Bp David

Sheppard who founded Together for the Common Good; Nick Dearden, Director of Global Justice Now, and currently campaigning against TTIP Book at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

#### Strawberry Tea Sat 16th July

4, Taunton Road CH45 3JN

We are hoping to raise £500 to buy a Shelter Box. What is a shelter box??? "Our sturdy green Shelter Boxes contain family-sized tents specially designed to withstand the elements and provide people with temporary shelter until they are able to start the process of rebuilding a home. Our ShelterKits contain all of the essential tools people need to start repairing and rebuilding homes straight away. That's not all. We know that a home is much more than bricks and mortar or tarpaulin and tent pegs. Our kits and boxes contain the items that help transform shelter into a home, like cooking sets, solar lights and activity

sets for children." from www.shelterbox.org

#### Wirral Fruit and Veg show Sat/Sun 13/14th August Birkenhead Park

Wallasey and Birkenhead CND groups will be holding a stall at this—an opportunity to promote CND

#### Wirral Earth Fest Saturday 10th September

St Bridget's Church and School grounds, West Kirby.

The aim for Wirral Earth Festival is to bring together community groups and individuals from around the region who share a 'people and Earth -friendly outlook to celebrate, network and exchange community information to promote environmental sustainability and personal well-being. We also aim to foster and encourage voluntary action for the improvement of the whole community.

## Tony Blair v Jeremy Corbyn

Does Tony Blair really believe he can simply dismiss Jeremy Corbyn and the peace movement's accusation against Blair that he is a war criminal by saying it's the politics of protest?

And how deeply insulting and patronising Blair's comments are to those thousands of people from Liverpool who came with Stop the War Coalition on our coaches and trains and to the millions who protested against Blair's irresponsible, illegal and utterly unjustified Iraq adventure which killed according to peer reviewed research by the British Medical Association 650,000 Iraqi lives and hundred of our own soldiers.

What Blair who had five wars in five years is attempting to do is to empty out any issues of morality from his actions and thereby present himself as a "manager" of some vast enterprise who did his very best in very difficult "circumstances," almost as though he were some innocent by stander! No mention here then that mass murder was committed or that by believing he had some God given right to go around the world setting fire to other people's countries that he and his mate George Bush were carrying out a foreign policy no different to fascism!

And to those who marched against the war we ought to remember they represented the highest values of humanity and the conscience of the country. Finally a great big thanks goes to Liverpool's own Jimmy McGovern for his TV drama Reg which documented the struggle of Reg Keys who lost his son in Iraq.

Yours Sincerely, Mark Holt Letter published in Liverpool Echo 13.6.2016

NB MCND has a dvd of 'Reg' available to members to borrow — Jimmy McGovern at his best in collaboration with Rober Pugh

## Peace Education in Schools and Colleges

Bryan Kelly, CND Peace Education Speaker volunteer, would like help finding teachers and lecturers working in and around Merseyside to take part in CND's education programmes.

CND Peace Education is charitably funded and does not campaign in schools. It supports independent thinking to enable young people to form their own opinions about nuclear weapons.

Programmes fit well with English, History, Science, Citizenship, Religious Education, Law, Government and Politics and Art.

Students find the sessions informative, fun and engaging. The most popular sessions are the Assembly Talk and the Bomb Factor workshop, which are both

appropriate to Years 8 and above.

CND have five education packs available free of charge. All activities are based on co-operative and active learning. They do not campaign in schools, and as such these resources explore a range of issues on all sides of the debate. All resources include full lesson plans and links to subjects on the curriculum as well as demonstrating how they fit to particular exam board specifications.

Further info: www.cnduk.org/education. Bryan Kelly:



Tel: 07501 587558 Email: peaceisbetter @outlook.com

## CND AGM & Policy Conference 2016 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> October 2016, Manchester

The Mechanics Centre, 103 Princess St. Manchester M1 6DD

Saturday 22nd AGM and Policy Conference
Sunday 23rd October — New political times, new methods
of campaigning? Equipping ourselves to Stop Trident
Deadline for registration is Sept. 26th with accommodation and
Oct. 14th without. Fee is £12. Contact Merseyside CND if you
would like to join their delegation @£5 in which case you must
be a member of Merseyside CND as well as CND UK to attend
and vote. Further details: cnduk.org/conference

#### Birkenhead CND

Next meetings: Tues. July 12th, and Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 8pm @ Shirley's

Keep Sun. Aug. 12/13th free to help on our shared stall at the Wirral Flower and Vegetable Fair in Birkenhead Park and Sept 10th for West Kirby St Bridget's Earth Fest where we share a stall. Contact: Shirley 652-3768

Wallasey CND

Planning Meetings (usually 1st Mondays): Mon. July 4<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm at The Lazy Landlord, Mill Lane, Wallasey Strawberry Tea July 16th 2-5pm at Barbara's Tea in Park: Sun. July 17<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 21st, Sept. 18th Wirral Flower & Vegetable Show Aug. 9th, Wirral Earth Fest Sept. 10th. Details page 5. Contacts Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

#### Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: March: no.3 Wallasey CND; April: no. 44 Gordon Nash; May: no. 10 Gordon Nash; Thanks to all members of the 50 Club for your continuing financial support. For £5 per month you could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 in the annual draw. Contact office for a membership form - 0151 229 5282 mcnd@care4free.net





# "Are they still drinking the sea in Gaza?" To mark the second anniversary

To mark the second anniversary of the 2014 Israeli bombing of Gaza

Guest speaker:
Dr. Lesley Dawson,
physiotherapist and former tutor at
Bethlehem University, (1988 - 1996),
who was in Gaza in 2015.

At the Quaker Meeting House, 22 School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT 7-9pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Also

#### 'Through young eyes'

A Christian Aid Exhibition of Art by young people from The Culture and Free Thought Association in Khan Younis, Gaza.

At The Cornerstone Gallery
Liverpool Hope University
Creative Campus
17 Shaw St. L6 1HP
Tel: 0151 291 3457
Wed. 13th and Thurs. 14th July
Open to the opublic 9am-5pm
All Welcome

## MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

To receive regular newsletters please complete form and return to address below.

Name	Phone
email	
Address	
I/we wish to *joir Subscription rate	n/rejoin Merseyside CND. s: *waged-£5/family-£6/unwaged or youth (under 22) £2.
I/we *would/ wou	ld 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 $\pounds$	
Total Enclosed £	(Please make cheques payable to Merseyside CND)
Signed	Date
(* Delete as appropriate)	
	Merseyside CND, 151 Dale St, Liverpool L2 2AHD

#### Maghull & Lydiate CND

Group contact: Sylvi: 526 7293

MCND Co-ord: 2pm Wed. July 6th 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.

