

Merseyside CND Newsletter



Jan/Feb/Mar 2017

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

"I would no more teach children military training than teach them arson, robbery or assassination"

Eugene Victor Debs

Unprecedented support for Scrapping Trident

For a veteran campaigner like me, running stalls has not always been the most pleasant experience. Responses from the public have been, to say the least, mixed, and, by and large, predictable. By this I mean that you could nearly always tell who would be supportive, who would be indifferent and who would be hostile. Men were usually indifferent, with a small minority, predominantly middle aged, aggressively hostile. Women's reactions, while never hostile, varied, with the most fashionably dressed the least likely to engage.

The good news is that over the past year, all that has changed. I am now happily confused as to where the next signature is coming from. Male, female, young, old, mums, grandparents, 'white' collar or 'blue' collar, elegant, scruffy, tattooed, pierced, on skateboards or in wheelchairs, whether in Liverpool City Centre, Crosby village, or Wallasey, they are queuing up to sign our petitions to scrap Trident!

Change is in the air. Certainly, CND's argument about the better uses to which the £200billion could be spent

seems to be getting through at last. One of the most frequent comments, particularly from mothers with young children, as they sign up, is about the "waste of public money" and the need to "support the NHS". Most encouraging of all, perhaps, are the numbers of young people who seem willing to listen and learn and who seem genuinely shocked by both the cost of Trident and its pointlessness.

What they all seem to have in common is ideas about how the £200billion could be better spent to alleviate the poverty and inequality which they see around them. All this means that MCND will be holding even more stalls in 2017, drumming up yet more support, collecting more evidence to convince local MPs that the change that we have seen in 2016 is real and that nuclear disarmament is no longer a vote loser. To do this, of course, we need more help, so if you would like to spend a pleasurable few hours on a stall in good company and see the change for yourselves, contact us. If you can't spare that much time, stop by one of our stalls for a chat.

Peter Wilson

Peace Education in Schools

While at the CND conference in Manchester I made contact with Brian Kelly from Warrington who is involved with Peace Education in his area. From this meeting we arranged to meet up in Warrington with Jac Bastion from National CND to discuss Peace Education on Merseyside.

There are three people on the Wirral who have shown an interest in doing this and Jac, (or his successor, as he is moving on in the new year) is happy to do training sessions for us.

Is there anyone else who thinks that they would like to get involved? The peace education pack is very well thought out and can be used in primary and secondary schools and is also good for talks with other groups. We are aware that we are not attracting young people into the peace movement. Maybe this could be part of the answer.

Barbara Hardcastle

Merseyside CND sends thanks to all our members for your continued support and good will.

With warmest wishes to you all for a healthy, peaceful 2017.

Merseyside CND AGM

The AGM will be held on Wednesday Feb 1st 5pm in the meeting room next to the office at 151, Dale St.

It will consist of reports of activity in 2016 and election of officers.

There will be two resolutions on:

- 1) Capenhurst (see p2) and
- 2) Street Stalls—(see above)

There will be a Coord meeting at 4pm prior to the AGM

Included in the discussion will be

- 1) Groups challenge (CND National Plan 2017)
- 2) Peace Education in schools

Contents

- 2 Global Ban on Nuclear Weapons
- 2 Write to Boris; Capenhurst
- 3 Gordon Nash remembered and Lobby MPs on Nuclear Transport
- 4 Groups' news; Merseyside CND 50 Club; membership renewal

Campaign for a Global Ban

Negotiations will begin in March 2017 on an International Treaty to ban nuclear weapons

Frustration with the lack of disarmament progress by the nuclear states has led to a UN resolution calling for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

123 countries voted in favour, with only 38 voting against. Those opposed included the UK, the USA, France, Israel and Russia. North Korea voted in favour of the ban conference. The other nuclear states (India, Pakistan and China) abstained.

Across the world, there's a strong desire for a global nuclear weapons ban.

115 countries belong to nuclear free zones covering Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa.

Nine countries have nuclear weapons.

CND has always championed the global abolition of nuclear weapons.

Trident is a relatively small part of a massive global problem that needs to be dealt with. Nuclear weapons must be banned in the same way that chemical and biological weapons, cluster munitions and landmines have been outlawed.

The UK government has repeatedly said that it shares CND's goal of a nuclear weapons free world, but insists this can only be achieved through a multilateral process. This process is now beginning and the government needs to be a constructive part of it - not trying to derail it. It is vital that Britain is at the table.



Parliamentary CND has written to the Chairs of relevant Parliamentary Committees asking them to hold evidence sessions on the ban. We have also got in touch with political parties encouraging them to send representatives to the negotiations. We cannot let the UK refuse to participate in this crucial conference - we need to get them round the negotiating table. The British government should rethink its approach and support and participate in the UN Global Ban conference in 2017.

Write to Boris

Thousand of CND supporters have already written to the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson. Can you help us by calling on the government to support a nuclear weapons ban and to play a full and constructive part when negotiations commence?
Email: fcocorrespondence@fco.gov.uk
Or: boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Foreign Secretary

You will be aware that the First Committee of the UN General Assembly recently voted by a large majority to convene a conference in 2017 with the aim of negotiating a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. I was deeply disappointed that the UK was one of the countries that opposed the move and I am writing to ask that the UK plays a constructive role in the negotiations when they begin next year.

The international community is overwhelmingly in support of a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. The failure to engage in the process, let alone support it, risks leaving the UK holding on to nuclear weapons as the rest of the world moves beyond them. Successive UK Governments have stated a commitment to both a nuclear weapon-free world and its achievement through a multilateral process. This conference to negotiate a ban treaty represents a significant opportunity to make real progress towards this goal. I hope that the UK will not only play a full, constructive role in the negotiations but will also work to ensure that other countries who opposed the process will do the same.

I would be grateful if you would outline what plans the Government has to engage in the conference at the UN next year.

Signed.....

Send to:
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles St.
London SW1A 2AH

Capenhurst Campaigning

Wallasey CND wrote to Sean Morris, Secretary of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities, for advice on how best to campaign on the future of Capenhurst now that it has been chosen as the site best suited for decommissioning and storage of redundant nuclear submarines.

Sean answered as follows:

"NFLA worked hard for 16 years to get the submarine dismantling programme finally on track and making sensible, open and transparent decisions.

In terms of Capenhurst and the waste, NFLA broadly supports it as there is an identified store on site that can manage the ILW. The other four sites all had more concerns - Sellafield is struggling with so many

other waste streams, Chapelcross would have been affected negatively as it seeks to decommission its own power station and Aldermaston and Burghfield have some major nuclear safety problems at the moment.

The amount of waste also being transported is relatively small and should be managed safely. We would have preferred sites close to Rosyth and Devonport, but there were no suitable sites close to them and so we have come to the conclusion that it is an appropriate site for such material, which will simply be stored at present.

This does not mean that scrutiny of it should reduce. The road transports need careful local consultation and the operator of Capenhurst needs to closely engage with the local community on how this waste is managed over the time it remains there. They should also engage with

groups like Wallasey CND as the waste may remain there for as long as 100 years. NFLA worked hard with other anti-nuclear groups to ensure MOD dealt with both the dismantling and the waste management as openly and transparently as possible, and took into account all relevant local and environmental concerns. Though we are broadly content with the final resolution, the key is that openness and transparency continue and local concerns are taken on board.....

I don't think Capenhurst are using this decision to now become a short-term repository of radwaste from many other sources. This decision came about as they have space in their store and wanted to make some money out of it, but they still had to go through an exhaustive process for approval.

Cont. on p3

Gordon Nash remembered

Gordon was one of those people who was always around when I was young and living at home. I hadn't realised quite how long Gordon had been around until I read the Obit that he wrote when my mother (Beth Sareen) died. In it, Gordon notes that he met my mother in 1948. My memories from childhood are of him as the 'literature man'. I am not sure how often, or exactly what comprised the literature that Gordon brought. I especially remember the occasions when he came with picture story books of the Chinese Revolution.

I left home in 1964 and didn't return till 1980's. My acquaintance with Gordon was re-established when, he, my husband, Pat, and friend, Roger Harris, went on a 'boating trip' to Llandudno. The boat was a blow up type of row boat. Gordon and Roger took off to sea while Pat and I climbed the Great Orme. On our return we found that the consumption of pickled onion sandwiches during the voyage had necessitated their early return and withdrawal to the nearest pub. Gordon was a great guy and will be sadly missed by all of us.

Helen Sareen

After Wallasey CND was set up in the early 80s, Gordon was there at every demo, march, meeting. Turn around and he was standing shoulder to shoulder with you. Faslane, Barrow, Sellafeld, Aldermaston, and of course our local nuclear site Capenhurst where he was part of the Snowball campaign. He was arrested, refused to pay a fine or be bound over so spent a short time in Walton prison. The last march he went on was in February 2016 when he was determined to take part in the "Cancel Trident" event.

We insisted that we took a wheelchair in case he got tired or cold but true to Gordon's determination he walked the whole way and proud to do it. What made him more proud was that his daughter Liz walked beside him. As you know he was a fighter for

Peace & Justice, very much into his union and pensioner's rights. But he was the first person to jump into action when the need arose, be it saving the local libraries or supporting the NHS, contesting the bedroom tax and the Poll Tax. He believed things can be changed but we all have to work together for this to be achieved.

But there was another side to Gordon



that many never saw. His generosity, his love of opera and poetry and nature and gardening.

He always kept close by him the "Pocket Book of Verse", which was published in 1944 and given to servicemen during WW2. Gordon's was well used and backed in brown paper to keep it in good condition, but you can tell that it has been well travelled and read and loved over the years. Gordon was a great man, the world needs more Gordons, we will all miss him terribly but will continue, in his name, to fight the good fight for peace & Justice.

Barbara Hardcastle

I first got to know Gordon on the 1962 Aldermaston march when he sold me my first ever copy of the Daily Worker. I think this became a source of pride to us both. I subsequently became a regular reader of the Worker and later the Morning Star and joined the Communist Party.

We later became members of the same Communist Branch and sold the

Morning Star together.

I am currently secretary of the Merseyside Cuba Solidarity Group which Gordon joined about six or seven years ago. Although joining the CSC relatively late in life he always had been a strong supporter of the Cuban revolution.

At the age of 85 Gordon became a very active member of our group and enthusiastically took part in all our meetings and our various other activities until he became ill last year. He particularly embraced the campaign to free the Miami Five in which our group was always very active. He had planned to go to Manchester to meet Gerardo and Rene from the Five last July but had to cancel at the last minute because of his illness.

There is little I can say about Gordon that you probably don't already know. Gordon was a stalwart of every organisation of which he was a member. If he missed a meeting he always took the trouble to send apologies. If you were organising a meeting he was always the first person you wanted to be there. He was the most supportive of comrades, unfailingly pleasant and always good humoured. He was a very popular member of the CSC group who will be much missed.

There was never a time when Gordon gave up the struggle for socialism, peace and the belief that a better world is possible. In this he was an inspiration to so many others. He was a regular contributor to the local radio's lunchtime phone in and managed to raise many Cuba related issues. In fact he put a socialist perspective on a range of political issues but always in a clear and non confrontational way.

Penny Anderson

Merseyside CND would like to thank Gordon's family for nominating us as one of the three groups to receive donations in memory of Gordon. So far we have received more than £200. Gordon also left us £100 in his will.

Janet Laycock, Treasurer MCND

Cont. from p2.. Capenhurst..

This process continues at the local level now which is why your group becomes important to keep the scrutiny going."

Sean also asked whether Wallasey CND attend the Capenhurst Local Liaison Committee meetings. We are in fact looking for a volunteer to take that task on board.

To come to the crunch we are looking for allies in this campaign and have contacted various environmental,

green and anti-nuclear groups with limited response because people are very busy with their own group activities.

Anyway 'nil desperandum' maybe someone out there would like to be involved — You don't have to live in Wallasey or even in Wirral.

Interested? Please contact us:
Janet: janmike@care4free.net or
Barbara : barb.hardcastle@gmail.com
Tel: 0151 6771133 & 0151 638 3967
Thank you very much!

Gordon's Books

There are some books of a political, social and cultural nature left among Gordon's effects which his family is offering to friends and acquaintances. Please let us know if you are interested and we will put you in touch.

Wallasey CND are thinking of holding an evening to remember Gordon by which might be a good occasion to display them. Details to follow. Janet

Replacing our Trident nuclear weapons will cost £205
With that amount of money we could:

Employ 150,000 new nurses and build 120 state-of-the-art hospitals

Build 3 million affordable homes

Provide short-term shelter for all in need

Reinstate Education Maintenance Allowance

Provide free education for 7.5 million undergraduates

Build thousands of new primary schools

Install solar panels in every home

Build enough wind turbines to power every home in the U.K.

Increase funding for overseas development



Birkenhead CND

Next meetings: New Year Party Tues 10th Jan 7.30pm at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd. All welcome
14th Feb 8pm; 14th Mar 8pm Contact: Shirley 652-3768

Chester CND

Meetings: 3rd Thurs. 7.30 pm at Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham Street: chestercnd@gmail.com

Liverpool Pax Christi

Next group meeting: January 3rd 7pm St. Michael's Church, West Derby Road/Horne St. L6 5EH to discuss plans for Ash Wednesday Contact Jan Harper 263 5623

Future actions:

January 15th - Peace Sunday, Theme Non Violence - A style of Politics for peace Pax Christi stall at Liverpool Met Cathedral

March 1st - ASH WEDNESDAY - Public Christian witness at Liverpool City Centre, for Trident and Nuclear war preparations

Thurs. March 30th - Joint event with Quaker Peace and Social witness - with returned Ecumenical Accompanier. Venue: Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, (next to the Bluecoat) Liverpool City Centre. Contact details for above - Jan Harper - 07746919915

Maghull and Lydiat CND

Are disbanding after many years' solid support for CND locally and nationally. Farewell Friends and thanks for all your help. We wish you Peace, good health and happiness. Stay in touch!

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: Oct. John Middleton; Nov. Rita Walker; Annual Draw: 1st prize £250: Doreen Dixon; 2nd £100: Liz Heydon; 3rd £50: John Middleton

Thanks to all members of the 50 Club for your continuing financial support. It is vitally important for Merseyside CND to have a regular income which helps us budget for the year ahead. Membership of the 50 Club is one very generous way to help us. It costs £5 per month and each month there is a draw held at the Co-ord Meeting, the winner receiving £50 while Merseyside CND receives £50 per month. This Club was set up in 1986 and is called 50 because it is limited to 50 members. In fact it has never reached 50 and stands at 29 at present.

A 50 Club membership form is available from Merseyside CND: 151 Dale St. L2 2AH Tel: 0151 229 5282 E: mcnd@care4free.net

Wallasey CND

AGM and Social: Sat. Jan 7th Business 2pm Social 3.30pm Members, friends and family welcome to join us let our hair down before the serious stuff we need to do in 2017 to make our group more visible in Wallasey and Wirral

Planning Meetings: Usually 1st Mon. 2pm@ Barbara & Dave's: 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey or 6pm at The Lazy Landlord, Mill Lane CH45 Contacts Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name.....Phone.....

Address.....

Email.....

I/we wish to *join/ rejoin Merseyside CND.

Subscription rates: *waged-£5/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £2.

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 Jan 4th
AGM 5pm Wed. Feb. 1st
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, Janet Laycock & Andy. Printed in the Office

