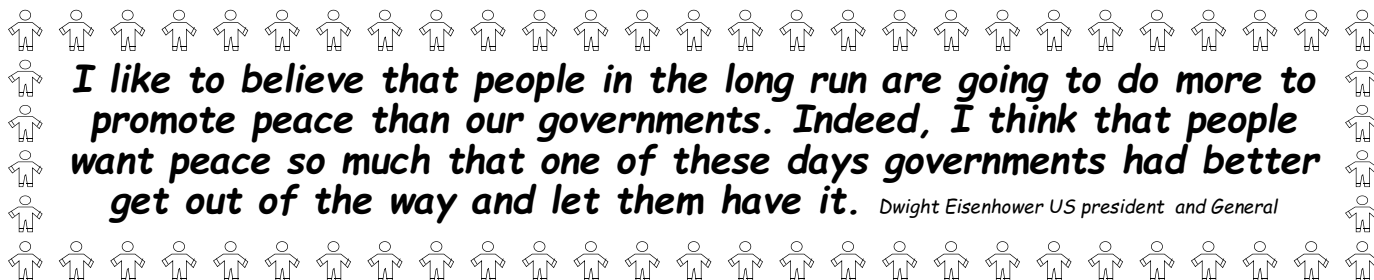


# Merseyside CND Newsletter



Jan/Feb/Mar 2016

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



*I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.* Dwight Eisenhower US president and General

National Demonstration  
27 February 2016  
London

**STOP  
TRIDENT  
DECISION TIME 2016**

**Join Us In London And Say 'No' To Trident**

Merseyside C.N.D. and Chester CND have organised a coach from Liverpool, via Chester, so please join us as this will likely be our last chance to voice opposition to Trident before the vote takes place.

Coach leaves Liverpool (St. John's Lane 6.45am picking up at 7.20 Chester station)

Tickets £25 waged £20 unwaged from Merseyside or Chester CND and from News from Nowhere, 96, Bold St. L1 4HY

Register your interest via mcnd@care4free.net 0151 229 5282

Chester CND: Contact Allison Challen on chestercnd@gmail.com

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AGM Feb. 3rd 5pm and next Co-ord  
Meeting Jan 6th 2pm @151 Dale St.  
50 Club, annual draw winners and  
appeal for new members

# Anti-Trident Lobby of Parliament

**On 4 November CND** held a mass lobby of Parliament against Trident replacement. Members, or supporters, wishing to participate could arrange an appointment with their MP by using the CND website to send an e-mail, or by contacting their MP directly.

You can of course see your MP to talk about Trident by arranging a meeting at a local surgery, but mass action has more impact. Perhaps.

The Lobby was to take place between 1.00 and 5.00. My MP, Louise Ellman, Labour and Co-operative for Liverpool Riverside, arranged to meet me at 3.00. Before meeting their MP lobbyists were to go to a committee room CND had hired for the day. We signed in and were given two things to give to our MP: The CND Briefing - 'Trident Mythbuster' and a copy of the journal 'Medicine, Conflict and Survival' for August 2014 for the speech by F.W. de Klerk at the nuclear exits conference in Helsinki in October 2013 - 'The importance of rejecting the Gollum's ring of nuclear power'. [In this case 'nuclear power' meaning 'nuclear armed state'.]

Sitting in this room, talking with others who had come to lobby their MP, and some who had no appointment but had come anyway in the hope that one could be arranged on the day, I felt safe. Together we would stop our politicians from drifting blindly into a nuclear war.

Later, I met Mrs Ellman in Central Lobby. I asked her if she was for Trident or against. She said she was "For", but it was up for review and she was listening to the arguments. She asked me what I thought. I said

there were many arguments against it, but I was against it on moral grounds and elaborated a bit. I then asked her why she was for Trident. She said in today's uncertain world we need a deterrent. I thought: the last thing we need in an uncertain world is nuclear weapons - they make the world more uncertain. But what I said was: nuclear weapons were from the Cold War and I didn't agree with them then, but they won't deter Al Qaeda or Isis. She then admitted that you couldn't prove whether deterrence worked or not. I agreed, but not wanting to get involved in a discussion on deterrence theory and seeing she felt it was nearly time to get back to her office I showed her the two documents CND had asked me to give her. She looked at them very seriously and said she would study them. I said I hoped she would have the time. She insisted she would make sure she had the time, because I had taken the trouble of coming all the way to London to see her.

Back in Liverpool I decided to follow up our face-to-face meeting with an e-mail. I thanked her for agreeing to meet me and then reiterated and elaborated on my arguments.

"For me any discussion of nuclear bombs has to start with Hiroshima. The nuclear bombing of Hiroshima was mass murder. An atrocity that must never be repeated. The destruction of the city and people was not just by the 6,000 degree heat of the explosion, it was by radiation, which causes cancers in survivors and genetic deformities in the children of survivors. There can be no moral justification for the use of such a weapon.

A Trident submarine has the capacity to launch up to 192 independently-targeted warheads, and each warhead has a destructive power 25 times that of the Hiroshima bomb. That means a Trident submarine can create 192 Hiroshimas, which is morally barbaric. To give each bomb a destructive power 25 times Hiroshima is totally insane.

In the time of the Cold War we lived under an uneasy peace where each side lied and bluffed about their ability to destroy the other. This led to an ever more dangerous and expensive arms race. These arms kept the peace, it was said, because each side having them meant Mutually Assured Destruction and this meant no one would use them.

But what does it say about our country that we are willing to threaten other countries with nuclear annihilation?

Nuclear deterrence only works if you are prepared to use nuclear bombs and if the enemy country believes you will use them.

So a nuclear bomb is not a theoretical construct - it is part of our warfighting arsenal.

Having nuclear bombs makes us barbaric. They don't keep us free, they keep us in chains to the Military.

Since using these weapons would cause unbearable damage to our planet and unspeakable misery to millions of people, I hope you will vote against Trident when it comes up for renewal."

Roger Stephenson

## Lobby your MP

**Next date to Lobby your MP - 22/23rd January in your constituency**  
Please try to meet your MP at best in person or at least email or write to her and let us know which side they are on. Could you organise a debate on Trident in your area? Either through the Labour Party if you are a member or at a public meeting?

Trident discussion meetings have already taken place in Wallasey Constituency with a group of Momentum members and in Wirral South CLP with Party members and their MP, Alison McGovern. Peter Wilson Co-chair Merseyside CND addressed both and received favourable and positive response among LP members. 2 more meetings are scheduled in January in St. Helen's South and Whiston and Walton.

Janet Laycock

## The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and Trident replacement

Echoing the Charter of the United Nations in its call for Peace, the preamble to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968 opens:

**"Considering the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war and the consequent need to make every effort to avert the danger of such a war ..."**

Then in its Articles it lays out measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Article VI states:

**"Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue**

**negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."**

Replacing Trident is clearly against the spirit of the NPT. And it is difficult to see how a country can pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament while at the same time it is maintaining its nuclear arsenal. Thus Rabinder Singh QC and Professor Christine Chinkin conclude that Trident replacement is in violation of Article VI of the NPT.

Roger Stephenson

# Pax Christi pilgrimage of pardon, reconciliation and peace - November 2015

How different is the remembrance of war in a land and among a people destroyed by war! This is one of the strongest feelings I took away from our Pax Christi Peace Pilgrimage in Flanders between 29<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Twenty members of Pax Christi British section joined with Pax Christi members from Germany, Flanders, Wallonie Bruxelles, France and P.C.I. to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our movement and the centenary of the First World War in a spirit of pardon, reconciliation and peace.

Our home for our few days was the Peace Village in Mesen near the French border and a short drive from Ypres. Within an hour of our arrival we were 'exposed' to the madness that had locked this region into war for four years, destroying and flattening everything within sight. The only thing not destroyed in Mesen was the crypt of the medieval church of Saint Nicolas which served as a German field hospital. Today, in a spirit of resilience and in a commitment to peace the Church has been completely rebuilt, with 58 Pax Bells, peeling each hour, in honour of Peace and Mary, mother of God. Nearby, the newly-created Irish Peace Park with memorials to both the Unionist and Nationalist who died in the area, with flag stones carrying words and poems of peace from many who were killed during the Battle of Mesen/Messines.

The impact war had on the civilian population was thoughtfully presented by Piet Chielsens, co-ordinator of the Flanders Field Museum. Images of a flattened Ypres, of refugees, of those who refused to leave but stayed to search through the rubble and fill in shell holes and give witness to the city that once was Ypres. We could replace the word Ypres for Homs or Damascus or Kabul, or any of the cities of today where life is destroyed by war, and where human resilience will not give in to violence.

It was in this area that chlorine gas was first used with devastating results. Our group quickly made the link with the use of chemical weapons in our time - the Iraq-Iran War, their use against the Kurds and more recently in Syria and the use at this time of tear gas in Palestine.

The experiences affirmed us in our work for peace. The past urges us to say a clear NO to war. So we must work to stop the arms trade which plays a major part in creating conflict which inflames the refugee crisis of today. We must resist being manipulated by propaganda - messages and stories and images that seek to dehumanise others and so allow us too easily to inflict torture and violence on one another. We must not allow war to become sanitised or romanticised, glossed over. Rather we must expose its real costs to human life, community and the environment.

Our main pilgrimage date ended at the German cemetery of Vladslo where the remains of 25, 000 German soldiers are buried. The Kathe Kollwitz sculpture of the Grieving Parents is here: timeless and nation-less images of grief and loss and wasted life. To be there as an international group brought an added quality to our presence and prayer. We lit the Easter candle and carried the light out to the flat granite stones of the cemetery while singing *Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.*

This time of reflection brought us to the foundation of Pax Christi 1945 when Marthe Dortel Claudot and Mgr. Theas of France began a movement built on forgiveness and reconciliation, especially at that time towards the peoples of Germany. The Peace of Christ - Pax Christi— was born from another lived experience of war and destruction.

Pat Gaffney  
Secretary General, Pax Christi

## Pax Christi Liverpool

Tuesday 5th January 2016 - 7pm - Planning meeting at Sacred Heart Church next to Royal Liverpool Hospital.

Sunday 17th January - Peace Sunday morning - stall in the foyer of the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool.

Sunday 17th January - 2pm - 4pm (doors open 1.30pm) Annual Memorial Lecture 'Refugees' given by Louise Zanne from Jesuit Refugee Service at LACE, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA.

Wednesday 10th February (Ash Wednesday) Action in Liverpool City Centre opposing Trident nuclear weapons (time to be decided).

## War Poem

### The Responsible Bomb

I am the Syrian child  
Awaiting the British Responsible Bomb  
Each day I wake and rush to my window  
Hoping to catch a glimpse as it falls  
I want to welcome it with open arms  
Because it keeps the British safe in their beds  
I want to catch it and caress its metallic beauty  
This glittering message of peace  
This reasonable response.

Each day I scribble crayon pictures of Responsible Bombs  
On smooth sheets of paper  
I stick them to our fridge with magnets shaped like butterflies,  
My infant brain imagining friendly fire.

Before

The pieces of my skull  
Tear the paper  
Smear my blood across the wall,  
Sprinkle spleen and scorched skin  
Across my simple art

The Responsible Bomb  
Screams out my name

I am the Syrian child

Author unknown  
Printed in Morning Star

## Anthem for Doomed Youth

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?  
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.  
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle  
Can patter out their hasty orisons.  
No mockeries now for them:  
no prayers nor bells;  
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,  
The shrill demented choirs of wailing shells;  
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?  
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes  
Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.  
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;  
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,  
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Wilfred Owen  
Died on 4th Nov 1918 on the Western Front

## Birkenhead CND

Next meetings: New Year Party Tues 5th Jan 7.30pm at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd. All welcome  
9th Feb 8pm; 8th Mar 8pm Contact: Shirley 652-3768

## Chester CND

Next Meeting: Thurs 7th January, 7.30 pm at Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham Street, Chester. Meetings for rest of the year will be on the 3rd Thursday of each month, same time and place.  
'Stop Trident Decision Time' March and rally on Saturday 27th Feb. 2016 - a coach will pick up at Chester Station - for info & to book a seat contact [chestercnd@gmail.com](mailto:chestercnd@gmail.com)

## Liverpool Pax Christi

The international peace movement of the Catholic church meet at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Usually at St. Michael's Church, West Derby Road, /Horne St. L6 5EH.  
Contact Jan Harper 263 5623 (and see P3)

## Maghull and Lydiat

This group has been going since the early 80s and would like to invite new members to who live in the Maghull and Lydiat area to join them. Please contact: Sylvi: 526 7293 or MCND Office

## Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: Oct. Ruth Mullins; Nov. Doreen Dixon;  
Annual Draw: 1st prize £250: Lyn and Mike Henry; 2nd £100: Angela Lansley; 3rd £50: Barbara Hardcastle

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. Would you like to swell the numbers at the start of what may well turn out to be the make or break year in the existence of CND?

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

## Merseyside CND AGM

Wednesday 3rd Feb 5pm

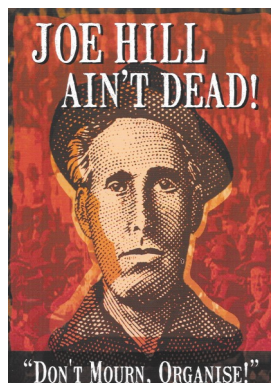
All members welcome to attend in Conference Room 1, LCVS, 151, Dale St (near the Birkenhead tunnel exit)  
Reports of 2015, Plans for 2016 and Election of Officers: Co-chairs, Secretary, Treasurer

## Wallasey CND

AGM and Social: Sat. Jan 9th 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 2016 to win the case against Trident renewal

Planning Meetings: Usually 1st Mon. afternoon of each Month Next ones: Feb 1st and Mar 7th all 2pm @ Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey  
Contacts Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

## Coming Events



Another chance to see this brilliant play *The Joe Hill Dream* by John Fay at the Lantern Theatre, Liverpool. Dates and venues to be confirmed: See: [Catalystmedia.org.uk](http://Catalystmedia.org.uk)  
Or e: [nervemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:nervemagazine@gmail.com)  
Or visit News from Nowhere 96 Bold St. L1



## 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-£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 2AH

MCND Co-ord: 2pm  
Wednesday Jan 6th  
CND Office

If you receive a separate renewal form with this newsletter it means your subs are due - Thankyou.

This edition of the newsletter run up by Cathy Page and Janet Laycock.  
Printed in the Office

