

# Merseyside CND Newsletter Spring 2018



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## Global nuclear ban?

The British government won't sign, so let's take matters into our own hands.

**Sign the Citizens' Treaty**



## Let's rally behind the Campaign for a weapons ban treaty

## Trump's Nuclear Posturing risks a new arms race

Don't just take our word for it - Germany's Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel has just warned that Europe risks becoming involved in "a renewed nuclear arms race" as a result of Trump's new strategy to upgrade and expand America's nuclear arsenal. The Foreign Minister made his comments after the Pentagon revealed America's Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), a new nuclear arms policy to revamp the USA's nuclear arsenal and develop new, 'low yield'(!) tactical atomic weapons.

*"as in times of the Cold War, we in Europe are especially endangered by a renewed nuclear arms race. That is why precisely we in Europe*

*must begin new initiatives for arms control and disarmament",*  
Sigmar Gabriel

The Minister's comments are a stark and sober indication of how much Trump's nuclear belligerence is alarming Europe. The rest of Europe, of course, not, apparently the UK, or have I missed our Government's condemnation of President Trump's alarming nuclear escalation? Perhaps they are too busy planning President Trump's State Visit. We, in the Peace Movement are also planning a very 'warm' welcome for the President when the date of his visit is finally known. Watch this space!!

**STOP PRESS - Trump to increase arms spending by cutting welfare**  
Of course Nuclear Arms Races don't come cheap, and, in his new Budget proposals revealed this week, President Trump is demanding a 'defence' budget of \$686 billion - a 13% increase on the 2017 budget. To afford this, he proposes to burden America with a \$1trillion deficit and, more alarmingly to trash welfare and environmental protection budgets - The Environment Protection Agency alone faces a 34% cut to its funding.

Peter Wilson, MCND Co-chair

## Liverpool Pax Christi's Walk of Witness | Ash Wednesday 2018



On Wednesday 14th February, Ash Wednesday, Christians of different denominations, and representatives of CND walked behind the Liverpool Pax Christi banner in the cold, rain and strong wind from St Luke's bombed out church to the Law Courts in Derby Square. The walkers held aloft placards highlighting the indiscriminate mass murder of innocents and the long term devastation of the planet that nuclear weapons would cause. Other placards drew attention to the obscene cost of renewing Britain's Trident nuclear weapon system and also to Pope Francis's recent statements that even possessing nuclear weapons is gravely immoral. On Church Street the horrifying testimony of a survivor of the 1945 atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima, a 13 year old at the time, was read out. At the

Law Courts a copy of Article 6 of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to which the UK is a signatory and which calls for complete nuclear disarmament, was handed in to the Chief Justice with a plea for the UK to honour the treaty. Just how urgent this is was demonstrated in recent weeks when grossly provocative rhetoric and actions by both the leaders of the USA and North Korea quickly led to a nuclear crisis, and how peaceful dialogue between South and North Korea and a simple invitation to the Winter Olympics quickly defused the threat of nuclear war.

- Peter Moonan, Liverpool Pax Christi



# C.N.D. at 60

THE Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament exploded into life 60 years ago. Britain's most enduring mass movement, it has remained constant in its principles and determined in its action across the decades.

The world into which CND emerged was changing rapidly. Worldwide, the colonial empires were being dismantled as national liberation movements achieved the independence of their countries. European colonial power in east Asia had been broken by the Japanese. Britain withdrew from India, partitioning the country into the two states of India and Pakistan amid a bloodbath claiming countless lives. Dutch rule in the East Indies ended. The Chinese Communist Party came to power in the world's most populous country in 1949. Ghana was the first colony in Africa to gain its independence, named the "Black Star of Africa" in 1957, under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah. Others followed rapidly. A revolution in Cuba in 1959, under the leadership of Fidel Castro, kicked out the corrupt dictator Batista and engaged in a programme of social and economic reform.

This radical wave alarmed the US and its allies to the extent that the largest conflicts in the post-war world occurred as the US intervened to try to prevent the colonial revolutions radicalising along the lines that had occurred in China. But major social change was not confined to the former colonies.

In Britain, the establishment of the welfare state by the post-war Labour government had brought health, education and jobs for all — a real advance in a country where memories of the poverty and hunger of the 1930s were still relatively recent.

The great vision of the UN for a world free of injustice, poverty and war still held widespread resonance. In many ways there was a new confidence in the ability to build a new world based on science and reason, that social progress and advance for all peoples were unstoppable.



This was also the time when "youth culture" emerged as a distinct social and cultural phenomenon, as education and wider opportunities created a more affluent and articulate generation of young people.

Indeed, opportunities were improved across all economic classes and social mobility was better than it had ever been before.

Yet the great promise of the post-war world was blighted by continuing inequalities, uneven economic development and the threat of war and nuclear annihilation.

With the end of empire, Britain's traditional self-identity was changing, and there were plenty of people in Britain who were pleased to take part in shaping a new society with different values. Popular culture was one area where changing values and ideas were expressed. CND in its early years was inextricably linked to the social radicalisation of the time.

The early Aldermaston marches to the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Berkshire represented microcosms of the new Britain, articulating both widespread popular dissent and the social rebellion of the youth of the time. In many respects it was through the early mobilisations of the anti-nuclear movement that the radical politics of what were to become the new social movements were first expressed.

The single event that most put CND on the public map was the Aldermaston march of April 1958. The Easter march

to the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, Berkshire, the main location for the research, development and production of Britain's nuclear warheads, was originally an initiative of the Direct Action Committee (DAC), which formed a committee to organise the march in December 1957.

This committee included Hugh Jenkins, who was later to become chair of CND from 1979-81, Frank Allain MP, Walter Wolfgang from the Labour Hydrogen Bomb Committee and Pat Arrowsmith, who became the march organiser.

The leadership of the newly formed CND gave its blessing to the project and the march drew thousands of young people into activity. It was an enormous success, drawing far more supporters than the organisers had expected. It was immediately, inextricably linked with the new-born CND in the public mind.

A lasting consequence of the first march was the famous symbol produced for the march organisers by the artist Gerald Holtom, which became CND's own symbol and is universally recognised as the sign of peace.

According to Peggy Duff, who worked for CND in its early years, the artist explained the symbol in the following way. "First, the semaphore for the initials N and D. Second, the broken cross meant the death of man, the circle the unborn child. It represented the threat of nuclear weapons to all mankind and, because this was new, the threat to the unborn child."

Very soon thereafter, the symbol came to adorn badges, posters, leaflets, mugs, banners and ever since has been graffitied onto walls and virtually any available flat surface all over the world. CND and its iconic symbol will remain in the forefront of the struggle for peace in Britain and globally until nuclear weapons are eradicated.

*Kate Hudson is general secretary of CND.*





# Olaf Stapledon and the Friends' Ambulance Unit



Olaf Stapledon was not a pacifist when The Great War began, and yet in April 1915 he signed up to join the Friends' Ambulance Unit and served with them from August 1915 until January 1919. He loathed the War for its nationalist rivalries, which threatened civilisation, and because it was "modern war". He did not specify. Presumably he meant the wholesale slaughter on a scale that had never been seen before. He felt a loyalty to the men who

were fighting and agonised over what he should do to help them.

He was born in Seacombe, Wallasey in 1886, but spent the first six years of his life in Port Said in Egypt, which is at the Mediterranean entrance to the Suez Canal. His grandfather, William Stapledon, had been a ship's captain and when he retired from the sea he opened a shipping agency in Port Said representing Liverpool ship owner Alfred Holt's Blue Funnel Line. It was here that Olaf's father worked as manager.

After leaving school Olaf studied at Oxford University, gaining a B.A. in Modern History in 1909. He taught at Manchester Grammar School for a year and then worked in a shipping office in Liverpool before moving to Port Said to work in the family firm there. In 1912 he gave up his business career and returned to the Wirral, living with his parents in Caldy. In 1913 he completed an M.A. in Modern History and started teaching for the Workers' Education Association in Liverpool.

At first, in the autumn of 1914, Olaf felt he should enlist in the spring, "if there was still a war", when he had completed his WEA courses. He applied for a commission from Oxford, where he had done officers' training. He waited, but nothing came. But he still had doubts about what was the right thing to do. He spoke with men home from the front, with pacifists, and had "distressing arguments with civilian militarists". Then two things made his mind up that he should **not** enlist in the army but join the Friends' Ambulance Unit.

Firstly, his WEA students sowed the seeds. During and after his classes that autumn they kept deflecting the discussion towards the war and their tutor's possible departure to fight in it. Writing to Agnes Miller, his fiancée, who was then living in her home country, Australia, he said he believed that the Germans must be driven from France, but also reported that most of his students were anti-war. But what finally decided him to join the FAU was a letter he received in January 1915 from a Quaker cousin, Alfred Fryer, who lived in Rouen. Olaf had written to him asking him how he was and for news of the war there. Alfred, in fact, was in the French Army, but he sent Olaf a long letter describing the work of the Friends' Ambulance Unit, which combined their pacifist principles with dangerous work at the Front. And many of the members worked in the Red Cross Hospital in Rouen. Alfred recommended that Olaf should join the FAU.

In his essay, 'Experiences in the Friends' Ambulance Unit', Stapledon wrote: "I heard of the Friends' Ambulance Unit

- young Quakers who wished to carry on the great tradition of their faith by serving the wounded under fire while refusing to bear arms or submit to military discipline. . . . Though not myself a member of the Friends I had deep respect for its tradition of pacifism and social service."

He signed up for the Ambulance Unit in April 1915, but owing to illness, he was not able to join them in France until August. After scouring round the motor dealers on the Wirral he bought a Lanchester that could be converted into an ambulance. He then had to learn how to drive it and repair it.

He arrived in Dunkirk on 1 August with his Lanchester and a Red Cross Badge. However, if he had expected to be working with wounded soldiers straightaway he would have been disappointed. He spent his first month in Dunkirk working as a mechanic in the Unit's garages. Then during a soaking wet September he drove his Lanchester by night along unlit roads pitted with shell holes, collecting the wounded from a first aid post and taking them to the hospital in Dunkirk. After that, the Unit was sent behind the lines to the historic town of Compiègne for a few months' rest and recovery - too long for Olaf who wanted to be rescuing the wounded.

Eventually, in the spring of 1917, they were sent with the French Division to which they were attached to Reims in readiness for a big offensive. Their position was at the foot of the Montagne de Reims. Olaf reported that once the attack had begun that all their cars were continually in service and even with the help of the French army it was impossible to cope with all the wounded. There had been no advance. "Unexpectedly there was a lull. . . . The attack it seems had been badly mismanaged, and the troops had finally refused to allow more lives to be thrown away uselessly. The division was withdrawn. We accompanied it to a delightful countryside gay with flowers. Tin hats and gas masks were discarded."

Olaf then records that his unit was cited with the Corps d'Armée, which entitled it to have the Croix de Guerre painted on every car. And several individuals were awarded the Cross. "By now we were so badly infected with the military spirit that many of us were elated to think that the army respected us than disconcerted at the incongruity of pacifists with military decorations." Then after a period of rest they were sent to a quiet sector south of Verdun.

"Our second battle was a brief German attack. . . . Once more we were working night and day. As usual there was one particularly bad stretch of road, constantly shelled. . . . I was going up with an empty car. In the ditch was a man with a smashed head, obviously dead. I drove on at top speed, crashing into shell holes. The next car that came along stopped during heavy shell-fire and picked him up. He was alive." ('Experiences in the Friends' Ambulance Unit) In the journal he kept during the war he also described this incident and wrote "Ashamed ashamed Should have stopped, but he seemed too smashed for not dead." (15 July 1918)

After another period of rest they returned to the neighbourhood of Reims where the battle was continuing. At the end of the war Olaf too received a 'Croix de Guerre' for bravery but never referred to it again in his journal. (Robert Crossley 'Speaking for the Future' 1994) Throughout his time in the FAU Olaf and the other members of the unit discussed pacifism and their role in the War. They were aware of course of the contradiction that they were taking part in military operations even by rescuing wounded soldiers.

When the idea for the creation of a Quaker ambulance unit was first suggested in a letter by Philip Noel-Baker to the Quaker weekly newsletter, *The Friend*, in early August 1914 it provoked a sharp response from pacifists who refused to take part in any military operations. In a letter to *The Friend* two weeks later Charles Gregory of Evesham wrote: "An ambulance corps at the rear, healing the fighters to fight again, is as much part of the military equipment as the man with the bayonet doing his deadly work in the field of battle." ('We Will Not Fight The Untold Story of World War One's Conscientious Objectors', Will Ellsworth-Jones, Aurum, 2008). In 'Experiences in the Friends' Ambulance Unit' Stapledon wrote: "To the argument that thereby we helped the military machine I answered that no doubt one did, but that primarily what one was doing was helping human beings in distress." He described an incident in the first battle at Reims which illustrated how their work in saving lives helped the French Army:

"Once when I was on this stretch [where the road passed a battery concealed in a wood] following a galloping limber a shell landed on the limber and the road was immediately blocked with a confusion of splintered wood and the bodies of horses and men. Our people had to clear the way for the cars, thereby inadvertently assisting the French Army. We were now beginning to have our own casualties." He went on to say that "up to a point we did as the French Army told us" but when they were asked to carry men or ammunition to the Front they refused. "By this act of disobedience we risked being stopped from working at the Front altogether".

But what caused most soul-searching and discussion in Olaf's unit was the Military Service Act of January 1916 which brought in conscription. After this law government tribunals could require a conscientious objector to apply to the FAU as a form of alternative service. The FAU had always been a voluntary organisation. Members now felt that if new members joined because of state coercion their fundamental integrity had been challenged. Many

argued that their operation was so badly compromised that they should disband and either join the army or go to prison. Olaf wrote in a new monthly magazine that was put together by members of the FAU that "While there is the chance of saving those who nobly suffer through humanity's error we cannot stay at home."

So, Olaf Stapledon opposed the Great War as a conscientious objector. But, in doing this he was a humanitarian rather than a pacifist. These three terms are related, but do not carry exactly the same meaning. A pacifist will always be a conscientious objector. A conscientious objector to a particular war is not necessarily a pacifist. But both pacifists and conscientious objectors are humanitarian. Stapledon was not opposed to war as such, but he was opposed to this war. He, and Philip Noel-Baker before him in setting up the FAU, saw his job during the war as saving lives and relieving suffering. This was essential work, but one could also attempt to save lives and relieve suffering by campaigning against the war.

To defeat fascism, Stapledon supported the Second World War. Then, after 1945, he campaigned against a possible war between the USA and the USSR, and in 1948 spoke at the World Congress of Intellectuals for Peace in Wroclaw, Poland. In 1949 he attended the Conference for World Peace in New York. But his main work was writing science fiction in which he hoped to put forward his ideas for creating a better, more socially just, society. He died in September 1950.

*Roger Stephenson*

**Main sources for Olaf Stapledon and the FAU:**  
Robert Crossley's biography 'Speaking for the Future', Liverpool University Press, 1994;  
Stapledon's essay 'Experiences in the Friends' Ambulance Unit', 1935;  
Wikipedia

## MAW conference in Liverpool 2017

**The Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW)** held a conference with Amnesty in Liverpool last autumn.

Expert David Gee spoke about the current governments' "war project" to recruit new soldiers, but pointed out that fewer than half the soldiers who had served in Afghanistan would recommend anyone else joining the army.

**Why has the UK government increased contact between the military and civil society?**

Maddy Ridgley presented her dissertation. In it she noted the 2010 initiative to increase Armed Forces contact with children including cadet forces in state schools, "troops to teachers", the Armed Forces Learning Resource, and Armed Forces Day. She questioned if this initiative was aimed at boosting recruitment, bolstering nationalism or improving the popularity of armed forces for political ends? She concluded it is for recruitment as there is a recruitment crisis and a deficit in the personnel in the Armed Forces.

Abolish War newsletter  
[www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk)

## Merseyside Peace Network

The network was set up in 2014 with many groups and organisations attending monthly meetings. Recently those who attend regularly are from just four organisations. The reason for this possibly could be that we hold daytime meetings. Therefore we have arranged the next meeting for **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 6pm**. At the usual place, **Friends Meeting House School Lane, Liverpool**. We hope the later timing will encourage more people to attend and look forward to seeing you there.

There are many items to be discussed. Militarisation in schools, leafletting Army recruiting offices, Peace education, working with other groups in area in relation to violence on our streets, setting up Merseyside Parents for Peace Facebook page. To mention just a few.

The group can be contacted on [mpn2017@googlegroups.com](mailto:mpn2017@googlegroups.com)

*Barbara Hardcastle*





# Sign here! Let's rally behind the campaign for a weapons ban treaty!

In September, the United Nations' nuclear weapons ban treaty opened for signature. States from across the world have stepped forward to sign up to prohibit nuclear weapons -over 50 on current count.

This is a giant step forward on the road towards global abolition. The treaty follows decades of grassroots campaigning across the world. But as other countries make that commitment, will Britain make the most of this crucial opportunity for peace? At the moment things aren't looking too positive. When the ban treaty was negotiated, our government

boycotted the process, despite claiming that it plays a full and active role in the UN's disarmament discussions.

As the first round of talks got underway the UK Ambassador chose to stand shoulder to shoulder with the US Ambassador as she denounced the efforts to bring about a nuclear free world. Successive UK governments have stated their support for multilateral nuclear disarmament, but they have failed to take action to match the rhetoric. Our job now is to put pressure on the government to back it - rather than its current

position, which is that Britain will never support it!

We are delighted that the Treaty has been agreed by the UN -it's the fulfilment of so much work over decades, but the Treaty itself is just the first step. In 2016, the UK parliament voted to give the £205bn project to replace Trident the green light. Cancelling Trident replacement is key to Britain signing the Treaty. Let's work together to make it happen!

Kate Hudson  
General Secretary, CND

## Remember Fukushima and Chernobyl NUCLEAR POWER CAN NEVER BE SAFE!

On March 11<sup>th</sup> 2011, the second worst nuclear accident in history occurred in Fukushima, Japan. Six years on, the plant is still leaking radiation, while a reported 120,000 people remain displaced. The clean up will take up to 40 years and cost the Japanese people an estimated \$189 billion.

How come, 26 years after Chernobyl, which caused over 16,000 deaths, an equally serious nuclear accident occurred in one of the world's most technologically advanced economies? They told us that lessons had been learned and that with advances in nuclear safety over the past 20 years, it couldn't happen again - but it did! The lesson we must learn is that no nuclear system is fail safe - they will always be vulnerable to natural disasters or human error, with devastating human and economic consequences.

That is why we continue to remember Fukushima, and to campaign against nuclear power and for safer more sustainable forms of energy.

And remember, nuclear energy contributes to the number of countries with nuclear weapons, or the capacity to build them, and hence increases the probability of nuclear war.

**Join Merseyside CND March 10th  
12-2pm Church St. near Primark to  
leaflet and petition the public  
No More Nuclear Power!  
Scrap plans for Hinkley C  
Alternatives are better and safer  
Contact MCND 229 5282  
mcnd@care4free.net  
Please come and help us!**

## CND at Aldermaston Easter Sunday

Join us to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first Aldermaston march. This was a march that changed the face of politics and protest, putting CND at the cutting edge of radical social change, mobilising and inspiring generations in the struggle for nuclear disarmament.

It's time to celebrate our history and look to our future there are big challenges ahead - Trumpism for example, but also big opportunities - like the Global Nuclear Ban.

**Assemble at 12 noon • AWE Aldermaston,**  
West Berkshire RG7 4PR For speeches, music, memories, fence decorating and forward planning. The event will conclude with an inter-faith vigil. Local groups are organising transport.

[Contact your nearest group here](#)

[Share the event with your Facebook contacts](#)

Merseyside CND will discuss transport at our next Co-ord meeting on Wed. March 7th in the Office



**Cut Military Spending -  
Fund Human Needs!**

[www.gdams.org](http://www.gdams.org)

**Global Days of Action on  
Military Spending  
14<sup>th</sup> April - 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

The U.K. spent £50.7 billion on the military last year, whilst education, the N.H.S. and other vital public services continue to be underfunded. Merseyside CND will be holding a stall and leafleting session to raise awareness of how this money can be used **Details to be confirmed.**

## Birkenhead CND

Following last years successful stalls at various fairs we are looking to do more of this this year—Let us know where there are fairs in Wirral!

We meet each 2nd Tuesday of the month at 18, Southdale Road, Rock Ferry CH423XW at 8pm.

The March meeting will be a showing of the film 'Austerity Fight' about the way austerity is affecting every aspect of civil society. Tuesday 13th March 8pm

Info :- cath.page@phonecoop.coop 01513781760

## Peace Education on Merseyside

3 of us recently went on training to bring Peace Education into schools—hopefully to counteract the militarism in schools.

There is a training day on Wednesday May 16th 10-5pm if there are others who would be interested in this training.

**Help us get into schools**—if you work in a school we can let you have information about our various professionally produced programmes which may help us get invited in. For Secondary schools—various topics and Junior schools 'Sadako's story' with making origami cranes.

Further info—Cathy Page—cath.page@phonecoop.coop or Barbara Hardcastle - barb.hardcastle@gmail.com

## Liverpool Pax Christi

Meets on first Tuesday each month at Sacred Heart Church, Low Hill, Liverpool 7 at 7pm—Tues. 6th March

We do have a day on active nonviolence on May 15th marking Conscientious Objectors brave stand against war. Further info: Jan Harper: 263 5623 Email: janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

## Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: 2017 Oct. Hope Warner; Nov. Judy Patterson; Dec. Liz Heydon; 2018 Jan: Rita Walker; For £5 per month you too could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 in the annual draw.

Thanks to all members of the 50 Club for your unwavering support. If you, dear reader would like to help this vital fund raiser for Merseyside CND please contact the office (11am -3pm ) for a membership form - 0151 229 5282 mcnd@care4free.net

## Bruce Kent in Wallasey Save the date Sat June 9th

## Wallasey CND

**Planning Meetings:** 1st Monday each month next one: Monday March 5th 2pm at Barbara's 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey Village CH45 3JN

**Tea in Park:** 2-4pm 3rd Sundays in the summer months: April 15<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> in the Walled Garden at Central Park, Liscard. Help baking in advance or working on the sales tables - much appreciated.

We also plan street stalls, some fundraisers and after the successful showing of 'The Man Who Saved the World' more films and an exhibition to mark CND's 60 years of resistance: June 2nd-9th at Earlston Library and a Public Meeting with Wallasey Constituency Labour Party on June 9th 2pm to explore the dilemma posed to the Labour Party by the UK's nuclear weapons programme. We are delighted that Bruce Kent is coming to be our speaker. Venue to be decided.

Contacts: Barbara 638 3967 & Janet 677 1133 barb.hardcastle@gmail.com janmike@care4free.net

## Hope Warner died 6.2.18

Hope at 94 was Wallasey CND's oldest surviving member from our start in 1982. She brought many qualities to our group. A staunch Liberal, involved in politics and nuclear issues she loved arts, literature and especially working with young people.



She made our banner, many peace cranes and spent Fridays at Capenhurst Peace Vigils in the 80s writing their log. For years she was Treasurer. Her shortbread was legendary at

our Teas in the Park. We'll miss you, Hope. JKL

## 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-£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 March 7th  
CND Office 151 Dale St.**

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

This edition of the newsletter run up by Cathy, Janet and Andy

