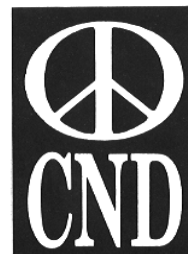


# Merseyside CND Newsletter Spring 2019

151 Dale St. Liverpool L2 2AH 073948 10871 mcnd@care4free.net www.mcnd.org.uk



## Making Britain Great Again? -the return of gunboat diplomacy

If we were asked what could enhance Britain's standing in the world, most of us would come up with suggestions around welfare, education, the environment, social housing, the health service and tackling inequality. Measures which would demonstrably make this country a safer, healthier and fairer place in which to live. A government shown to be achieving this would surely be respected internationally.

Not a bit of it apparently, such thinking is for the kind of wimps that support Peace Movements such as CND.

Gavin Williamson, the Defence Secretary, in a recent speech, has set out **the real way** to enhance our influence and power on the global stage. What we need to do is to **"enhance our lethality"** (ie our ability to kill lots of people) and our global military presence. He wants people to see the UK as an International power capable of unilateral military intervention and prepared to use **"hard power against"** (ie kill) those that would flout International law. And you may have thought, whether remainer or leaver, that Brexit raises some serious economic and social issues for this country. Not a bit of it! For our Defence Secretary

**"Brexit has brought us to a great moment in our history. A moment when we must strengthen our global presence, enhance our lethality and increase our mass"**

To this end, to exploit the wonderful opportunities afforded by Brexit (Britannia unchained?) the Government plans to open new UK military bases around the world and to send HMS Queen Elizabeth, the New Royal Navy Flagship, to the South China Sea to frighten China out of its territorial ambitions. For this, of course new money must be found, and the Defence Secretary is demanding that the defence budget, already £40 billion annually be increased by at least £20b. Not only that, but Boris Johnson has backed a call for the UK's 'peace keeping' (ie military expenditure) to be funded from our foreign aid budget.

We in the peace movement must campaign against such dangerous imperialist ambitions because it is precisely such delusions about Britain's standing in the world and what it takes for a country to be truly 'great' that keeps this Government pouring billions of our money into our useless Trident nuclear arms programme.

Peter Wilson

## Ash Wednesday

March 6th 12 noon

Beginning at St. Luke's Church, Berry St  
Liturgy of repentance and resistance to  
Nuclear war preparations

Led by Pax Christi

janharper1@yahoo.co.uk/ 07746919915



## Laser Printer for Leaflets and magazine

How do you like your coloured magazine and the various leaflets we produce for stalls? We think it is really important to have quality leaflets to hand out and this requires a laser printer. However the problem is not the price of the printer but the price of the toner which it uses. We are therefore putting a small appeal for people to contribute to the cost of toner. Please either send a cheque to MCND at the above address or bank transfer to Merseyside CND, Sort 771750 Acc 24646160 and reference it Laser toner.

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# Beryl Stephenson

## A Peace Campaigner's Life

"Is it the function of a priest to defy the government?" a magistrate asked him. "Is it the function of a priest to remain silent in the face of injustice?" Replied Trevor Huddleston.

Beryl Stephenson, a long time peace campaigner and a member of Merseyside CND died on December 14<sup>th</sup> last year, aged 98. Peacefully, of old age, in a care home in Hoylake.

When she left school in the late 1930s she trained as a secretary. After this she worked in Liverpool for the Roll of Honour Fund. This gave pensions to war widows and wounded service personnel from The Great War. After the blitz on Liverpool of 1940 and '41 she worked for the Air Raid Distress Society, which helped the victims of the bombing. She recalled talking to a serviceman who had returned home to find his house destroyed and his wife and children dead. He said, "When I joined up I thought I was the one who would be killed. I didn't think that they would be." So, in her late teens and early twenties she saw, first hand, the effects on people of two devastating wars. She spent the rest of her life working for peace.

In the early 1960s she joined the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Then she also joined the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and became treasurer of the Wirral branch, and argued that any surplus money should be spent on women's projects in the Developing World. She read *'Naught for Your Comfort'* by Trevor Huddleston, an Englishman who was an Anglican priest in Sophiatown, one of the townships outside Johannesburg, from 1944 to 1956. He described the brutal reality of Apartheid and the battles he had with the authorities to uphold the human rights of his parishioners. His heroism in the face of evil was a great inspiration.

In the 1980s, that is when she was in her sixties, she became even more active in the peace movement. She visited Capenhurst Women's Peace Camp, and further supported the women by attending their court hearings in Chester. She wrote regularly to her local MP (a Conservative), arguing against his party's advocacy of nuclear weapons. Exasperated at her persistence, he got his agent to phone her to arrange a meeting to 'put her right'. She told him: "There's no point in your coming round. Nuclear weapons are wrong - you're not going to change my mind except under torture. And you're not going to do that, are you?!" He hung up in shock.

To support as many aspects of the Peace Movement as possible and to keep herself informed she joined The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and Pax Christi and read their newsletters thoroughly. In conjunction with the priest she arranged a Peace Service at St Agnes Catholic Church in West Kirby, choosing most of the readings for it and reading some of them herself. In February 1987 she wrote in outrage to the then prime minister Margaret Thatcher:

**"At the Young Conservative Conference on Saturday you stated emphatically that parents do not want**

**their children to be taught Peace Studies at school.**

**No doubt, sadly, there are parents who agree with you, but I would like to inform you that as a parent & grandmother I think Peace Studies are essential on the curriculum, & I personally know many parents who think as I do.**

**Surely to educate our children into the way of peace and co-operation in their personal life and internationally would be our only hope of preventing the nations from destroying the world.**

**I belong to no political party, but have been a committed Christian all my life & try to live up to the wisdom of St Francis' Prayer of Peace, which you quoted some years ago, & I enclose a copy to remind you.**

**I live in the hope that all schools in this country will one day be teaching their children Peace Studies, instead of conditioning them to accept the stock-piling of weapons of mass destruction as the legitimate & only way of solving international problems created by differences in ideology.**

**Yours in peace, "**

Writing to Members of Parliament is important, but it is just one strand in the campaign. As long as she was able Beryl travelled from her home in West Kirby to Liverpool to take part in Merseyside CND's annual memorial in the Peace Garden to remember the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, to make a public witness for peace and to say nuclear weapons must never be used again. She kept in her peace folder cuttings from the Liverpool Daily Post and the Echo of 7 August 1998, both of which reported on that year's memorial, which she attended.

The speakers included a Japanese nun, Sister Lucia, who was ten years old and at school in Hiroshima when the bomb was dropped. She said:

*"Hiroshima was famous for its clean water and the seven rivers that run through the city. Our city was known as the Holy Land in Japan. About 500,000 precious lives were blown away in one moment. . . . Every year on August 6<sup>th</sup> as evening comes the descendants of those who died send out the spirits of departed loved ones by floating lighted lanterns down the rivers. Each lantern carries the names of those who died. . . . The sight is both tragic and very beautiful. The Lanterns are carried down to the sea just as the bodies were in 1945. . . ."*

*It took me a great deal of courage to come here and speak to you today. However, I feel a great mission to appeal for justice and peace in the world.*

*Finally, I pray that we will widen the circle of world peace."*

Part of Beryl's peace folder is labelled 'Greenham Common'. This section includes the programme of a production she went to that was put on in March 1998 by the A Level Theatre Studies students at West Kirby Grammar School for Girls - 'In Common', which remembered and discussed the issues surrounding the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp - the decade-long camp from September 1981 outside the US air base near Newbury in Berkshire and the non-violent direct action both outside and inside the base to have the nuclear-armed cruise missiles housed there removed. Their campaign ...

# Trump starts a new cold war arms race

US President Donald Trump has announced his intention to withdraw the US from the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. Unless he can be persuaded otherwise the Treaty will be formally ended in 60 days. This treaty has been a key component of nuclear arms control since the Cold War, having eliminated thousands of deadly nuclear missiles in Europe. President Trump is also raising doubts about US participation in the START Nuclear Treaty which he has described as "a one sided deal" and "a bad deal". Signed in 2010 between the US and Russia, the treaty limits the number of nuclear warheads of both Russia and the US to no more than 700 (!).

## Claims and Counter Claims

President Trump has accused Russia of violating the INF Treaty by developing and testing a ground-launched cruise missile. Russia has responded by claiming that their actions are a response to the US's deployment of missile launchers capable of launching intermediate range cruise missiles in Romania, and their planned deployment in Poland, clearly a breach of the INF Treaty and also to NATO's "aggressive" expansion into Eastern Europe.

## Europe in the Front Line

If the INF treaty is destroyed, the US and Russia would be free to once again produce intermediate range missiles. As these missiles would not reach Russia if situated in the US, it follows that the US would look to place them in Europe,

possibly the UK.

Ominously, but predictably, both Russia and the US have announced that the end of the INF Treaty gives them no choice but to begin to enhance their nuclear capabilities. In other words start a new arms race. This, despite the fact that both sides have already enough nuclear weapons to destroy our planet.

## International Response

The EU has warned that the US should 'consider the consequences ...on its own security, on the security of its allies and of the whole world. Germany and France have also condemned the proposed US withdrawal from the treaty. **So far the UK has been silent on this issue, apart from supporting President Trump's claims.**

## What needs to be done

The INF treaty was the result of massive International protest against nuclear escalation in the 1980s (remember Greenham Common). CND stands resolutely against this return to nuclear dangers of another Cold War. Our government should be leading international pressure for a negotiated diplomatic solution to this crisis. The INF must be saved to prevent a disastrous descent into a new nuclear arms race with Europe, literally, in the firing line.

Peter Wilson

Beryl Stephenson cont

energised peace movements all over the world and shook the establishment. [The missiles were removed after the signing of the INF (Intermediate Nuclear Forces) Treaty in December 1987.]

'In Common' was researched, written and performed by the Theatre Studies students. Beryl never went to Greenham, but she greatly admired the women for their dedicated and inventive campaigning for peace. In December 2002 Prime Minister Tony Blair was building for a war on Iraq. Beryl, now in her eighties, again felt she had to write to her local MP (since the 1997 landslide, Labour):

*"I am writing to ask you urgently to oppose Mr Blair in persisting in joining the USA in a war against Iraq & to work unceasingly for a peaceful solution however difficult & impossible this seems.*

*In November I heard on Radio 4 the head of CAFOD (the Catholic Aid Agency) speaking. He had just returned from Iraq & he said that all the many inhabitants he met dreaded more than anything else the thought of the USA & Great Britain going to war against them, in spite of the fact that life was very difficult for them under Saddam Hussein.*

*Violence only begets more violence & hatred, & surely waging war against Iraq will only open the flood gates to more acts of unspeakable terrorism against the West... And the war could spread to many other countries.*

*I did experience the devastation & misery of the bombing in Liverpool in the Second World when working for the bomb victims, but present day weapons*

*are infinitely more terrible for all sides. Financially the cost of the war would be disastrous, & there would be less money for the vital needs of health, education & transport etc. Having voted all my life for Labour, I am afraid I, and I think many people, will no longer be able to support you OR any other party who all seem to be hell bent on war as the only solution to the world's most difficult problems.*

*yours sincerely,"*

Also above letter was copied to Mr Gordon Brown MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

At the age of 95, when her increasing frailty made her decide that it was time to move into a care home, she had to choose a very limited number of things to take with her to her new room. Naturally, she chose a selection of photographs of the family, but she also chose a small photograph of Bruce Kent, the former chair of CND, who is now in his late eighties and is still an indefatigable campaigner for Peace.

The number of books she could take was even more limited, but amongst the few, one was Bruce Kent's autobiography. During her first year in the home she re-read it, and wrote to him saying how much she admired his work, and what she had seen in the two World Wars had made her work for Peace. He wrote back and they continued to write to each other for many months. Occasionally she would send him her copy of the Merseyside CND bi-monthly newsletter, which she read avidly.

Beryl had a fund of stories that kept us connected to the past, but she didn't live in the past. In working for World Peace she was working for the future.

Roger Stephenson



# 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, and cyber attacks 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.

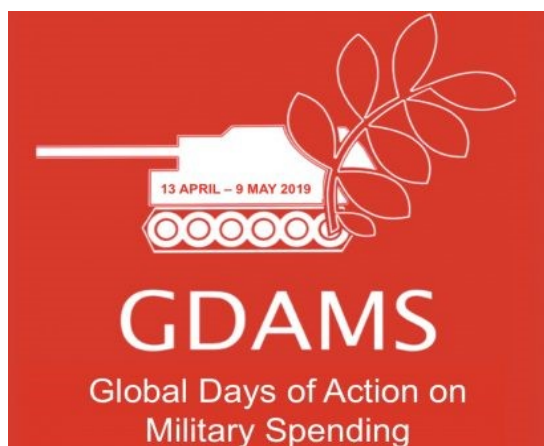
Recently several of those companies planning to be involved with new build nuclear power stations have pulled out, which is encouraging.

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 11th March  
11-2pm Church St. near Primark to  
leaflet and petition the public  
No More Nuclear Power! power  
stations**

**Alternatives are better and safer!  
Please come and help us!**

Contact MCND: 073948 10871  
mcnd@care4free.net



GCOMS incorporates the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). GDAMS usually starts in mid-April, on the Tax Day in the U.S. (a traditional moment in the calendar for civil society to challenge the uses of U.S. public money), and includes the day in which the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) publishes the global annual military expenditure figures, together with an analysis of its trends.

This year, GDAMS will include the period from April 13th to May 9th. Having a period of several action days offers GDAMS campaigners a more flexible scope to choose a suitable moment to organize events that fit local or national contexts.

We are in a time of escalation and military tension around the world. NATO demands its member countries to increase their military spending by reaching 2% of their GDP, generating tensions with non-member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This is an expense that goes in detriment of social spending.

Global military spending already accounts for 2.3% of global GDP and deviates resources to the military field that are crucial to achieve sustainable human development and the effective enjoyment of economic and social rights, enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Human Rights in general. Peace and Development

organizations estimate that with a 10% reduction per year and country of resources invested in the arms and defense sectors, the main goals set by the United Nations under the Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals could be achieved.

Militarism contributes with serious impacts on people's lives and the risks they face to their integrity, according to the latest UNHCR report, there are 65.6 million people displaced, of which 40.3 million are in the country itself, 22.5 million are refugees in other states and 2.8 million asylum seekers. These are forced displaced persons due to conflicts like in Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine, among others.

Moreover, the USA Trump government has increased US \$ 54,000 million in military spending and has shaken its mandate with attacks on Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, and renewed threats to Qatar, North Korea and Cuba and everywhere. In addition, we are at a time when some important treaties are being questioned and rejected, like the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF). USA expands military bases in the Pacific. At the same time, the Australian government has announced an ambition to join the world's top10 arms exporters in the world, instead of its 20th placing at the moment. They have put aside \$3.8 billion to subsidize Australia arms manufacture.

At European level, the European Defense Action Plan authorizes for the first time the allocation of EU funds to the common defense and opens the door to allocate 90 million euros in three years, 30 million in 2019, to research and development in the military and security field. The proposal of the European Commission includes financing this Community fund of Defense with 1,500 million Euros per year from 2021. We observe also the worrying trend of arms companies penetrating University by providing chairs and funding for courses and research for their malicious ends.

More than ever, we need new partners to work on the ongoing Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), and to make the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) a great success!

**Merseyside CND will be organising a stall during the April /May period.**

## CND Global Dangers national tour

At our 2018 annual conference it was agreed to organise a tour to promote discussion and deeper understanding of the current global nuclear risks, especially in the context of the breakdown of Treaties governing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Besides the educational value we would hope to foster links between people working on these issues and get more people involved in CND's campaigns.

The timing proposed is May to October; CND groups to organise a public event of their choosing on the themes outlined below. These meetings will form a CND national tour highlighting our campaigns.

CND has a list of speakers willing to take part and can also provide flyers and posters, press packs and support with social media.

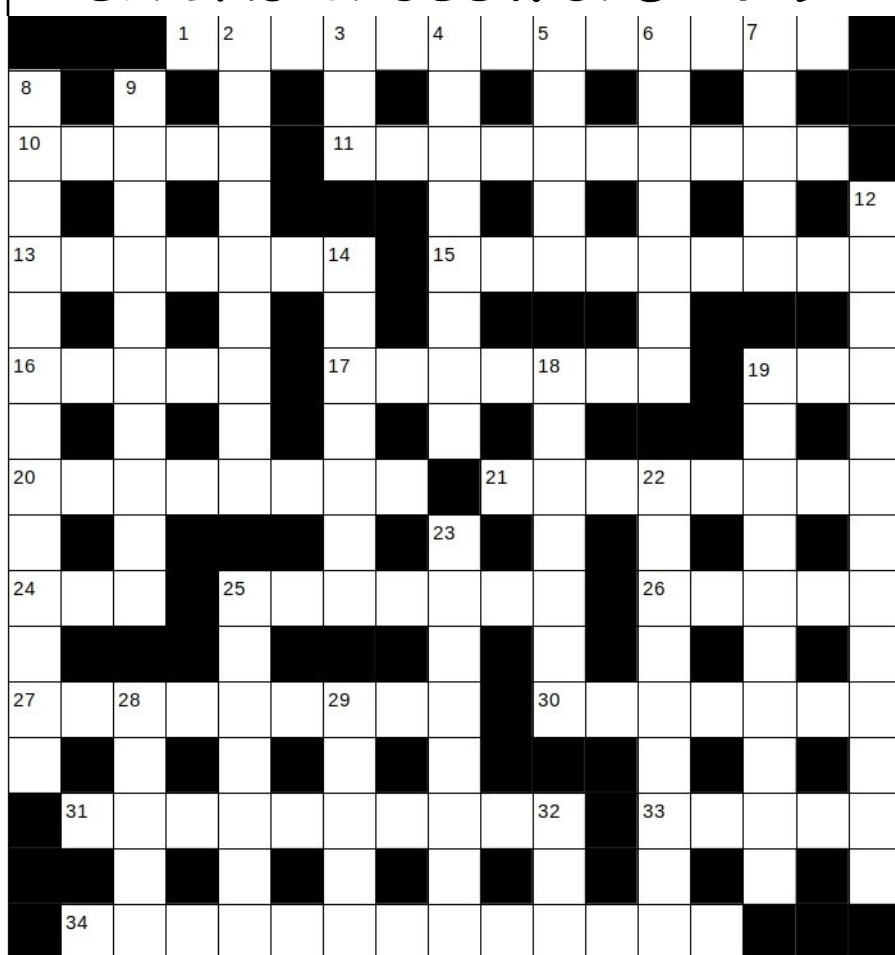
### Suggested themes

Trump's tearing up of treaties, including the Iran nuclear deal and INF; Precision targeting and lower-yield nuclear weapons raising discussion about a 'winnable' nuclear war; Nuclear states modernising their nuclear weapons, including the UK, wanting to spend £205 billion replacing Trident; New technological

Developments; Tensions around the Korean peninsula; Linked dangers of climate change, resource wars and climate/war-driven migration;

Contact MCND or CND: Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ : 020 7700 2393

## SPRING CROSSWORD 2019



### Across

1. Person seeking great change (13)
10. Predominant language of Iran (5)
11. Pretend to be someone or something else (10)
13. Found in a particular place (7)
15. .... Solzhenitsyn (9)
16. Manservant (5)
17. Daughter of Agamemnon (7)
19. Luck or plant (3)
20. Founded by Zeno of Citium (8)
21. Instructive (8)
24. An immeasurably long period of time (3)
25. Without pain (7)
26. Almost, as it were (5)
27. Dermatitis common in babies (6, 3)
30. May be used by a tobacco chewer (7)
31. Usual cost of service or product (5,5)
33. Sends unwanted emails (5)
34. Sporting contest honouring Poseidon (8,5)

### Down

2. Mysterious (9)
3. Unit of electrical resistance (3)
4. Outshone (8)
5. Acclimatise (5)
6. Portia's Lady-in-Waiting (7)
7. Radioactive element discovered in 1899 (5)
8. (Bubbly) enthusiasm (13)
9. Often has a white train (6,4)
12. Economic policy where imports are taxed (13)
14. Manning or Clinton (7)
18. Inland or coastal species of snake (6)
19. Discovered that  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$  (10)
22. Reluctantly agree (9)
23. Mohammad Salah, for example (8)
25. Having a midday meal (2,5)
28. Threadlike parts of a neuron (5)
29. Island or car (5)
32. Spanish separatist group (3)

## Peace Education on Merseyside

Please help us get into schools

- Barbara Hardcastle, Brian Kelly and Cathy Page are really keen to get into schools to present Peace Education in schools' "enrichment programmers". 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.

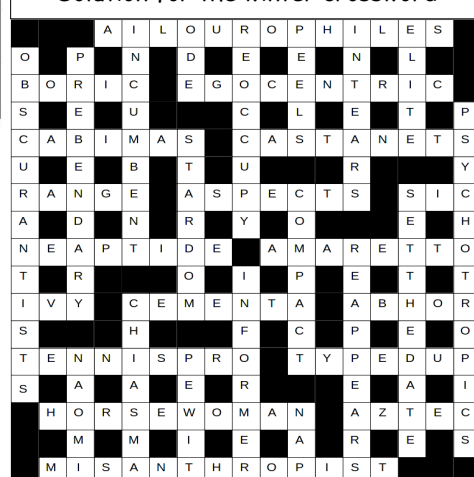
For Secondary schools—various topics and Junior schools 'Sadako's story' with making origami cranes.

Further info—Cathy Page—[cath.page@phonecoop.coop](mailto:cath.page@phonecoop.coop) or Barbara Hardcastle -

[barb.hardcastle@gmail.com](mailto:barb.hardcastle@gmail.com)

Or contact MCND Office: on the new phone number: 073948 10871

### Solution for the winter crossword



## Birkenhead CND

Following last year's successful stalls at various fairs we are looking to do more of these this year — Let us know where there are fairs in Wirral! We placed an exhibition of 'CND at 60' in the main Birkenhead Library in January with an encouraging response. We are now going to put it in Bebington library in March and West Kirby library in August. It would be really good to put it in schools with 6th forms if any readers have contacts in 6th form colleges/schools please let Cathy know.

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

March 12th, April 9th, May 14th

Info :- cath.page@phonecoop.coop 0151 378 1760

## Liverpool Pax Christi

Meets on first Tuesday each month at Irish Centre, Boundary Lane, Liverpool 6 at 7pm—Tues. 2nd April.

Ash Wednesday action March 6th see front page.

Further info: Jan Harper: 263 5623 Email:janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

NB May 15th is Conscientious Objectors Day

Contact:mpn2017@googlegroups.com or Jan or MCND for ideas and info on May 15th

## Wallasey CND

Planning Meetings:changed to 2nd Monday of month : Monday March 11th. 5pm at Barbara's 4 Taunton Rd.

Wallasey CH45 3JN

**Tea in Park:** No longer in the Walled Garden, Central Park but we may try our luck elsewhere. Also planned are street stalls, some fundraisers, film shows and exhibitions and letter writing sessions.

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

## Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: 2018 Oct. Alan Dee; Nov. John Middleton; Dec: Peter Wilson; 2019 Jan: Jan Harper; 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 - 073948 10871 mcnd@care4free.net

## Merseyside C.N.D. 2019 AGM

Wed. May 1st 17.30 —19.00  
151 Dale St. Liverpool L2 2AH  
Ground floor meeting room next door to MCND Office.

Please sign in at LCVS Reception  
Agenda: reports 2018; election of officers; campaign plans 2019 and discussion 'what now for CND'

MCND Co-ord meeting 16.00-17.00  
in Office with Light refreshments 17.00  
Contact: Merseyside CND: 073948 10871



## LIVERPOOL FRIENDS of PALESTINE QUIZ NITE

Come and support our solidarity work with the Palestinians and have a great night out!

"They told Julius Caesar to Beware the  
Tides of March - I don't get it"  
- Homer Simpson

Friday 15 March

7pm for start 7:30pm

Ullet Road Unitarian Church

57 Ullet Road, L17 2AA (at jct York Avenue)  
(buses 80 and 60) Entrance £8 / £6  
Food and drink (donation) Palestinian goods for sale

## 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:14.30  
Wednesday March 6th  
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

Merseyside CND has  
a new phone number:  
073948 10871  
The current landline  
expires at the end of  
February