

# Merseyside CND Newsletter



Summer 2019

151 Dale St. Liverpool L2 2AH mcnd@care4free.net www.mcnd.org.uk 07394 810 871

**Trident does not keep us safe  
It is time to stop wasting time on nuclear weapons and focus on the  
real threats we face today CND**

## A NEW LUCAS PLAN AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME?

**13:00, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

**Jack Jones House  
2 Churchill Way  
Liverpool  
L3 8EF**



### With Special Guest Speaker John Routley

John is a former Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards' Committee member who helped form the Alternative Corporate Plan in 1976 after the company announced redundancies. The Plan advocated the diversification of workers' skills and expertise to make 'socially useful products' that meet people's needs and benefit society.

All are welcome to join us as we call for a new Lucas Plan, where the knowledge of those manufacturing nuclear weapons and other military technology is used to tackle climate change and to improve the standard of living for everyone.

***Another Economy is Possible***

For more information go to:

[www.lucasplan.org.uk](http://www.lucasplan.org.uk)

Organised jointly by Merseyside Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament  
and Merseyside Pensioners' Association

## Anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Hiroshima Day Tues. 6th Aug.  
Liverpool St. John's Garden  
behind St. George's Hall, 10.45  
for 1 minute's silence@11o'clock  
followed by laying of wreath of  
white flowers by Cllr. Peter  
Brennan, Lord Mayor of L'pool.  
With music, verse and tributes  
Further info. contact:  
mcnd@care4free.net  
mobile: 07394 810 871  
Www.mcnd.org.uk

**CND AGM & Policy  
Conference 2019**  
**Saturday 19th October**  
**Sunday 20th Oct.**  
**"21st Century Security  
Challenges and Solutions"**  
International Peace Bureau  
Triennial Conference  
Venue both days:  
St. Thomas's Hospital,  
Westminster Bridge Rd.  
London SE1 7EH (opposite  
Houses of Parliament)  
[Www.cnduk.org](http://Www.cnduk.org)

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# US military is a bigger polluter than as many as 140 countries – shrinking this war machine is a must



US Air Force fighters during the 1991 Gulf War.

The US military's carbon footprint is enormous. Like corporate supply chains, it relies upon an extensive global network of container ships, trucks and cargo planes to supply its operations with everything from bombs to humanitarian aid and hydrocarbon fuels. Our new study calculated the contribution of this vast infrastructure to climate change.

Greenhouse gas emission accounting usually focuses on how much energy and fuel civilians use. But recent work, including our own, shows that the US military is one of the largest polluters in history, consuming more liquid fuels and emitting more climate-changing gases than most medium-sized countries. If the US military were a country, its fuel usage alone would make it the 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, sitting between Peru and Portugal.

In 2017, the US military bought about 269,230 barrels of oil a day and emitted more than 25,000 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide by burning those fuels. The US Air Force purchased US\$4.9 billion worth of fuel, and the navy US\$2.8 billion, followed by the army at US\$947m and the Marines at US\$36m.

It's no coincidence that US military emissions tend to be overlooked in climate change studies. It's very difficult to get consistent data from the Pentagon and across US government departments. In fact, the United States insisted on an exemption for reporting military emissions in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. This loophole was closed by the Paris Accord, but with the Trump administration due to withdraw from the accord in 2020, this gap will return.

Our study is based on data retrieved from multiple Freedom of Information Act requests to the US Defense Logistics Agency, the massive bureaucratic agency tasked with managing the US military's supply chains, including its hydrocarbon fuel purchases and distribution.

The US military has long understood that it isn't immune from the potential consequences of climate change – recognising it as a "threat multiplier" that can exacerbate other risks. Many, though not all, military bases have been preparing for climate change impacts like sea level rise. Nor has the military ignored its own contribution to the problem. As we have previously shown, the military has invested in developing alternative energy sources like biofuels, but these comprise only a tiny fraction of spending on fuels.

The American military's climate policy remains contradictory. There have been attempts to "green" aspects of its operations by increasing renewable electricity generation on bases, but it remains the single largest institutional consumer of hydrocarbons in the world. It has also locked itself into hydrocarbon-based weapons systems for years to come, by depending on existing aircraft and warships for open-ended operations.

**Not green, but less, military**  
Climate change has become a hot-button topic on the campaign trail for the 2020 presidential election. Leading Democratic candidates, such as Senator Elizabeth Warren, and members of Congress like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are calling for major climate initiatives like the Green New Deal. For any of that to be effective, the US military's

carbon footprint must be addressed in domestic policy and international climate treaties.

Our study shows that action on climate change demands shuttering vast sections of the military machine. There are few activities on Earth as environmentally catastrophic as waging war. Significant reductions to the Pentagon's budget and shrinking its capacity to wage war would cause a huge drop in demand from the biggest consumer of liquid fuels in the world.

It does no good tinkering around the edges of the war machine's environmental impact. The money spent procuring and distributing fuel across the US empire could instead be spent as a peace dividend, helping to fund a Green New Deal in whatever form it might take. There are no shortage of policy priorities that could use a funding bump. Any of these options would be better than fuelling one of the largest military forces in history.

Benjamin Neimark, *Lancaster University*;  
Oliver Belcher, *Durham University*, and  
Patrick Bigger, *Lancaster University*  
From 'The Conversation'





# Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt condemned over secret and illegal arms sales to Saudi Arabia

In a landmark ruling in a case brought by the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) the Court of Appeal has found the government's secret 2016 arms sales to Saudi Arabia to be illegal and ordered the Government to review at least £4.75bn worth of current arms sales to the Gulf State.

## Turning a Blind Eye to thousands of civilian deaths

The Court found that Ministers, including Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt, had wilfully ignored the mounting evidence of indiscriminate bombing of Yemeni civilians by the Saudi led coalition in order to continue granting arms export licenses. Not only did the Court rule that Ministers had acted illegally, they were also found to have secretly changed UK policy towards Saudi Arabia to avoid having to ask awkward questions about the thousands of civilians killed by western supplied bombs in Yemen. In 2016 Boris Johnson, as Foreign Secretary, had recommended the sale of bomb parts to Saudi Arabia only days after a Saudi airstrike had killed 14 innocent workers in a potato factory. It is estimated that Saudi led

bombings have killed over 7,000 people since the civil war in Yemen began in 2015.

## Profit before People - especially if the people concerned are poor and foreign!

Astoundingly, the Government is about to appeal the court decision on a technicality. The International Trade Secretary, Liam Fox, argued in Parliament that the Court had ruled only on "the rationality of the process used to reach decisions" and not on whether it was ethical to sell arms to Saudi Arabia. Liam Fox has also boasted that the review required by the Court would only last a matter of weeks and would not lead to any of the previous licensing decisions being overturned. So our arms manufacturers can rest easy, their profits will not be affected, the £4.75bn worth of arms exports should still go ahead.

## A Moral Stain on our country

While other EU countries have halted arms sales to Saudi Arabia, the UK Government seems determined to allow the UK arms industry to continue to contribute to Saudi war crimes. CAAT has called on the Government to halt

arms sales immediately:

"No matter what atrocities it has inflicted, the Saudi regime has been able to count on the uncritical political and military support of the UK".

Labour has described the Government's continued arms supplies to Saudi's war in Yemen as "a moral stain on our country" and called for a public enquiry.

## Trident - inhumane and illegal?

If the Court of Appeal is correct that the UK government has a duty to assess the risk to civilians before granting arms export licenses and to consider whether airstrikes that kill civilians break international humanitarian law, surely they also have a duty to look at their own internal arms policy in the same light. If they did, would they not find that a weapons system such as Trident, whose sole purpose is to kill as many civilians as possible, contravenes international humanitarian law and should they not conclude that they themselves are acting illegally in possessing and threatening to deploy such weapons? We live in Hope!

Peter Wilson Co-chair Merseyside CND

## Peace Education Report

Nationally CND Peace Education has been very successful. Over the past year the team has worked with 5,750 students and trained 400 teachers. 500 hard copies of the teaching packs have been distributed and 8,000 downloads of resources.

The response on Merseyside has been very poor. Cath and Barbara worked for three days at the NEU Conference in Liverpool, where they had hoped to make contact with lots of local schools, but as the Easter holidays on Merseyside did not correspond with the majority of the schools in the UK, which was when the conference was held, so consequently they did not get to speak to many local teachers.

Cath has travelled as far as Worcester and Leeds to some schools.

Both of us are booked to do a return visit to St. Nicholas' Academy Liverpool (great to be asked back) and are doing sessions at St. Catherine's Academy Bolton. Both attended the training session in Manchester in June. It was here where Owen gave the news that he was leaving his position at Peace Education to take up teachers training. Who will take his place???

It also seems that funding is an issue. There is a funding appeal in CCND's Ploughshare and hopefully in the future there will be an online donate webpage for CNDPE. I'm sure we will all hear more about this in the future.

Barbara Hardcastle Co-chair Merseyside CND

## Nuclear Timeline Exhibition

In 2018 Wallasey CND Group made up an exhibition to 'celebrate' 60 years of CND and put it in Wallasey library. I have since enlarged it a bit and managed to get it into Birkenhead Central and Bebington libraries and it is due to go into West Kirby Library in September. It would be

good to hold it in other libraries around the Merseyside area and also in schools. It would be helpful if people who have connections with school sixth forms could arrange to have it in their schools. If anyone has links with local libraries and schools please let me know.

cath.page@phonecoop.coop

Hearty Congratulations to Bruce Kent for reaching his 90th birthday still hard at it working for peace and exposing the stupidity of war mongering.

Time to Abolish War!

<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/>

# Why Donald Trump is backing the US into a corner on Iran

After Iran shot down a US drone that allegedly entered Iran's airspace, Donald Trump signed new sanctions against Iran on June 24, including against its supreme leader, Ali Khamenei. The move came days after the US president took to Twitter to reveal the US had been ten minutes away from striking back at Iran, but reversed course when Trump found out that 150 people could be killed.

Iran's recent provocation came after a series of attacks in the busy Strait of Hormuz and the sabotage of four vessels travelling through the strait in May. Iran was accused of ramping up its sabotage activity - with experts pointing to Iran's involvement due to the precision of the attacks.

Before Trump assumed office, tensions between Iran and the US were finally starting to thaw. This was largely due to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, better known as the Iran nuclear deal, an agreement involving Iran, the US, UK, France, China, Russia and Germany, which aimed to block Iran from building nuclear weapons in exchange for sanctions relief.

Despite Trump's former secretary of defence, James Mattis, testifying to a senate committee that Iran was adhering to the deal in April 2018, the president believed he needed to undo one of the signature policies of the Obama administration - arguing that doing so would bring Iran to its knees. He withdrew the US from the deal in early May 2018, saying it: "Didn't bring calm, it didn't bring peace, and it never will."

## No plan B

But rather than bringing Iran to its knees, Trump's decision has emboldened Iran to take on more risks. Iran has absolutely nothing to lose and the approach advocated by moderates within the Iranian regime to co-operate with the West has clearly failed. By pulling out of the deal, Trump has no plan B and offers no options for Iran other than to engage in bad behaviour. If Iran believes that complying with international agreements is rewarded in this way, it could lose faith in the benefits of co-operating with the international community at all. On June 23, Trump indicated he wants to talk to the Iranians and sent two

envoys to the region, including secretary of state, Mike Pompeo. But Khamenei is adamant that no talks will take place unless sanctions against Iran are lifted. Iran's foreign policy spokesperson, Abbas Mousavi, tweeted on June 24 that imposing sanctions against Khamenei: "Is the permanent closure of the path of diplomacy."

Unlike Trump, whose foreign policy has no focus and seems to change course based on his mood, few leaders have a more singular focus than Khamenei. His 30 years in power have been guided by an implacable single vision of resisting US hegemony and imperialism at any cost. Unlike Kim Jong Un of North Korea, Khamenei has no interest in a historic photo-op with the president.



Additionally powerful are the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Originally formed after the 1979 Iranian revolution as a paramilitary organisation designed to protect the regime against coup attempts, the IRGC has grown into the most powerful organisation in Iran, dictating Iranian foreign policy and domestic politics. It is as resolute as Khamenei in its commitment to fight against what it perceives to be US arrogance.

In contrast, Trump has no clear foreign policy and no coherent process for national security decision making within his administration, as recent events demonstrate. One moment Trump threatened to destroy Iran, the next moment he made apologies for Iran, claiming the drone attack may have been made in error and that he wanted to engage in talks.

Such an erratic approach of provoking a conflict, pushing things to the brink and assuming that others will cave in may work in the world of business, but it doesn't work in foreign policy. Iran is responding to the uncertainty by

taking bigger risks and sowing more chaos in the region. The recent escalation of tensions has made Iran's leadership more resolute than ever to fight against US aggression. The Iranian regime also understands that Trump wants to avoid a surge in oil prices, which usually happens when tensions rise in the region.

## More sanctions won't work

But the hawks within Trump's administration, such as the national security adviser, John Bolton, believe a war with Iran is necessary. The US has far greater military capabilities than Iran, whose oil industry is vulnerable to attack. It's also true that Iran's economy has been struggling with 13% unemployment, growth rates at under 2% and inflation at 52%. However, Iran's economy has struggled in similar ways before and regime change has not taken place.

The sanctions, which are designed to cripple the Iranian economy, have undermined the middle class and small businesses that are most critical to pushing for positive change, while lining the pockets of the hardliners and justifying their position. The IRGC, designated as a terrorist organisation by Trump in April, is benefiting from the sanctions because of its heavy involvement in black market activity such as petroleum smuggling. Wider studies on sanctions show that they are only effective against dictatorships built around the personality of a strong leader and have little effect in regimes where dictatorships are more institutionalised.

The further ramping up of sanctions is highly unlikely to force Iran to back down and commit to talks - or to prevent future attacks that are difficult to directly attribute to Iran. Given the importance and single-mindedness of Iran's ideology, its leaders will only accept some form of face-saving diplomacy, most notably that the US does a complete U-turn and recommits to the Iran nuclear deal.

Natasha Lindstaedt  
Professor, Department of  
Government, University of Essex  
From 'The Conversation'

*The Conversation is an independent source of news and views from the academic and research community delivered directly to the public.*  
Website: [theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)



## Book Review

### "The Divide: A brief Guide to Global Inequality and its Solutions' by Jason Hickel;

Windmill Books, Hardback £20, Paperback £10.

'The Divide' is a potentially world changing book about inequalities of income between the rich west and the poor south.

Jason Hickel's background is significant. He was brought up in Swaziland. His parents were missionary doctors running a rural clinic. Jason remembers well the unending queue of patients waiting at the surgery door. Later Hickel took a degree in anthropology and spent several years in South Africa after the end of apartheid living with African migrant workers studying how they were still exploited and how resistance developed. He now works at the London School of Economics.

We have all been brought up with the idea that there are developed countries, which are rich and underdeveloped countries where there is immense poverty and it is the role of the developed countries to provide the aid which will enable the underdeveloped countries to catch up.

Hickel reveals how this inequality has been created by Western policies over the last four centuries which continue to this day. Because of these policies, through which Western nations defend their 'national interests', i.e. the interests of their major industrial corporations, national development of the poor countries of the South is constantly hindered and even reversed, so that today poverty is more extreme than it has ever been. As a result more has been consistently taken from the 'developing world' than has ever been put into it by 'developed countries'. This account makes one ashamed of the part Britain has played and still plays in this process.

But Hickel gives us hope of real and positive change. In the 1960s and 1970s there was a period when Western nations were not committed to the dogma of free trade and development in the newly freed colonies was real. So Hickel shows how the chains on their development that

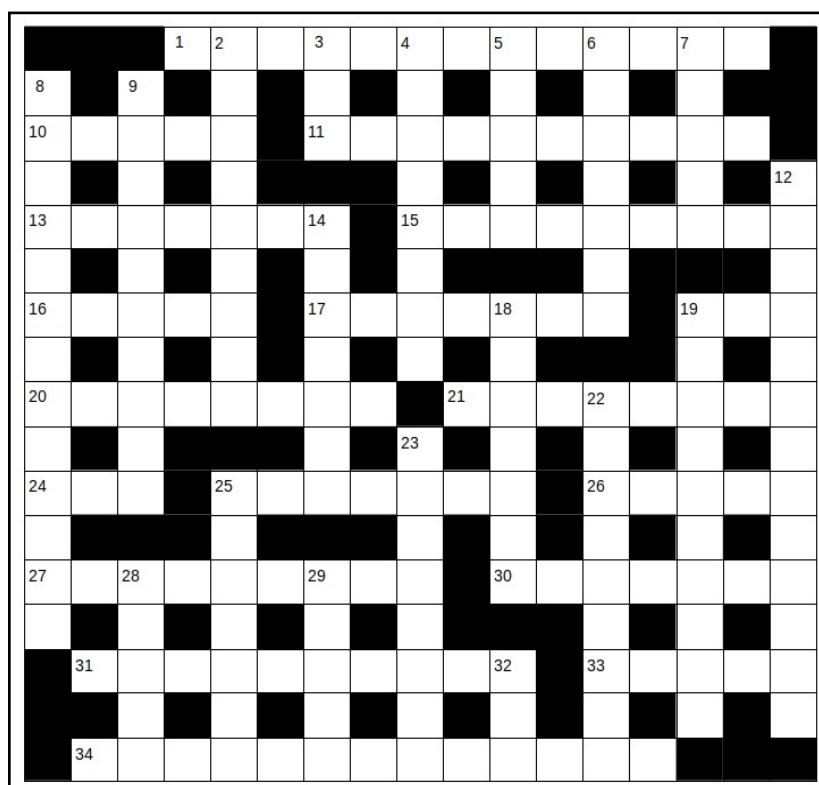
proceed from that dogma can be broken and real development pursued.

In a final chapter entitled, 'The Necessary Madness of Imagination' Hickel looks at a fundamental problem that will be made worse if countries of the south develop like us, the overuse of the earth's resources. We are already overusing resources to an incredible extent to meet the needs of the West. Yet almost all nations measure economic success by increase in the Gross National Product (GDP), leading to acceleration in the exploitation of these resources. Hickel discusses other ways of measuring progress that cover human contentment much better and other ways of looking at consumption and conducting agriculture.

Get your local library to stock this book. Read it. Persuade others to read it and do something about it. We could start a movement.

Tony Forder Chair Wallasey CND

## SUMMER CROSSWORD 2019



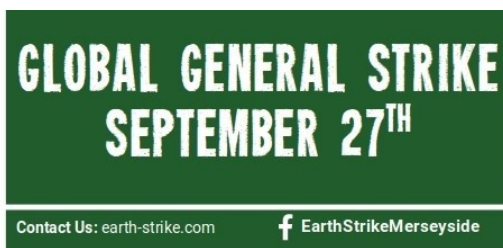
### Across

1. Psychotic illness (13)
10. Challenger Deep, for example (5)
11. Not giving an inch (10)
13. Part of Shakespeare's question (3, 2, 2)
15. What an insomniac would do (4, 5)
16. Drug runner (5)
17. Well-educated (7)
19. First caliph of Shia Islam (3)
20. Followers (8)
21. Large snake (8)
24. William Blake's 'eternal prophet' (3)
25. World chess champion (7)
26. Russian mountain range (5)
27. Not very pleasant (9)
30. Irreverent works (7)
31. What a snake might be doing (10)
33. 1/16 of a pound (5)
34. Member of the Heath family (13)

### Down

2. Sagan's or de Grasse Tyson's field of study (9)
3. Acknowledgement of debt (abbr.) (1,1,1)
4. King of Ithaca (8)
5. Often thought to be a dog, but isn't (5)
6. Closing stage (of a chess match) (7)
7. Ancient region of modern-day Turkey (5)
8. 1980s film starring Burt Reynolds and Dean Martin (10, 3)
9. Enigmatic (10)
12. Standard method of denoting numbers (7, 6)
14. Spectacles (7)
18. A turn at the crease (7)
19. Shows the age of a tree (6, 4)
22. 10, 9, 8, 7 etc. (9)
23. Inhabitant of Nineveh (8)
25. Greatly desired (7)
28. Got the first in Madrid (5)
29. Move out of place (5)
32. Former Communist state (abbr.) (1,1,1)

Far from addressing the climate crisis, capitalism is accelerating it



## Birkenhead CND

**Next meetings:** Tues. 9 July, Aug. 13th, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> and Oct.8th 8pm @ Joan's, 18, Southdale Road, Tranmere CH42 3XW. Keep Aug. 10/11th free to help on our shared stall at the Wirral in Bloom Show in Birkenhead Park; and Sept 21st for Wirral Earth Fest St Bridget's Field and Church, West Kirby CH48 3JT. On Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Prof. Paul Rogers will be addressing a meeting on Cyber warfare and Trident -venue to be decided

Contact: Joan Goodier: 200 2312 or Cathy Page: cath.page@phonecoop.coop 378 1760

## Prof. Paul Rogers

**Birkenhead 7.30pm Friday 13th September**

As part of CND's Global Dangers Tour Professor Paul Rogers of Bradford University will be speaking on the Trident issue and new technologies which make Trident a total waste of money. Prof Rogers is a world renowned specialist on Peace issues and is a member of the Oxford research Group think tank working on peace, security and justice issues. Venue t.b.a. Contact Cath.page@phonecoop.coop

## Pax Christi Liverpool

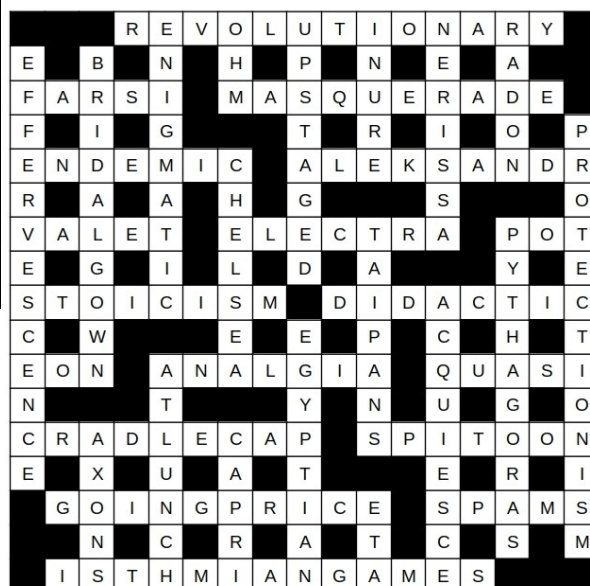
Meets on first Tuesday each month at the Irish Centre, Boundary Lane L6 at 7pm. Next meetings: Tues. July 2nd/Sept. 3rd (No meeting in August)

World week of peace in Palestine & Israel: 15th to 22nd Sept. We haven't any definite events as yet. Further info: Jan Harper: 0151 263 5623 Email:janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

## Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: Feb:Wallasey CND; March: Terry Cunningham; April: Rita Walker; May: Lottie Humphreys; **Annual Draw:** 1st prize: £250: Lyn Henry; 2nd prize: £100: Portia Heritage; 3rd prize £50: Lottie Humphreys; Many thanks as always to all members of the 50 Club for continuing financial support. For £5 per month you could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 in the annual draw. Contact office for a membership form - 07394 810 871 mcnd@care4free.net

## Spring 2019 Answers



## Wirral in Bloom

**Sat/Sun 10/11August**

Birkenhead and Wallasey CND will be holding a joint stall in the marquee at the festival in Birkenhead Park CH41 4HY. Help will be needed on the stall. Contact Janet Laycock janmike@care4free.net or Cathy Page cath.page@phonecoop.coop

## Wirral Earth Fest

**St. Bridget's Field, West Kirby**

**Sat. 21st September**

Birkenhead and Wallasey will both be having stalls at this event. Help needed with the stalls. Contact Janet Laycock janmike@care4free.net or Cathy Page cath.page@phonecoop.coop

## Wallasey CND See local newsheet

Contacts: Barbara 638 3967 & Janet 677 1133 barb.hardcastle@gmail.com  
**Strawberry Tea Sat. July 6th 2pm at 4 Taunton Rd. CH45 Profits to MSF Doctors without Borders**

## 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 Wed.  
July 3rd  
CND Office  
Meetings are usually on the  
1st Wed. in month

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

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

