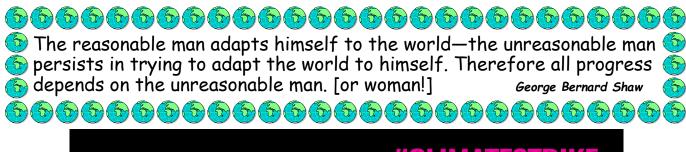
Merseyside CND Newsletter

WINTER 2019/20

151 Dale St. Liverpool L2 2AH 07394810871 mcnd@care4free.net www.mcnd.org.uk





We live in Dangerous times

Turkey

Turkey, once seen as America's useful and docile ally in NATO, is now, under President Erdogan, flexing its muscles and wants to join the nuclear club. Turkey is developing (with Russian help) a nuclear power programme despite being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Turkey's President seems to want to go down a different and potentially frightening path. Last month, at a rally of his governing AKP party, he said "some countries have missiles with nuclear warheads.....but we can't have them. This I cannot accept.We have Israel nearby, almost as neighbours. They scare others by possessing these. No one can touch them.

This has been interpreted as a warning that, should Iran and Saudi Arabia move towards becoming nuclear armed states, Turkey would not 'stand idly by'.

Saudi Arabia and Iran

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has told CBS News that the Kingdom "does not want to acquire any nuclear bomb, but without a doubt if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible. This, at a time when President Trump has trashed the Iran non nuclear proliferation agreement and seems hell bent on destabilising the country!

I believe that it was Mrs Thatcher who said that the possession of nuclear weapons guaranteed international stability!

Peter Wilson

Remembrance Day

Our annual laying of a white poppy wreath will take place at 11am on Monday 11th November in the Peace Garden behind St George's Hall. There will be readings and music.

After the event all are invited to come across to our office, ground floor, LCVS 151 Dale St. for tea, coffee and biscuits and while you're there to buy our Christmas cards, pens, stickers, badges etc. on display in the foyer at LCVS

Further info. mcnd@care4free.net 07394810871

Waste

Waste of Muscle, waste of Brain, Waste of Patience, waste of Pain, Waste of Manhood, waste of Health, Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth, Waste of Blood, and waste of Tears, Waste of Youth's most precious years, Waste of ways the Saints have trod, Waste of Glory, waste of God,

- War!

Rev Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy WW1 army chaplain known as 'Woodbine Willie' – the soldiers' friend. 'From War to Peace' P24

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CND AGM and Policy Conference 2019

Joan Goodier, Janet Laycock, Barbara and Dave Hardcastle and Cathy Page from Merseyside attended both days. On the whole we thought it a disappointing turn out considering it was held in a Central London venue.

The Saturday was the AGM and time when the future policy of CND is decided. There were many Resolutions for the coming year's focus. Each one was proposed and then discussed with questions etc before a vote was taken. All bar one were accepted. What is so interesting about these proposals is the knowledge of the proposers and questioners about the whole nuclear issue. I was frightened to ask a question lest I Tooked stupid for not knowing the answer already or not having heard part of the question correctly due to my increasing deafness! But it was good to be there and learn.

AGM report —

Was a slideshow presentation by Kate Hudson (General Secretary) of many events throughout the country. *Many thanks to Cathy for putting on show our local Timeline exhibition

Elections: No voting needed Chair:Dave Webb, VCs Carol Turner, Daniel Blaney. Newly elected: Tom Unterrainer. Treasurer: Linda Hugl

Treasurer's report

The treasurer noted that CND went into deficit year ending 2018 cf 13k surplus 2017. Aim to encourage all members to get more supporters. NB Collection at Conf. raised £1700.

Conference Policy Debates - Resolutions

- 1. Oppose any attempts to return US missiles to the UK and work with international partners to oppose their imposition on other countries. This follows Trump and Putin's scrapping of the INF Treaty which now threatens us with having land based nuclear loaded missiles in our country (remember Greenham) and US Bases with nuclear loaded aircraft. But since US Security is turning its face to Asia and in particular China there is a threat to Japan and Pacific islands being bullied into housing these missiles and aircraft.
- 2. Avert a new arms race by returning to INF and also the NPT and work towards a European nuclear free zone, strengthening arms control policies to cover cyberspace etc and to get our government to commit to no first use.

- 3. To Campaign against militarisation of the EU encouraging citizen links with similar groups in European countries. The EU has already set up a new standing army for Europe which may lead onto a European nuclear deterrent.
- 4. To campaign against the weaponisation of space. To stop cooperating with Trump's Space Force. His stated aim is to dominate space.
- 5. NATO is expanding into areas nothing to do with North Atlantic - the US has now coined the term 'global NATO' and is suggesting enrolling S. Africa, Australia, Singapore, India and Israel and have co-opted Colombia and talk of Brazil. Nato has always been dominated by US power and this envisages NATÓ becoming a global nuclear fighting power against China in the S. China Sea, Iran in the Strait of Hormuz. To campaign against this militarist expansion with the UK being forced into a global role. CND will hold an Alternative Conference to the NATO conference being held in December in London. NB NATO is a nuclear power and all those countries being co-opted will automatically become nuclear armed—even though Colombia and Brazil are in a nuclear free zone.
- 6. Campaign against the special nuclear relationship under Johnson and Trump. Link with other organisations such as TUC and climate change activists to oppose nuclear weapons.
- 7. Campaign against expensive and climate destroying replacement of Trident; persuade the TUC of benefits of arms conversion—plenty of green jobs if Trident is not replaced; promote UN Treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.
- 8. Campaign that Nuclear power is not green sustainable energy and to campaign against any new nuclear power plants.
- 9. Campaign on the subject of Women and children's health near to Nuclear power stations etc. Organize a conference on this.
- 10. Promote defence diversification within the unions New Lucas Plan
- 11. Recognize the importance of what Scottish CND is doing.
- 12. Christian CND will be celebrating 60 years campaigning in 2020 and are looking to join in memorable events around the country

Bruce Kent Awarded Sean MacBride Medal for Peace Sat. eve.reception see P5

Sunday - CND and IPB Conference

'21st century securitychallenges and solutions' Opening Plenary -Understanding the Key Challenges

Nuclear Disarmament in the Age of Trump - Kate Hudson -CND General Secretary

Kate identified the challenges of far right populism with hatred of others, reducing democracy, denying science, fake news, increased nationalism, vast military spending, Problem of the non nuclear states v nuclear states when trying to get the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW) passed. Need to work strongly with other organisations with similar outlooks.

2.Climate change – an existential threat –Aaron Kiely – Friends of the Earth

The window of opportunity to do anything to stop irreversible heating is closing. The problem of continued investment in fossil fuels. The war machine has an enormous carbon footprint. The main points to address - Stop petrol/Diesel cars, no nuclear power, attention to heating homes but also insulating, no more Heathrow extension, international justice and work with developing nations to develop renewables, stop UK funding of fossil fuels in developing countries.

3. Does there have to be conflict with Russia – Konstantin Semin – Film maker and journalist.

Éndless military exercises on Russian border could end in actual conflict by accident, US missile site in Romania but nobody knows or is bothered by it. Russian people unaware of the military build up. Old treaties gone. Internal conflict in capitalist society. Problems from 1900s when so called internationalists all gave way to Nationalism when war started except the Bolsheviks in London. There is no solid working class movement at present. Danger points S. China Sea, İndia Pakistan, İran, NATO /Russian border. Need massive propaganda to mobilise youth, struggle against the enemy within - oligarchs, fight neo liberálism.

Questions followed raising several debating points:

People (in Poland) being bought off by politicians (cf Boris Johnson preelection give away)

Struggling against media owned by a few wealthy elites

Trump wouldn't be possible without extreme neo liberalism

NATO - US trying to build up anti-China force

UN should be at centre of climate change – UN 75th anniversary
Nuremburg principles – signed on
August 7th 1945 – (75th anniversary in
2020) – stated that individuals are
responsible for their actions and
should be prosecuted. 2 days later
Truman dropped the bomb on
Nagasaki. All MPs should take personal
responsibility for UK holding Nuclear
weapons and being prepared to use
them. Parliamentary privilege does not
protect them.

Work at local council level – mayors for peace –

Myth of China being the worst polluter—we have off-shored our C emissions to them. They are in the forefront of solar energy, They and India are in the forefront of tree planting.

Russian economy is decaying, US have turned their attention to China's rise in global power.

Change will be brought about by the masses rising up.

I then attended a workshop on Climate Change with Stuart Parkinson of Scientists for Global Responsibility and Angie Zelter of Extinction Rebellion Peace.

Stuart Parkinson challenged that view that the Military can tackle all problems- eg Trump imagining that nuking a hurricane can stop it. Even small nuclear weapons exchange such as might occur in Kashmir could provoke nuclear winter which would cause massive starvation temporarily etc but wouldn't ultimately fix global warming.

He stressed the massive carbon footprint of the US military being more than whole countries such as Sweden.

Angie Zelter stressed we need to get out of our comfort zones. She talked about the Extinction Rebellion Peace section. (There is a very good summary of Angie Zelter's life of protest in her statement to the courts when arrested in June. https://rebellion.earth/2019/06/25/witness-box-statement-angie-zelter-hendon-magistrates

-court-25th-june-2019/
Groups then worked on things that XR
Peace could do to spread the word.
Action outside army recruitment
centres, letting public know that the
major function of the army is to kill
people. Get more people in the media

and arts involved. Get together with multiple other groups. Street Art. Educate people through letters to Daily Mail, Sun, Express, Telegraph and facebook, etc Website XRpeace.org

Plenary Session Philip Jennings—former general secretary International trades Union

Work with TUC and get trade unions on side. No peace with militarisation of the world. Workers' rights being reined in all over the world. Neoliberalism has got to fail.

Reiner Braun—Co president IPB

The Challenge is to change society. Build new coalitions, Capitalism always calling for war. NATO developing into a world wide military complex. Act against new nuclear weapons development. Military biggest destroyer of climate.

Altogether a motivating and informative conference. Put your name down for next year now!

Cathy Page Birkenhead

NB 3 other workshops: Nuclear Dangers, Resource Wars, Human Rights were covered by delegates from Birkenhead and Wallasey.

'Nuclear Folly in the Cyber Age' Meeting

Professor Rogers gave a very informative and thought-provoking talk, putting the current situation into the context of the development of neo - liberal economics during the 80s,90s and thereafter.

An economic agenda has taken over which has assumed the superiority of the free market, the efficiency of privatised industries and the necessity of competition in the creation of wealth and high living standards. This assumption neglects the impact on the environment, concern for which is now multiplying in leaps and bounds and, of course, fails to address that wealth multiplies within its own boundaries, benefitting a few whilst the majority poor bear the brunt in a disproportionate way of austerity measures.

Privatisation ideology has been applied in the military industries which suffer from gross wastage of resources eg building 6 destroyers at the cost of 1 billion pounds each which are not used; leaving the Royal Navy without routine patrol boats or aircraft, whilst keeping expensive aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines. No more than 3 companies control the arms trade. They are, therefore, highly profitable and virtually a monopoly. Aldermaston,

the nuclear research base, alone costs 1 billion per annum.

EES So think EES - Economy, Environment, Security. These three MUST be considered together, not in isolation, and they are all in crisis. People are perhaps waking up to the fact that the neo-liberal world is not able to deliver a safe, sustainable, secure prosperity.

Nuclear Capability

Whilst the actual number of nuclear weapons and missiles have gone down since the height of the cold war in the early 80s, we need to remember that nuclear technology capability is now very high. We have several aircraft, including scimitar jets capable of carrying nuclear weapons and there are a larger number of smaller, more accurate weapons which can be quickly assembled. Essentially, a nuclear attack could kill 20 million people in the space of 1 and a half hours.

In the development of nuclear weaponry, the USA initially kept its developments to itself and so the Russians developed their own, as did Britain, France and later, China. (And later still, Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea).

It is worth remembering that Russia's economy is not as great as we might think (it has a Gross Domestic Product similar to Spain or Italy) and to

maintain superpower status, the lesser a Country's GDP, the greater the significance of displaying ones nuclear arsenal.

Drone and Cyber technology

The USA reckon their nuclear submarines cannot be detected. Yet, underwater, surface and air drones have been developed so this is looking less likely as time goes on. It is also worth bearing in mind that every submarine is accompanied by a protective sub and a back-up so there is really no such thing as a lone sub patrolling the ocean. And whilst electric subs are quiet, Britain's Trident is nuclear powered by steam turbine. Scientific developments known as 'SQUIDS' are able to detect changes in the magnetic waves and emissions under water.

On the cyber-side of things reports have come out on developments in 'Mal ware' for interfering with computer systems and it is known that a virus from USA/China systems has led to the break down of Iran's system. We need to stay as well-informed as possible on all these developments and remember when we are arguing that nuclear weapons are no deterrent or defence, perhaps we need to help people think about our traditional concept of "The defence of the Realm" and what that could possibly mean in this day and age.

Joan Goodier - Birkenhead

Six reasons why Nuclear Power is not the answer to Climate Change or anything else!

It is too little too late

75% of emissions worldwide occur in sectors that have no link whatsoever to producing electricity or are weakly electrified or that use electricity wastefully. Therefore substituting nuclear for other forms of electricity generation will have only a marginal impact on global warming. According to an International Energy Agency (IEA) study, even if one nuclear reactor per week came online over the next 15 years, (highly unlikely, see below) this could only contribute less than 8% of the global effort to stabilise CO2 concentration.

The time needed to plan and build nuclear facilities is such that they would come online much too late to help the fight against climate change. A new reactor in Finland is at least 11 years behind schedule. In the UK Hinkley Point was supposed to be producing energy by 2017 but now won't come online to 2027 at the earliest. Much too late to contribute to the race to reduce global warming.

It is very expensive

Nuclear reactors cost billions of pounds to build. The UK's new Hinkley Point C reactor is set to cost over £22 billion. The public will continue to massively subsidise this by paying artificially high prices for their electricity to ensure sufficient profits for the private sector developing the plant. Then there is the frighteningly high cost of dealing with the over 300,000 tons (and rising) of nuclear waste worldwide.

It produces Greenhouse Gas

Conventional estimates of the carbon footprint of nuclear energy are misleading. You have to look at the full nuclear cycle. The mining and enrichment of uranium; the manufacturing, transport and reprocessing of nuclear fuel rods and waste; the building and dismantling of the reactors all produce greenhouse gas. The mining of

uranium, in particular has a devastating impact on environmental quality and health in the developing world.

And creates massive pollution

From uranium mines to nuclear waste, including radioactive and chemical pollution from nuclear reactors, every phase of the nuclear cycle produces pollution. Worldwide, over 300,000 tons of highly toxic spent nuclear waste which remains dangerous for thousands of years needs to be safely managed/disposed of. Nuclear countries want to bury the waste but, understandably face fierce opposition from local communities.

It causes environmental catastrophes

Two massive nuclear accidents, Chernobyl in 1986 and Fukushima in 2011 produced death and environmental degradation on a vast scale. People are still dying in Belarus from the radioactive fall out at Chernobyl in neighbouring Ukraine and vast swathes of the country are still uninhabitable. In Japan, the clean up from the Fukushima accident will take decades and cost billions.

And it is linked to the Nuclear Arms industry

Nuclear weapons and nuclear power share the same technological base. The process of enriching uranium to make it into fuel for nuclear power stations is also used to make nuclear weapons. Plutonium is a by-product of the nuclear fuel cycle and is still used by some countries to make nuclear weapons. The UK's first nuclear power stations were built primarily to provide fissile materials for nuclear weapons. There is a danger that countries acquiring nuclear technology could similarly develop nuclear weapons.

Peter Wilson

Petition to Prime Minster

The Director of Pax Christi UK - Theresa Alessandro - joined a delegation of peace organisations to hand a petition into Downing Street on 26 September calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. She said, "Pax Christi continues to call for our government to engage with the Nuclear Weapons Ban and work seriously towards ridding our world of nuclear weapons; as Pope Francis says, the threat of their use as well as their very possession is to be firmly condemned." Leading Catholic anti-nuclear campaigner Bruce Kent wore his UN blue tie since the action marked the UN Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Dear Prime Minister,

Today, on the UN's International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, we urge the UK government to honour its commitment to a world without nuclear weapons. This has been a longstanding commitment of successive governments since the UK's ratification of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970. In an increasingly dangerous world, where the threat of nuclear war is rising, this goal has never been so important.

The UK cannot claim to support this goal whilst prioritising the replacement of Trident, at vast expense and considerable opportunity cost to other forms of security and spending beneficial to our country. This is particularly so when the government's own National Security Strategy identifies the real security threats we face today as terrorism, cyber-attacks and the imminent consequences of climate change.

We urge the government to scrap Trident and fully engage with the fresh multilateral disarmament initiatives that are taking place. More than 120 countries voted in the UN General Assembly for an historic United Nations treaty to ban nuclear weapons - the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and it is well on the way to ratification. It is the UK government's responsibility to engage with this process and we urge you to do so. Clearly there is an urgent need for states to build common

Clearly there is an urgent need for states to build common ground on disarmament and steps should be taken by the UK to build bridges with nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states. This must include signalling unmistakable progress towards the UK's own obligation to disarm.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kate Hudson
General Secretary
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Bruce Kent
Vice President,
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Lindsey German
Stop the War Coalition
Olivia Beach
United Nations Association
Daniel Jakopovic
Quakers UK
Theresa Alessandro
Pax Christi

Bruce Kent awarded the Sean MacBride Peace Award

by the International Peace Bureau at a special evening reception after CND's Annual Conference October 19th 2019 A terrific speech highlighting many of Bruce's extensive commitments to peace and justice was given by Philip Jennings, the new co-president of IPB and this was followed by a characteristically amusing acceptance speech by 90 year old Bruce Kent. The highlight of the weekend for those able to attend— including Barbara delegate for Merseyside CND pictured here with Bruce enjoying a convivial time! Thanks to Dave Hardcastle for the photo



Public Interest Case Against Trident

Aim

The aim of this project is to bring the crimes constituted by Trident and its renewal before the domestic courts and to secure a judgement that will lead to the ending of these crimes through the disarming of the UK's nuclear weapons system.

Summary

Groups around England and Wales (the Scottish process is different and is not covered in this briefing) will go to their local Magistrates' court and ask it to start the process of a criminal prosecution against the Secretary of State for Defence (the corporate office not the individual incumbent) for being engaged in a conspiracy to commit a war crime. The court will predictably deny the issue of a summons and may dismiss it out of hand; but whatever the decision is, groups should try to find out what the reasons for dismissal were and to get them in writing from the court. In the best case scenario the Magistrate will treat the laying of information' with the respect and seriousness it deserves and will take the opportunity to write to the Attorney General (using a model letter provided). This is because such serious crimes have to have the consent of the Attorney General in order for proceedings to begin in the courts. If the Attorney General (A-G) refuses his consent, or it is deemed to be vexatious litigation, or if there is any other attempt to prevent these crimes from being addressed seriously by the courts, the people involved in the project will consider approaching the International Criminal Court, which has international jurisdiction over these crimes. Also, we will lobby Parliament to demand an adequate explanation from the A-G for his refusal to consent. At the very least, attempts to bring the matter before the courts will inform more people about the illegality of weapons of mass destruction and help provide the public pressure needed to delegitimise the UK's nuclear weapons. The people who initiated the project were Angie Zelter, George Farebrother (unfortunately now deceased) and Robbie Manson, a lawyer and author of 'Pax Legalis'. Angle and Robbie are now coordinating the campaign and are being assisted by David Mackenzie and Kate Holcombe. Reports of each group's progress should be sent to PICAT via Angie at reforest@gn.apc.org and they will be put up on the PICAT website so we can all share information and be involved in discussing the ways forward. Further info:- Jan Harper janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

Winter 2019 Crossword

Across

- 1. Dance director (13)
- 10. Football manager (5)
- 11. One who has unlimited power (10)
- 13. Panel on a computer screen (7)
- 15. Something unrefined or crass (9)
- 16. With a significant margin (2, 3)
- 17. Mass killing (7)
- 19. The self (3)
- 20. Give out for a particular purpose (8)
- 21. Islamic leader (8)
- 24. Don't rely on anyone else (1,1,1) abbr.
- 25. A difficult choice (7)
- 26. Potent toxin derived from the castor oil plant (5)
- 27. Pain caused by nerve damage (9)
- 30. Distortion caused by changes in
- atmospheric refraction (7)
- 31. Included "I've started, so I'll finish" (10)
- 33. Cessation of breathing (5)
- 34. Virus or protozoa, for example (13)

- 2. Has low air pressure (9)
- 3. Home of Sugarloaf mountain (3)
- 4. Eater of meat and plants (8)
- 5. Drive away (5)
- 6. Idiosyncratic dislike (3, 4)
- 7. Boredom or dissatisfaction (5)
- 8. Travelling on a plank (13)
- 9. With self-aggrandisement (10)
- 12. One overly concerned about ill health (13)
- 14. Musical performance (7)
- 18. Indian monastries (7)
- 19. Avoiding attention / thinning of the cervix (10)
- 22. Oil-tanned moccasins (9)
- 23. What Vlad Tepes might have been doing (8)
- 25. Creator of blueprints (7)
- 28. One of the five basic tastes (5)
- 29. Swedish-American actress (5)
- 32. Quixote or Bradman (3)

Birkenhead CND

Next meetings: Tues 12th Nov, 10th Dec, 11th Feb 8pm at Joan's, 18, Southdale Road, Tranmere CH42 New Year party probably Tuesday 14th January at Liz's 4 Quaile Park, Bidston Rd CH43 6WA 7.30pm Further Info-Cathy Page 0151 378 1760 cath.page@phonecoop.coop

Wallasey CND
Planning Meeting: Monday Nov. 4th 3pm at Barbara and Dave's 4 Taunton Rd. CH45 3JN Tel: 638 3967 Christmas stall Sat. Dec. 14th. Wallasey Central Library, Earlston Rd. 10am—4pm Helpers and contributions needed. We are looking for attic sales or similar events where we can hire tables. Please let us know of any in your area. Planning meetings will usually be on the 1st Monday each month, starting time varies to fit in with members wanting to attend. We will notify members by email or phone as well as of any other activities planned.

Contact: Barbara 638 3967 /Janet 677 1133

Pax Christi

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month 7pm at St Michaels Irish Centre, Boundary Lane Liverpool 6. All welcome. We are looking for other meeting places too. Contact Liverpool Pax Christi: Jan: 0151 263 5623 Janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

Peace Sunday January 19th 2020

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: June: Loretta Humphreys; July: Rita Walker; August: John Usher; September: Barbara Hardcastle; October: Jan Harper For £5.00 per month you too could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 in the annual draw. Apply to the Treasurer Cathy Page through the office for a membership form Address/ email/telephone below and on Page 1.

Mobile: 07394 810 871 e: mcnd@care4free.net

151 Dale St. L2 2AH

No to Trump, No to NATO

London Demonstration 12:00-16:00. Tue. 3rd December Location to be confirmed

New World Disorder—Anti NATO Summit

30th November Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church 235 Shaftsbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8EP

Speakers include: Tariq Ali, Chris Williamson M.P. and Kate Hudson

Breakfast for Palestine

Sun. 10th Nov

Door open: 1pm, Food served 1:45pm Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Centre, 27-33 High Park St. L8 8DX

Desmond Tutu Centre for Peace Studies Civic Lecture delivered by Prof. Frank Cottrell Boyce 4:00-5:30pm, 7th November Liverpool Hope University

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MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

To receive regular newsletters please complete form and return to address below. Name......Phone.... 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 \pounds _ 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: next meeting:

Wednesday November 6th 14:00 CND Office 151 Dale St. L2 2AH All members welcome

This edition of the newsletter run up by Cathy, Andy and Janet. Printed in MCND Office

