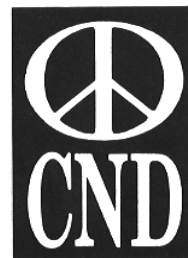


Merseyside CND Newsletter Spring 2020

151 Dale St. Liverpool L2 2AH 073948 10871 merseysidecnd@gmail.com
www.mcnd.org.uk



"The people must take over - you must take over. The leaders of all political parties are waiting, as they always wait, on any issue of principle, to follow public opinion. We can coerce them."

Alex Comfort (Scientist, pacifist, conscientious objector) at the Launch of CND 17 Feb 1958

Well, Alex, it hasn't worked so far — but, fear not, we won't give up trying yet awhile!!

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

Nuclear Ban Communities

Towns, cities, and rural areas around the world are declaring their support for the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). As we near [the 50 ratifications needed for the TPNW to enter into force](#), these communities are playing a vital role in creating a world free from nuclear weapons.

Our challenge to CND groups this year is to get local councils to adopt a motion in support of the TPNW, making your area a Nuclear Ban Community.

The UK government can't be allowed to ignore the TPNW and, thanks to local campaigning, councils across Britain have started to demand that the government supports the ban, scraps Trident and



works for a world free of nuclear weapons. So far resolutions have been passed by [Oxford City Council](#), [Edinburgh](#), [Manchester](#), [Renfrewshire](#) and several others. Congratulations to all who have been hard at work on this already! To aid your campaigning, we've compiled a [support pack full of information, which you can download from our website](#). Included is a model resolution for your council, as well as a template petition form, leaflet and poster that we can customise to include your group's details. There's also a guide for how to maximise media coverage of your campaign.

We're excited to see what you come up with! As ever, please do get in touch if you've any questions. CND 162 Holloway Rd. London N7 8DQ
Tel: 020 7700 2393 Email: enquiries@cnduk.org
Web: www.cnduk.org

Ash Wednesday Feb 26th 11.45

Walk from St. Luke's Church, Berry St through the town centre to the Town Hall where Liverpool Pax Christi will hand in a letter asking the City Council to back the Treaty to Ban nuclear weapons. All welcome Contact: janharper1@yahoo.co.uk / 07746919915



Fukushima Disaster Remembered

**Merseyside CND
street stall Friday
March 13th in
Derby Square to
coincide with the
Climate Strike
march 12 noon
from St. George's
Plateau**

Calling all members to help us run the stall and carry banners and placards

Contents

P2. Nuclear Art of nuclear industry's radioactive legacy

3 Film show The Plan
Lindis Percy, Student
ban on arms industry

4 Peace Art to be at
Anglican Cathedral,
World Conference,
NPT, Christian CND

5 Crossword, Tony
Forder obituary,

6 MCND AGM 6 May
Groups, 50 Club,
Chernobyl stall 26
April, Bold St L'pool

Nuclear Art

Yelena Popova 'The Scholar Stones Project'

Holden Gallery, Manchester School of Art
07.02.20 - 27.03.20

Open Monday - Friday 12 noon - 6pm
Thursdays late opening until 7pm

**"No Stone unturned in search for UK's
radioactive legacy"**

Up and down the UK, stern concrete structures stare silently out across the sea. Behind barbed wire fences in a blossoming natural landscape, these decommissioned first-generation nuclear power plants are now untouchable tombs for the graphite reactor cores that can't be moved for 80 to 100 years. Though these quiet buildings look like remnants of the past, there is much life behind their sealed doors; the half-life of the manmade contaminated graphite, carbon-14, is approximately 5,000 years.

On Christmas Day 2018, artist [Yelena Popova](#) took a stroll along the Suffolk shoreline, a short distance from the Sizewell nuclear power stations. Born in Ozyorsk, Russia - a closed city that was the birthplace of the Soviet nuclear weapons programme - Popova started to question the invisible impact of these energy houses. On the same day, she collected the first stone for the Scholar Stones Project now on display at the Holden Gallery in Manchester.

Scholar stones (also known as *gongshi*) are naturally weathered rocks that often act as the focal point of a traditional Chinese garden. Initially defined by the Tang dynasty as an object that encouraged contemplation, Popova's scholar stones are taken from the sites of decommissioned Magnox power reactors around the UK to make tangible the very real impact that nuclear energy production has on the ground under our feet.

The collection of stones - which Popova curated after visiting seven different reactors - now stands at the centre of the Holden on a black floor that mimics the geometric design of the early reactor's graphite core. Laser-cut from recycled material from previous exhibitions, the thin spread of circles and squares stands in direct contrast to the core that will still be making its mark on the environment until the end of this century.

With some stones raised on chunky plinths and others placed on the floor, the individual stones stand as markers for the power plants from which they have travelled. Every variance in colour, shade and shape refers back to the different communities that live alongside the reactors, from the Highland Scots clinging to the blustery northern coast in Dounreay to the Welsh in Trawsfynydd cradled by the sweeping arms of Snowdonia. Like the pieces of ground now positioned on plinths, the inhabitants have internalised the reactors; they have become part of their history and landscape.

Popova also scooped up soil from the nuclear sites to create her own pigments for a new series of paintings. The swirling canvases move from warm earthy hues to dusky greys, reflecting the varied geological composition of each location. Ghostly layers remind us

of the radioactivity still haunting these sites decades after nuclear activity was officially concluded. In the exhibition notes, Popova wonders what would happen if she slid a Geiger counter over the surface of each painting.

These captivating and ethereal canvases suffer from being placed in what is essentially a large walkway to other rooms and corridors in the Manchester School of Art. Two bold tapestries have more impact as they rise off the centre of the back wall. Positioned where there had once been a large tapestry by Edward Burne-Jones, *Keepsake I* and *II* appear initially as a pleasing kaleidoscope of geometric shapes and bright colours.



closer inspection it becomes evident that the lower half of each tapestry contains the repeating pattern of the granite core, while the top half is an imposing building. Popova's scholar stones congregate before the tapestries, paying their respects to the fearsome reactors entombed beneath triangular architecture evocative of the pyramids or Lenin's mausoleum.

Nuclear energy has always been about power, whether that be the power to sustain your nation or the power to blow others apart. And when the first round of reactors arrived in the UK, no one was sure which was the greater need, so they ensured the stations could also produce plutonium-239 for nuclear weapons if necessary. But if Popova's collection of worshipping stones tells us anything, it's that we are kidding ourselves if we think we are holding the power. When we consider that there is still no clear plan for the deconstruction of the graphite cores, the UK's nuclear waste storage facilities are only in the planning stages and the production of [miniature nuclear reactors](#) has become necessary to retain knowledge of how to maintain the old versions, we seem about as powerful as a stone sat atop a plinth.

Hannah Clugston Guardian. Feb 10th p20



THE PLAN that came from the bottom up

Film + panel discussion
2pm Sun 1st March
Liverpool, Picturehouse at FACT

Part film essay, part documentary THE PLAN tells the untold story of how a group of British weapons engineers switched to designing hybrid engines and wind turbines and were nominated for the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. At a time when climate injustice is fanning the flames of inequality THE PLAN looks at how this group of eco-pioneering aerospace engineers took control for the sake of the planet. Their heroism has been forgotten but as constant wars and climate crisis proliferate there's vital lessons to be learnt from their story premiered at the London Film Festival and nominated for the Grierson Award,

THE PLAN is being screened at launch events in 6 UK cities on 1st March including Liverpool at: Picturehouse at FACT, Wood St. L1 4DQ

THE PLAN Part 1: 2pm - 4pm, Interval: 4pm - 4:30pm
Part 2: 4:30pm - 6pm, panel Q&A: 6pm

"This film captures a unique moment in our history - highly skilled workers showing how to turn swords into ploughshares. If we want to transform society, this is a good place to start"

Ken Loach

"An urgent and gripping piece of work, reflecting on the dark consequences of capitalism on society and proposing an encouraging alternative for a troubling present"

London Film Festival

79-year-old peace campaigner 'roughed up' by MoD police

A SEVENTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD peace campaigner told the Star today that she was "roughed up" by Ministry of Defence police officers at a weekly vigil at Menwith Hill, the US's Yorkshire spy base. One witness said that retired nurse Lindis Percy had been "appallingly treated" as she was dragged to a police car last night.

Ms Percy said the rough treatment continued at Harrogate Police station, when the two MoD officers dragged her down a corridor and her jacket was pulled off over her head.

When she was handed over to North Yorkshire Police she was released without charge, but a nurse was called to check her blood pressure and it was found to be "sky high," Ms Percy said.

She is instructing lawyers to pursue the incident with the MoD force.

Menwith Hill is nominally an RAF base but is run by the US National Security Agency.

It has been the target of peace campaigners for more than 40 years. A vigil is staged at the base's main gate every Tuesday evening.

Ms Percy said problems with Ministry of Defence police officers had worsened recently.

"On Tuesday I was doing what I usually do, passing and re-passing along the highway, which is legal. I was grabbed by one officer and another bloke and dragged to the side of the road.

"They said I was being arrested under Section 5 of the Public Order Act, which is about 'causing alarm, harassment or distress' to another person. I was forced along to a police car. They were very nasty and very rough.

"In the custody place at the police station there's a corridor. They dragged me again. My hi-vis jacket came off over my head.

"There was a custody officer and I think he was quite shocked. He said he had no intention of arresting me because the incident was over.

"I am talking to barristers in London about this."

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Defence Police said: "The Ministry of Defence Police expects all of its officers to maintain the highest possible standards of behaviour and conduct at all times. Any alleged misconduct by our officers is taken extremely seriously and investigated accordingly."

Morning Star Feb. 5th 2020

Cambridge University students vote to boot out military recruitment stalls

PEACE campaigners praised Cambridge University students today for booting out military-recruitment stalls from their freshers' fair.

Fifty-five per cent of students voted in favour of a motion to ban such stalls, stating that the university should not be a place for the military to recruit.

The Peace Pledge Union (PPU) told the Star that it predicts students at other universities will follow Cambridge's example.

PPU campaign manager Symon Hill said: "We know all too well that the people who proposed this motion will now receive hate mail, death threats and streams of abuse on social media or in person.

"We're glad they've stood up to the militarist lobby. Many young people know what the Establishment will not admit: that armed forces don't protect us, they only make the world less safe.

"Militarists recruit well-intentioned young people to an organisation rooted in violence and obedience to the powerful.

"By targeting Cambridge students, organisations such as the University Officer Training Corps promote a pro-military mindset among young people who may go on to be decision-makers in business or politics."

Morning Star Feb. 5th 2020



Peace Doves

Liverpool Anglican Cathedral will welcome a new art project, Peace Doves, later this year. Peace Doves, headed up by internationally renowned sculptor and artist Peter Walker, is a mass participation art project which will see the creation of a beautiful large-scale art installation hang inside the cathedral.

The project will launch this February half term, from February 17 to 21, with free dove-themed family activity sessions where they'll be able to write messages of hope and peace - and they'll be included in the installation. From February 14 - April 19, the cathedral is inviting visitors to write messages on paper doves before artist Peter joins the thousands of doves together to create the large-scale installation. Peace Doves will then officially open at Liverpool Cathedral on May 8, 2020, the 75th anniversary of VE day, until May 31, 2020.

Peter first created the Peace Doves installation, consisting of 20,000 doves, at the UK's only medieval three-spired cathedral, Lichfield Cathedral, where it hung between December 2018 and January 2019.

Humanity faces two existential threats:

The proliferation of nuclear weapons and the ever-increasing dangers of climate change both make the extinction of our species a very real possibility.

Despite the risks, many political leaders do little more than pay lip service to environmental protection and are renewing their nations' nuclear arsenals. Given this abdication of responsibility, it falls to grassroots activists to ensure real action is taken.

On 24th-26th April, at the Riverside Church in New York City, the [World Conference](#) will provide a much-needed opportunity for campaigners from around the world, including [atomic bomb survivors](#), to work together in developing the alliances needed for the movement to prevail and will feature speeches from international disarmament, environmental and social justice organisations at the forefront of anti-nuclear and climate change activism.

It is designed to inspire not only those attending, but people around the world. With this in mind, it will be streamed live on the internet and we'll be announcing where to watch it in the coming weeks. The conference will culminate in a rally in Manhattan and a march to United Nations headquarters where, the next day on 27th April, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review begins.

The NPT provides a legal framework to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and related technology. It also requires all signatories to work towards reducing their arsenals, with the eventual goal of complete nuclear abolition.

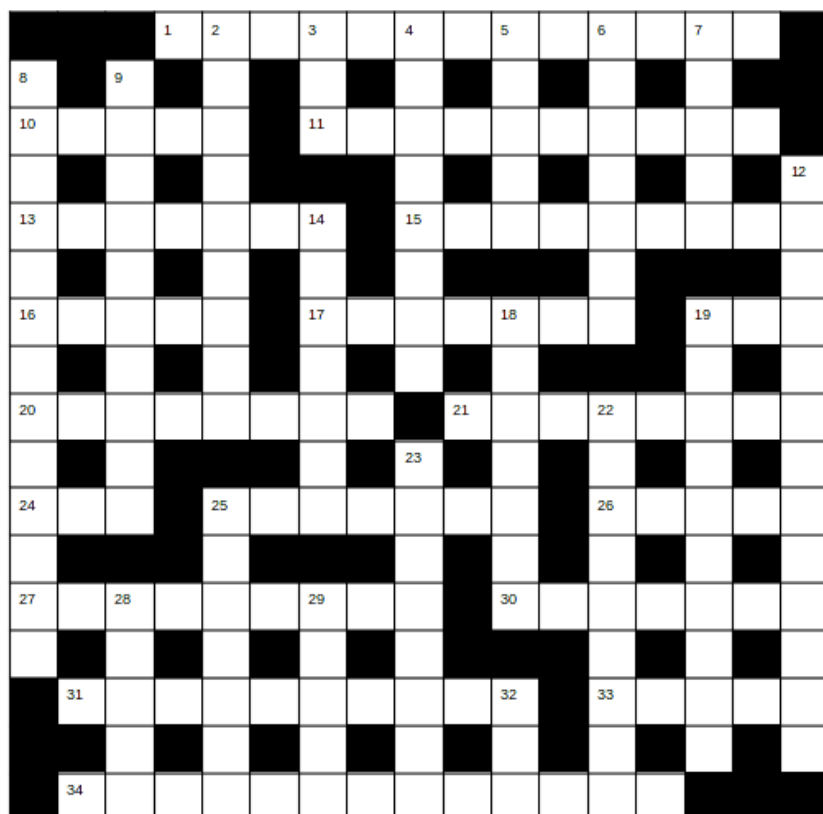
Tragically, with the United States and Russia withdrawing from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), and the U.S. also abandoning the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#) with Iran, the future of the NPT is looking increasingly precarious. The last Review in 2015 failed to reach an agreement on how to deal with the threat of proliferation in the Middle East and expectations for this year's meeting are low. As the UN's High Representative for Disarmament Affairs said, "A combination of deteriorating relationships between nuclear weapon states (NWS), dangerous rhetoric about the utility of nuclear weapons, modernisation campaigns that are, in effect, a qualitative arms race and regional conflicts with nuclear dimensions have created a dangerous context in which the possible use of a nuclear weapons is altogether greater than it has been since the darkest days of the Cold War".

However, there is also cause for optimism. 79 states have voiced their support for peace by signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and more are set to follow. When the 2020 review takes place we must hope that those voices are listened to, along with the thousands of activists marching from the Riverside Church. If humanity is to survive, there is no other option.

For more information see : worldconference2020.org or contact JGerson80@gmail.com

WORLD CONFERENCE
Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Resist
and Reverse the Climate Crisis;
For Social and Economic Justice
 April 24-26, 2020
 New York City - Riverside Church

Spring 2020 Crossword



Tony Forder

20.09.1925 -10.01.2020

With Tony's death we have lost a very dear friend and remarkable campaigner for peace, justice and the community. Family ties and religious beliefs were the bedrock of his life, underlying everyday activities to make life better for all, especially the underprivileged.

He was our Wallasey CND Chairman these past 30 years, good at approaching local councillors and MPs, both red and blue, writing persuasive letters to Ministers on our behalf.

He believed, too, firmly in local street campaigning, talking face to face with passers by exploring ways to solve problems in non-confrontational ways - ways leading away from violence to reconciliation.

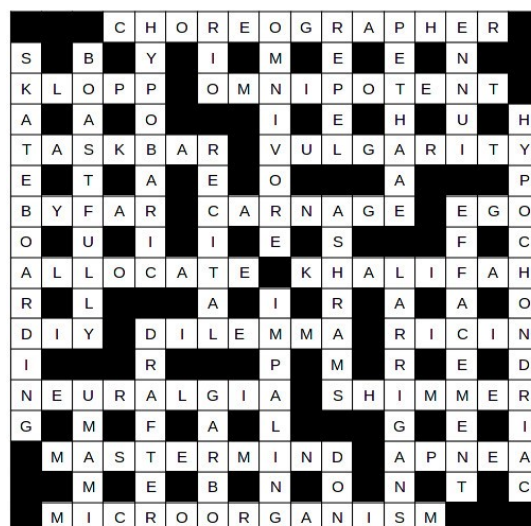
He was a founder member of Wirral Christian CND until it decided to merge with local Peace groups to widen and strengthen their appeal. When they disbanded they discovered that they were the longest serving local CCND group in the UK.

Merseyside Peace Council was another local group he joined to spread peace making into the wider community. Likewise he supported local and international actions like 'One World Week', Refugee action, UN Peace Day (Peace One Day), and through the Labour Party keeping community services running. With other volunteers he set up a night shelter for rough sleepers, The Ark.

He was a very sociable, kindly man, enjoying our group efforts at local fetes and fairs promoting peace and environmental causes, walking, cycling, selling home grown produce —his marmalade was much in demand— and as you can see from the photo he enjoyed the games. Here he is multi-tasking playing Jenga while eating an ice cream. Don't try this yourself! RIP, Tony, We'll miss you so much. Janet Wallasey CND



Winter 2019 Answers



Across

1. Implying guilt (13)
10. Tamed by Petruchio (5)
11. Containing sections which slide into one another (10)
13. Period following great conflict (7)
15. Ipsos Mori, for example (9)
16. Philosopher famous for his razor (5)
17. Species of water bird (7)
19. Jamaican musical genre (3)
20. Group of alcohols used in perfume (7)
21. Falls in stages (8)
24. Home-made bomb (*abbr.*) (1,1,1)
25. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (7)
26. Resident of Des Moines (5)
27. Not extreme (9)
30. Hairstyle historically common in Asia (7)
31. Geometric shapes with 20 sides (10)
33. Maradona or Simeone (5)
34. Combining into a single whole (13)

Down

2. Newman, Maitlis and Manji (9)
3. Decompose (3)
4. Linguistically challenged Dickens character (8)
5. Pertaining to the olfactory organ (5)
6. Discovered the electron (7)
7. Lacking experience or knowledge (5)
8. Electoral scholars (13)
9. Taken to court (10)
12. High-profile killing (13)
14. Brother of Remus (7)
18. Hands-free communication device (7)
19. Species of pit viper (10)
22. Contributed (7, 2)
23. Decapitated (8)
25. Takes a shot in the dark (7)
28. On a large scale (5)
29. Bahamian island (5)
32. Said to be imitated by life (3)

Birkenhead CND

We meet at 8pm each 3rd Tuesday of the month at Joan's 18, Southdale Road, Rock Ferry CH42 3XW
This is a change from 2nd Tuesday. Next meetings: March 17th, April 21st, May 19th. There will be a stall at Ashton Park in West Kirby on Friday May 8th VE day Bank Holiday—Come and visit us or help on the stall
Info :- cath.page@phonecoop.coop
Tel. 0151 378 1760

Liverpool Pax Christi

Meets on first Tuesday each month at St Michael's Church, Horne St. Liverpool 6 5EH 7pm
Next meeting: —Tues.3rd March
Ash Wednesday action Feb. 26th details front page.
Further info: Jan Harper: 0151 263 5623
Email:janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

Wallasey CND

We are all very sad at the passing of our chairman Tony Forder—see page 5 for obituary
Planning Meetings: usually 1st Monday each month At Barbara and Dave's 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey CH44
Time varies to suit members—next meetings 2pm March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th
We are joining Merseyside CND on March 13th at the Climate Strike demo and stall
Also plan to raise money at attic/car boot sales and any campaigning opportunities available.
Contacts: Barbara 638 3967 & Janet 677 1133
barb.hardcastle@gmail.com janmike@care4free.net

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: 2019 Nov. Jan Harper; Dec; John Deacon; 2020 Jan: Ruth Mullins
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 merseysidecnd@gmail.com

Merseyside CND AGM

Wednesday May 6th 5pm,
L.C.V.S., 151 Dale St. L2 2AH

Campaigning and Officer Reports, election of officers and plans for the rest of 2020
This will follow, we hope, a joint meeting with Merseyside Pensioners' Association at Jack Jones House 2pm with a Guest speaker.
All very much in the early planning stages

Remember the Chernobyl Disaster Sunday April 26th 1986

MCND plans to hold a stall in a city centre location highlighting the hazards and costs of the nuclear power industry. Nuclear Power is not carbon free and certainly not cheap! Watch this Space!

Live a Better Life Fair Jan.25th photo by Barbara



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 4th
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 email:
merseysidecnd@gmail.com

phone number:
073948 10871