

# Merseyside CND Newsletter Autumn 2021



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**Tax payers, we are allowing our government to prepare to annihilate life on earth with nukes while pretending they are trying to mitigate climate change. Stop them!!!!**

## Let's get all Merseyside signed up to the TPNW

### 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). These communities are playing a vital role in creating a world free from nuclear weapons.

**Our challenge to CND groups 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, Edinburgh, Manchester, Renfrewshire and Leicester.



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! 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](mailto:enquiries@cnduk.org) Web: [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org) Contact Merseyside CND for local group actions and see also P4.



### Armistice Day 2021, Liverpool

- Thursday 11th November
- 11.00am (assemble 10.45)
- St John's Gardens, Liverpool

*A day that celebrates peace, not war, is the best way to honour the sacrifices of those who fell.*

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### CLIMATE NOT TRIDENT

#### Protest at COP26

Climate change is one of the main threats the world faces today. Urgent action is needed but our government prioritises war and weapons over the future of our planet. CND is proud to be part of the movement calling on the UK government to make sure that concrete actions to reduce the climate threat are taken at the next UN Climate Change Conference - COP26 - in Glasgow in November 2021.

#### Sat. 6th November Day of Action Liverpool 12 Noon

Meet at Sefton Park gates, junction of [Ullet Road and Aigburth Rd by Sefton Park Obelisk](#) You can also join the march at the Anglican Cathedral at 1.30 for shorter route. The rally will take place in Derby Square at 3pm. We will be marching through Lodge Lane, Parliament Street, Hope Street, Upper Duke Street, Berry Street, Bold Street, Church Street and Lord Street into Derby Square.

[Liverpool City Region Cop-26 Coalition](#)

It is with great sadness that we learn of the death of one of our longest standing members Cleo Wright who died on Monday Oct. 25th. Our condolences go to all her family. An appreciation of her life for peace will follow in our Winter Newsletter.

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# The Protest against The Electronic Warfare Conference at Liverpool Arena and Convention Centre on Tuesday 12 October

All year Liverpool Against the Arms Fair worked hard to get the Council to cancel the Electronic Warfare conference that the directors of ACC had agreed should take place on 12 & 13 October.

On 27 June over 100 held a protest in the city centre. (see MCND's Summer 2021 Update)

On 11 September 3,000 walked through town from the plaza below the Catholic cathedral to a protest rally in William Brown Street.

"We have lobbied, marched, written and spoken.

The Council refuses to act and the death merchants are coming to town."

So, a protest was organised for near the conference centre for the start of the fair.

From 7.00am a few hundred protesters gathered by the Old Wall Arch, Wapping. From there a short road, Gower Street, leads down to the Arena and Convention Centre by the waterfront. There was a large police presence on

Wapping and in Gower Street. This felt extremely threatening.

Some protesters sat down in the road to stop delegates going to the ACC. These were arrested.

At about 10 o'clock Greg Dropkin, one of the co-ordinators of LAAF, asked the assembled protesters: "Should we walk to the conference centre to support the people on the roof, or should we go to the police station to support the people who have been arrested".

The protesters on the roof were two members of Palestine Action who on Monday evening had evaded the tight security and climbed onto the roof.

About 50 protesters walked down to the centre. Gathering outside the entrance they shouted their support to the protesters on the roof. They also shouted towards the nearby Pullman Hotel where some of the delegates were staying.

"Go home. We don't want you. Liverpool is a city of Peace."

LAAF is working to make sure there are no more arms fairs in Liverpool.

Roger Stephenson

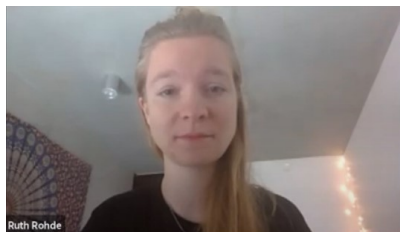


## CND Conference 2021

This year's conference discussed the global impact of the UK's 40% increase in stockpiled nuclear weapons and the possibility that this will lead to a new nuclear arms race. Speakers included Prof. Paul Rogers, Vijay Prashad from the Tricontinental Institute in India and across the Global South; Colonel Ann Wright from Veterans for Peace in the US; and Ruth Rohde from the Arms Information Centre in Freiburg, Germany.

In the afternoon session, attention was turned to the TPNW and the British Government's continuing refusal to support it. We would like to urge all MCND members to contact their MPs and local councillors, asking them to speak out in favour of the treaty.

A big thank you to everyone who was able to take part in the conference. For those who weren't able to do so, there is a video on the CND website where you can catch up on everything that happened: <https://cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference/cnd-conference-2021/>



# The Environment Crisis - A Personal View

When I was a child in the 1960s, I asked my parents what happened to the rubbish after the binmen had collected it. They explained landfill to me, so I then asked what happened when they ran out space. They told me it would never happen, but I do remember that I wasn't entirely convinced by their answer. In my teens, I became concerned about how we were using plastic, especially when I learnt how long it would take to break down. Even then I envisaged landfill sites being filled for centuries to come with a material that had perhaps been used just once.

As a student in the mid-1970s, I remember reading in a science magazine about the how the greenhouse gases we were mass-producing would, if unchecked, lead to a general warming of the atmosphere with severe consequences for all life on Earth, humans, animals and plants alike. My first awareness of the Greenhouse Effect was thus around 45 years ago.

I am not claiming any special gift of prescience. On the contrary, I am simply stating that knowledge of the situation into which we are being inexorably sucked is not new. If a child could surmise that profligate disposal of unrecyclable rubbish was not permanently sustainable, although those were not the terms I used at the time, I can see no sensible reason for the apparent ignorance or indifference of national leaders all over the world. If scientists' warnings about global warming were available to everyone nearly half a century ago, there really is no good reason why the world didn't begin to act decades before now.

I do understand that many politicians are either incapable or unwilling to take the long-term view, perhaps for electoral reasons, or because it doesn't fit in with their own agendas, which can be self-aggrandisement as with Trump, Johnson, Bolsonaro or Lukashenko, or cost-cutting, even though the costs of tackling pollution and climate change become hugely more expensive the longer you leave it. Unless we get our act together, at some point the question will be whether action on climate change is unaffordable or - perhaps worse - pointless because we're too late and it has become irreversible. It's my opinion that the human race may face that dilemma within the lifetime of our current younger generations.

Another obstacle is the problem that too many people have only a basic understanding of what constitutes a fact. Early in the Trump presidency, when faced with information the administration didn't accept, a government

spokesperson responded, "We have alternative facts."

This is a ridiculous statement because, logically, something is either a fact or it isn't, but it seems to me that people increasingly decide what they want to believe in and then seek out anything that seems to corroborate their chosen preconception, a mindset that has been greatly enabled by the internet. This has led to the erroneous conclusion that climate change is a matter of opinion even though the scientific conclusions are undeniable: there is always some populist chancer on the internet who will propound a wholly unsubstantiated alternative view, often plausibly presented but wholly lacking in any real evidential rigour.

Trump's approach to climate change is a dangerous example of such thinking, which is partly determined by a reluctance to commit time, energy and money to actions that would not bear fruit until long after his presidency would have ended, even if he had won a second term, and partly by the fact that he is an unintelligent, vain man who sees himself as a genius and values his own gut reactions and guesses accordingly, eg. disinfectant as a treatment for COVID-19.

Anyone who is aged in their 50s upwards will have noticed the effects of global warming. To give just one example: as a child and young adult, I can remember standing by bonfires on 5th November with my front warm as toast and my back freezing. Nowadays, the month of November is never that cold and I rarely have to wrap up in the way I used to.

In the 1980s, I decided to subscribe to Greenpeace, my longest continuous subscription after CND and my trade union, but sometimes it feels no more than a gesture, probably because like a lot of people I find the challenges that we face daunting. It is dispiriting to realise that there has never been anything to stop the human race collectively taking action much sooner: the information has been out there for a long time and arguments of cost fail because they will multiply massively the longer we leave it.

To make a comparison to a house: a few tiles slipping on your roof can be fixed without too much expense, but the longer you leave it, the hole gets bigger, the damage spreads to the beams underneath and then the ceilings until finally the whole roof caves in. The Earth is way past the few tiles stage but we are not at the total collapse stage - not just yet anyway.

Neville Grundy



## Birkenhead CND

Aiming to get Wirral Council signed up to TPNW soon. Needing help with stalls on November 6th + another later date

Meetings on 3rd Tuesday of month 7.30pm—contact Cathy Page email [cath.page@phonecoop.coop](mailto:cath.page@phonecoop.coop) Tel. 0151 378 1760

## Wallasey CND

The next group discussion meetings will be on Monday November 1st 4pm and December 6th. 4pm at 4 Taunton Rd. Wallasey CH45 3JN

On 6th November, 11am, we are holding a COP26 stall in Liscard. We will then join the COP26 in Liverpool at 1:30 at the Anglican Cathedral to march to Derby Square for 3pm. See P1 for route. Contacts: Barbara 638 3967 [barb.hardcastle@gmail.com](mailto:barb.hardcastle@gmail.com) & Janet 677 1133 [janmike@care4free.net](mailto:janmike@care4free.net)



## Welcome to a new group

### Peace & Justice Silent Vigils

Peace Activists Bernie Draper and Chris Allen are planning silent vigils outside certain venues for religious and non religious peace and justice Activists. The Venues include Liverpool Town Hall, the Ministry of Defence, The Home Office and several corporate banks and multinational companies which are involved with the arms trade, nuclear proliferation, immigration policy and climate change injustice and the vigils perhaps to include leafleting and an information stall. We are trying to arrange a meeting of interested parties so please email Bernie on: [berniedraper53@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:berniedraper53@yahoo.co.uk)

## Farewell to an old group Chester CND

Back in June Chester CND unfortunately announced its dissolution and we would like to pay tribute to the important anti-nuclear activism the group has done over the years, particularly against Trident and Capenhurst. All former Chester members are more than welcome to join Merseyside CND, get involved in our campaigns and attend our events. Please contact the MCND office for further information.



## Merseyside CND 50 Club

**Recent winners:** July - Ruth Mullins, Aug - Val Morrison, Sept. - Ruth Mullins

**Annual Draw:** 1. Neville Grundy (£250), 2. Angela Wylie (£100), 3. Jan Harper (£50)

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 Cathy, the Treasurer, via the office for a membership form - 07394 810 871, [merseysidecnd@gmail.com](mailto:merseysidecnd@gmail.com)



The Rainbow Warrior on the Mersey on its way to

## 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 campaigning and donate:£...

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 14.00 Wednesday November 3rd

Not sure of venue yet — it depends partly on numbers intending to come. Please would you let us know whether you're able to come or not as soon as possible? All MCND members welcome.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition: Cathy Page, Neville Grundy, Bernie Draper, Barbara & Dave Hardcastle, Andy Morton, Roger Stephenson, Janet Laycock

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