

MERSEYSIDE CND

WINTER 2022

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Colourful demonstrations and weekend marches are vital but alone are not powerful enough to stop wars. Wars will be stopped only when soldiers refuse to fight, when workers refuse to load weapons onto ships and aircraft, when people boycott the economic outposts of Empire that are strung across the globe.

- Arundhati Roy, [Public Power in the Age of Empire](#)



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Merseyside CND

**Wishing you a
Peaceful New Year**

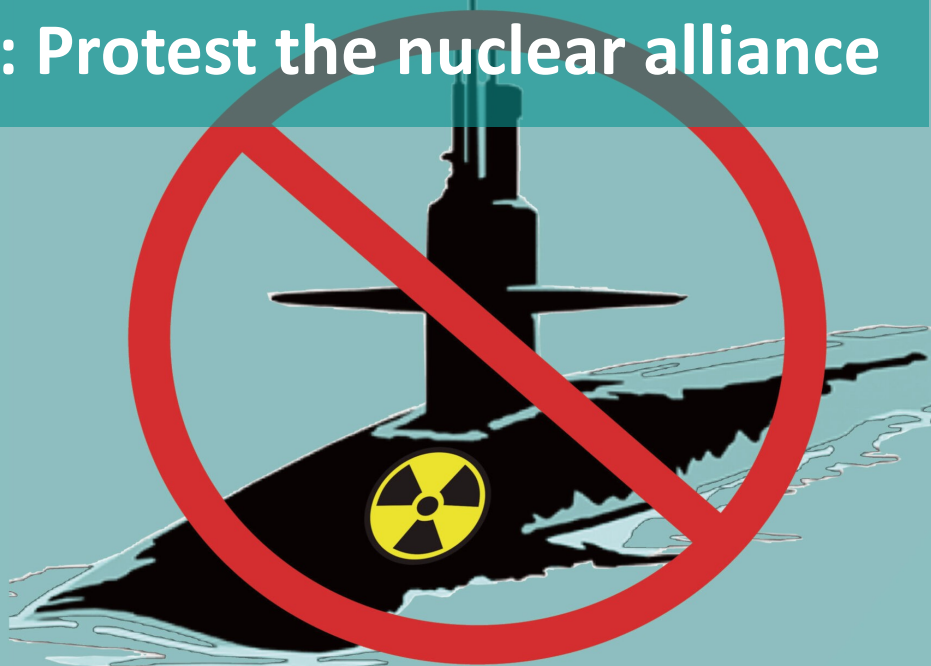
Well, here we are at the start of another year. In 2021 Covid effectively scuppered any public activism and most of us struggled to survive the year unscathed. However, MCND has not gone away and, age and Covid permitting, will continue to publicly campaign on nuclear and peace issues in 2022. Perhaps you would like to help us. All contributions gratefully received.

This year has started off with two incidents which can only be rationalised as a couple of God's very bad jokes. First was a solemn pronouncement by the world's nuclear powers that a nuclear war is "unwinnable" but that they will nevertheless continue to spend our money preparing for one. This is like saying they have just discovered that the earth is not flat but will continue to waste our money trying to prove that it is! Then there was the announcement that a known war criminal (yes Tony we are talking about you!) is to be given, with all due ceremony, one of the Queen's garters (or perhaps I have misunderstood the procedure?). You couldn't make it up.

Back in the real world, what else can we expect in 2022 – If we do nothing, the poor will continue to get poorer, the rich even more obscenely rich, the planet will continue to struggle, vicious wars will continue to destroy the world's most vulnerable communities but, above all, resources that should be used to tackle these issues will continue to be wasted on nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, as Jeremy Corbyn has rightly said, it does not have to be this way – a new politics is possible. A politics which puts peace, equality, social justice and environmental sustainability at its heart. The more people that stand up for these ideals, on stalls in street corners with home made placards, by marching in protest at the stupidity of those in power, by lobbying their MPs and by spreading the word among family and friends, the more chance we have of making 2022 a better, more hopeful and progressive one than its predecessor. A happy new year to you all.

- Peter Wilson, Merseyside CND Co-Chair

AUKUS: Protest the nuclear alliance



Spreading nuclear technology is at the heart of the [AUKUS deal](#): the US and UK are collaborating with Australia to provide them with nuclear-powered submarines. This risks nuclear proliferation and is a breach of the nuclear [Non-Proliferation Treaty](#), as well as a dangerous escalation in the West's ongoing confrontation with China.

Actions

- Ask your MP to sign [Early Day Motion 493](#)
- If you are a member of a trade union branch, please get a motion adopted opposing AUKUS. There is a [model motion](#) which can be used as a template. The 2021 Labour Party conference voted to oppose the deal, with 77% of the trade union vote against AUKUS.
- Labour CND has also produced a [model motion for local party branches](#) to adopt in support of the anti-AUKUS campaign

Information

- Read [CND's briefing](#) on why we oppose AUKUS
- Watch the CND and Stop the War Coalition [emergency online rally](#) with our panel of experts and activists discussing the dangers ahead and how best to organise against this destabilising development

AUKUS AND COP26 EVENTS

On Friday 10th December the G7 group met in Liverpool .
he event was held at the Liverpool museum at the Pier Head and around 60 people protested outside the venue in the evening. This was organised by the Liverpool Cop26 group and supported by various other groups including Merseyside CND. It was intended to be a candle lit vigil but the wind defeated us, so technology took over with torches on phones. There was "Die in" when several people lay on the ground with signs highlighting the effects of climate change. The names of those who have lost their lives during the past year fighting for climate justice were read out and a minutes silence was held.
The following day a group of us braved the elements and leafleted in Liverpool with AUKUS leaflet. It was hard going people had other things on their minds. We did manage to give out some leaflets and used it as a photo opportunity. We left our banner and posters on the railings by the tree
I wonder how long they lasted?
The photographer from the Liverpool Echo took photos on both occasions
Whether they will appear on their website is another matter. - **Barbara Hardcastle, Merseyside CND Co-Chair**

P5 NATIONS PLEDGE NO NUCLEAR WAR

2022 has started with a supposedly portentous joint statement on world peace by Russia, China, France, the UK and the US that is actually designed to give an appearance of progress while leaving the ongoing expansion (sorry, modernisation) of their nuclear arsenals undisturbed. Apparently we should all be profoundly grateful for the announcement by the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council that a nuclear war “cannot be won and must never be fought” despite it being, for us CNDers, at least, a very belated statement of the bleeding obvious. And what does this sudden revelation lead China, Russia, France, UK and US to conclude? Not that we should scrap nuclear weapons (silly thought!) but that the **further** spread of such weapons must be prevented and that existing weapons (ie ours) should continue to “serve defensive purposes, deter aggression and prevent war” – exactly what they have so demonstrably, disastrously and at such a horrendous cost, failed to do since 1945! As my old mum used to say, there’s none so blind as those who refuse to see. It would take more space than is available in this newsletter to do justice to the hypocrisy, complacency and arrogance of this policy, but you get the gist.

- Peter Wilson, Merseyside CND Co-Chair

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM PEACE BOAT

Dear friends and partners,

Wishing you all the best for a peaceful 2022! We would like to express our sincere thanks for all the support we have received during 2021 and our solidarity with all those who continue to be affected by the ongoing pandemic.

In 2021, Peace Boat continued our work for a peaceful and sustainable world with much of our work taking place online. March 11, 2021 marked ten years since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and the subsequent disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. On this day, Peace Boat co-organised the “Global Conference for a Nuclear Free, Renewable Energy Future: 10 Years Since Fukushima.” at which five former prime ministers simultaneously announced 3.11 Declarations, emphasizing that now is the time for Japan to move toward zero nuclear power plants and 100% renewable energy.

**PEACE
BOAT**



“Every Second Counts for the Survivors: Peace Boat’s Hibakusha Project Online” took place throughout the year with more than 50 sessions held to date in 52 countries and 3356 participants. In December, Peace Boat partnered with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to organize the World Nuclear Survivors Forum which brought together nuclear survivors and impacted communities around the world ahead of the First Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which will take place in 2022.

Peace Boat continued our work for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including active participation in two weeks of online events around UN World Oceans Day and in person at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow with various side events with partners including young leaders from Small Island Developing States on the frontline of the climate crisis, calling for greater ambition and climate justice.

We were deeply honoured to receive the Lifetime Organizational War Abolisher of 2021 Award, in the first-ever War Abolisher Awards ceremony. Peace Boat very much appreciates the partnerships and collaborations for a peaceful world that led to this award. We very much look forward to resuming our voyages in 2022 and will continue our efforts to work for a peaceful, nuclear-free and sustainable society.

Best wishes for a peaceful 2022 from all of us at Peace Boat.

PATRICIA AND MICHAEL PULHAM RECEIVE PEACE AWARD

By Roger Stephenson



Patricia and Michael Pulham receiving their award

At the AGM of Christian CND in October their joint secretaries, Patricia and Michael Pulham were presented with an award from the Week of Prayer for World Peace “in recognition of their work for peace through Christian CND and working with other organisations and faiths”. (Independent Catholic News, 12/10/21)

Members of Merseyside CND who were involved in the Snowball Campaign of NVDA at BNFL Capenhurst in the 1980s will have seen Patricia and Michael at many of the Snowball days of action, or at magistrates’ hearings in Chester, but they may not know of their campaigning before they started protesting at Capenhurst.

In a presentation they gave at the AGM of the National Justice and Peace Network in 2014 they spoke about their campaigning. (Independent Catholic News, 28/7/14)

They opened by recounting an all-night vigil they held by the war memorial in the grounds of Chester Cathedral for Remembrance Day. In the early 1980s Patricia joined Chester Women for Peace. For a long time she had felt that Remembrance Day commemorations were too militaristic. Chester Women for Peace gave her the remit to organise an event that showed another side to this. She discussed it with her husband Michael. They decided that a silent all-night vigil for all the victims of war would be non-threatening and dignified. They told the authorities of their plan.

The dean, she said, was supportive. The mayor was tolerant. Then they had a phone-call from the police saying that if they went ahead with their vigil they would be arrested. The local press got hold of the story and then it was in the national papers. Suddenly they were told the vigil could go ahead. After the vigil they had an “uncomfortable” interview in the police station. To be anti-war was seen as unpatriotic and a threat to the state.

Later, Patricia heard that the women of Greenham Common wanted women to come and surround the base. She felt called to go. But this would mean leaving her children for an extended period. She discussed it with Michael. He said not only could she go, she should go. He would look after the children. Chester Women for Peace had proposed a 200 mile pilgrimage walk, taking two weeks, to arrive at Greenham for a Hiroshima Day commemoration on August 6.

A photograph in the Chester Chronicle of 29 July 1983 shows the women, some with young children, setting off in the rain from Chester Town Hall on Saturday 23 July. Patricia and another woman are holding the banner.

The idea was that women from all over the country would converge on Greenham for Hiroshima Day.

Their pilgrimage was important not just for swelling the numbers at Greenham, but also for their presence on the roads and in the towns they walked through.

En route Chester Women for Peace stopped in front of the main gates of the Army Ordnance Depot at Donnington near Telford, where they hoped to speak to army chiefs about rumours that nuclear weapons were stored at the site. Their brightly painted bus carrying the children broke down in front of the main gates. After going to Greenham there followed 5 years of protesting mostly outside Capenhurst nuclear enrichment plant – vigils and non-violent direct action (The Snowball Campaign 1986-88), which Patricia bravely took part in and was put in prison for several times.

This summer Patricia wrote an NJPN blog, which was published in the Independent Catholic News, 28/7/21: ‘Two Augusts’

“August 2021 The eyes of the world are focussed on Japan. The world’s athletes compete for gold, silver and bronze medals.

August 1945 The eyes of the world are focussed on Japan. The two most destructive weapons ever produced fall on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”

She describes the horror of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and the devastation it caused and says, “If people truly understood what happened they could not contemplate how a civilised country, let alone one that shelters under the label of “Christianity”, could base its security on such evil.”

And “How can we tolerate our own government increasing its stockpile of warheads each one over eight times as powerful as the one dropped on Hiroshima?

How can we allow more than £200 billion being spent to renew and expand our Trident weapons programme?

THE TRUCE SCULPTURE AND THE PEACE POPPY PROJECT

By Roger Stephenson



The Truce Sculpture at St. Luke's Church, Bold Street, Liverpool

The Truce Sculpture on the small lawn on the Leece Street side of St Luke's Church is a memorial celebrating the Christmas Truce in the Great War in December 2014 when soldiers from the opposing trenches stopped fighting and played football together. The sculpture, 'All Together Now', by Andy Edwards shows a German soldier and his British counterpart leaning towards each other to shake hands. A football is on the ground between them.

From the beginning of November large red Remembrance poppies were placed in the lawn, spreading out from the sculpture. This magnificent eye-catching display was St Luke's Poppy Project - an anti-militaristic memorial to the fallen soldiers in the war.

The poppy project was a community project involving children from primary schools throughout Liverpool. The poppy flowers were made from the top, or the bottom, of a used plastic drink bottle. These were painted red with a black centre. Volunteers from St Luke's fixed these to a small planting stick and planted them in the lawn. The public were also invited to paint a poppy for the display.

These poppies are a remembrance of the British and German soldiers who died or were wounded in the war. They are also a call for peace.

WORKING FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST - CND ZOOM SEMINAR

Join National CND at 13:00 on Sunday 20th February to discuss the current situation in the Middle East and how we can best campaign for peace.

As talks continue to restore the nuclear deal with Iran, it seems clear that some progress is being made. But resumption of the deal will not solve the most serious nuclear problem in the Middle East - namely Israel's nuclear arsenal. It is not subject to any international monitoring, yet no sanctions are placed on it and, consequently, no punitive action is taken against it.

Successive nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences have called for a nuclear weapons-free Middle East and the international community must not take steps to ensure the negotiations to this end are a success. There can be no peace in the region while weapons of mass destruction remain.

Guest speakers include:

- [Sharon Dolev](#), [Middle East Treaty Organisation](#) (Israel)
- [Emad Kiyaei](#), Middle East Treaty Organisation (Iran)
- [Andrew Feinstein](#), Director of [Shadow World Organisations](#)
- [Kate Hudson](#), CND General Secretary
- [Lindsey German](#), [Stop the War Coalition](#) Convenor
- [Sara Medi Jones](#), CND Campaigns Director

To register your place go to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HDY-WnokSHSwdolSs3OMcw

For further information, including the full agenda and timetable, please visit <https://cnduk.org/working-for-peace-in-the-middle-east-join-cnd-online-event/> or contact information@cnduk.org



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 18th January

14:00, Conference Room 4

151 Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH

**All members welcome. For more details,
please contact the office.**

50 CLUB - RECENT WINNERS

Monthly Draw

Sept - Ruth Mullins (40)

Oct - Lottie Humphreys (29)

Nov - Jan Harper (23)



The December draw will be made at the AGM on 18th January

If you have won you'll be notified immediately by email. Please send your bank details to cath.page@phonecoop.coop if you have not already done so.

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 would like to help this vital fund raiser for Merseyside CND please contact Cathy, the Treasurer, via the office for a 50 Club membership form – 07394 810 871, merseysidecnd@gmail.com

GROUPS

Wallasey CND

- Saturday 5th February - 14:00 AGM, 16:00 Social
- The next planning meeting will be held on Monday 7th March at 16:00.
- All above events will be at 4 Taunton Road, Wallasey, CH45 3JN



If you're interested in forming your own local CND group, please contact the office for assistance.

JOIN MERSEYSIDE CND

MERSEYSIDE C.N.D. MEMBERSHIP FORM

To receive regular newsletters please complete this form and return it to the address at the top of Page 1 along with your cheque.

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

ADDRESS.....

EMAIL.....

DATE

I wish to *join/ rejoin Merseyside CND. Subscription rates: *waged-£5/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £2.

I *would/ would not also like a new member's pack at a cost of £1.

I understand that Merseyside CND needs funds for its campaigns and donate £.....

Please return to Merseyside CND, 151 Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH



Produced by Merseyside Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament