



Nobel Prize for ICAN - celebration in Leeds

Around thirty people from across Yorkshire gathered in Leeds to watch a live-stream of the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony which was being awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). CND is one of ICAN's partner organisations, and it was truly gratifying to see the work of peace activists recognised on a global scale.

Beatrice Fihn, accepting the award on behalf of ICAN along with Setsuko Thurlow, gave a powerful speech. "The story of nuclear weapons will have an ending, and it is up to us what that ending will be." she said "Will it be the end of nuclear weapons, or will it be the end of us?"

Setsuko delivered an extremely moving speech, vividly describing her experience in Hiroshima when the bomb was dropped. She finished her speech by saying "When I was a 13-year-old girl, trapped in the smouldering rubble, I kept pushing. I kept moving toward the light. And I survived. Our light now is the ban treaty. To all in this hall and all listening around the world, I repeat those words that I heard called to me in the ruins of Hiroshima: "Don't



give up! Keep pushing! See the light? Crawl towards it."

One of our Leeds MPs, Alex Sobel, joined us at the celebration, while another, Fabian Hamilton, was lucky enough to be in Oslo for the ceremony. He was present at our party in name however, thanks to the wonderful wine donated to us by Vinceremos, which was called Finca Fabian!

Thanks to two Yorkshire CND members from Sheffield, David and Angela, for putting on a lovely spread.

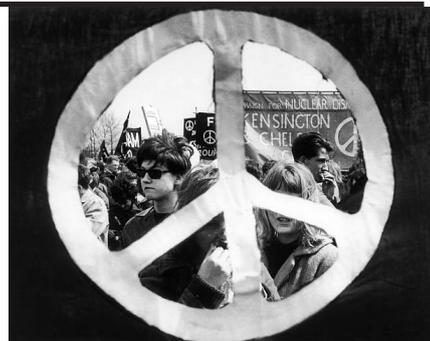
CND AT 60!

17th February 2018 marks 60 years since the very first CND meeting.

Yorkshire CND will be celebrating the birthday with a big celebratory event on that day at Kala Sangam in Bradford centre.

The day will include storytelling with friends who were present at that original meeting, and other historic protests through the years. The Peace Museum will be curating a 'Bring Your Own Museum'. Everyone will be invited to bring a special item from their time in the peace movement, be that a bit of the Greenham fence, the leaflet they picked up last week, one of their favourite badges or whatever. The Commonwealth Collection will also be involved, sharing some of their artefacts and important documents.

There will be music from the Commoners Choir and The Peace Artistes. In addition there'll be short films, food



and drink, celebrating not just our history and longevity, but our recent successes with the Global Ban Treaty and ICAN winning the Nobel Peace Prize. We will also look to the future, to make sure we're not still here in another 60 years!

It seems fitting that the celebration should be held in Bradford, as it was a letter from one of the city's most famous sons, J.B Priestley, printed in the New Statesman on 2nd November 1957, that prompted the beginning of CND and the organisation of the first meeting.

All are welcome, the event is free, but as numbers are limited we ask that people book a place via the Yorkshire CND website or by phoning us on 01274 730795

Inside

Songs for Peace, Labour CND conference, Yorkshire CND AGM notice, Peace & Craft Fair, Obituaries for Helen John and Noa Kleinman and more.....

White Poppy Remembrance

Many of our members wear white poppies and take part in alternative Remembrance Day services to remember all victims of all wars, including civilians and military of all nations. The white poppy also symbolises a refusal to celebrate or glamourise war itself.

For more information on the history and meaning of the white poppy, see the Peace Pledge Union website at <http://www.ppu.org.uk>

Pictured are the Calder Valley CND White Poppy Remembrance Day service which took place at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month in Hebden Bridge, and also the annual Songs for Peace, organised this year by Yorkshire CND.



Songs for Peace in Bradford

Photo: Neil Terry



Calder Valley CND, White Poppy Service

Peace Group Seeks Support of MP

Representatives from The Keighley Peace, Justice, and Environment Network met with MP John Grogan to discuss the historic UN Treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Members of the network are worried that little information about the treaty has been seen in newspapers or on the BBC and John Grogan agreed that this was the case.

Everyone agreed that it was inspiring that The International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) won the Nobel Peace Prize.

John told the group he had signed the Early Day Motion 225 for a discussion on the Treaty, and was happy to sign the ICAN Pledge.

Members of KPJ&EN believe there has been no widespread discussion about the Treaty and its 122 signatories. They believe that the world is particularly unstable at the moment and that the use of nuclear weapons in any situation would be devastating for the UK as well as for the rest of the world.

John Grogan has invited members of the group to a reception in the Houses of Parliament where he and fellow MP, Fabian Hamilton, will be hosting a meeting with MEDACT, an anti-nuclear weapons charity for medical professionals, at which the

Nuclear Convoy stopped again in Scotland

On 16th November a nuclear weapons convoy was halted briefly by three members of Nukewatch as it left the Defence Support Group base in Stirling. David Mackenzie, Jane Tallents and Janet Fenton safely brought the vehicles to a standstill.

Here in Yorkshire, members of Yorkshire CND have been out convoy spotting on several occasions recently. Thanks to Jo Bracken, Sylvia Boyes and Dave Webb for their patience waiting at roadsides!



Sylvia Boyes, Kathie Mack, Mollie Binns, John Grogan and Eithne Bolton

matter could be discussed further.

KPJ&E Network will be holding events in the area during coming months.

In Memorium: Yorkshire loses two powerful voices

Helen John

Helen John who has died aged 81, was the first full-time peace camper at Greenham Common in Berkshire.



Born in Romford in September 1937, she trained as a midwife, married and had five children. She later devoted her life to the peace movement and leaving her children with their father to live at Greenham

caused Helen anguish, but she would often talk about how she had made the right decision, "for the world". Helen was one of the four women who first chained themselves to the fences round Greenham, inspiring a mass protest involving thousands of women, which was to last 19 years.

In 1994, having spent a decade living in a tent in Greenham, John set up another women's peace camp, this time in North

Yorkshire, at Menwith Hill (which she and other feminist protesters referred to as Womenwith Hill), an eavesdropping base run by the secretive US National Security Agency.

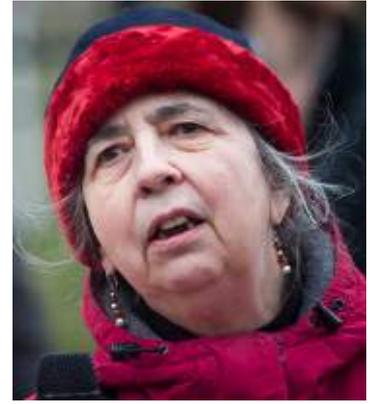
In the 2001 general election Helen stood as a candidate against Tony Blair. Together with Anne Lee, a longtime friend and collaborator, she conducted her campaign from prison. One of her final direct action campaigns was an anti-drones protest at RAF Waddington in 2013.

She served as vice-chair of CND from 2001 until 2004, and in 2005 was nominated for the Nobel peace prize.

In her final years Helen suffered from dementia, and was cared for at Spring Mount home in Bradford, with freedom to roam the grounds though the staff had to keep an eye out in case she repeated an attempt to scale the wall.

Helen John died on Sunday November 5.

Noa Kleinman



Noa Kleinman died suddenly on November 10th. Noa's sudden passing has been a shock to us all, we can't imagine a Peace & Craft Fair without her. As a lifelong campaigner for both CND and Amnesty locally her passion and humour will be greatly missed. Noa was a Yorkshire CND member who also campaigned tirelessly on behalf of Amnesty for decades, in addition to contributing so much other work for peace, human rights and social change. She always did what she could to protect the unprotected and to make life better for those who needed help the most.

What exactly is the Trident Replacement all about?

What exactly does the replacement for UK's Trident nuclear weapon system mean? What exactly are we spending £204 billion on? The US and UK public have been told that the nuclear modernisation programmes are needed to ensure the reliability and safety of nuclear warheads, rather than to enhance their military capabilities. However, new warheads developed for Trident and its replacement are using new technologies that will vastly increase their accuracy and targeting capability. Basically, Trident has to be replaced because the US is upgrading the systems on which it depends, resulting in a more accurate, deadlier and more usable nuclear weapons system.

The warhead modification is a particular concern. Pre-modification

warheads had only a 50% chance of detonating close enough to hardened targets to destroy them. The development of a new 'super-fuze' allows the warhead's position to be determined as it nears the target and its trajectory and height of detonation adjusted making it much more effective so that the probability of destroying a fully hardened Russian target rises to close to about 90%. This kind of accuracy is not needed for the purposes of 'deterrence' and the UK nuclear arsenal will have "the unambiguous characteristics of being optimized for surprise first strike attacks and for fighting and winning nuclear wars." These 'super-fuzed' warheads have been installed on US submarine launched ballistic missiles since 2009 and Nukewatch, who monitor

the movements of warhead convoys between Burghfield and Coulport, believe that they have also been installed in the UK Trident system.

Considering President Trump's comment on a new US Nuclear Posture Review "If we have nuclear weapons why can't we use them?" and Theresa May's over willingness to push the nuclear button - the seriousness of the situation and the urgent need to stop US and UK upgrades becomes clear. More excellent reasons to keep up the pressure on MPs to sign the pledge to support the UN Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons.

Dave Webb

A longer version of this article is available on our website.

Peace Fair welcomed its 10,000th visitor.

Yorkshire CND recently held its fourteenth annual Peace & Craft Fair in the glorious surroundings of the Victoria Hall in Saltaire. The day was a big success as always, and this year we welcomed our 10,000th visitor, who was a member of Bradford Voices choir and received a special gift (see photo).

Thanks to Keith Lander for organising the music, to Marie at Victoria Hall, to the stall holders for making it look such an inviting fair, to HALE project for organising the Santa's Grotto and to all our wonderful CND volunteers who worked really hard all day to raise funds for YCND.



Labour CND Conference

Labour CND will be holding a conference on Saturday February 24th in Leeds at Mill Hill Chapel. Anyone who is a member of both CND and the Labour Party would automatically be a member of Labour CND and are welcome to come along.

For more details, please contact Matt in the YCND office matt@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Pope condemns nuclear weapons

Pope Francis, possibly the single most influential person on the planet, condemned not only the use but also the 'very possession' of nuclear weapons on 10th November.

Previous leaders of the 1.2bn strong Roman Catholic Church had justified keeping nuclear arsenals as a deterrence.

The pope gathered Hibakusha, 11 Nobel Peace Prize winners, UN officials, priests and diplomats for a two day disarmament symposium at the Vatican

Jeremy Corbyn awarded Peace Prize

Every year the International Peace Bureau (IPB) awards a peace prize to a person, or organisation, or movement in recognition of its outstanding work for peace, disarmament, human rights. The prize is named after Sean MacBride, one of its past Presidents, and this year IPB chose three winners of the prize: the Okinawa Council Against Henoko New Base, Noam Chomsky and Jeremy Corbyn.

The prize ceremony was held in November in Barcelona. The All Okinawa Coalition was there to receive the prize and video presentations were shown from Jeremy Corbyn and Noam Chomsky. The IPB will continue the ceremony by presenting the award to Jeremy Corbyn in Geneva on December 8. A video will be made of the event and will eventually be available on the internet.

The IPB made the award to Jeremy for his sustained and powerful political work for disarmament and peace as an active member, vice-chair and now vice-president of CND and as an MP he has worked for justice, peace and disarmament both within and outside of Parliament.

The IPB and Sean MacBride were both awarded Nobel Peace Prizes (in 1910 and 1974 respectively) and this year we can enjoy the award of the Sean MacBride prize to Jeremy Corbyn in Geneva on Friday the 8th and the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to ICAN in Oslo on Sunday the 10th December!

Keep Space for Peace week demonstration

A good crowd braved the dark and the cold to gather at Menwith Hill in October alongside demos in numerous countries to mark Keep Space for Peace Week.

Speaker Prof. Nick Ritchie from York University talked



about the impact of the Global Ban treaty and how there needs to be a culture change to regard nuclear weapons not as a source of national pride, but an

international liability. Jenny Clegg discussed the situation in South Asia, with regards to North Korea, while Peace Studies student Juneseo Hwang gave a South Korean perspective on that. Yorkshire CND's Dave Webb spoke about global expansion of Missile Defence and how Menwith Hill fitted into the wider picture. Yorkshire CND provided hot food



Menwith Hill Base Commander listens to the concerns of Juneseo Hwang from South Korea

and drinks. Thanks must go to the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign (MHAC) for their tireless weekly protest against the US Military presence in Yorkshire. For more information about Keep Space for Peace week, see the website for Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

<http://www.space4peace.org/>

Victory in Court for Disarmers!

Quaker Sam Walton and Reverend Daniel Woodhouse were acquitted at Burnley Magistrates on 26th October after breaking-in to BAE Systems factory in Wharton last January to 'disarm' Typhoon fighter jets.

Their aim had been to stop the jets, which had Saudi markings painted on them, from going to Saudi Arabia where they would be used to support the ongoing bombing of Yemen. Sam and

Daniel successfully argued that their intention was to save innocent lives and prevent war crimes, by physically disabling the warplanes.

The two campaigners broke in via a fence on the perimeter of the site, and got within five feet of the warplanes before being stopped by BAE security.

In delivering comments on his 'not guilty' judgement District Judge James Clarke said: "They were

impressive and eloquent men who held strong views about what they were doing and what they wanted to achieve. They impressed me as being natural in their delivery and honest throughout their evidence..."

In a joint statement, Sam and Daniel said: "We were compelled to [take this action] to stop the UK government's complicity in the destruction of Yemen. Thousands of people have been killed in the brutal bombardment, while companies like BAE Systems have profited every step of the way. This vindication from the Courts is further evidence of the hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy that underpins so much of UK foreign policy. It is time for the government to stop putting arms company profits ahead of human rights. We do not regret taking action, and would do it again in a heartbeat. The only thing we regret is that we were not able to finish the job."



Diary

Every Tuesday - vigil at Menwith Hill 6pm-7.30pm.

Please get up there to support if you can - it's very hard in the dark, cold winter months

December 10 will mark the beginning of an intensive 1000 day campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons through the historic nuclear prohibition treaty. <http://www.icanw.org>

18th January, YCND AGM - see opposite

17th February - CND at 60 celebration, Bradford (see front page)

24th February - Labour CND conference in Bradford.

26th February - anti-Trump demo just announced. Contact us for more information

21st March - Fly Kites not Drones. This is the fifth year of the campaign which was started by young kite flyers in Afghanistan and now inspires people around the world. Plan an event to celebrate Persian New Year on 21st March and take your kite to the town centre, a military base, or local park. See www.flykitesnotdrones.org for stories, activities, kite-making instructions etc. And resources also available at www.dronecampaignnetwork.org.uk. Please let them know your plans on 07414 465695 or info@dronecampaignnetwork.riseup.net

28th April - Day of Dance, the Last Hurrah! It is with much sadness that we anticipate that this will be the last ever Day of Dance organised by Yorkshire CND. We know how well-loved this event is, by tutors and dancers alike, but there have been diminishing returns for us as a fundraiser for some years now.

However we didn't want to just stop running the event without doing a last Hurrah. We wanted to acknowledge the dedication of our tutors over the years and the enthusiasm of our regular dancers. So we will be putting a big effort into making this last Day of Dance as successful as we possibly can, and giving the event the send off it deserves.

Put the date in your diary now!

STOP PRESS!! Anti-Trump demo

We have just heard that Donald Trump will be coming to the UK on February 26th and 27th, and there will be a HUGE demo on the 26th. Please keep your ear to the ground to find out about transport from the Yorkshire region, or contact us at the office in the new year.

18th January - YCND AGM

Our annual get together to elect our officers, assess the campaigns of this year and look forward to the next. Resolutions and nominations should be submitted to the office by the 10th of January.

6.30pm, YCND, 2 Ashgrove, Bradford, BD7 1BN.

Local CND & Peace Groups/

Rotherham CND - jon_smith@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 07952 044824

Shipley CND - **Chris Butler** christopherbutler1@mac.com or 07913 636036

Calder Valley - contact kathypitt725@hotmail.com or 07980 291478

Huddersfield Peace Group c/o Charlie Fairbank, fairbankcharles@gmail.com, Tel: 01484-846183

Leeds CND - contact Dave on 07717 606189 facebook.com/LeedsCND or leedsrnd@gmail.com

Middlesbrough / Teesside CND - hussainsam03@gmail.com

Hull CND - Angela Needham, 07737 249461, angela_needham@homeopathy-soh.org

Keighley Peace Justice & Environment Network - contact Eithne on eithne@egbg.co.uk : 07947 793876

Grassington & District Peace Group - Richard Hargreaves, strand@hawkswick.net

Sheffield CND - jonathanpaul.wallis@virginmedia.com <http://www.sheffieldcnd.org.uk>

Sheffield Creative Action for Peace (SCRAP) - Hilary 07818040982 - scraptridentnow@gmail.com

Are you subscribed to our email announcements list? A fortnightly email keeping you up to date between newsletters - cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

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