Yorkshire CND
Issue 96

Summer 2018

Action for Peace

The Yorkshire CND Newsletter

CND Symbol coming to a town near you!

The role of the iconic CND symbol - the internationally recognised peace sign - is being marked by the Now More Than Ever tour of Britain throughout this 60th anniversary year. A giant three-dimensional symbol installation will visit more than twenty dramatic locations across Britain, including several in Yorkshire from 1-8 July.

We will have the symbol in Calderdale on 2nd July, at the Ribbleshead Viaduct in conjunction with Grassington Peace Group on 3rd July, at the annual Independence from America demo at Menwith Hill on 4th July (see inside). On 5th July we will be in York outside the Minster from 12-2pm, to coincide with CND General Secretary Kate Hudson doing a book signing in the city that evening at Waterstones (see inside). On Saturday we will be heading up to Fylingdales with some of our South Korean friends, who are in the country researching our US bases to compare with those stationed in their own country.

Finally, on Sunday 8th July, we are in Leeds outside the Jobs Not Bombs conference taking place at Mill Hill Chapel in City Square (see inside). Please get in touch if you can help put it up in any of these places or come along and support us.

Summer Peace & Craft Fair

Building on the success of the winter fair, we're running a similar, slightly smaller event on June 16th. There'll still be music and activities for children including circus skills, face-painting, badge-making and more, as well as the usual mix of quality crafts and inspiring campaigns.

We're looking out for volunteers who can help on the day - get in touch with Cath in the office if you could help with the cafe, the door, the Y CND stall or the children's activities. And if you can't do that, then at least help us publicise it by passing on the leaflet enclosed or putting it in your window

Outlawing Nukes - Update

The Ban Treaty – or the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was opened for signatures at the UN on 20th September. It will enter into force (become legal) when 50 nations have signed and ratified it. The Treaty text was agreed by 122 states (with 1 against) in a vote on 7th July last year. So far, 58 nations have signed it and 10 of those have also ratified it through their governmental procedures. It takes a long time for the signing and ratification processes to take place and the treaty is making good progress so far.

Our government has so far ignored or spoken out against the TPNW, which would outlaw nuclear weapons for all states, preferring instead the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which divides the world into Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) and Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS). The NPT is reviewed by signatory states in the UN every 5 years and in between holds annual Preparatory Committees (or Prepcoms) to discuss progress/ examine issues. The most recent Prepcom was

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Inside

Bradford vs the Bomb, Menwith Hill demo, Nuclear Convoy spotting, student activism round-up, Jobs Not Bombs conference, and more.....

Bradford vs The Bomb

Yorkshire CND has joined forces with the Bradford Literature Festival for a special panel event marking the 60th anniversary of CND on 4th July 7.30pm-10.00pm.

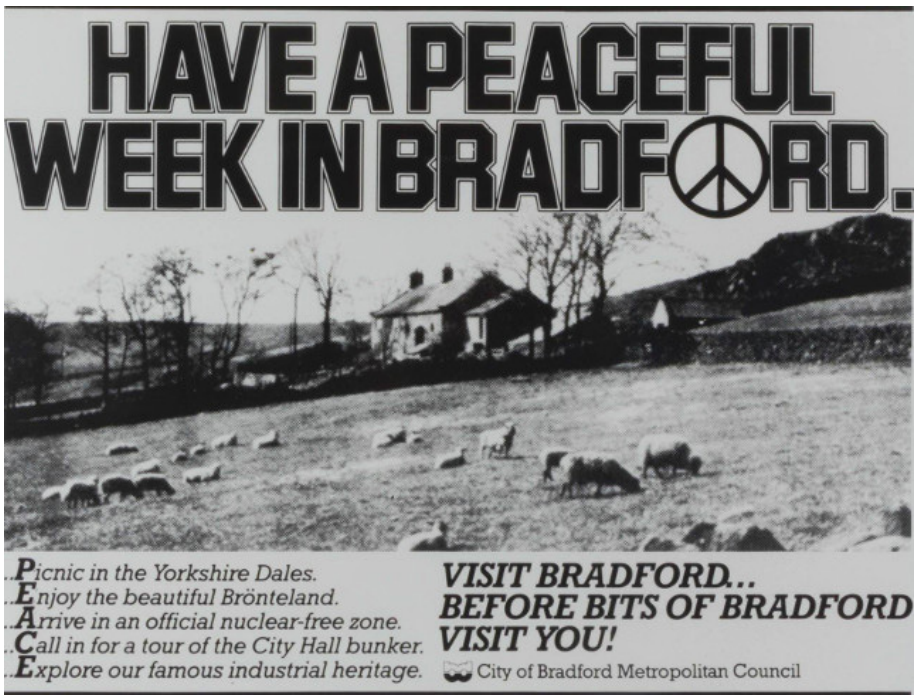
CND began in 1958 following the publication in The New Statesman of an article by Bradfordian J. B. Priestley. Since then, Bradford has played a major part in the development of CND, becoming one of the UK's first Nuclear Free Zones in 1981.

Speakers: Kate Hudson, *General Secretary of CND.*

David Kennedy - *Dave worked in the mills before ending up as a serious man in a suit at Bradford Council where his best job was Nuclear Free Zone Co-ordinator. He was closely involved in establishing The Peace Museum.*

Michael Randle - *Michael has been active in the peace movement since the early 1950s. He was a Member of the Direct Committee Against Nuclear War, and its Aldermaston March Committee. Michael is an editor of A Guide to Civil Resistance.*

The Peace Artistes - *The Peace Artistes band was formed by Peace Studies students from Bradford and members of CND in order to make music at peace marches in the 1980s, and they continue to march today.*



Tickets from https://bradfordlitfest.ticketsolve.com/shows/1173587379

(Eagle-eyed members will spot the clash with the Menwith Hill 4th July commemorations, details below, but it is just possible to do both).

YCND New Privacy Policy

In order to comply with new data regulations, Yorkshire CND has drafted a privacy policy. This can be accessed online at https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/privacy-policy/
This outlines how we protect your data and your rights. For a paper copy phone 01274 730795

Menwith Hill - Annual Independence from America Demo

The Independence from America Day demonstration will be on Wednesday 4th July 4 - 8pm outside the Main Gate at Menwith. Organised by Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign, this event is always really fantastic, so definitely worth making the effort. Speakers confirmed from Conscience (Peace Tax Campaign) and Trident Ploughshares, Michael McGowan, Dave Webb and poetry from Veterans for Peace. The Commoners Choir who entertained us so brilliantly at the 60th do recently will also be there.
There will be a minibus from Bradford, and we are subsidising that so that it is free. Please get in touch if you want a space, as soon as possible.
Unfortunately there is a clash with Bradford vs The Bomb (see above), but if enough people wish to attend both, we will endeavour to make that happen.

ICO Day, Sheffield.

Sheffield SCRAP and Sheffield CND comemorated International Conscientious Objectors Day on 15th May. We marked the courage of those who have stood for peace in the past and stand for peace now by becoming Conscientious Objectors. We heard testimony about the hardships endured by COs in the UK in WW1 and about the courage of Conscientious Objectors in Israel and South Korea. We sang songs of peace and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Barkers Pool (pictured above).

Nuclear Convoy Spotting in Yorkshire

Our brilliant Yorkshire nukewatchers have been managing to spot the nuclear weapon convoys most times it has passed through Yorkshire recently. The latest convoy (at time of going to press) was on 16th May, and was spotted by Jo and Bracken from Pontefract at Wentbridge, and then by Sylvia and Hugh further up the A1 as it went into RAF Leeming.

Nuclear warheads are regularly transported for hundreds of miles along UK roads between the warhead factory near Aldermaston and the Trident submarine base in Scotland. With each lorry carrying lethal radioactive materials including up to 8kg of plutonium, any accident involving an explosion or fire could lead to a radioactive plume spreading for miles. No radiation warning symbols are carried and neither the public nor local authorities are warned of these nuclear convoys.

Nukewatch UK monitors these convoys in order to keep MPs, journalists, local communities, and councillors informed.

If you can help spot a convoy contact rachel@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or Sylvia via the YCND office.

Syria Crisis

Theresa May's shock decision to bypass parliament and join the US and France in bombing Syria last month was met by protests around the country and here in Yorkshire. The emergency demo pictured (with our YCND banner in the background) took place in Leeds and was well-attended. It was a reminder that having a peace group or anti-war group meeting regularly in a city is very useful to coordinate response to such events, as well as for planning ahead for demos (such as against Trump's upcoming visit to the UK.)

There are divergent opinions on the left about the crisis in Syria, a multi-layered conflict fast becoming a proxy war. But we can agree that Britain and its 'Allies' have fuelled conflict by selling arms to various factions (a policy that has led us to some difficult places before!) and then have spurned refugees that the conflict has created. Now they are punishing Assad's alleged war crimes by committing war crimes of their own.

A chemical attack is horrific, and should be roundly condemned. No-one wants to stand by and do nothing if Assad is guilty (although in our view the daily horrors that Assad is inflicting on innocent people already make him guilty). As Mohammed Elmaazi argues in an article published originally in OpenDemocracy.net and republished on the Yorkshire CND website, "unfortunately, the only "something" offered to the British, American and French public was the launching of a military assault inside Syria – a sovereign state – which has attacked neither Britain, America or France. Humanitarian options like taking in refugees are not on the table. The only response to use of violence by the Syrian government is even more violence by the self-proclaimed leaders of the "free world"."

If a military response is deemed necessary by the UN, it should definitely not be carried out by the US or the UK, with their bloody history of provoking conflict in the Middle East.

Military strikes will not serve to expose the truth about the chemical attack nor hold anyone accountable. They were purely for show, by self-interested parties that are themselves deeply implicated in crimes against humanity and war crimes being committed in Syria. We cannot hold people to account for committing war crimes by committing further actual war crimes.

We may not be able to stop the horrors in Syria but we can certainly reduce them pressuring our governments to desist in their complicity in war crimes, including the arming (directly or indirectly) of Salafi-jihadist groups, their support for the unlawful Turkish invasion of Northern Syria, as well as opposing any military strikes against the country.

On the Y CND website there is an informative article about the role of UK bases in the attack on Syria. It is too long to print here, but see https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/the-role-of-uk-bases-in-the-syria-bombing/

held in Geneva in April/May and there the UK condemned the actions of North Korea but spoke out against the TPNW saying "Negotiating an international ban on nuclear weapons will not bring us closer to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons". The UK seems to see the Treaty as a danger to the NPT and to the so-called 'nuclear stability' achieved by it (have they followed the news recently?). This is not what the vast majority of the world thinks however. The NNWS are increasingly frustrated and angry at the lack of progress by the NWS, despite their commitment through Article 6 of the NPT "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament". So, the NNWS argue that a process to ban nuclear weapons, coming about from discussion about their humanitarian effects, has the potential to prevent the NPT's collapse.

The US and North Korea have demonstrated that nuclear weapons are the ultimate tool of global bullies and are not in safe hands. The sooner the world wakes up and breaks the deadlock in progress towards nuclear disarmament the better!

Student activism for peace

Another academic year is coming to an end, so let's take a look back at some of the fantastic things that students have been up to this year.

Yorkshire students attended the Warwick Peace Conference, a heard talks from CND and ICAN

The CND group at the University of York is going strong and continuing to campaign against Trident. Students at the University of Bradford organised a "Peace Project" event. They discussed what peace means and made peace cranes to send to Hiroshima. It was a huge success so they have decided to try and take the project into schools.

At Leeds Beckett University students have organised several fantastic events throughout the year, including discussions on the Manhattan Project, and a full day conference about Nuclear Disarmament and non-proliferation. The conference brought students from across Leeds together to hear talks from representatives of CND, Pugwash, and several universities.

Students for Global Health at Leeds University held a well attended talk about nuclear disarmament. Students in Sheffield attended an event about nuclear power and are pushing for greener alternatives on campus. They were also outraged to discover that their university were doing research for Rolls-Royce on the next generation of Trident submarines, and will be campaigning for their university to end arms research.

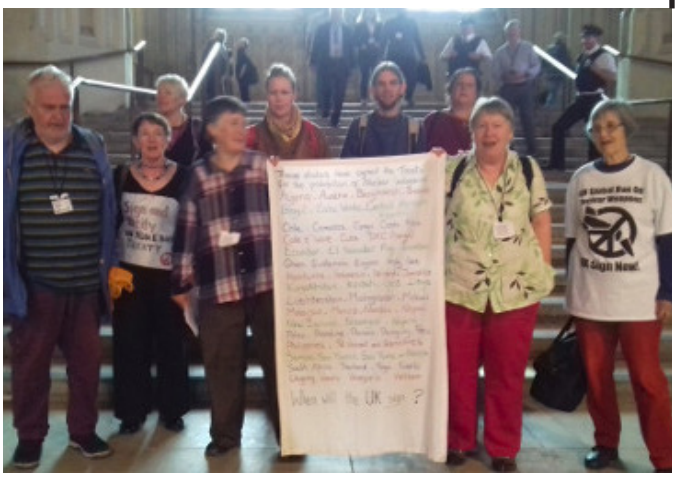
Rachel Melly, Student Coordinator

Trident Ploughshares lobbies parliament

Last month, ten campaigners from Trident Ploughshares entered Parliament and used banners and theatrical performance to demand that the UK signs up to the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty.

Members of Trident Ploughshares entered the lobby of Parliament to coincide with Prime Minister's Questions, and displayed banners and performed a piece of theatre to communicate their demand that the UK signs and ratifies the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

They listed the 58 countries which have already signed the UN Global Ban and shamed the UK for not also signing. They carried on performing and singing for over half an hour despite being surrounded by armed police!



CND at 60 - Book Signing, York.

Kate Hudson is the General Secretary of CND. She is a leading anti-nuclear and anti-war campaigner nationally and internationally. Kate will be discussing her new book, CND at 60, at an event at Waterstones bookshop, 15 Coney Street York YO1 9Q.

Timed to coincide with the 60th anniversary, and drawing on archive material and interviews with activists from across the decades, the book situates CND's current work in the context of the Trump presidency and increasing global tensions around nuclear weapons.

Tickets - https://www.waterstones.com/events/an-evening-with-kate-hudson-cnd-at-60/york

Conference - UK Defence Diversification

The UK arms industry has been haemorrhaging jobs for decades. Despite increasing international arms sales (particularly to the Middle East), last year BAE Systems announced a further 2,000 skilled jobs losses mainly affecting Yorkshire and Humberside.

Jeremy Corbyn's Labour leadership bid laid out plans for a Defence Diversification agency to involve communities heavily dependent on arms production in a 'just transition' to more sustainable employment, and this was backed by the 2017 TUC conference.

This conference in Leeds will bring together Labour and Trade Union activists with disarmament campaigners to explore what such a 'just transition' would look like and how we make it a reality.

Speakers

Fabian Hamilton MP – Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament, has been given responsibility for developing a Defence Diversification Agency.

Barnaby Pace is a researcher and writer on the arms trade. At the conference he will be launching his latest report Defence Diversification: International Learning for Trident Jobs.

Ann Feltham is Parliamentary and Trade Union Co-Ordinator at Campaign Against the Arms Trade. She'll be discussing the subsidy regime applied to the arms export industry.

Small group sessions will include "From Policy Adoption to Practical Action: Creating change in your Trade Union" - Kevin Allsop (Unison)

"How to influence policy in the Labour Party: an Intro to Local and National Structures and Your Route in" Julie Ward MEP – Julie is a long term peace activist and member of the Labour CND Executive. She has been an active campaigner around the issue of Defence Diversification, not least as a representative of her constituents in Barrow-in-Furness.

"Mounting a successful local campaign, how to get started" West Yorkshire Campaign Against the Arms Trade – a newly formed and active local campaigning group linking to CAAT. This is a session for campaigners who are not trade union or Labour members.

8 July @ 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Mill Hill Unirarian Chapel,
City Square, Leeds, LS1 5EB.
Organised by Y Labour CND

Fundraising update

28 April - Day of Dance

Thanks to all our volunteer leaflet distributors, helpers and amazing tutors, we're pleased to report that the send-off we gave to our long-standing fundraiser The Day of Dance, was so powerful, it looks like it's coming back again, boomerang like!

It was the best attended and most financially successful in a while, and there was a definite buzz as more and more people came forward to offer their time to make sure there is another one. So, put 13th April 2019 in your diaries, cross your fingers and watch this space!

We're also doing the Summer Peace & Craft Fair, detailed on the front page, and have a 12 strong team of volunteers running the lock-ups at Shambala Festival to raise money

NHS not Trident

The busy Quakers of Huddersfield have been holding street stalls for peace and justice on a regular basis. As Action for Peace goes to press, their NHS not Trident themed vigil will be their 40th. They had a great reception to their event last time, as they handed out leaflets that specifically linked the threat to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary with the vast sums being spent on nuclear weapons. So they've chosen to do a street stall with the same message.

All are welcome and they' can be contacted at cara@cooptel.net or https://www.facebook.com/pg/HuddersfieldQuakers

Good Luck to them!

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

16th June - Spring Peace & Craft Fair, Saltaire. See inside for details

1-8th July - CND Symbol tour of Yorkshire

4th July - Demo at Menwith Hill (see inside)
4th July - Bradford vs the Bomb (see inside)

5th July - CND at 60 Book event with Kate Hudson, York (see inside)

8th July - Jobs not Bombs, defence diversification conference, Leeds

13th July - Protests Against Trump's UK Visit. National demo in London. Transport being organised by various groups including Leeds Socialist Students, and Leeds Coalition Against War who are also planning a sister demo in Leeds 1pm-4pm, Leeds Art Gallery - **see https://www.facebook.com/events/194517081187143/**

6th-9th August - local Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day commemorations - Leeds, Calder Valley, Bradford, Sheffield, Keighley. See YCND website or call for details.

22nd September - Nae Nukes Anywhere - Rally at Faslane.
International campaigners from across the world will be joining Scottish CND at Faslane to challenge the UK government to sign the Nuclear Ban Treaty. It'll be a lively, colourful, musical day out.Transport from across Yorkshire, inlcuding from Skipton, Keighley, Bradford and Leeds. Look at the YCND website or call us to book a space. More details in the next issue

Stop the Pentagon takeover of space

The Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space (GN) will hold its 26th annual space organising conference from June 22-24, 2018 in Oxford. The event will also include a protest at the major US/NATO military space communications and control centre at nearby Croughton Air Force Base.

Each year the Global Network holds its space organizing conference in a different part of the world, the last being in Alabama.

Full conference details are available at http://www.space4peace.org/actions/gnconf_2018.htm

Office Move for Y CND

Unfortunately, the Diocese are planning to sell Desmond Tutu House, where Yorkshire CND has had its offices for the past few years.
We are currently looking for other temporary premises, so are asking our members to keep their ears to the ground. We need somewhere to house at least 3 desks, must be accessible at all hours, and ideally in central Bradford, though Leeds is also a possibility.
In the long term, we hope to move to a new building alongside the Peace Museum and other groups, but do need somewhere urgently for now.

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 or Huddersfield Quakers - Robin Bowles at cara@cooptel.net

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

Leeds Coaltion Against War - Meetings will be twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays, 7pm, Leeds Civic Hall info@anbeal.co.uk

Keighley Peace Justice & Environment Network - 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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