



## CND's 60th Anniversary Celebrations

History, longevity, dedication, singing, inspiration, dancing and renewing of friendships were all on the menu at our 60th birthday bash.

Over 150 people gathered at Kala Sangam in Bradford on 17th February, sixty years to the day from the launch of CND. There were people from all corners of Yorkshire and beyond, with even visiting guests from the German peace movement and from Poland. The day was opened with a welcome from Lord Mayor, Councillor Hussein, followed with a visual presentation by the Commonweal Collection (also 60 this year).

We then heard tales from many of our current and former activists, too many to detail all of them here. First up was Alice Mahon, former MP for Halifax and long time CND supporter, who talked about how a visit to Auschwitz had a lasting impact, and convinced her of the need to constantly work for peace within parliament. Michael Randle who was there at the beginning of the anti-nuclear movement and CND, told the story of how Gerald Holtom responded to an appeal from the organisers of the first Aldermaston March, and produced his now famous ND symbol. Michael told how he and Pat Arrowsmith had to persuade Hugh Brock to agree with them and adopt it, as he was reluctant saying it was obscure and would never catch on" (!). Thank goodness they did agree, and history was made.



Sara Clarke displays the splendid Baildon Banner, flanked by David Griffiths on the left, Dusty Rhodes and Cath

Alan South of Calder Valley CND spoke about his involvement in the early 60s as a child, with his father being Chair of Bradford CND. He held a photo of him aged 9 with a Bradford CND banner made by Kenneth Hockney, father of David. Alan explained that they had had some banners made by David also, but they'd been reused and painted over (to general gasps in the audience!).

Gloria Dallas, widow of Karl Dallas, rounded off the 1960s by reading the lyrics of one of her late-husband's songs that appeared in the songbook for the first Aldermaston March. David Griffiths spoke about his time as editor of 'Sanity' CND's magazine in  
*continued over....*

### Aldermaston 60 – Join the March

We'll go travelling down to AWE Aldermaston, Britain's nuclear weapons factory, to take part in the 60th Anniversary of CND's first mass demonstration. Join us for music, speeches and fence decoration – the suggested theme is Peace Doves with your own message to the UK Government (try to keep it civil ;-).

This will be CND's big national event to mark the anniversary and as we saw with our own Celebration in Bradford is a brilliant opportunity to get our message across in the press, that we face a choice

between a renewed arms race or the Global Ban Treaty. We have fliers so let us know if you help with promotion or sharing the event on social media.

Transport is being organised from Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield but please let us know if you're travelling down from other areas and we'll try and fill the spaces in your vehicle.

**Tickets available at: [yorkshirecnd.org.uk/aldermaston60](http://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/aldermaston60)**

#### Inside

North Korea analysis, Acquittals in DSEI cases, Day of Dance and Summer Peace & Craft Fair, CND symbol tour of Yorkshire and more.....

the lean years of the 70s, at which time a journalist visited the spartan understaffed CND office and wrote an article which described him and his colleagues as 'custodians of an empty manor house'.

Many people had contributions from the 80s including Kath Cripps (Sheffield CND) explaining how she was 'sacked' as a magistrate for going on a CND protest. Lavinia Crossley and Tansy Kerenza brought the poster of Faslane 365 (2005/6) and told the story of their successful surprise lock-ons as part of the Leeds Bradford Faslane 365 group. And bringing it right up to date, Brigid Mary Oates from the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign told of her first arrest, on the no-nuclear day at DSEi last



September, with other Yorkshire CND folk.

The curators at the Peace Museum who carefully collected and logged all the items people brought along, were delighted with the variety, from T-shirts, badges, scarves, leaflets, newspaper cuttings, photographs and more. Much of these objects were taken back to

the Museum where they remained in the CND exhibition for several more days. Some were donated permanently.

The morning was rounded off in impeccable protest fashion with the wonderful, harmonious and irreverent Commoner's Choir.

Following lunch (special mention for the amazing cakes -pictured left - baked by our student liaison

worker, Rachel Melly), people from Bradford's oldest folk club, TOPIC led us in singing some of our heritage peace songs. Dave Webb and Matt Fawcett then outlined the current situation with Trident renewal and the hope represented by the Global Ban respectively.

Everyone was invited to pledge to do one thing for peace in the next while, to join or re-join Yorkshire CND, and to work together to



ensure we're not still here for our 70th! The day was rounded off with the magnificent Peace Artistes, the last gig for one of their founder members.



All in all the day served to mark our achievements and re-energise us for the fight ahead to reach the end of nuclear weapons.



## Good Press Coverage for CND !

Not ones to waste the opportunity to get our message out far and wide, Yorkshire CND used the occasion of our 60th to contact local newspapers and we had an excellent response. Dave Webb had an op-ed piece in the Yorkshire Post, Michael Randle wrote a great piece in the Telegraph & Argus, Kath Cripps had an op-ed in the Sheffield Star, as well as Alan South and Kath in the Yorkshire Evening Post. The Telegraph & Argus had a wonderful leader, and covered the anniversary event, and the paper also printed letters from Brenda Thomson and Chris Butler. *These can be viewed at <https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/60th-anniversary-press-round-up/>*

## Aquittals in DSEI court cases puts pressure on arms fair

Back in January, three of our Yorkshire CND blockaders were on trial for blocking the road during the No Nuclear day at the DSEI arms fair (see previous issues for more details). Despite putting forward excellent defences, including moving testimony from Brigid-Mary Oates of Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign, they and several others on trial alongside them, were found guilty. The judge took a very long time to consider the verdict, and it felt like the result was a close call. The fines imposed were extremely light. Following this trial, ten other activists have been acquitted of similar offences, and twenty-seven people had their cases dropped. In the case of those who have been acquitted, their actions were judged to have been 'reasonable'. Among those are people who were locked on, and the Quakers who abseiled off a bridge, blocking the road for some considerable time.

Three district judges acquitted the activists on the basis that their direct



From left, Brigid-Mary Oates, Matt Fawcett and Bryony Moore from YCND, with other defendants

actions were reasonable given the role DSEI plays in bringing together arms companies with countries that are fuelling conflict and repression, and the amount of evidence that countries like Saudi Arabia are using British-made weapons to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law. The judges agreed that DSEI was deemed to be of significant enough public interest to justify people blocking roads and obstructing equipment destined for the arms fair.

This is extremely good news for the campaign to shut DSEI, as many people arrested in previous years have also been acquitted in the courts. It means that British courts are largely accepting the arguments of activists that DSEI is host to illegal weapons and torturous regimes and attempts to stop it are justified. This bodes well for the protests in 2019, and also for our three Yorkshire CND blockaders, who may well now appeal their convictions.

## 23 Fold rise in radiation at AWE.

Last month, Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston applied to raise radiation levels from its site in Berkshire.

Dave Webb, CND chair, said: "The reason given for the increase in radiation is to carry out tests to prepare for nuclear terrorism, but the root cause of nuclear terrorism is being side-stepped by the British government. Dangerous nuclear materials, that could fall into the hands of terrorists, are being transferred around the world because of our own nuclear weapons system and the nuclear power industry. "Unless we work internationally to eradicate nuclear weapons as well as scrapping plans to build a new generation of nuclear power stations, the threat of nuclear terrorism will continue to grow."

## Doomsday Clock closer to midnight

At the beginning of 2018, the Bulletin Of Atomic Scientists moved the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock 30 seconds closer to catastrophe. It is now two minutes to midnight—the closest the Clock has ever been to Doomsday, and as close as it was in 1953, at the height of the Cold War. Founded in 1945 by scientists who had worked on the Manhattan Project, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists created the Doomsday Clock two years later. The decision to move the minute hand is made every year in consultation with a Board of Sponsors which includes 15 Nobel laureates. The Clock has become a universally recognized indicator of the world's vulnerability to catastrophe from nuclear weapons, climate change, and new technologies emerging in other domains. This move closer to midnight was due to world leaders failing to respond effectively to the threats of

nuclear war and climate change. This move closer to midnight was largely due to increased risks in the nuclear realm in 2017. North Korea's nuclear weapons program and hyperbolic rhetoric of other countries in reaction to this have increased the possibility of nuclear war by accident or miscalculation. The tensions between the US and Russia, and the upgrading of their nuclear arsenals, as well as tensions between the US and China in the South China Sea have added to the danger. In the Middle East, uncertainty about continued US support for the Iranian nuclear deal adds to a bleak overall picture. As the statement says "To call the world nuclear situation dire is to understate the danger—and its immediacy." The statement mentions the Global Ban, but notes the lack of action - underlining the importance of our role to keep the pressure up.

## Peace is Possible in Korea

In the following article that appears in full length in [peacenews.org](http://peacenews.org), Milan Rai argues that the peace movement should be pressing for a 'double-freeze' in war games between the US and North Korea.

There is one simple first step that can help the world to avoid a war between the United States and North Korea: extend the Olympic peace pause in US military exercises and North Korean nuclear/missile testing.

Possibly the most urgent task of the global peace movement is to pressure US president Donald Trump not to resume military exercises in late April, and to accept a 'double freeze' in US wargames and North Korean testing.

Unfortunately, but predictably, the British mass media is failing to give its readers and viewers an accurate understanding of the situation. By reducing the pressure on the Trump administration to accept the double freeze, the mainstream media is helping to pave the way for war.

The double freeze proposal was first made by North Korea to the United States in secret 'backchannel' talks in mid-2014. This was revealed by one of the intermediaries, Joel S Wit, in the Atlantic in August 2017. Wit, a former US state department North Korea expert, wrote: 'For the same reason that the U.S. will not sit at the negotiating table while Pyongyang continues missile and nuclear tests, North Korean Foreign Ministry officials will refuse to negotiate while the U.S. and South Korean militaries practice killing their leaders and Americans fly bombers over the Korean peninsula capable of dropping nuclear weapons on the North.'



North Korea went public with its offer in January 2015, with a statement from its state news agency, KCNA: 'The message requests that US suspend joint military exercise temporarily in the areas adjacent to South Korea, and declares that, in that case, we are also willing to take a reciprocal measure by temporarily suspending nuclear tests that concern the US.'

After this, the double freeze proposal was taken up by China (in March 2017) and then by Russia (in July), though the North Koreans also kept publicly indicating their willingness to trade their nuclear weapons development for an end to US 'hostility'. On 19 December, the South Korean president, Moon Jae-in, announced his own Olympic double freeze initiative, without using the word 'freeze'. 'If North Korea stops its provocations leading up to the Pyeongchang Olympics', this could help create a 'conductive atmosphere' for US-North Korean dialogue, said Moon, adding: 'It is possible for South Korea and the US to review the possibility of postponing [joint military] exercises.... However, all this depends on how North Korea behaves'.

North Korea did halt its missile and nuclear testing for weeks. On 4 January, the US responded by postponing its joint military exercises with South Korea until

after the Olympics. This was followed immediately by North Korea agreeing to high-level talks with South Korea (something it had been avoiding for two years).

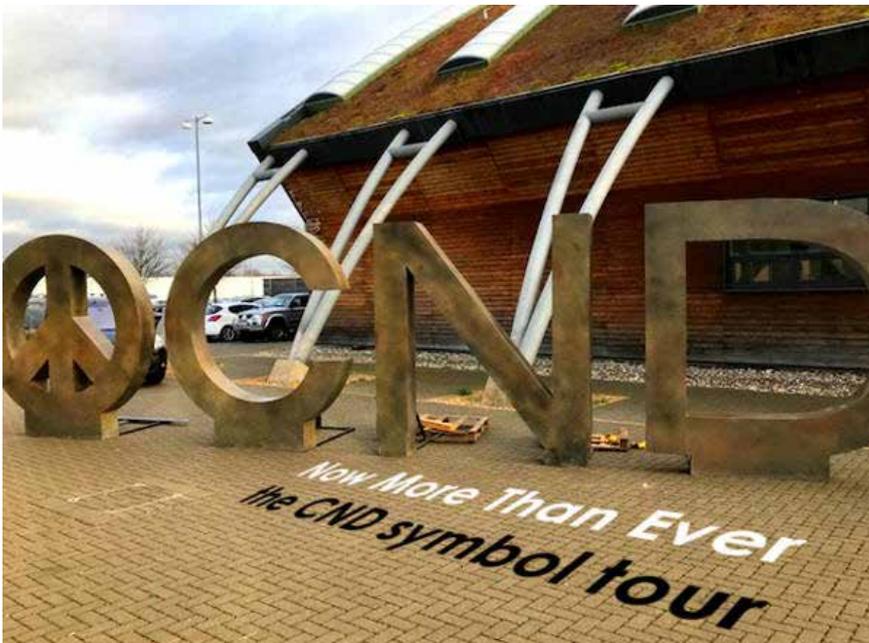
The problem is that, 'once the Paralympics is over, military exercises in South Korea with the US will resume, and we'll likely go back to the old cycle of tensions rising and falling,' as Jo Dong-joon, a politics professor at Seoul National University, told the Guardian on 7 February.

The Paralympics end on 18 March and joint military exercises are scheduled to begin in late April.

So the world does not have much time to put pressure on the Trump administration to extend the Olympics truce into a proper double freeze that can lay the basis for peace. The media are not helping by giving a false portrayal of North Korean 'intransigence' and failing to underline the double-freeze idea.

It's up to the British peace movement to press not just the media but also civil society and political representatives to support a continuation of the Olympic truce and the public acceptance of a freeze on US military exercises in return for a freeze on North Korean missile and nuclear weapons testing.

---



## CND Symbol Tour hits Yorkshire

The role of the iconic CND symbol - the internationally recognised peace sign - will be 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.

We aim to take it to York Minster, the Settle-Carlisle railway in

the Dales, Menwith Hill and Fylingdales, Sheffield, and possibly another couple of locations in the county. Please get in touch if you can help with this, or if your local group would like it to visit an iconic location near you. **We have it for a week from 1-8 July** and how many places we can visit would depend on how many volunteers we have (it takes a good while to set it up and down in each place).

## Fukushima Events— 7 years on the nightmare continues.

We pleased to be hosting Mitsuko Sonoda an evacuee from Fukushima who has written extensively about the continued problems with the nuclear cleanup and the lack of Government transparency and support for the local population. Mitsuko gave testimony last year at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and will be visiting Sheffield on the 9th May and Leeds on the following day to share her story alongside UK campaigners against new nuclear power plants.

**More info: [yorkshirecnd.org.uk/Fukushima7](http://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/Fukushima7)**

## SIGN THIS!

38 degrees petition to get the "Great Exhibition of the North" in Newcastle Gateshead to give up their sponsorship by BAE Systems - see: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/great-exhibition-of-the-north-to-refuse-bae-sponsorship>

## Fundraising events upcoming

On 28th April we've got a fantastic line-up for the (possibly) last ever Day of Dance. With several new workshops including Body Groove,



Mazazik Arabic and Ukelele, and some old favourites like Charleston, Clog and 5 Rhythms, there really is something for everyone. And if you don't fancy learning a dance, you can sing, drum, or just come along to the early evening Ceilidh and have fun with the Phoenix Ceilidh band. We've kept prices super-low, and you can get a full day ticket for less than £20 (£16 concessions) if you book early.

So what are you waiting for, get your dancing shoes dusted off and book your tickets now! [www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/dayofdance](http://www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/dayofdance) or contact us at the office.

## 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 face-painting, badge-making and more, as well as the usual mix of quality crafts and inspiring campaigns.

Put it in your diaries, and if you want to book a stall, go to <https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/events/peace-craft-summer-fair-2018/>

## 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 March** - The Life of Bayard Rustin.

University of Bradford. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2011699152484603/> . 5pm-8.30pm. Special screening and discussion of Brother Outside and the Life of Bayard Rustin. We will look at the role he played in the civil rights movement in America and also talk about his other amazing work. Bayard is most famous for his early civil rights work including organising the March on Washington. However, he was also very active in the peace movement - including as a speaker at the rally for the first Aldermaston march. More info <https://www.facebook.com/events/2011699152484603/> **This will be led by Michael Randle**

**21st March** - Fly Kites not Drones. Plan an event and take your kite to the town centre, a military base, or local park. See [www.flykitesnotdrones.org](http://www.flykitesnotdrones.org) Please let them know your plans on 07414 465695 or [info@dronecampaignnetwork.riseup.net](mailto:info@dronecampaignnetwork.riseup.net)

**23rd March - NFLA / Mayors for Peace Chapter Seminar: Delivering disarmament and peace.** East Room, Leeds Civic Hall 1.15pm - 3.30pm. Speakers include Fabian Hamilton MP, Rebecca Johnson, Carolyn Leary and Sean Morris. Contact [s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk) for info and registration

**Easter Sunday** - CND at Aldermaston (see front page for more information)

**16-21st April Global Day of Action on Military Spending** - See: <http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2018>. Yorkshire CND will be planning an event to mark GDAMS - please contact the office or sign up to our email list for further information.

**21st April** - Otley Green Fair - Otley Courthouse, 10am to 4pm. Free entry, campaigns, crafts, workshops, entertainment

**28th April - Day of Dance, the Last Hurrah!** - see inside and the enclosed leaflet.

**9-10 May** - Events on Fukushima, see inside or [www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/Fukushima7](http://www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/Fukushima7)

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

**4th July** - Demo at Menwith Hill (see opposite)

## 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 worth putting in your diary now. 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. More line-up to follow. There'll be transport from Bradford and Leeds, so look out on our website and in the next AfP for details

### Local CND & Peace Groups/

**Rotherham CND** - [jon\\_smith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jon_smith@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 07952 044824

**Shipley CND - Chris Butler** [christopherbutler1@mac.com](mailto:christopherbutler1@mac.com) or 07913 636036

**Calder Valley** - contact [kathypitt725@hotmail.com](mailto:kathypitt725@hotmail.com) or 07980 291478

**Huddersfield Peace Group** c/o Charlie Fairbank, [fairbankcharles@gmail.com](mailto:fairbankcharles@gmail.com), Tel: 01484-846183

**Leeds CND** - contact Dave on 07717 606189 [facebook.com/LeedsCND](http://facebook.com/LeedsCND) or [leedscond@gmail.com](mailto:leedscond@gmail.com)

**Leeds Coalition Against War** - Meetings will be twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays, 7pm, Leeds Civic Hall [info@anbeal.co.uk](mailto:info@anbeal.co.uk)

**Hull CND** - Angela Needham, 07737 249461, [angela\\_needham@homeopathy-soh.org](mailto:angela_needham@homeopathy-soh.org)

**Keighley Peace Justice & Environment Network** - Eithne on [eithne@egbg.co.uk](mailto:eithne@egbg.co.uk) : 07947 793876

**Grassington & District Peace Group** - Richard Hargreaves, [strand@hawkswick.net](mailto:strand@hawkswick.net)

**Sheffield CND** - [jonathanpaul.wallis@virginmedia.com](mailto:jonathanpaul.wallis@virginmedia.com) <http://www.sheffieldcnd.org.uk>

**Sheffield Creative Action for Peace (SCRAP)** - Hilary 07818040982 - [scraptridentnow@gmail.com](mailto:scraptridentnow@gmail.com)

**A**re you subscribed to our email announcements list? A fortnightly email keeping you up to date between newsletters - [cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

Action for Peace is produced quarterly by Yorkshire CND

It is also available by email, which helps us save on postage and paper - please contact the office

Yorkshire CND, 2 Ashgrove, Bradford BD7 1BN  
01274 730 795  
[info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)  
[www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk](http://www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

 [facebook.com/YorkshireCND](https://www.facebook.com/YorkshireCND)

 [@yorkshireCND](https://twitter.com/yorkshireCND)

