Yorkshire CND
Issue 97

Winter 2018/9

Action for Peace

The Yorkshire CND Newsletter

Public Meeting

Hope in the Age of Trump

and

Yorkshire CND AGM

Saturday 26th January
2.30-5.30pm
Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds

While 2018 has brought us its fair share of tribulations there have also been significant steps forward for the peace movement. This is our chance to get people together from across the region and plan for the year ahead.

Speakers:
Prof. Paul Rogers - Overview of Global Challenges
Janet Fenton - Progress of the UN Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
Fabian Hamilton - The Peace Doctrine - restructuring UK foreign policy.

Resolutions and nominations for Chair, Vice- Chair, Treasurer and the coordinating committee to be received by Mon 14th Jan

NAE NUKES ANYWHERE

On 22nd September we took a coach from Yorkshire up to the massive Nae Nukes rally called by Scottish CND. The bus called at six towns and cities on the way and took a total of 46 people from west and north Yorkshire. We met up on arrival with a contingent from Sheffield - so Yorkshire was well represented. The meeting place was Faslane Peace Camp and for many of our crew it was their first visit, the camp is clearly doing well at the moment with lots of new construction including a new larger social space and some great new murals. (*For more info see https://www.facebook.com/faslane-peacecamp/)*

We then marched from the Peace Camp to the main gate of Faslane nuclear base and were welcomed there by the Scottish poet laureate Jackie Kay, with a message of support from her mum, a stalwart of anti-nuclear camping. The gates themselves had been locked for the day and campaigners took the opportunity to decorate them and the surrounding fence with banners, peace cranes and other messages.

There were brilliant speakers from across the world talking about their own regional campaigns to support the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and we all left for the journey home, feeling part of a much larger global movement for peace. Thanks to all who made the epic journey and to Scottish CND for hosting.

Matt

Pictured, Olivia Agate from Skipton at Faslane base fence

Inside

Keep Space for Peace report, Spotlight on Leeds CND, Songs for Peace, Upcoming events & more.....

Keep Space for Peace 2018

Y CND at Fylingdales

As part of Keep Space for Peace, Yorkshire CND planned a 'Walk and Talk' at Fylingdales. We began at Eller Beck where we visited the tree that was planted some years ago in memory of our friend Race Newton – a goat farmer and wonderful jazz pianist who supported us and the various peace camps over the years.

The Ballistic Missile Early Warning (BMEW) radar at Fylingdales is part of its US National Missile Defence programme. It is also used to track and monitor the satellites of other countries. To fulfil these roles it had MILSTAR and SATCOM antennae installed within the base. Periodic updates of computer systems, indicate the extent of the upgrade of the facilities to watch and gather information of satellites, determine missile and satellite interception data if required, and generally play a role in targeting and war fighting capability.

We said cheerio to the police car which had arrived to check us out and walked on. The first part of the walk follows the Lyke Wake Walk – a 40 mile walk crossing the North Yorkshire moors. We followed only a short part of it until we reached the footpath that swung us round to the base. The rain held off for the most part and on the way round we told and heard stories of previous actions and events.

We passed the power generators that supply the electricity for the base and at the other side we were going to point out the Satellite Communications dish which connects the base to US and UK defence networks. But it had gone! Presumably there are now other connections, perhaps through a fibre optic cable system?

We continued on to Malo Cross (placed by the landowner in the 1600s as a boundary marker. It is inscribed with the letters K with R E. Sir Richard Egerton – Knight) where we discussed Trump's Space Force. Then up Whitney Nab and back to Hole of Horcum. A very pleasant day out on the wonderful North Yorkshire Moors.

On our return I discoverd a message on my phone from the Oxfordshire Peace Campaign at the Croughton demonstration, which was happening at the same time as ours. However, up on the moors you can't get a signal so we missed it at the time but it did remind us of all of the actions taking place aroud the world during Keep Space for Peace Week – a great feeling of international solidarity!

Dave Webb

Menwith Hill update

A demo was held at Menwith Hill during Keep Space for Peace Week. Food and hot drinks were provided by Yorkshire CND, and speakers included Prof Dave Webb from CND, Colin Archer from Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) and Sarah Swift from Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign, who organised the event.

Keep Space for Peace demo, in the fading light at Menwith Hill

Things have been extremely difficult at Menwith Hill recently, with 'over the top' policing and random arrests. Campaigners have begun to move the day of the weekly protest (historically always on a Tuesday evening) in order to avoid the excessive police presence. Support is sorely needed, not only due to this police clampdown, the dark cold evenings, but also because one of their long term supporters, Martin Schweiger, is seriously unwell. A good idea would be to organise a solidarity visit over the winter with a small group, perhaps the local peace group or Quakers in your area?
Please get in touch to find out the best days - 01765 600928 / 07902 173148

Songs for Peace

Songs for Peace - photo by Neil Terry

The annual white poppy remembrance event at Bradford cenotaph was really lovely this year. Remembrance Sunday coincided with the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, and there was a good turn-out at Songs for Peace.
Janet Russell coordinated the joint participation of a number of choirs including some of Silsden Singers, East Lancs Clarion Choir and members of Settle choir. This goes some way to explaining why the collective singing, led as usual by Tony and Rahel, sounded particularly fine this year. Wreaths were laid by Peace Pledge Union, Veterans for Peace, Bradford Quakers, Yorkshire CND and the Choirs.
The highlight for me this year was the sun breaking out on the faces of the crowd, just as we were singing the words 'Into the Sun'. Glyde House welcomed us after the event with hot soup and drinks, and more singing was happening as I left.

We hope to make next year's event even bigger, involving more people. A meeting will happen in September to discuss this, so get in touch if you'd like to be involved.
Cath

Spotlight on..... Peace Groups in Leeds

Leeds now has several active peace and disarmament groups: in addition to Leeds CND, there is Leeds Coalition Against the War (LCAW), West Yorkshire Campaign Against the Arms Trade (WYCAAT), the Quakers and the Leeds City Council Peace Link group.

In April LCAW organised a protest against bombing Syria and Leeds CND and LCAW participated in the march for the National Health Service, with the Yorkshire CND mock-up nuclear missile; Alasdair Beal spoke at the rally. WYCAAT and LCAW also organised showings of the award-winning film about the arms trade 'Shadow World', with speaker Andrew Feinstein. In July LCAW and Leeds Stand Up to Trump organised a teach-in and a coach to the national demonstration against Donald Trump's visit in London.

In August over 60 attended a Nagasaki Day commemoration organised by Leeds CND with choir and speakers including Cllr James Lewis (Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council), Cllr David Blackburn (Chair of Peace Link) and Dave Webb (Chair, CND). In October WYCAAT held an AGM with guest speaker Stuart Parkinson (Scientists for Global Responsibility). In November Leeds CND and LCAW held a successful public meeting about chemical weapons with Professor Alastair Hay(pictured) and on Remembrance Sunday Leeds Quakers held a White Peace Poppies wreath laying.

Leeds CND and LCAW are currently planning a film show in January 2019 (Doctor Strangelove)

The event below is also being held in Leeds and promises to be extremely interesting.

Alasdair Beal

Report on "Future Wars: The Impact of New Technologies" A 1 day conference held at London Birkbeck University

This was a timely and important conference which followed recent media reports on the ways in which technology is changing the ways in which future wars are planned and fought. Organised jointly by Yorkshire CND and London Region CND, with help from the National CND Office, the conference brought together technical experts, commentators and campaigners to examine the kinds of technologies that are being considered, investigated, and developed by the military. Over 120 people attended, heard presentations from politicians, scientists, engineers, investigative reporters, activists and analysts from the U.K., the U.S., Switzerland, France, Spain, and Germany, and participated in workshop sessions.

Ted Seay who served for 26 years as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer gave a strategic overview of US plans. He discussed the development of smaller, more 'usable' nuclear weapons and how this brings us even closer to the possibilities of a nuclear exchange.

Dr Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director of "Scientists for Global Responsibility" (SGR), spoke on "Military-University Collaborations in the UK".

Professor Stephen Rose from the Open University presenting "Nuerowar in the Novichok Era" saw Chemical Weapon agents being used in two roles: against civilian populations in asymmetric wars and in specific covert missions. He spoke of research areas in lethal and non-lethal psychochemicals and also in direct brain-computer interfaces to assist and speed decision-making and intelligence gathering for military flights and drone pilots. A number of projects are run jointly with civil and medical uses – making the possibility of effective arms control measures difficult - even if there was an international environment for such treaties.

Presentations by Arielle Denis from IPB and Jean Lambert (Green Party MEP for the London Region) gave wider peace and political perspectives.

The plenary session - "The Militarisation of Space" was chaired by Cath Bann from Yorkshire CND and featured a recorded interview between Dave Webb and US peace activist Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of "The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space". Bruce spoke of President Trump's 'Space Force' - a new branch of the US military - to ensure "American dominance in space" - the possible consequences of this are extremely serious.

Dr Patrice Salzenstein from Mouvement de la Paix described the role of 2nd generation French military imaging satellites. France is a partner in MUSIS (the Multinational Space-based Imaging System) which enables imagery and information to be shared with European partners. The French peace movement is aiming to establish more debate on the need to keep space for peace.

A 'Blowing the Whistle on Surveillance' session involved investigative journalist Duncan Campbell via a recorded speech and a video link. Duncan described his role in uncovering the US 'Echelon' surveillance program operating in the UK at Menwith Hill, and elsewhere. Echelon has since been extended from the original post-war intelligence collaboration of the 'five eyes' (US, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) to become an extensive global

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Student campaigning

Last month Rolls-Royce held a recruitment event at the University of York. The university's CND Society and the Socialist Society joined forces to protest. They made spoof recruitment flyers drawing attention to the company's involvement in the Trident nuclear weapons system and in making military jet engines used by Saudi Arabia and other repressive regimes. One student even managed to get in to the presentation to ask awkward questions.

The University of Leeds have announced that they have divested funds from three arms companies; Airbus (supply parts for French Nuclear Weapons), United Technologies, and Keyence Corporation. This comes after a campaign by the university's Palestine Solidarity Group. It is claimed that the University of Leeds is the first UK university to divest all direct shareholdings in companies that supply military equipment to Israel. Students are also calling on the university to divest from HSBC, which has millions of pounds invested in arms companies.

The University of Bradford Peace Society have also been very active with a well attended public meeting, and also managed to question Hilary Benn on his stance on the Global Ban at the Harold Wilson memorial lecture.

Rachel Melly

Welcome Andrew!

We're very pleased that Andrew Metheven has joined our campaigns team two days a week. Andrew (pictured here blockading the Burghfield nuclear base) was a very active member of Yorkshire CND before going on to work with Acroynm, ActionAWE and War Resisters International. Great to have him back in Yorkshire!

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intelligence gathering network of around 35 eyes (named 'Fornsat' as revealed by Edward Snowden) and controlled by the National Security Agency (NSA) of the US.

This was also the theme of the talk by Lucas Wirl from the International Network of Engineers and Scientists (INES) who pointed out examples of dissent from scientists, engineers and workers that had changed the behaviour and activities in some major industries. For example, over 4000 Google workers signed a petition, and some even resigned, against the company's involvement with 'Project Maven'. This AI project being developed for drones aims to identify objects in up to 38 categories to speed up and facilitate military intelligence operations. The protest received a lot of publicity and led to Google changing its policy on working with the military.

The session on Armed Robots and Drones on the Battlefield heard from Artificial intelligence expert Pere Brunet of the Delas Centre for Peace Studies (and IPB). He provided a warning for the future, saying that "robotic weapons can be easily assembled from on-the-shelf components by any almost country or organisation". The session included the launch of a new report ,***"Off the Leash" (https://dronewars.net/.*** The launch was presented by the author Peter Burt of Drone Wars UK and Drone Wars founder Chris Cole. They argue that UAVs are likely to be the first truly autonomous weapons systems that can not only can fly themselves for extended periods but may also "select, identify and destroy targets without human intervention." Although the British government expresses opposition to developing armed autonomous systems, it has not supported UN moves to ban them. Leaders of Britain's armed forces, on the other hand, have endorsed them. The report contains many suggestions for the UK government which"has a duty to use its influence and powers to ensure that the weapons of the future are never used outside boundaries set by the laws of humanity and the requirements of the public conscience".

The final session served to emphasise the ethical, military and political problems of developing these technologies.

Dave Webb

Fundraising round-up

Circus skills in the basement at the Peace & Craft Fair

The Peace & Craft Fair in November was a roaring success, raising around £3500 for CND funds. Stalls sold out in record time, and I was squeezing in extra ones into all corners of our fantastic venue at Victoria Hall.

Hundreds of people came through the doors on the day to browse the stalls, experience the brilliant live music which featured some young musicians this year (thanks to Keith Lander for coordinating), take part in the circus skills or face-painting or henna tattoos, and to sample the delicious food on offer at the cafe, run by us at Yorkshire CND this time. Stallholders were very happy, with many commenting that it was the best fair of the year.

So huge thanks to all our extremely hard working volunteers, the stallholders, musicians, children's activity providers and indeed the visitors. 23rd November 2019 will be the next one, so if you've already got a diary for next year, write it in now!

In other exciting news, the Day of Dance organising is really getting going now. The group of volunteers working on it are putting the final touches to the programme, and we should be able to publish it early in the New Year. Better get that new diary and put in the 13th April! Help very definitely needed on the day, or the day before for the cooking. If you can volunteer, please contact me in the CND office.

Finally, we'll be doing Glastonbury again this year, so if you would like to be on our team, get in touch soon, as places are snapped up almost as quickly as Glastonbury tickets themselves!

Cath

Diary

Vigil at Menwith Hill 6pm-7.30pm. The intrepid and dedicated folk of MHAC are now doing more spontaneous weekly protests on different days, to avoid the heavy policing. Please contact them to find out when - 01765 600928 / 07902 173148.

10 December - Stop Arming Saudi vigil – Keighley. Keighley Peace, Justice and Environment Network vigil, 11am – 12noon, outside Keighley Bus Station. The vigil will remember the thousands of people who have been killed in the war in Yemen, and to protest the UK's ongoing supply of arms to members of the Saudi-led coalition.

13th December - The Future of Peace, Disarmament and Conscientious Objection. In 2016, the Labour party announced that it would establish a Minister for Peace and Disarmament (MPD) if it formed the next government. This public meeting will discuss the above mentioned through the spectrum of a MPD, it's overall implications on the Peace Tax campaign and how a MPD could work with other government departments to ensure the UK has an ethical foreign policy. University of Leeds (Beechgrove Rm, University House)

19th December - Leeds CND and Leeds Coalition Against War next meeting is at Leeds Civic Hall, 7pm with social afterwards. All welcome

22 December - Huddersfield- Peace Vigil The 47th monthly vigil organised by Huddersfield Quakers - all very welcome. The theme will be Stop Selling Arms to Saudi, with banners and fliers for the public. For those able to stay, we go to a nearby cafe afterwards for refreshments and chat. Huddersfield Market Place.

12 January - Sheffield Against the Bomb - organising MPs and local councillors to support the UN Global Ban. 7pm Central venue TBC - see YCND website.

16 January - Bradford and the Bomb: our MPs and the ban on nuclear weapons. 7pm Bradford Deaf Centre, Hallfield Rd.

Saturday 26th January 2018 - Yorkshire CND Public Meeting - Hope in the Age of Trump - and Annual General Meeting. See front page for more details.

Saturday 13th April - SAVE THE DATE - IT'S THE DAY OF DANCE 2019!

Saturday 13th April - if dancing is not your thing, you could visit the Otley Green Fair.

Don't forget - Yorkshire CND has moved offices. See our new address below, and do feel free to pop in and see us

Burghfield Blockaded

In October a group of Trident Ploughshares activists from across the UK converged on the Atomic Weapons Establishment near Burghfield. They blocked approach roads by locking themselves to cars and each other, preventing workers from entering.
Jane Picksley, a 38 year old case worker from Scotland said "I hope our actions might bring more attention to the damning safety report on this bomb factory, produced by the Office for Nuclear Regulation last August." Jim Davies, a 70 year old retired Civil Servant said "I've never been involved in an action like this before and it's heartening and empowering to feel that something can be done!". The 9 people arrested will appear in court later this year.
https://tridentploughshares.org

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 - email Ada at a.whitaker@gmx.co.uk

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

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