Not everyone thinks the longevity of our campaign is something to celebrate - after all, it means we haven’t been successful in getting rid of nuclear weapons! But just as we would still regard working against poverty as worthwhile, despite poverty remaining widespread, our work has been crucial in keeping the spotlight on the horrific weapons of mass destruction and the threat they present to our world. It is clear from the pages of our 100 issues, the importance of the role we have played in campaigning against the ongoing Trident programme, highlighting US Missile Defence, space based weaponry and electronic surveillance. Our continued efforts in these campaigns is certainly something we’re proud of and want to shout about.

What is interesting, looking back through previous editions of Action for Peace, is how the same issues weave in and out throughout the past few decades. The headline of the first issue - ‘Arrests at Arms Fair’ outlines a theme that appears in this issue with our article on the upcoming DSEi arms fair (pg 2). The nuclear convoy

**Independence from America event**

*4th July 2019*

The annual call for Independence from America will be made at the main gates of Menwith Hill on the afternoon of Thursday 4th July 2019. The demo is from 4pm-8pm, and is always a really good event with speakers, music, stalls and food. Organised by Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign with support from Yorkshire CND, this is always a valuable opportunity to meet others seeking a more peaceful world.

We will be organising free transport from Bradford & Leeds and there will also be lifts from Calder Valley.

Please get in touch if you want to come.

**Bike to Menwith Hill**

Come and join Yorkshire CND’s cycle ride for Peace on 4th July. We’ll be cycling to Menwith Hill from Harrogate up quiet(ish) roads, hopefully in the sunshine!

Meet at 2.30pm at Harrogate Square outside the train station, but please do get in touch with

Andrew@yorkshirecnd.org.uk for more information on the bike ride, and to express an interest in joining.
In mid-May we were glad to welcome Francis Daehoon Lee to Yorkshire. Francis is touring the UK on behalf of People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, a South Korean NGO. His visit was part of CND’s Global Dangers tour.

On Friday 17th May, Francis joined academics, students and activists at a round table discussion at Leeds University. The event explored nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula, the presence and impact of the US military in South Korea, the recent summits between North Korea and the USA, domestic politics in South Korea, and wider peace issues in the region.

The discussion unpacked many of the complexities of the conflict. We were encouraged to learn from Francis that positive changes are on the way and - in contrast to most media reports - there are plenty of reasons to be hopeful!

DSEI also has sponsorship and stalls by all the major players in the UK/US nuclear weapons system. DSEI is a major networking event for businesses involved in the nuclear weapons industry. Nuclear weapons are highly complex systems, and many companies and suppliers are involved in their development, manufacture, and component supply. Arms fairs like this are crucial events for business to business networking and contracting, especially at this stage of the Trident renewal process.

The first No Nuclear Day took place in 2017 as part of a week of protests to disrupt the setup of the last fair and was a great success. This year will be even bigger as we join with other CND and anti-nuclear groups from across the country on Wednesday 4rd September to take action together.

We’ll be organising accommodation and transport. Email info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk to stay in the loop.

A view of the Trump-Kim talks from South Korea

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On Saturday 18th, Francis joined activists from Yorkshire CND and Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign at the gates of Menwith Hill spy base for a demonstration (see photo opposite). It was an opportunity for Francis to speak to local peace activists about the talks between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un, and the importance of citizen engagement.

Lindis Percy outlined some of the history of the Menwith Hill base, and then the group discussed solidarity between groups across the world campaigning against US bases, with the possibility of an international day of action being proposed.

Non-Violent Direct Action Training - Saturday 6th July 10.30am-4.30pm The Deaf Centre, 25 Hallfield Rd, Bradford

Come and join us to learn about effective nonviolent action, your legal rights, working as a group, and how some of the actions in previous years have managed to effectively disrupt one of the world’s biggest arms fairs! To register, email info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk.

We’ll also be looking to organise planning meetings and more nonviolent direct action trainings as we build up to the protest. Could you host a meeting or training? Email info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk and we’ll see what we can organise! https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/campaigns/dsei-no-nuclear-day/
Fundraising round-up

This year’s Day of Dance in April was a great success. Hundreds of people, dancing, moving, singing, laughing. We raised well over £5500 for CND, and I think we can say that the Day of Dance is well and truly revived.

We’d like to thank the team of volunteers who came forward at the end of the last Day of Dance, which we’d said would be the last ever, to make this one happen. Their help and enthusiasm was invaluable. Thanks to the wide group of volunteers on the day, to everyone who came and supported the event, to our long-standing member Louise Eaton, whose efforts began it all in the first place, and of course, to all the wonderful tutors and musicians who give their time for free.

We can announce that the next Day of Dance will be on 9th May 2020.

We are also now taking stall bookings for the Winter Peace & Craft Fair, which is on the 23rd November this year.

https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/events/peace-craft-fair-2019/

But before that, we’ve got a summer of festival FUNdrasing, starting with our stall at Peace in the Park in Sheffield, then Glastonbury and Shambala festivals.

We’re also trying to organise a music gig on Friday 12th July at Delius Arts Centre in Bradford. Details aren’t finalised yet, but keep in touch via our website, facebook or email.

Cath

Update on Menwith Hill

In the last few months, long term campaigner, Lindis Percy has been subject to what would appear to be a campaign of harassment and malicious arrest at the US spy base at Menwith Hill.

She was arrested and charged for alleged ‘obstruction of the highway’ on 17 April 2019 but a few days prior to the hearing, the case was discontinued. This was not a surprise, as the same thing had happened many times in the past. Lindis has been arrested at Menwith four times for alleged ‘obstruction of the highway’ since July 2018 - and every time the case was finally dropped.

Lindis explained “It happens when the CPS acting on behalf of the Ministry of Defence Police do not want legal arguments about this farcical situation, that I intended to run in court. And so the abuse of the law and power by the MDP and North Yorkshire Police continue.” She added “This is so serious as liberty has been taken away 4 times, NYP Custody Sergeant's time and resources etc wasted, court time and resources wasted, CPS time and resources wasted - all because the Ministry of Defence police know very little about law or procedures. They play with the law and abuse their power. It is a disgrace.”

Lindis and Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign made it clear that this is not the end of the matter and they have some ideas as to how to take this further and are determined to do so.

https://www.themhac.uk

Show your solidarity by joining us at the 4th July demo (see front page)
Surround Springfield

On 27th April 2019, over fifty anti-nuclear activists converged on Springfield, a nuclear fuel production site, near Preston - dressed as barrels of nuclear waste! Yorkshire CND activists were among them, braving the howling winds at the tail end of Storm Hannah.

CND’s Kate Hudson was among the speakers at the event, and highlighted the 33rd anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster and the insanity of nuclear power and weapons taking us closer than ever to the edge of meaningful life on this planet. The protest was wrapped up with a webinar with indigenous people from around the world, who are affected by Uranium mining and nuclear waste dumping. Candyce Paul - (English River First Nations - Canada) Leona Morgan (Dineh from New Mexico in the U.S.) and Ashish Birulee (Adavasi from Jarkhand in India)

Liverpool Socialist Choir singing at the Gates of Springfield

Action for Peace

continued from front page

referred to on the first page of issue 1 appears later in this issue too, still trundling lorries of doom through our communities. But also some issues come and go - who remembers Cassini?

Action for Peace was started by the first ever Yorkshire CND paid worker, John Brierley, in the Autumn of 1991. Since then, it has not only provided a record of our own activities, but it has also acted as a snapshot of the other important issues within the wider peace movement. We see the various wars, including the Iraq wars, Afghanistan and so on, appearing as headlines.

We can trace the importance of Yorkshire CND’s work on US Missile Defence and weapons in space through the pages of Action for Peace. In fact, issue number 1 of Action for Peace contained an article on the upgrade of the Fylingdales radar - from what were the three famous golf balls containing huge radar dishes to the current pyramid shaped phased array radar. Even at that time Yorkshire CND was claiming that the new radar system was not just an early warning system as claimed by the MoD, but would be used for US ‘Star Wars’ plans. Our claim was denied by the Government but eventually proved to be correct when the UK agreed that the radar become part of George W Bush’s National Missile Defense system in 2003.

Another article in that first issue was by Anni Rainbow, titled "Action for Peace"

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Update on the Global Ban Treaty

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is steadily moving forwards, but states are under pressure not to sign, so we must keep up the momentum from civil society.

ICAN’s (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Cities Appeal is very successful with many city, town and regional councils getting behind the campaign. Since ICAN launched the appeal in November 2018, cities have used it as a way to encourage their governments to take action on nuclear weapons, and some have taken steps to ensure that this comes coupled with a commitment to divest city finances from nuclear weapons production.

Here in Yorkshire, we’re very proud that Hebden Royd Town Council was the third UK council to sign the ICAN cities appeal, following Manchester and Renfrewshire. Hebden Royd joins places such as Paris, Toronto, Washington DC, California, Oslo, Berlin, Geneva and many more. The resolution to support the Treaty was passed at the meeting in April, and the Council said in their statement that they were “deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we warmly welcome the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations in 2017 and call on the UK Government to join it.”

Nuclear Free Local Authorities Secretary, Sean Morris said: “Hebden Royd is also the first of the lower tier of smaller Town Councils to support the Cities Appeal and shows that support for the Nuclear Ban Treaty is as important in smaller towns as it is in large cities.”

Please get in touch if you would like information about trying to get your council to sign the Cities Appeal, or your MP to sign the Parliamentary Pledge.
‘The Ghoul on the Hill’, all about Menwith Hill, and included a piece about the scrapping of the bye-laws there - a rare victory for peace activists.

Similarly our campaign to reveal the true role of Menwith Hill predates the revelations of Edward Snowden. His information proved our points by providing incontrovertible evidence that Menwith was indeed primarily a US spy base that eavesdrops on billions of communications of ordinary citizens, sifts and uses the information for targeting purposes,

Our pages mark the fluctuating political system, elections coming and going, but rarely making any impact on the prospects for UK nuclear disarmament. Let's hope this changes soon.

In some ways, it is hard not to feel a sense of ‘groundhog day’, but again, it is better to fight for the impossible than to accept the unacceptable. And fortunately, none of us feel that nuclear disarmament is an impossibility. The Global Ban is just one of the rays of hope that keep us going. And anyway, as Nelson Mandela, a fantastic advocate for global nuclear disarmament said “It always seems impossible until it’s done”.
International Conscientious Objectors Day  Sheffield  May 2019

Sheffield Creative Action for Peace (SCRAP) marked International Conscientious Objectors day this year with an event in the city centre. We processed round Sheffield’s Peace Gardens with banners, placards and giant white poppies. We sang songs about peace and spoke about the importance of marking this day locally and internationally. We acknowledged the strength and courage of those who have stood firm for peace at times of war. We also spoke about the need for solidarity with people involved in the current international campaigns for the right to conscientious objection around the world particularly in Colombia. We then moved on to Sheffield’s Cenotaph where we heard further testimony and a poem, particularly about the dehumanizing of soldiers drafted into war. We laid flowers and a white poppy wreath on the Cenotaph, and concluded with a minutes’ silence for reflection on the courage of those who stand for peace.

For more information see the Facebook page for SCRAP

MILITARISM AND CLIMATE

It’s the great issue of our era: the climate emergency, together with the related challenges of biodiversity loss and other forms of environmental degradation. This year’s great mobilisations -- Extinction Rebellion and the school strikes -- together with a slew of UN and other scientific reports pointing to the urgency of change, seem to be finally having an impact on the mainstream. This is new, and yet very familiar to those of us who helped mobilise the public in the 80s (and even in the 60s) to bring the call for disarmament in from the margins. Nuclear weapons were a global emergency then, and they still are today.

Recent discussions at CND Council and in YCND make clear that it is widely felt that our movement needs to help the ‘new wave’ connect the two issues. We cannot save the earth unless both challenges are faced together.

There are several key links:

- to state the obvious, a nuclear conflagration would be the ultimate climate disaster – though more like a Nuclear Winter in this case;
- the military’s own environmental footprint is a major contributor to the crisis;
- conversely climate change is causing or at least aggravating armed conflicts - to which politicians react by reaching for their guns…
- the resources (money, brainpower, materials) gobbled up by the military are resources unavailable for the Green New Deal and similar transformative policies.

The Movement for the Abolition of War (founder: Bruce Kent) is holding a day conference on this theme on Saturday 29th June 2019, from 9:30 to 17:00. Venue: Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD. http://www.abolish-war.org.uk/day-conference-2019.html

'The conference will examine the theme of militarism and the environment; in particular how military activities contribute to climate change, and how climate change causes conflict…With our knowledge of climate change, the vulnerability of ‘spaceship earth’, and the essential unity of all its inhabitants, has only become more obvious. And yet the means of destruction are proliferating and precious resources are squandered in preparing and waging ever more destructive wars.'

A 'ClimateSecurity' email listserv distributes regular information on these issues. Contact: nick@tni.org


Colin Archer, Leeds CND

SAVE THE EARTH
Russia Study Tour

Yorkshire CND is one of the 168 international affiliates of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. We joined a number of years ago mainly because of the 2 US/UK bases in Yorkshire heavily involved in the militarisation of space - Fylingdales and Menwith Hill. The importance of the campaign to “Keep Space for Peace” has become increasingly urgent since the launch of Donald Trump’s “Space-Force” and the on-going military build-up and escalating number of ‘war games’ by the US and NATO in Europe and elsewhere (with the US even threatening the first-use of nuclear weapons) apparently in response to the ‘expansionist policies’ of Russia. So, at last year’s annual gathering of the Global Network in Oxford (where we focused on the activities of the US/UK communications and intelligence gathering station at Croughton) we decided that this year we would conduct a study tour of Russia and Crimea to see for ourselves. I was the one member from the UK in the group which included 18 people from the US, 4 from Nepal and 1 from the Ukraine, that visited Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Crimea from 25th May to 10th June. We went to listen, learn and to build a bridge of friendship through citizen diplomacy. We held daily meetings with Russian journalists, activists, academics, ordinary citizens, and gained first-hand information and historical perspectives. Everywhere we went the Russian people met us with warmth, openness, and generosity. Since the collapse of the USSR in 1991, NATO has expanded to include several former Soviet Union states bordering on Russia. The US has also established a series of military bases along the western border of Russia, including ‘missile defense’ systems in Romania and Poland and on warships in the Mediterranean. They have also increased military activity in the Black Sea. In Crimea we heard how, following a right-wing coup in Ukraine, the Crimean people quickly organized local militia to resist any incursion and a referendum on whether to return to Russia or stay part of Ukraine. There was a 96% vote for integration into the Russian Federation, with a 83% turnout. The official result from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea was a 96.77 percent vote for integration of the region into the Russian Federation with an 83.1 percent voter turnout. We could see that a lot of critical construction work was now taking place where previously, as part of Ukraine, little attention was paid to Crimean Peninsula.

On Victory Day, May 9th, in St. Petersburg, we walked with 1.2 million citizens who carried pictures of family members who were lost in WW2 - when Britons, Americans and Russians joined together to resist the Nazis. 642,000 people died during the siege of Leningrad (now St Petersburg) alone - mostly from starvation - and a further 400,000 died during evacuations. Altogether 28 million Soviet citizens lost their lives – something that will take a long time to forget.

The message from our trip is a call to end the demonisation of Russia, ease the military tension by removing US/NATO warships from the Black Sea and stop war manoeuvres on Russia’s borders. Instead – let’s build bridges of diplomacy and friendship. Dave Webb

No War on Iran - Together Against Trump

President Donald Trump is banging the drums of war as he ratchets up tensions with Iran. It is clear that the US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal was a prelude to a much bigger confrontation. Currently, a rationale for intervention is being developed– similar to the lies and deceit that preceded the invasion of Iraq. The dispatch of US warships and bomber squadrons in the Middle East as well as acts of sabotage against shipping in the Gulf region have been taken seriously.

Iranian president Hassan Rouhani has announced that he will halt some of the commitments agreed under the accord, in line with a dispute resolution mechanism included in the deal. He has appealed to the other signatories to make good on their commitments to the deal, to ease the economic difficulties inflicted by US sanctions. If this happens Iran will revert to full compliance. It is essential that the other signatories step up to the plate in this respect. They must not allow Trump to bully them into the destruction of a crucial treaty. Governments worldwide, particularly the EU and the UN, must unambiguously call on the US to end the collision course with Iran. They must clarify that they will not support any military action by Trump against Iran.

Kate Hudson, CND general secretary, said: “Because of Trump’s actions the world is a more dangerous place. He’s withdrawn from the Iran nuclear deal, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and more recently the Arms Trade Treaty. It’s crucial that people mobilise to say no to his dangerous policies when Trump visits Britain in June.”

CND is one of the organisers of the Together Against Trump – stop the state visit protests taking place on the 4th June 2019 in Central London. (See back page)
Diary
Vigil at Menwith Hill 6pm-7.30pm. Usually on a Tuesday, but not always - please contact them in advance if you are thinking of going to support them (and you really should!) 01765 600928 / 07902 173148.

From 23rd May - Peace OUT - an exhibition exploring LGBTQ+ activism and peace. At the Peace Museum Bradford. peacemuseum.org.uk

4th June - Together against Trump demo, London - see box below for transport details.

8th June - Yorkshire CND and Sheffield Creative Action for Peace stall at Peace in the Park, Sheffield.

4th July - The Annual Independence from America Day demonstration at Menwith Hill See front page.

6th July - NVDA training in preparation for the No-Nuclear Day at DSEi. Bradford, 10.30-4.30pm see inside for more details

12th July - possible CND benefit gig, Bradford. See our website/facebook for info

August 6th & 9th - Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day events planned so far include:

Sunday August 4th 3pm - Calder Valley CND Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration. Wavy Steps at the Packhorse bridge in Hebden Bridge. Readings, Music and poetry.

August 6th - Bradford, at the Hiroshima Memorial, Norfolk Gardens (time to be confirmed)

August 6th - Keighley, Vigil at Town Hall Square from 8am-9am.

August 9th - Leeds CND Nagasaki Day commemoration, 10.30am at Park Square.

Wednesday 4th September - No Nuclear Day at DSEi - see inside for details.

Nuclear Convoy Spotted Again in Yorkshire by Nukewatch

The nuclear weapons convoy from Burghfield in Berkshire to Coulport in Scotland, once again passed through Yorkshire.

It was spotted by local stalwart Nukewatcher, Bracken, near Pontefract, and Sylvia Boyes at RAF Leeming on 15/16th May. Nukewatch is a network of individuals who campaign against nuclear warhead convoys, because they are part of a system of Weapons of Mass Destruction, but also because they believe that communities potentially affected by the convoys should be aware of their existence and the risks they pose.

www.nukewatch.org or 0345 4588 365

Local CND & Peace Groups/

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

Shipley CND - Chris Butler christopherbutler1@mac.com or 07913 846183

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 Coalition 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

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

Together Against Trump

There is a major mobilisation to protest Donald Trump’s official State Visit to the UK on the 4th of June, CND is one of the sponsors of the demo and will be organising a bloc on the demonstration. Meeting at 11am in Trafalgar Square. Transport is being organised from Leeds/ Wakefield, Sheffield and York, and details of this can be found on the Yorkshire CND website at https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/yorkshire-transport-to-trump-demo/