NO NUCLEAR BLOCKADE AT DSEI

DSEI is one of the world’s largest arms fairs, hosting representatives from countries with a record of human rights abuse, and has been found selling weapons banned from sale in the UK. This has prompted a huge mobilisation of activists who try to shut it down on successive days. The protests often involve people ‘locking-on’ - a tactic that involves people attaching themselves in the road to blocks of concrete or other devices to prevent them from being dragged off by police. ‘No Nuclear Day’ was one such action, focusing on the companies at DSEI profiting from nuclear weapons. Yorkshire CND were at the West Gate bright and early to support people locked onto arm tubes in a car, and to try to get locked on alongside Belgian activists in suitcases full of concrete.

Only the Belgians were successful but later that morning, two Scottish protesters attempted to lock themselves to a wheelchair to cause additional disruption.

In the afternoon, with the lock-ons dismantled by police, the road was opened for the arrival of tanks and other weapons. Yorkshire CND campaigners joined others in attempting a further blockade. The police response was particularly rough in this case, with two protesters locked into a suitcase being dragged out of the road while attached and a number of elderly protesters being pushed over.

Meanwhile over at the East Gate, protesters

Keep Space for Peace

Keep Space for Peace week - the week of actions called by the Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space - is between 5 October and 12 October. This year, the theme of the week is against NATO. US/NATO military bases, war games, and weapons have been deployed to Russia’s border in Eastern Europe. The continuing development of ‘missile defence’ systems and the planned deployment of space weapons are creating a new arms race and expanding warfare to space. Tensions are rising and a nuclear WWII could start in a flash. In such a war, space technology would be instrumental in directing all military operations. This year’s Keep Space for Peace actions are a call for the de-escalation of US-NATO war preparations near the Russian border and a return to serious disarmament negotiations.

A number of events and actions are planned across Yorkshire, as our county is on the frontline of US missile defence, thanks to the US bases at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales.

Inside
Extinction Rebellion Peace, Nuclear Film premiere, Hiroshima/Nagasaki Round up, and more.....
8 October - Keep Space for Peace demonstration at Menwith Hill, 6 – 7:30 pm, Tuesday 8 October, at the Main gates of NSA/NRO Menwith Hill, HG3 2SW, speakers to be confirmed. Yorkshire CND will provide transport to the demo from Bradford/Leeds - please contact the office if you would like a space.

12 October - Keep Space For Peace in Harrogate. Public meeting with speakers and refreshments organised by Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign and Yorkshire CND. Dave Webb (as Global Network convenor) will speak on how Menwith fits in the US global military spread and the idea of a space force. At 7 pm, Harrogate Friends Meeting House, 12a Queen Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5PP (wheelchair access and hearing loop).

Contact 01765 600928 sswift64@gmail.com (Sarah Swift).

Watch the new Keep Space for Peace Film - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3I52v1OTL8

Yorkshire CND are also working on a short film about Fylingdales and its role in space-based warfare. We hope to launch during Keep Space for Peace Week so keep an eye out on our website, facebook and twitter for news.

Extinction Rebellion Peace - an appeal!

After our successful blockades of the DSEI Arms Fair we are already looking towards our next action as we join thousands in taking to the streets from 7th-21st October as part of the Extinction Rebellion to speak with our bodies and spirits, our passion and love for life not death.

XR Peace will be saying loudly and clearly as we sit and lie in the streets, “Now is the time to work together, globally, to create a resilient and caring society that will:
1. Speak the truth about climate and ecological emergency (and here XR Peace will also speak about how war causes climate chaos and destroys our living environment, which in turn causes more conflict and war);
2. Act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025; and
3. Insist that the Government and all political leaders create and be led by the decisions of a Citizen’s Assembly on climate and ecological justice.”

Will you commit to joining XR Peace in the streets? We will be near the Ministry of Defence building on The Embankment in central London. We need people to lock-on, legal observers, trainers, peace keepers, entertainers, information stall people and lots of flags and banners and art work to make the place a welcoming, informative, loving space of people’s resistance to the abuse of power.

Angie Zelter and Jane Tallents, XR Peace.

(If you want to find out more and help organise a group from Yorkshire CND, get in touch with us asap)

from Trident Ploughshares and others blocked the road successfully for many hours. They were locked onto a large green boat (pictured above), another vehicle and some other lock-ons.

CND supported the event with a stall, music, banners and a programme of speakers including Bruce Kent. Sheffield Creative Action for Peace also added to the throng at East Gate, with their T-Shirts for peace (pictured left).

We felt that the No Nuclear Day was a huge success and built on the fantastic No Faith in War day the previous day.

There is a video of the day available on our facebook site.

For a report on other actions during the week of action against DSEI see over
Kashmir; ghosts of a thermonuclear tomorrow?

In humanity’s long and tumultuous history of conflict, never have two nuclear-armed nations engaged in a direct war. It is a truly terrifying prospect invoking apocalyptic imagery in the minds of most rational people. But sadly, as the creation and continued development of nuclear weapons has highlighted, rationality is seldom seen.

Its absence was noted when Pakistan refused to adopt the ‘no first use’ policy when concerning nuclear weapons. Its absence was again noted last month when the Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh indicated that ‘circumstances’ may lead to a review of India’s ‘no first use’ policy in very troubling developments. Combine this with the deep-rooted historically animosity between these two South Asian juggernauts and you have a very combustible situation.

The catalyst for the recent increase in tensions between these countries began when India, led by the controversial Bharatiya Janata Party revoked the autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir through the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. When British rule in the subcontinent ended in 1947, the 500+ princely states of India were given a choice to join Pakistan, India or remain independent. The ruler of Kashmir decided to remain independent until the invasion of tribal forces which eventually culminated in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947. It was explicitly agreed through the UN that the future of Kashmir would be decided through a plebiscite that has never occurred.

The ‘forgotten’ people of Kashmir have waited over 70 years for their promised plebiscite. Their right to self-determination hangs under the spectre of a thermonuclear tomorrow preceded by the ghosts of British colonial yesteryear.

By Shambraiz Tariq

More actions against DSEI

This year’s protests against DSEI have been one of the most varied, creative and successful ever. A report of the No Nuclear Day actions is featured on the front page, but this was only one of six days of action, with further actions during the fair itself.

The week began with the Free Palestine day, focusing on Israeli arms companies exhibiting in DSEI. This was followed by the No Faith in War day, which managed to block the East Gate for most of the day, just by the sheer numbers of people in the road. Around 750 people attended the Quaker meeting for worship, held in the road. Thursday featured an academic conference on the arms trade, and other actions during the week included a canoe action that managed to breach security to reach the dock at DSEI. Veterans for Peace did a very effective silent action, turning their backs on arms dealers.

There were several amazing banner hangs, and individual actions (pictured above), not to mention a conference against the arms trade organised by the local community in Newham. So many actions happened it isn’t possible to detail them here, but even this brief snapshot shows the increasing level of resistance to DSEI.
Across the region, peace activists ensured that the suffering caused by nuclear weapons was not forgotten. Commemoration events on the 74th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings happened in York, Bradford, Leeds, Keighley and Calder Valley.

Pictured left: Hiroshima commemoration in Bradford. This was followed by War No More march and peace picnic in Lister Park (pictured below by Neil Terry) which featured the “4 minute (warning) cabaret”.

Middle left: Natalie Bennett, former leader of the Green Party speaking at the Nagasaki Commemoration in Leeds

Bottom right, Hiroshima commemoration in Keighley

Above. Poet Henry Raby performs at York’s Hiroshima commemoration

Left: Calder Valley Voices Choir perform at Calder Valley CND’s Hiroshima commemoration
Fundraising Round-up
Our brilliant teams running our property lock-ups at Glastonbury and Shambala festivals have added to the coffers over the summer. A big thanks to every one of our volunteers - it’s not easy, as we have to work long night shifts - but it’s worth it. Not only do we make thousands of pounds to put towards our work campaigning against nuclear weapons, but it’s also great for our visibility and profile.

Upcoming we have the annual Peace & Craft Fair on Saturday November 23rd. There will be the usual fantastic range of craft and information stalls, a great line-up of live music, plus children’s activities in the basement. Please do put it in your diaries, and if you can volunteer a few hours to help out on the day, all the better. We have a variety of jobs ranging from taking money on the door, helping serve at the cafe, staffing the CND stall and more.

Please contact cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or call 01274 730795 if you can help.

Volunteer needed
Advance notice for the Day of Dance 2020 - put 9th May in your diaries with more info to follow. We’re looking to expand our group of volunteers who coordinate the Day of Dance. In particular we’re looking for someone who could do some computer based admin in the Yorkshire CND office. If this could be you, please get in touch at the contact above.

Film Premiere - 15th October - Bradford
The Yorkshire Premiere of the documentary film about efforts to bring a nuclear weapon ban treaty into international law and the role of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN. All told through the voices of leading activists from several different organizations and countries and the president of the negotiating conference.

This 56 minute documentary film takes the viewer through a brief history of the bomb and the anti-nuclear activism that has pushed to eliminate them ever since their invention. It moves into a consideration of the humanitarian initiative that successfully challenged the dominant security narrative and the historic steps taken since 2010 to take the treaty from a dream into a reality. Finally, the film shows what can be done by anyone to help bring the treaty into force and to stigmatise nuclear weapons until they are finally eradicated.

Followed by a discussion. 7pm, Capital of Cycling, Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 5SD
Diary

Vigil at Menwith Hill 6pm-7.30pm. Mostly every Tuesday, but advise to contact them before you go up there. 01765 600928 / 07902 173148.

18 September - Leeds - Drone warfare from Gaza to Raqqa. A chance to hear from the excellent Chris Coles (founder and director of DroneWars UK) discussing the expansion of remote warfare across the middle east. Organised by Yorkshire Friends of Sabeel-Kairos. 6-8pm Mill Hill Chapel, City Sq. LS1 5EB

27 Sept - 5 Oct - Bradford - I Have Met the Enemy A theatre piece and call to action by Common Wealth. A former British soldier and a Palestinian citizen meet in an intimate and powerful exchange, in a joint attempt to understand the UK arms trade and its impact around the world. I Have Met the Enemy (and the enemy is us) takes us on a personal and political journey into the darkest corners of what makes Britain tick. 7.30-9.30pm TDF Youth Centre, Broadstone Way, BD4 9DY

7-21st October - Extinction Rebellion Peace (see inside for details)

8th October - Keep Space for Peace demo at Menwith Hill 6-7.30pm. Transport from Bradford / Leeds - contact the office for info.

10th October - Grassington Peace Lecture (see inside for details)

12th October - Keep Space for Peace Public Meeting, Harrogate. See page 2 for more information.

15th October - Film Premiere - The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons, Bradford. See inside for further information

10th November - Remembrance Sunday Songs for Peace & White Poppy wreath laying ceremony. More details to be confirmed closer to the time, but the meeting point is 1pm at Bradford Cenotaph. A meeting to help organise this is currently being arranged. If you would like to be involved, please contact cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk / 01274 730795

11th November - White Poppy candlelit remembrance ceremony organised by Calder Valley CND. 6pm at the war memorial in the memorial gardens off New Rd.


Goodbye & Thank-you to Andrew.

We are very sorry to announce that Andrew Metheven is leaving our staff team to take over additional childcare duties. In the short time he has been with us he has been an asset to YCND, but we wish him all the best in the future, and hope to see him at local events.

Greenham Common Women
Crowd Funding Appeal to Promote Heritage

Help is needed to bring the heritage and iconography of Greenham Common Peace Women into the hands of the public.

In the spirit of Greenham, the group Scary Little Girls want to commission a number of visual works in direct response to the voices and stories told by the peace women. It is intended that these works be used to promote the iconography and legacy of Greenham Common Peace Women.


White Poppies - available at the YCND office. See opposite for details of Songs for Peace

Local CND & Peace Groups/

Rotherham CND - jon_smith@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 07952 044624

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 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) - Hilde 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

Action for Peace is produced quarterly by Yorkshire CND

Yorkshire CND, Bradford Deaf Centre, 25 Hallfield Rd, Bradford BD1 3RP 01274 730795

info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

YCND Privacy Policy - https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/privacy-policy/