Yorkshire CND
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Action for Peace

The Yorkshire CND Newsletter

THE 'NOT SO INDEPENDENT' UK NUCLEAR DETERRENT

There was an outcry recently when Pentagon officials leaked the news that the United States will share technology with the United Kingdom for the development of a new generation of nuclear warheads. The announcement surprised MPs who had been told that the decision would be taken by Parliament.

In February, Pentagon officials confirmed that its proposed W93 sea-launched warhead, the nuclear tip of the next generation of submarine-launched ballistic missiles, would share technology with the UK's next nuclear weapon, implying that a decision had been taken between the two countries to work on the programme. The decision was revealed by Pentagon officials who disclosed it before an official announcement was made by the UK government.

As the Guardian said, in its article of Feb 22nd, 'The revelation dismayed MPs and experts who question why they have learned of the move – which will

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York & Calderdale- FILM: The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons

Two upcoming showings of this new film are happening at opposite ends of the county this Spring. The York 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 is happening on 19th May.

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. All told through the voices of leading activists from several different organizations and countries and the president of the negotiating conference.

Followed by a discussion with local peace campaigners, who are asking York to follow the example of Manchester and cities across the globe in declaring support for the ban.

7-9pm 19th May Friargate Meeting House, Friargate, York YO1 9RL

In Calderdale, the film is being shown as part of **Calder Valley CND's Annual General Meeting on Monday 16th March.** All are welcome - no need to be a member. 7.30pm, Hope Baptists, New Rd, Hebden Bridge

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cost the UK billions of pounds – only after the decision has apparently been made. It has also raised questions about the UK's commitment to staunching nuclear proliferation and the country's reliance on the US for a central plank of its defence strategy.'
Ed Davey, acting leader of the Liberal Democrats is quoted in the article "It is totally unacceptable that the government seems to have given the green light to the development of new nuclear weapon technologies with zero consultation and zero scrutiny. Britain under Johnson increasingly looks like putty in Trump's hands. That Britain's major defence decisions are being debated in the United States, but not in the UK, is a scandal. Under Johnson, it seems that where Trump leads, we must follow."

Quite. Kate Hudson, CND general secretary, agreed. "We have come to a sorry state of affairs when our elected parliamentarians hear about the commissioning of a new UK nuclear warhead from Pentagon officials, rather than from our own government. MPs have been repeatedly promised that a new warhead would be the subject of a parliamentary decision, but now they are not even required to wield the proverbial rubber stamp. It seems that the US/UK special nuclear relationship now supersedes parliamentary scrutiny, accountability and decision-making. This is a dangerous and anti-democratic development and must be rolled back."

The fact that this move now ties the UK further into the US nuclear system, and thus US foreign policy should be grave cause for concern, especially in view of Trump's recent actions. See article on page 4 for more on this.

GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING

Plans are afoot to mark this annual action period which focuses attention on the huge sums of public money spent on the military. (Worldwide total $1,800 billion per annum). If spent differently, even a portion of this enormous treasury could give a tremendous boost to important social programmes. The theme this year is 'Military spending costs the Earth'. Given the importance of finding large sums of public money very rapidly to fund the now-urgent green transition, we believe this is the right time to highlight the huge sums devoted to the military sector, and top of the list is the UK's commitment to nuclear weapons.

On April 29 Leeds CND will have a lunchtime leafleting session in Dortmund Sq, and on May 9th at the YCND Day of Dance in Saltaire we will once again present the 'People's Budget' table top stall. Other plans are being cooked up around the country. See materials from previous years at https://demilitarize.org.uk/.

Contact colinarcher@phonecoop.coop

Impact of the General Election on our campaigning

We are sure that many of our supporters would have been as disappointed and dejected at the election result as we were in the office. Of course, the Labour Party remains committed to Trident, but with a CND vice president at the helm, had they won, our prospects of peace would have seemed much closer. The Tory victory and ensuing Brexit process has pushed Scottish independence back onto the agenda, and we are fortunate that the SNP remain totally committed to a nuclear-weapons free Scotland.

We were very sorry to lose some of our supportive MPs in John Grogan and Thelma Walker. They had signed the ICAN parliamentary pledge (see previous issues), and it is such a shame that they were not reelected. However the silver lining is that Olivia Blake, newly elected MP in Sheffield Hallam, has agreed to sign the pledge, making that three MPs in total from Sheffield. We believe that this makes Sheffield the English city with the most parliamentary support, which is a great achievement - well done Sheffield! There will be a photo-call with Olivia Blake on Friday 6th March when she officially signs the pledge.

Meanwhile the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons continues to offer peace campaigners much hope. It now stands at 81 signatories and 35 ratifications, with Barcelona being the latest city to join the ICAN cities appeal, pledging support for the Treaty.

No War on Iran

A recent meeting in Bradford organised by Cllr Richard Dunbar featured speakers on the issue of rising tensions with Iran. It was a fascinating if terrifying meeting, which deserved a larger audience. All speakers agreed that the threat of a conflict with Iran has not disappeared, and the peace movement must be prepared to mobilise.

To this end, it was proposed that Bradford Stop the War group should be reinvigorated, and if this happens, Yorkshire CND will be a part of this.

More information will be published as it becomes available via our website and facebook page, and if you are not already signed up, please join our email list to receive fortnightly updates between editions of Action for Peace. Contact the office. info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Have you seen YCND's new film on Fylingdales yet??

As Trump's Space Force gets into gear, the role that our bases in Yorkshire will play in any space based warfare needs to be continually highlighted.

The short, 4 minute film that we made at the end of 2019 is a useful introduction to this. Please watch it and share the link. The YouTube link can be found on the front slider of our website and at https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/campaigns/fylingdales/

CND & Trident Ploughshares listed as terror organisations

In January 2020, organisations and protest groups campaigning for peace, environmental justice, human rights and animal rights, and against racism found themselves listed in a police counter-terror document. The groups included CND, Trident Ploughshares, Campaign Against Arms Trade and other peace organisations. It is part of an alarming pattern of attacks on civil liberties and the right to protest.

The state, under the guise of tackling terrorism, is increasingly surveilling and monitoring individuals and groups engaged in legitimate political and democratic processes. If this massive state overreach is not confronted, we risk losing further democratic freedoms that we take for granted.

The campaign groups on the front line of these attacks have demanded that the police counter-terror document is immediately rescinded and repudiated, and are calling for an independent review of the Prevent strategy. CND helped organise a very well attended public meeting on this issue recently in London (pictured above) and will be a part of a coordinated fight back against this measure.

New Hiroshima Play - CrowdFunding Appeal

Following the success of 'This Evil Thing', the one-man play by Michael Mears about the conscientious objectors of WW1, Michael's next project is a play about Hiroshima called 'The Mistake'. Working with Japanese actress You-ri Yamanaka, he is planning to take this to the Edinburgh Festival, and then on tour for performances round the country. He's raising funds through crowdfunding and asks us to contribute if we can.

Michael writes: "The levels of ignorance amongst national and international leaders as to what actually happened on the ground in Hiroshima is staggering... and that was a 'small' bomb compared to what is stockpiled in nuclear arsenals today. It is my hope that my new play and the production we are mounting can in some way, however modest, rectify that ignorance."

Support for this play will be a very constructive contribution to the anti-nuclear debate as we approach the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima.

further information and the donations page - https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-mistake-a-play-about-hiroshima

Update on XR Peace

In the last Action for Peace we reported on XR Peace, the 'peace wing' of Extinction Rebellion. XR Peace is growing. Movement for the Abolition of War and Aldermaston Women's Camp have now joined making 14 organisations altogether. XR Peace consists of a Council of Reps of the organisations, a Co-ordinating Group and an Affinity Groups Circle. Our strategy involves building a network of Affinity Groups to take part in XR activities and a campaign focused on BAE Systems. As the largest UK arms manufacturer BAE clearly links the military industrial complex, the climate and ecological emergency and the threat of extinction from nuclear weapons.

The next major XR mobilisation is a Rolling Rebellion in London from May 23rd onwards. Action will be focused on government departments, institutions and corporations who are driving the climate and ecological crisis. XR Peace will organise actions at significant places like the MoD and the HQs of arms manufacturers. We will gather in London on Sunday May 31st and be an active presence between 1st and 9th June. Please SAVE THE DATES. Let us know if you are coming as an individual or Affinity Group so we can make plans. (Yorkshire CND will probably be involved in this - get in touch if you would like to join us.)

Later in the year XR Peace will also be taking part in an XR presence at COP 26 in Glasgow.

website: https://xrpeace.org/
e-mail: xrpeace@gn.apc.org

Trump and the increasing prospect of nuclear war

When Donald Trump announced new 'low-yield' nuclear weapons, CND said this would raise the threat of nuclear war because it increases the number of circumstances in which nuclear weapons will be used.

In the last few weeks, the US conducted a military exercise which demonstrated those new circumstances. It makes clear that Trump has abandoned the approach that nuclear weapons are weapons of last resort in which both sides would face 'mutually assured destruction'. Nuclear weapons are no longer viewed as a 'deterrent' but weapons to be used because, incredibly, the US imagines it can win a nuclear war.

The US took part in the simulated nuclear exchange with Russia which was described as a "limited response." NATO is also practicing its biggest wargames for over 25 years this month.

It comes after news that the first US Navy ballistic missile submarine carrying new W76-2 low-yield nuclear warheads had begun patrolling the Atlantic. Other submarines are now expected to carry the so-called 'usable' nuclear weapons, alongside the usual large warheads.

Kate Hudson, CND general secretary, said: "Nuclear wars cannot be won. The use of low-yield would quickly escalate to high-yield nuclear weapons. The US president seems to have no fear of nuclear war. In fact he stated it was ridiculous to suggest that America would not engage in one. It is not just talk; we can see the practical steps he is taking to make it a reality."

Fortunately, people on all sides of the political spectrum are beginning to see the dangers posed by Trump, and his abandonment of multilateralism. An article by Philip Stephens in the Financial Times recently was titled: 'Donald Trump's America is threatening the nuclear peace.' It referenced the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and said "the pillars of restraint are crumbling. We are heading for a nuclear free-for-all." (Financial Times, Feb 27th 2020). The article highlighted that Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and his intention not to renew the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in 2021 was bringing the world to a very dangerous place.

It is our job in CND to be shouting about this, making sure that the world wakes up to the potential catastrophe that is brewing.

Our Greenham - Exhibition & Film

Calder Valley CND's recent exhibition, 'Our Greenham' was such a success at the Town Hall in Hebden Bridge, that they have managed to transfer it for alonger time period to The Artworks gallery in Halifax. The exhibition has been expanded to put Greenham Common peace camp into the context of the wider struggle against nuclear weapons, and also features a 30+ panel photo montage by anti-war artist Peter Kennard.

The exhibition runs from now until 26th April, and is available to view whenever the gallery is open as well as being available for groups. The Peace Museum and CND's Peace Education will be doing schools workshops using the exhibition.On **19th March** 7pm there will be an event, showing the excellent film **CARRY GREENHAM HOME** Cert 15 Documenting the everyday lives of the women at Greenham Common Peace Camp, filmed over seven months in 1983.

We'll also have a brief discussion about the exhibition and the film as well as refreshments.

Free entry, donations welcome.

The Artworks, Shaw Lodge, Shaw Lane Halifax HX3 9ET
01422 346900

Fundraising Round-up

Tickets are now available for this year's Day of Dance, and they are selling like proverbial hot-cakes. We're really pleased with the line-up of workshops, along with the family Ceilidh, and it looks like it will be a real cracker of an event.

There's a lot to organise on the day, so we're looking for volunteers, particularly on the cafe / tea stalls, and to check tickets.

Or if you can't be there on the day, could you bake a cake??

Get in touch with cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or at the office if you can volunteer a few hours. Free Ceilidh ticket for anyone helping the rest of the day.

Details of all the workshops and online booking available at www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/dayofdance

York Benefit Gig

We're delighted to announce that Rob Newman will be doing a benefit fundraiser for Yorkshire CND and our friends in the Deaf Centre, BIASAN refugee project. It is at The Crescent in York on Sunday 17th May.

In this all-new show, multi-award winning stand-up comic Rob Newman weaves together Nietzsche's sunglasses, James Bond in Toxteth, electric spiders and singing Neanderthals into a hilarious tour-de-force that offers new hopes for a changing world.

Tickets are selling fast, so do get yours soon.

Tickets and more Available from http://thecrescentyork.com/events/rob-newman-philosophy-show/

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.

1st March - 24th April - 'Our Greenham' - Calder Valley CND's exhibition at The Artworks, Shaw Lodge, Shaw Lane, Halifax HX3 9ET, 01422 346900. View by appointment.

19th March - Film: Carry Greenham Home. 7pm The Artworks, Shaw Lodge, Shaw Lane, Halifax HX3 9ET

Now until 29 March - Bradford - The Eye as Witness: Recording the Holocaust. The latest exhibition at the Peace Museum examines the photographs taken during the Holocaust and asks the question; through whose eyes are we seeing the past? 10am-4pm (Wednesday-Friday)10 Piece Hall Yard, Bradford BD1 1PJ

7th March - Stall at Airedale shopping centre in Keighley on behalf of YCND and Campaign Against the Arms Trade. 11am till 3pm. Contact: 07985102580

8th March - Yorkshire CND Strategy session 1-4.30pm, YCND office, 25 Hallfield Rd, Bradford BD1 3RP

16th March - 6.30-8.30pm. Primeast. Meeting between CND and UNA Harrogate to discuss the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 16 (SDG 16): Peace - a world without nuclear weapons. Email Clive Wilson at clive.wilson@primeast.com to let him know if you'd like to attend.

10th April to 9th May - Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) See inside for more infromation. The international campaign website is : http://demilitarize.org/ The dates are: April 10 – May 9.

Saturday 18th April - OTLEY GREEN FAIR, 10am to 3pm(please note new finish time). Free Entry. Otley Courthouse Arts and Resource Centre, Courthouse Street, Otley LS21 3AN - National and local campaigns, crafts, Morris dancers, children's workshops, delicious vegan and veggie food. Accessible venue. Further information see www.otleycourthouse.org.uk or ring Hazel on 01943 464431

Saturday 18th April - CND National Council, London. Only members may vote, but observers are welcome to attend. YCND has two representatives.

Saturday 25th April - Lobbying workshop with CND's parliamentary officer. Plus NW LAbour CND meeting. Organised by Greater MAnchester & District CND 0161273 8283 or gmdcnd@gn.apc.org for more info

9th May - Day of Dance (see inside for details)

17th May - Benefit fundraiser in York with Rob Newman - see inside for details.

Report: Yorkshire CND's AGM

The public meeting preceeding the YCND AGM, Confronting Extinction: Militarism & THe Climate Crisis, was very well attended. The two speakers, Stuart Parkinson of Scientists for Global Responsibility and Jane Tallents of XR Peace were very engaging, and there were some thoughtful contributions from the audience.

The Annual General Meeting voted to retain Dave Webb as Chair, Hugh Hubbard as Treasurer, and Alasdair Beal as Vice Chair of YCND, as well as the current members of the Coordinating Committee plus Isobella De Martino. It was also agreed to have several longer strategising meetings per year, to give chance for more through consideration of the issues. A resolution on Iran was also passed, committing YCND to organising a demo at Menwith, should the situation deteriorate

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

info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk
www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

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