



Spring 2024 - Issue 118



# ACTION FOR PEACE



FEATURING:

**Strategy day outcomes**

**Who goes to careers fairs?**

**Lakenheath actions**

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Threads Screening**

**70 years since Castle Bravo**

**Upcoming events & more!**





# LATEST NEWS

Over the spring period, Yorkshire CND have done quite a lot! From demos/stalls across the region in May (to raise awareness about US nukes returning to RAF Lakenheath), to co-hosting a Northern CND/Peace Group strategy day, sending student activists to parliament for a tour, being present at bookfairs, and even taking part in a special sold-out screening of *Threads* in Sheffield for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We were particularly pleased to take part in the panel after the screening of *Threads*, where we learned about a new documentary on the making of *Threads* by Robert Nevitt. As part of the documentary they found the iconic traffic warden, and we thoroughly recommend keeping an eye out for the documentary when it's released later this year...

In a time of increasing international tensions, maintaining our campaign's message for peace is vital. Despite being 70 years since the Castle Bravo tests, the world's politicians still haven't learnt from their mistakes! We are now particularly worried by their increasing reliance on technology, which is leading to concerns that artificial intelligence (AI) could be used to make decision on deploying nuclear weapons. Furthermore, organisations like Stop Killer Robots are finding reports of Israeli use of target recommendation systems

in the Gaza strip. This is deeply concerning from a legal, moral and humanitarian perspective.

Nevertheless, there has been some positive progress internationally. We are very pleased to see that the ICAN cities appeal has gained support in The Hague, Tirana, Rome and Poitiers. Furthermore, the Swiss Alliance for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has launched a federal popular initiative to gather the 100,000 signatures needed from the Swiss public to trigger a popular vote on joining the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).



We are very hopeful that this will gain the support required, and will lead to the Swiss Foreign Ministry and Government formally signing the treaty (as they were one of the 122 countries that voted in favour of its adoption in 2017!). We hope that this will help to inspire more support for the TPNW in Yorkshire and the wider UK.

With a new government in place, we are hopeful that we will see progress with nuclear disarmament in the UK, but recognise it will still be a challenge due to Labour's pledges to increase defense spending; to maintain the nuclear 'deterrent'; and to build new nuclear power stations. Despite this, we must remember that there are numerous MPs from across the parties (in Yorkshire and beyond) that are CND supporters. The Green party, for example, now have 4 MPs who gained their seats campaigning on a manifesto supporting nuclear disarmament. We must therefore remain hopeful, and continue to push our parliamentarians to support nuclear disarmament e.g. through signing the TPNW pledge.

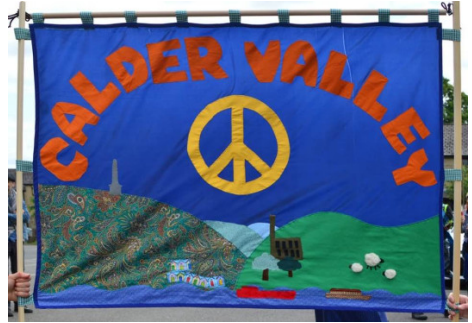
We would also like to say a huge thanks to Dylan Barker-Duggan, who has moved on from YCND after over 2 years working for us as our student outreach worker. Dylan has been a great asset to us, and helped us a lot. Having just been awarded a first in his peace studies degree, we are sure he'll go on to do brilliant things in the future!

# ***A GREAT NEW BANNER!***

It was a delight to see the wonderful new banner, produced by Calder Valley CND for Peace & Justice.

Are you local to them? Consider going to a meeting or demo with them. Help this banner see some action! For more info, contact:

*kathypitt725@hotmail.com or Catherine on 07980 291478*



# ***TREE PLANTING!***

During the 50th Anniversary celebrations of Bradford's Peace Studies department, a Gingko sapling was planted at the university (grown from the seed of a tree that survived the Hiroshima atomic bomb). Thanks to Richard Outram for choosing Bradford to plant the seed!



# ***MENWITH HILL'S NEW GATE***

We've been informed that the new main gate at 'RAF' (NSA/USAF) Menwith Hill - under the control of the US National Security Agency - opened on Monday 24th June.

Until further notice, MHAC will continue to hold their weekly Tuesday demo outside the Nessfield gate.

For more info, please contact: *sswift64@gmail.com / 01765 600928*





Over 300 students and staff took part in the May walkout at York University, but why would they walk out after the University's recent statement about responsible investment?

Despite the good steps forward for peace, the York University Careers Fair (featuring AWE) went ahead. This shows the university's willingness to still collaborate with arms companies, such as those that are involved with the production of the UK's nuclear 'deterrent'.

The presence of companies linked to the nuclear industry and arms trade at careers fairs throughout Yorkshire is worrying to many. We are pleased to see students in universities such as York, Leeds & Sheffield campaign against their presence. We must continue to campaign for peace and we hope that more universities will instead encourage more ethical futures for their students.

If you are keen to learn more about your local university's links to the nuclear weapons industry (and wider arms trade), we recommend checking out Demilitarise Education's university database. Please scan the QR code below to access it, or type the following link into your browser: <https://ded1.co/data/university>

We know there's money in war, but is there money in peace? If you have any ideas for how we could support graduates find work in more peaceful industries, please get in touch!



# STRATEGY DAY HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to all who attended our strategy meeting in Sheffield!

We're proud of our successes in commemorating significant events like Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day, as well as our collaborations with creatives, exemplified by the recent music demo in York for the Artists Against The Bomb exhibit. However, we recognised areas for improvement such as addressing the perceived lack of public urgency that hampers our ability to organise large-scale demonstrations.

We're committed to enhancing our social media outreach to better engage with you all and improving communication with local groups to ensure coordinated actions.

Additionally, we want to expand our efforts by hosting more peace hustings, increasing lobby work and training opportunities, and diversifying our presence beyond Yorkshire's city centres. To make our campaign more inclusive we will actively work on increasing visibility through stalls and flags (which members can borrow from our office in Bradford), we will support more actions aimed at student careers fairs (where BAE systems and AWE are often present), and we will work on fostering stronger connections with unions, interfaith communities, and other groups advocating for the right to protest.

During the other strategy day we hosted, in collaboration with Greater Manchester and District CND, the following action points were decided:

- More Northern Groups will make an effort to support demos at Menwith Hill, especially on Independence Day (4th July).
- We will work towards a northern region event in Barrow.
- We will build up a North West database of banks, companies, manufactures and insurance firms with investments in nuclear weapons.
- Northern Groups will collaborate to host a defence diversification webinar series later this year.

The next in-person meeting of the Northern Groups will take place in the Autumn around October/November.

# NEW SHIRTS!



**Only 30 available!**

Available in black & bottle green.

Printed on organic shirts by No Sweat and Continental Clothing.

Sizes: medium, large & extra large.

£18 + p&p

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Hiroshima & Nagasaki Day**

6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August

(please email us if you are holding a commemoration event so we can share it on social media and on our online events calendar)

## **Peace Museum re-opening**

10<sup>th</sup> August @Salts Mill, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Saltaire, Shipley, BD18 3HU

## **Global Week of Action On Nuclear Spending**

September 14<sup>th</sup> - September 23<sup>rd</sup>

## **Keep Space for Peace Week**

7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> October

## **Artists Against the Bomb Exhibition**

7<sup>th</sup> November - 2<sup>nd</sup> December @ Dorothy Pax, Wharf Street, Sheffield, S2 5SY

**For more information, please contact:** [info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)  
**Or subscribe to our calendar for more:** [yorkshirecnd.org.uk/events](http://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/events)

# LOCAL CONTACTS

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**Huddersfield Peace Group** - [fairbankcharles@gmail.com](mailto:fairbankcharles@gmail.com)

**Leeds CND** – [leedscnd@gmail.com](mailto:leedscnd@gmail.com) / [dave@space4peace.org](mailto:dave@space4peace.org)

**Bradford CND** – [bradford@cnd.rocks](mailto:bradford@cnd.rocks)

**Keighley** – [tridentsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:tridentsylvia@gmail.com)

**MHAC (Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign)** – [mail@themhac.uk](mailto:mail@themhac.uk)

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