

heddwch



cnd cymru * campaign for nuclear disarmament * winter 2011-12



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heddwch

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editor:

Jill Gough

translator:

Sian Edwards

sian@derwen.demon.co.uk

production & mailing:

Redkite Print

07810 566 919

redkiteprint@thefreeflyer.com

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cnd cymru

CND Cymru works to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction, for peace & human & environmental justice.

contacts

vice chairs:

Brian Jones

01792 830 330

swanseaend@btinternet.com

Duncan Rees

07774 268 371

duncan.rees@co-operative.coop

George Crabb

01446 774 452

Ray Davies

02920 889 514

John Cox

01495 773 495

drjohncox@aol.com

membership, affiliations &

treasurer:

CND Cymru

9 Primrose Hill,

Llanbadarn Fawr,

Aberystwyth SY23 3SE

michael.freeman9@btinternet.com

trading:

Kate and Del Rhys

coney@gn.apc.uk

national secretary:

Jill Gough,

CND Cymru,

Llys Gwyn, Glynarthen,

Llandysul, SA44 6PS

01239 851 188

heddwch@cndcymru.org

www.cndcymru.org

The Future of British Nuclear Weapons Context, Policy, Costs and the Future

BASIC (British American Security Council) has set up an independent, cross-party commission to examine the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons policy and the issue of Trident renewal.* **Bruce Kent** has submitted the following clearly argued response.

Should the UK remain a nuclear weapon state?

The UK is extremely dependent on the United States for nuclear weapon technology and for the Trident missiles themselves.

Assuming for the purposes of this Commission that the UK is a genuine nuclear weapon state, the answer to the question is NO - for at least two main reasons:

Security

Nuclear weapons are not the ultimate guarantee of security but are actually exactly the opposite, ensuring ever increasing insecurity for the whole world community. Many accidents and misunderstandings have over the last 50 years brought us close to disaster.

There is good reason to fear that nuclear weapons will eventually get into the hands of non state agents against whom deterrence has no effect. Deterrence depends on our belief in the rationality and desire for life of the enemy. In 1978 the Report of the First United Nations Special Session on Disarmament said (para 13) that 'enduring international peace and security cannot be built on a precarious balance of deterrence.' In 1981 Lawrence Freedman said of peace based on nuclear weaponry: 'To believe that this can go on indefinitely without major disaster requires an optimism unjustified by any historical or political perspective'.

Advocates of nuclear weapon replacement tell us we cannot predict the future threats to the UK, so it is better, however expensive, to have a 'nuclear insurance policy'.

The first part of that proposition is quite true. Tidal waves, cyclones, epidemics are all possibilities. So too are revolutions and millions on the move, and perhaps at our borders, as refugees fleeing poverty and war. Some of this is quite possible if we continue to

run the world as it is being run today. We do have to plan prudently for disasters, emergencies and upheavals.

To continue to possess nuclear weapons is not an intelligent response to the long term remote threat that some country might threaten us with nuclear weapons.

Nuclear threats are more likely to come from non state agents against whom 'our' nuclear weapons would be no deterrent. Possession of nuclear weapons will of course do nothing to reduce the possibility of accident or miscalculation but will encourage others to believe that



nuclear weapons can provide security.

Far better to focus our energies and resources now, onto achieving global abolition of all such weapons and, imposing a stringent inspection and policing regime.

Good Faith

In 1996, The International Court of Justice (ICJ) advised: 'There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control'. The UK has yet to enter into such negotiations. The 'good faith' required by the ICJ must surely mean that after the current Trident ends its life span in or around 2028, Britain will not feel content to renew its nuclear weapons system.

If it should remain a nuclear weapon state, is Trident renewal the only or best option that the UK can and should pursue?

All alternatives to Trident are equally challenged by the objections above. The search for a non-Trident option is just political and perhaps economic face saving. Even with fewer warheads we would be telling the world that while we need nuclear weapons for our security, non-nuclear states cannot have them.

What more can and should the UK do to more effectively promote global nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear security?

1. Enter positively into nuclear weapon elimination negotiations and urge the other nuclear weapon states to do so.
2. Decide not to replace Trident.
3. Take confidence-building steps like the removal of warheads from missiles & invite international inspectors to verify this.
4. Honour the obligations arising from the 1978 UN SSDI Report, which agreed to promote public education about disarmament. '...Programmes of education for disarmament and peace studies at all levels' were promised. This has never happened. Most of the general public still mistakenly believe that nuclear weapons are the absolute guarantee of ultimate security and that the dropping of the bombs in 1945 was the only way to end the Pacific war. Few know about the long-term effects on humans and the environment of any use of nuclear weapons, or of the many nuclear weapon accidents. Public education is the key to progress.

* BASIC's independent, cross-party commission will examine the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons policy and the issue of Trident renewal. The Commission will report on evidence received in early 2012. www.basincint.org/tridentcommission/background

The Numbers Game

In announcing these annual figures, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), one of the most authoritative institutes in the world on issues of war and peace pointed out that the US and Russia are currently deploying new nuclear weapon delivery systems or have announced programs to do so, and 'appear determined to retain their nuclear arsenals into the indefinite future'.

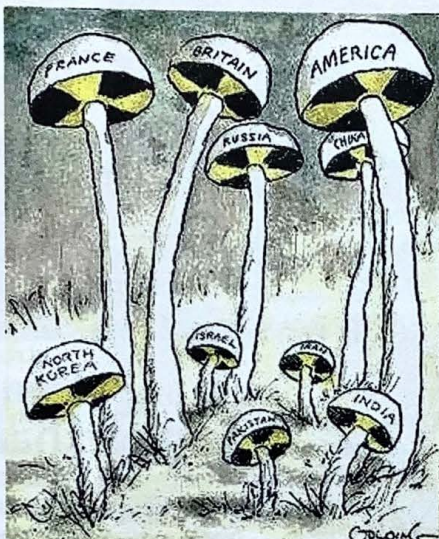
India and Pakistan, continue to develop new ballistic and cruise missile systems capable of delivering nuclear weapons and both countries are according to SIPRI, 'expanding their capacities to produce fissile material for military purposes'.

Simulations of a nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan with 50 to 100 Hiroshima-size nuclear weapons have shown that

this would lead to a blocking of sunlight and lowering of temperatures, causing widespread drought and crop failure, resulting in some one billion deaths in the region.

There are 10% fewer nuclear weapons in the world from since 2010 yet this is by no

means a time to breathe a sigh of relief at what has been accomplished. While the



overall trend is toward fewer nuclear weapons, weapons and delivery systems are already more accurate and deadly or 'highly modernized'. More modernisation is afoot, well outside the obligations of the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the spirit of the Comprehensive Test Ban

Treaty. The US refers to this as developing a 'safe, secure and effective nuclear stockpile.'

In reality, the only type of stockpile that will meet the criteria of being 'safe, secure and effective' will be a global stockpile of no nuclear weapons at all.

Any number other than zero will continue to present unacceptable risks to all life on earth.

What is needed now is a Nuclear Weapons Convention, for the safe, secure and effective elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Scrapping Trident is the only 'emergency' cut we should be supporting in public expenditure. Vowing not to renew Britain's nuclear arsenal would be a great way to start and would give any Government of Britain and its voting public something to feel truly proud of.

Jill Gough

*SIPRI: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.

START: Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms agreement between Russia and USA. The treaty now limits the number of warheads on deployed ballistic missiles and long-range bombers on both sides to 1,550 and the number of missiles and bombers capable of launching those warheads to no more than 700 by the year 2017.

The Numbers Game

Nuclear Weapons in the World 2011

Deployed (ready to fire warheads) nuclear warheads:

USA 2,150
Russia 2,427
Britain 160
France 290

SIPRI* estimates that about 2000 of the world's 5,027 deployed warheads are maintained on high operational alert (ready to be fired within moments).

Non-deployed warheads:

US 6,350
Russia 8,570
Britain 65
France 10
China 240
India 80-100
Pakistan 90-110
Israel 80

The Government is wasting £billions on:

- Keeping Trident Nuclear Weapons.....£100billion
- Building two aircraft carriers.....£5billion
- Annual subsidies to arms exporters.....£900million
- The war in Afghanistan (so far).....£11 billion

£Billions are being wasted on wars we don't want and weapons we don't need.

Britain's huge military budget takes resources away from essential public services and makes the world a more dangerous place.

Now is the time to cut military spending and invest in what people really want.

heddwch * action

● Find out more about the Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Convention from The International campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) an international grassroots organisation: www.icanw.org.uk t:020 7324 4739 tim_street@icanw.org

● Write to your MP asking him/her to let you know if they are supporting negotiations for a global treaty banning nuclear weapons. Suggest that the best cut that could be made is to scrap Trident and halt all plans and developments for any new British nuclear weapons (currently calculated to be £100 billion – source Lib Dems).

● Organise a meeting or raise the issue at your trade union, faith, social or student group. Contact CND Cymru or ICAN for a speaker.

● Write to your local or national newspaper. Find useful information on www.cnduk.org

Wales - Palestine



Joyce Giblin and Pippa Bartolotti from Newport (pictured above) along with D Murphy and Fiona Williams (Swansea Palestine Community Link) were imprisoned for 7 days by the Israeli authorities in July. They had been part of a 'flytilla' - in which protesters were making an open and peaceful visit to families in the West Bank.

The detainments marked the first anniversary of the passing of the Swansea City Council Resolution which recognised that the UN's call that as Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank were illegal, they should not be supported. The Council will not be commissioning the international trading company Veolia, for any of its public services. This company is involved in the construction of a railway between Israel and illegal settlements in occupied East Jerusalem, which 'not only contravenes UN demands but is in contravention of international law'.

War and Misery: made here

Whenever and wherever wars are being prepared and trained for, we need to stop them. Wars start here, and it follows that we can stop them from here.

This means Wales. Our country continues in its role as military playground for war trainees. Military equipment testing company Qinetiq announced 2,500 military 'Watchkeeper' drone flying hours across 1,295 square kilometres of Wales this summer. NATO exercises, involving the frightening



practice of low flying over the Cambrian Mountains and off-coast naval exercise and missile practices and testing took place over Cardigan Bay and the Atlantic. Missiles for Eurofighter aircraft were tested off the coast; Low flying US military jets from Lakenheath were burning through the skies above Wales.

Wales is only one such beautiful country that suffers in this way. Europe's largest overland military test

range is in the north of Sweden and called North European Aerospace Testrange (NEAT). The area, covering 24,000 square kilometres, is used for testing missiles, combat aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles and has been used this summer by the U.S. Air Forces in Europe for bomb dropping practice.

That war is unavoidable or necessary is a pure lie; that it is something that happens far away is also a lie. Wars fought in Afghanistan and Iraq are trained and prepared for right here. Today's advanced technology is used to maximize the damage on the ground, and to minimizing risks to the attacker.

heddwch action

Complain!

- Write to your MP - don't let them think this is all perfectly acceptable.
- Low Level Military Flying
- Ministry of Defence Complaints and Enquiries Unit, Level 5, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB t: MoD 0207 218 6020
- Qinetiq, MOD Aberporth Range, Parclyn, Cardigan, Ceredigion SA43 2BU t:0 8700 100 942

Getting unreal on Ynys Môn

As part of an £80million PFI investment at RAF Valley on Ynys Môn, a new £17M 'slightly more noisy' fighter jet (Hawk TMK2) allegedly creating a 'virtual battlezone' in the sky is to 'revolutionise' the way pilots are trained at the base.

We are told that the aircraft's 'state-of-the-art simulated technology' will bring warfare 'into the cockpit'. Pilots will be able to come under virtual attack from fellow student pilots playing the role of enemy aircraft.

It's a bargain too. These aircraft only cost £5,000 an hour to fly. The Typhoon (on to which students graduate) costs £70,000 an hour. Twenty pilots at a time learn to fly the aircraft and 'perfect' (sic) their dog-fighting and weapons skills on missions over the skies of North Wales.

Trawsfynydd - watch this space

We have been reassured that despite talks about development possibilities at Trawsfynydd (Gwynedd) between Lord Elis Thomas and Gwynedd Unitary Authority Leader Dyfed Edwards there no new nuclear power station is planned for the site.

However, it has been deemed a suitable site for wind turbines. The hope is to maintain quality job opportunities in the area as the first phase of decommissioning comes to an end. Talks are continuing over opportunities which could arise if a new N-plant, Wylfa B, is built on Ynys Môn. But stay alert. Welsh Government Business Minister Edwina Hart believes that the site could be suitable for 'specialist jobs'. She says that this is because the site still has a 'nuclear licence' and it is 'remotely located' adding 'There are global

companies that like to be on very secretive, quiet locations for the work that they undertake, should we be marketing them for that basis?'

Trawsfynydd nuclear power station stopped generating electricity in 1993, a new £67million contract will speed up the decommissioning to be finished by 2016.

Peace Gardens

With the launch of the new Commemorative Garden at Aberporth 'UAV Centre of Excellence (sic)' in September, we got to wondering about peace gardens in Wales.

We know of a few - Brecon, Cardiff, Swansea and Llandrindod... but there are more than this! Let's map them. Please send details of any you know of - grid reference, brief description, date of founding or any other information to CND Cymru - see p. 2.



Peace Award goes to Wrexham

Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum (WPJF), actively campaigning in and around Wrexham (and beyond) since 2003 has won the Third Annual Arthur Hewlett Peace Award. The award, made by the Movement for the Abolition of War recognises small, independent local groups. Arthur Hewlett was a founder member of the Quaker Peace Studies Trust.

WPJF works locally and nationally and organises street stalls and vigils in Wrexham. It has recently campaigned against nuclear weapons and power, marked the anniversary of war in Iraq and undertaken solidarity work with imprisoned US/ Welsh whistleblower Bradley Manning. It helped organise a day-long, community cultural event on this year's International Day of Peace and supported Judith Sambrook in Court in Wrexham on 11th November. Judith had not completed her census form as an anti-war protest at the contract with weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin to process census data.

Genny Bove of WPJF said:

'We were honoured to receive this award on this Remembrance Day.

Many of us wore a white poppy at Judith's court appearance. These poppies were first produced in 1933 by the Women's Co-operative Guild. In the aftermath of the First World War where so many women lost husbands, brothers and sons, white poppies represented the belief that there are better ways to resolve conflicts than killing strangers. This message is more important than ever as we find ourselves in a state of endless war, eagerly fuelled by arms companies. We call for an end to wars everywhere.'

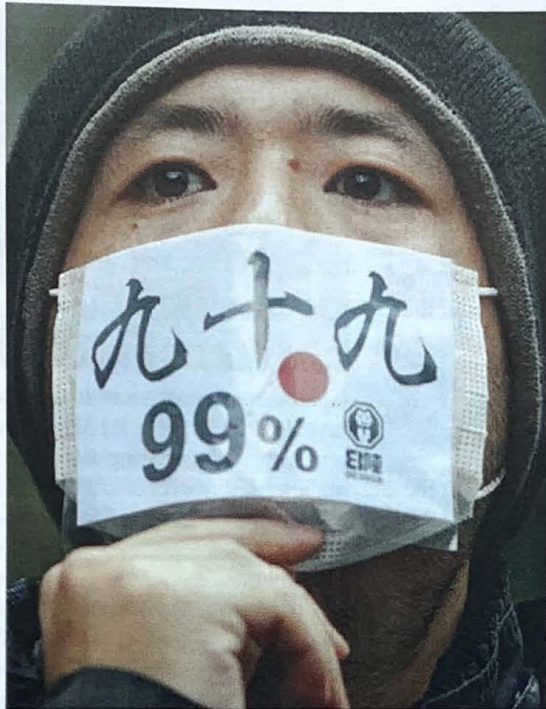
Keep Yourself Occupied!

No one expects things to change overnight – but, born of the ‘Arab Spring’ a long overdue discussion engaging people from all walks of life about changing the world has begun. Slowly but surely the ‘Occupy’ movement is pitching its tent on behalf of the 99% in Wales (so far in Bangor, Swansea, Cardiff and Aberystwyth).

Bruce Kent, while congratulating the Occupiers outside St Paul’s Cathedral in London, told them, ‘You have done more in two weeks to put the focus on financial corruption, national and global, than anyone else has managed in the last 30 years’.

‘Occupiers’ are not a hostile presence such as might be interpreted by some of the powers that be and the media, although clearly hostile to that which is unjust. This is not just about camping at sites of protest but are an opportunity for the awakening of critical consciousness; providing spaces to debate and learn from one another on a large scale and outside of the structures that shape our ordinary lives. This chance to ‘think differently’ is not only afforded to those in the camps. The very existence of the movement has somehow ‘permitted’ such discussions to take place in homes and work-places across the world.

English Green Party MP Caroline Lucas has interpreted the movement as real



politics in action, demanding that ‘the voices of those ordinary and extraordinary people who want a fairer, greener system to replace the stocks-and-shares house of sand that sustains corporate capitalism must now be heard’.

Everyone in the movement agrees on at least one thing – that the system as it is and the materialistic values our society unthinkingly accepts, cannot go on.

Alternatives must be sought and we must do this together as a people, not have it imposed upon us. It is also to be expected that particularly in small countries such as Wales, that discussions would include the rights of small nations, language and identity in a post-multinational world.

Militarism is a tool of the system being questioned. Privilege and bullying – social, psychological, economic and military must be challenged and as part of this, the massive sums of money made by arms companies and their investors must be stopped.

Jill Gough

Occupy Yourself!

www.occupywales.org
meddianwnbangor@hotmail.co.uk
www.occupynorthwales.tk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/occupycardiff
[aberradicalforum@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/groups/aberradicalforum/)

www.facebook.com/pages/Occupy-Swansea/224427037619659

www.facebook.com/OccupyBangor?sk=wall

www.facebook.com/OccupyWales



Groups and individuals across Wales held events to mark the International Day of Peace on September 21st this year. At Aberporth, a garden to Commemorate all victims of UAV deployment was created near the Welsh Government funded ‘Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Centre of Excellence’. The Carmarthen Cell of Cymdeithas y Cymod held a wonderful ceremony to launch a White Book of Peace.

Danger on our Doorsteps

A march through Bridgwater protesting against EDF Energy's plan for two new mega-reactors at Somerset's Hinkley Point nuclear power station launched a long weekend of demonstrations in early October. Protestors from all over Wales joined with Cŵr Cochion Caerdydd at the protest on the streets of Bridgwater and at a blockade of the current Hinkley nuclear power station.

Hinkley Point is just a few miles across the Bristol Channel from Wales, and as the first and largest of eight new nuclear power plants planned in Britain holds particular significance to those opposed to nuclear power.

The protest and blockade were to warn the government and EDF that those who understand the real dangers of nuclear power are not prepared to stand by and allow these untried, untested, reactors to be built. Any discharge or accident at Hinkley Point would affect Wales as much as Somerset. The lethal effects of radionuclides know no national boundaries.

Not Safe, Not the Answer

The waste from the new reactors earmarked for Hinkley will be so highly radioactive that it will have to be stored on site for over 160 years. 'This region deserves decent jobs that are safe and sustainable,' said Crispin Aubrey from campaign group, Stop Hinkley. 'Nuclear power cannot meet this requirement.' 'EDF Energy is offering jobs that come from the bottom of the barrel. Most of the longer-term jobs at the reactor will be specialized and will require people to come in from further afield. So it's a bad deal for Somerset and Bristol.'

Yannick Rousselet from Greenpeace France condemned the energy giant EDF for its poor employment

and security record. 'EDF claims that new nuclear is cleaner and safer but the truth is that there is too much focus on profit and not enough on safety.' He pointed out that 'whatever safety mechanisms are put in place, you can never rule out human error.'

Blockade

The Welsh presence at the 200 strong direct action at Hinkley in October was strong as blockaders from right across Wales joined with Cŵr Cochion Caerdydd at the power station gates.

The blockade began at 7am with a theatrical troupe enacting a nuclear disaster scenario similar to the crisis at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. They later launched 206 helium balloons from Hinkley to represent the number of days since the Fukushima incident started. The organisers said the balloons' journey would be tracked 'to show which areas of the West Country will be worst affected should a major disaster happen at Hinkley Point'.

Serious Nuclear Nation

According to Energy Minister Charles Hendry speaking in Manchester on the very same day as the blockade: 'Britain is the world's most exciting place for building new nuclear power stations.' At the party's Conservative Party Conference Mr Hendry said that the Government was committed to making Britain a 'serious nuclear nation'.



Japan's environment ministry says it faces the prospect of removing and disposing of 29 million cubic metres of soil covering Fukushima and four nearby prefectures contaminated by the Fukushima nuclear disaster. The radioactive contamination further afield, and in the sea has barely been addressed. In September we learned that trace amounts of plutonium 239 and 240 (half life of 24,000

years) had for the first time been found outside of the immediate area of the plant - 28 miles from the Fukushima nuclear-power plant in Japan. Radioactive strontium, another highly dangerous element was also found 50 miles from the reactor. Most of the radioactive material discovered to date in the communities surrounding Fukushima so far has been radioactive caesium or iodine.

h e d d w c h * a c t i o n

*Read more: Stop Wylfa: www.stop-wylfa.org Stop Hinkley: www.stophinkley.org Stop New Nuclear Alliance: www.stopnewnuclear.org.uk also see the appropriate Facebook pages.

*Lobby your MPs and AMs to let them know how you feel about nuclear power generation. They and their party leaders are subject to extreme lobbying by highly funded professional organisations. If they are to stand up and speak out against their Westminster (and Cardiff) leaders - they need to be equipped with reasons, realistic and sensible alternatives, information and support.

Your MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

To email see: www.parliament.uk or www.WriteToThem.com

Your AMs, The National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA or use: www.WriteToThem.com www.assemblywales.org/memhome/member-search.htm

*Campaign Group 'Stop Hinkley' is making a legal challenge to EDF's nuclear plans. Funds are being raised to help with the cost of this action which is expected to be around £15,000. Please help if you can. To contribute or to find out more see www.stophinkley.org/LegalAppeal.htm

or

Send donations, made payable to 'Stop Hinkley' to: Stop Hinkley Legal Challenge Fund, 8 The Bartons, Yeabridge, South Petherton TA13 5LW. Donations can also be transferred directly to the Stop Hinkley bank account:

Account name: Stop Hinkley, Account number: 19041903, Sort code: 09-01-52 Quote: 'Legal Challenge' - You can also donate on-line via Paypal

What Price Nuclear?

There has been a ratcheting up of the PR wars in the Wylfa stakes in recent months, with Horizon Nuclear's ill-informed and inarticulate spokespersons being outflanked at many a public meeting.

In September, Horizon presented a draft consultation document to the Isle of Anglesey County Council, while making it clear that the 'consultation' is not intended actually to change anything but simply another opportunity for them to explain their policies. The one thing the nuclear lobby does rather well is Orwellian newspeak.

PAWB* has been grappling with the council to try to obtain the right to address a full meeting on the same terms granted to Horizon. We are still waiting. PAWB has also requested council reports and documents under the Freedom of Information Act. Some have been supplied (heavily redacted, as they say) which will be duly studied.

Meanwhile, Horizon's attempts to acquire a huge area of northern Anglesey in a new land grab, hit a hitch when farmer Richard Jones of Cadegog, whose family has farmed the land for three centuries or so, refused to sell off the best part of his land to the company. When it was suggested in a Radio Cymru interview that 'everyone has his price', Mr Jones agreed that such was the problem, these days. Never a truer word.

August is generally regarded as the silly season for news, so no surprise when Trawsfynydd councillors expressed a desire to site a new nuclear station at the old Trawsfynydd site. Even Plaid Cymru's arch pro-nuclear advocate

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas admitted that was an unlikely scenario. Oh and then, infrastructure

consultants Grontmij suggested that a new third bridge across the Menai Strait would be needed to transport equipment and supply the Wylfa B site – the ridiculous aspects of timing and funding notwithstanding. All the politicians liked that one, but even Albert Owen MP, the fixer-in-chief for Wylfa B, said money might be a bit short these days. Perhaps they have been listening to us, though, when we have said that an island with only 2 bridges could not hope to be evacuated in a Fukushima situation.

Finally a cheerful note, PAWB members went down to Somerset to support the Hinkley Point campaign in the hot sunshine. An excellent Wales Green and Nuclear Free Conference (Cymru Werdd Ddi-Niwclear) organised by PAWB and CADNO, supported by CND Cymru, Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, Friends of the Earth, Urgewald, Cynefin y Werin and Greenpeace was held in October at y Galeri, Caernarfon.

Phil Steele

*PAWB: Pobl Atal Wylfa B / People Against Wylfa B

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Stay in the loop, keep active, let your MP/AM/Councillors know how you feel about nuclear power. For more information and useful material see www.stop-wylfa.org or contact Phil Steele t: 01248 490 715 e: phil_steele@btinternet.com



ON SEEING SIZEWELL B

(i.m. Hilda Murrell, peace campaigner)

Northwards the white dome
a growth on the horizon

she lay, an English rose,
her stem broken,
grey petals flung

all too clean, too perfect-looking,
an alien ship landed

out-of-place amongst hedgerows,
the sap bled out,
each thorn snagged

beyond a town built for retired colonists
the coastline is blocked
by a helmet resistance

the drag-marks across soil,
frayed fronds of her clothing

columns in Roman formations :
for every atom a split skullbone

papers stolen from her car,
meticulous leaves she'd nurtured

all along the shoreline,
what is more is what's unseen.

Mike Jenkins

(from 'Walking on Waste'
Gwasg Carreg Gwalch 2007
ISBN: 9781845271473)

In March 1984, 78-year-old Hilda Murrell was found dead near her Shrewsbury home on the eve of presenting a critical paper exposing risks at the proposed Sizewell B nuclear power plant.

Ms Murrell was a Cambridge-educated botanical diarist, expert rose grower and anti-nuclear campaigner who – after the 1979 Three Mile Island reactor core meltdown in the United States – called radioactive waste management the nuclear industry's 'Achilles heel'.

A new book 'A Thorn In Their Side: The Hilda Murrell Murder' (ISBN: 978-0-473-19685-1) has just been published in New Zealand by former British Navy Commander Robert Green (Hilda's nephew). Available from www.hildamurrell.org

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Thumbs up for Zero Nuclear Weapons (Thumbs down for the 'Countdown')

Although the much heralded US film 'Countdown to Zero' received 5 star reviews from some commentators, many of the audience chatting at the CND Cymru stall in Aberystwyth

Arts Centre after the performance, were less than enamoured.

Using Kennedy's three potential triggers of disaster (accident, miscalculation or madness) the film spelled out how such disasters could come about. Jimmy Carter and Mikhail Gorbachev were interviewed to make their case. The film made a case that the rest of the world should certainly disarm as yes, it is we who are less responsible and more prone to these triggers (after all, we are all 'foreigners'). No mention was made that

nuclear weapons are in themselves weapons of terror, and those who insist on deploying – and upgrading such weapons are therefore 'terrorists'.

To be fair, the film did at least let us know that it is not only 'terrorists' or 'rogue states' who pose a threat. Those pesky Russians, came close to starting nuclear war in 1995 as they mistook a Norwegian weather rocket for a US nuclear attack. Fortunately, with just minutes to spare, Soviet president Boris Yeltsin went against the rule-book and dismissed his generals' demands for all-out retaliation.

Next time, we may not be so lucky. The film ended with a panel discussion starring Queen Noor, Margaret Beckett, ex-CIA operative Valerie Plame Wilson and Oscar-winning producer Lawrence Bender. Aberystwyth film goer Alun Turner wrote to

CND Cymru: 'I felt the film to be a sort of Astroturf production. The message from the USA to the rest of the world: 'get rid of all your nukes and we will reduce ours to 4,000. Also, a denial of connection with the nuclear generating industry. As for the panel? All well cemented into the status quo. All in all, a s*** film.'

Perhaps the most interesting quotation from the film came from President Ahmadinejad of Iran who asked: 'If nuclear weapons are a good thing, then we, like everyone deserve to have them. If however they are a bad thing, why does anyone have them?'

Some felt disappointed that CND had promoted the film. While we need to have the debate about nuclear weapons – such films not only fail to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament, they can actually damage it by offering such a false perspective.

Elenydd



A Trident Base at Milford Haven?

A recently published Royal United Services Institute report 'The Security Implications of Scottish Independence' [1] discusses the British nuclear arsenal – currently based at Faslane and Coulport in Western Scotland. It is admitted that Scottish Government decisions will play an immense role in Britain's future nuclear policy.

The Scottish National Party have been emphatic in their opposition to nuclear weapons being based in Scotland and would seek to remove them following independence. The SNP manifesto states: 'Our opposition to the Trident nuclear missile system and its planned replacement remains firm- there is no place for these weapons in Scotland'. [2]

This in itself will present a challenge to the Westminster Government. Disarmament of Scotland could be tantamount to disarmament by Britain if Trident could not be relocated. Faslane Nuclear Base is a deep water estuary with quick access to the Atlantic Ocean giving it a special key strategic importance. There is no available naval base where Trident, or its replacement could be relocated.

The Report continues in naming Devonport and, most significantly for us here in Wales, *Milford Haven* as the only possible sites for any new nuclear base. Apparently, the space available to accommodate the submarine fleet and its support network is limited at

Devonport. Moving the nuclear base to Milford Haven, is judged as potentially politically sensitive and a move to Wales would make it difficult to maintain popular support in the aftermath of Scottish Independence.

A suggested solution offered is a redesign of the British nuclear warheads from submarine fleets towards air attack. This would not only be expensive but 'may cause the UK a number of difficulties with its obligations to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as this would essentially constitute a new nuclear arsenal rather than a renewal of existing supplies'.

[1] **Mark Lynch** *The Security Implications of Scottish Independence* www.rusi.org/analysis/commentary/ref:C4DF0A2F39DAA2/ 'The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) is an independent think tank engaged in cutting edge defence and security research.'

[2] **SNP Party Manifesto** *A Scottish Government Working for Scotland*, (Edinburgh, 2011) www.manifesto.votesnp.com

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Carrying Greenham Home

How proud I was to join the start of the march from Cardiff to Greenham common, 30 years ago. To be truthful, I didn't really want to go on the march- I was up to my neck in the Steel Strike, but was bullied by the brilliant peace women from Cardiff and Newport, Sue Lent and Mary Crofton.

Sue herself marched with her year old son Christopher, all the way to Newbury. There, the women demanded to talk with the Base Commander and chained themselves to the main gate, and the peace camp was born. There they remained, a presence at the US Nuclear Cruise missile base to monitor its deadly weapons and tell the world of the dangers lurking behind its wire fence.

They marched in protest at the threat to our planet posed by nuclear weapons, and against the Tory government and the Defence Secretary, Michael Heseltine, who took the beautiful common land from the people.

Remembering, dancing and singing

The 30th anniversary celebration on September 3rd closed a chapter in this dramatic story. Jean Hutchinson outlined the legal battles fought in the courts. There was a screening of 'Carry Greenham Home', filmed over some



weeks in 1982, which revealed how the camp transformed the lives of the women who lived there. We danced around the peace garden dedicated to Helen Thomas - a young woman from Newcastle Emlyn, who was killed in a road accident at Greenham; and heard songs of peace from Côr Cochion.

Embracing success

It was a remarkable achievement to have maintained a continuous presence at the camp for 19 years. Thousands of women suffered hardship, imprisonment, bitter weather, evictions, and violent reactions from the police, MOD and the national press. The day when the last Cruise missile left the base was a vindication of all their sacrifices. The women then fought to reclaim the common land, and won a groundbreaking victory when the judge ordered the MOD to remove the fences and return the land to the people.

Can't kill the spirit

Greenham Common shone as a beacon for the rest of the world, and women came from every corner of the globe to join the camp and the campaign to make a safer world for their children. Many more thousands of women were proud supporters of the peace camp and were often politicised by learning of the actions and court cases surrounding the military base. As a result of their efforts, Greenham Common today is an oasis, with wild horses, rare wildflowers and butterflies.

Women from Cardiff and Wales launched this historic campaign, and were back at Greenham leading the dancing and singing, proud of their achievement for world peace.

Ray Davies

Olwen Davies

Sad news reached us in early November (as we go to press) that Olwen had died peacefully in Bronglais Hospital Aberystwyth. Many will have known Olwen locally through Aberystwyth CND and the Aberystwyth Peace Network, as a stalwart of CND Cymru (Vice Chair for 20 years) and a representative for Cymru on British CND Council (and on the International Advisory Group) as well as her work for the Chernobyl Children's Project. I have been privileged to call Olwen a comrade and fellow campaigner over many of these years.

Olwen was a determined woman who was always truly alive. Her family came from Blaenpennal in Ceredigion. Although Welsh in her heart and her language, she spent her early years in the Old Kent Road, London where her family were part of the London-Welsh dairies. Olwen said that her mother had told her that she was always singing, even as a baby. Later she returned to Wales - I believe in 1939 - and went to school in Tregaron, and being a musical young lady was encouraged to go to College and take

up singing as a profession. For several years she lived abroad, working for a while as a translator (and singing) for the UN in Rome. When her mother became infirm in the 1980s Olwen returned again to Wales and cared so gently and tirelessly for Mary. She also taught singing in Aberystwyth University. She was well known around the town for her individual style of dressing (she made her own clothes) and her CND headgear and jewellery.

Olwen's campaigning heart for peace and justice - and a nuclear free world - are notorious. I personally recall leafleting in the town with her in 1986 raising awareness of the approaching Nuclear Free Wales Festival in Aberystwyth Arts Centre. She was dressed as Margaret Thatcher - and I as a parrot. (That was Olwen's idea). Around 2,000 people attended the festival that year - there was also a contribution for the newly declared 'Nuclear Free Aotearoa' I remember. Of course there was music at the conference - Olwen made certain of that. Olwen visited the Soviet Union with the peace delegation and represented us at European Nuclear Disarmament

conferences. Whenever on a demonstration, at a conference or a meeting, Olwen would urge us to sing. She would confidently conjure up a protest song and we, at first slightly embarrassed but eventually by the end of the verse, confident and strengthened by the music, would join in. I have sung (as a protestor) alongside Olwen at events at Aldermaston, Molesworth and Greenham and on the streets of London, Carmarthen, Aberystwyth, Brawdy, Cardiff and at Trawsfynydd.

Writing of Olwen, more is always omitted than can be included! When I told Olwen's friend Bruce Kent that she was no longer with us he wrote: 'an indomitable woman.... She will go on singing somewhere.'

Jill Gough

Olwen wished her 'funeral' to be quiet and wanted instead for there to be an 'Olwen Party' - in Aberystwyth Museum (time and date to be confirmed). There will, of course, be music. If you wish to be informed of the details please contact Jill Gough (contact details p. 2).

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 23 November, 18:30 - 21:30
CARDIFF, Julian Hodge Lecture Theatre,
 Cardiff University, CF10 3EU
Public meeting, 'Do We Really Want to Succeed in Afghanistan?'

The Welsh Centre for International Affairs presents a lecture by Baron Robertson of Port Ellen. Older readers may remember him as plain old George Robertson, the Labour MP and former Defence Secretary who went on to become NATO Secretary General. For a brief update of what he has been up to recently check him on Wikipedia: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Robertson, [Baron Robertson of Port Ellen](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baron_Robertson_of_Port_Ellen)

Event details:
 t: 029 2022 8549
 e: naomiblight@wcia.org.uk
 w: www.wcia.org.uk
 f: www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=141146702652126

Friday, 25 November, 7pm
BEAUMARIS Iorwerth Rowlands Centre, Church of St Mary & St Nicholas.
Talk by Rev. John Butler on his recent visit to Palestine.
 w: www.bangorpeace.co.uk/
 f: www.facebook.com/groups/30618466713/

Saturday 26 November, 10:30 - 13:30
WREXHAM, Town centre - main shopping street
Public leafletting session, North Wales against the Cuts/ Gogledd Cymru yn erbyn Toriadau
 Last big push for November 30th anti cuts march and rally
 f: www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=271079542933509
 f: www.facebook.com/groups/117965788249817/

Monday, 28 November, 7pm, BANGOR
 Friends Meeting House, Dean Street
Illustrated talk by Nick Jewitt on aspects of his visit to Uganda and Kenya and wider issues concerning East Africa and the Great Lakes region.

Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group.
 w: www.bangorpeace.co.uk/
 f: www.facebook.com/groups/30618466713/

Wednesday 30 November, 11:30 - 15:00
WREXHAM, Queens Square, LL13
Anti Cuts March and Rally, North Wales against the Cuts/ Gogledd Cymru yn erbyn Toriadau
 Gather noon in Queens Square for march around town centre - finishing at Miners statue, Lord Street. Then to Grove Park Little Theatre, Hill Street for meeting with invited speakers. Theatre seats 170 with full disabled access room for only a maximum of 2 wheelchairs (which will reduce seating to 168).
 f: www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=281820201858068
 f: www.facebook.com/groups/117965788249817/

Wednesday 30 November 12pm
CARDIFF
TUC Day of Action
 Assemble Cardiff City Hall CF10 3AT, for march Rally 1pm at SWALEC Stadium, Sophia Gardens, CF11 9XR. CND Cymru's message: 'Cut Trident not Jobs or Pensions'
 e: cardiffagainsthcuts@groups.facebook.com
 f: [http://www.facebook.com/groups/cardiffagainsthcuts/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cardiffagainsthcuts/)

Saturday 3 December, 14.00
LLANDUDNO, St John's Methodist Church Hall, Mostyn Street,
Silent Screams - The Impact of Drone Testing in Wales.

Film and talks by Dave Webb, English CND Chair and Jill Gough, CND Cymru. Admission free. Organised by Conwy County Peace Group
 Details from Chris Jones :
 e: chris_joney@hotmail.com

Tuesday 6 December, 19.00
LLANFOIST, Village Hall (half a mile from Abergavenny).
Public Meeting: Palestine and the UN
 Palestinian Ambassador, Prof Manuel Hassassian is visiting Wales and speaking about 'Palestine and the UN', bearing in mind that an application for recognition of Palestine nationhood - fiercely contested by Israel and the USA - is before the UN at this very moment.

9 - 11 December
ALDERMASTON. Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp.
 Details: 07969 739 812
 e: info-AT-aldermaston.net
 w: <http://www.aldermaston.net/>

10 December
WORLDWIDE. Human Rights Day.
 The Day marks the anniversary of the Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
 w: <http://www.un.org/events/ref43.htm>

Monday 12 December
Deadline for comments to National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee Consultation re: Academi Heddwch Cymru/Wales Peace Institute.
 See enclosed letter;
 w: www.cndcymru.org
 w: www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=918
 or contact CND Cymru for more information.

14 December
AWE ALDERMASTON. Advent Vigils
 1-2pm, All Faiths and none, bring candles, tell your friends. Contact Caroline Gilbert for lifts, leaflets whatever, 01865 241 290
 e: maasgilbert@hotmail.com
 Christian CND Christians@cnduk.org 020 7700 4200. Any groups interested in taking on a day in Advent, contact: Chris Gidden:
 e: ccnd@chg.me.uk t: 02076091093.

21 December
ALDERMASTON AWE.
 Advent Vigils at 1-2pm, See above for details

28 December EVERYWHERE
Holy Innocents' Day

Yes - Do it!

Write to Defence Minister Nick Harvey:
 Ask him to ensure that the Trident Alternatives Review he is leading will consider non-replacement of Trident and alternatives to maintaining a nuclear weapons system.

Nick Harvey MP, Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB or
 w: www.cnd.iparl.com/lobby/57

A Dip into the Campaign Toolbox! A selection of websites:

www.cndcymru.org
 Stop Hinkley www.stophinkley.org
 Stop New Nuclear www.stopnewnuclear.org.uk
 Greenpeace www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/nuclear
 No 2 Nuclear: www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk
 Stop Wylfa (PAWB): www.stop-wylfa.org/wp/

Facebook:
 CND Cymru: www.facebook.com/pages/CND-Cymru/110205519001766
 Stop Wylfa: www.facebook.com/groups/7724438639/
 Stop Hinkley: www.facebook.com/StopHinkley
 No to New Nuclear at Oldbury: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47663782453
 Bangor Peace & Justice Group: www.facebook.com/groups/30618466713/?notif_t=group_activity
 Fellowship of Reconciliation:
www.facebook.com/pages/Cymdeithas-y-Cymod-yng-Nghymru-Fellowship-of-Reconciliation-in-Wales/22533679486
 Conwy County Peace Group: www.facebook.com/groups/151752801515544/295803070443849/?notif_t=group_activity

CND Llandrindod t: 01597 829 789 e: vishenton@hotmail.co.uk

CND Swansea e: t: 01792 830 330 e: swanseacond@btinternet.com

CND Bridgend t: 01656 648 817 e: petethommo@gn.apc.org

also see contact details on page 2 and 'heddwch action' on relevant pages.