



Bangor school kids led large and lively climate strikes in September and November 2019

PLANET IMPACT 2020

Welcome to the Anthropocene...

After the last Ice Age came the Holocene, and after that came a newly named epoch – one in which human impact came to define our planet. The Anthropocene is marked by industrialisation, deforestation, mass extinctions, rising sea levels, pollution and climate change.

It can also be characterised by nuclear testing, nuclear weapons, nuclear waste and perpetual warfare.

In 2020 we all have a job to do...

NUCLEAR BUTTONS, BALLOTS AND BREXIT

The General Election campaign of 2019 seemed out of the ordinary in many ways. It was marked by tactical voting over Brexit, by electoral pacts, by media smears and bias and by the Right's depressing reluctance to participate in public hustings. The Tory landslide was based on mendacity and obfuscation. Where did the parties stand on nuclear related issues? Philip Steele offers a personal assessment.

• Trident renewal

One of the strangest credentials for becoming Prime Minister these days is declaring proudly the fact that you are prepared to incinerate hundreds of thousands of civilians at the push of a nuclear button.

The Greens, Plaid Cymru and SNP were not button pushers, but predictably the Brexit Party and the Tories were, as was the ill-fated Lib-Dem UK leader Jo Swinson.

The radical and progressive Labour manifesto was sadly pro-Trident (no doubt as a result of GMB pressure), and this policy was strongly defended by Welsh Labour candidate Mary Roberts at the Ynys Môn hustings. Her Plaid Cymru opponent Aled ap Dafydd declared his personal support for the UN global ban treaty, and this was also a policy commitment of the Green Party.

• War powers

Labour and the Lib-Dems proposed that any moves to war should require parliamentary approval, and Plaid Cymru extended the need for approval to the devolved governments. Plaid Cymru and the Greens remain opposed to NATO.

• Civil nuclear

The Greens were the clearest party in opposing nuclear power. Fair play to the Welsh Lib Dems' Jane Dodds too for a ringing repudiation of nuclear power, but come election day she lost her Brecon and Radnorshire seat. Labour remained staunchly pro-nuclear and pro-Wylfa, as did the Tories and the Brexit Party. Whilst Plaid played down Wylfa as an issue, it retained the policy of opposing nuclear only at 'new sites', a rather specious argument not applied to Wylfa Newydd. Plaid's Liz Saville Roberts made it clear that SMRs were still on the cards at Trawsfynydd, for example. Tories and Brexit Party? Pro-nuclear of course.

• Friday 13th

The election result in Wales left not just nuclear disarmers in a depressed state. The relentless rise of the right worldwide makes the world a more dangerous place. It threatens human rights and social justice. Foreign affairs received minimal coverage at the election, although the climate crisis had become (literally) a more burning issue with the electorate. As ever, activists must dust themselves down and work across parties, within parties and internationally, to push for change.

Trident renewal, the global ban treaty and Wylfa provoked lively discussion at a Menai Bridge general election hustings.

Brexit and Tory candidates declined to participate, but it was Virginia Crosbie, a pro-Wylfa Tory parachuted in from Kensington and Chelsea, who won the seat from Labour.



WORLD NUKE BAN GETS CLOSER!

Global security is being shaken by dangerous tremors – and a new arms race has already begun. Never has a global ban on nuclear weapons been more urgent.

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was opened for member states to sign and ratify in September 2017. There are currently 35 states which have signed and ratified the treaty, with 47 states having signed the treaty and in the process of ratifying; a further 51 states voted to establish the treaty but haven't signed it as yet. The treaty will enter into force after the 50th ratification – hopefully before the end of 2020.

The states that ratified the treaty since the last issue of *Heddwch* are Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Dominica, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Laos, the Maldives, Paraguay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, these states have signed the treaty since the last edition of *Heddwch*: Botswana, Grenada, Lesotho, Nauru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Tanzania and Zambia.

Brian Jones

THE MIDDLE EAST, NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DISARMAMENT

*Professor Sergey Radchenko, Cardiff University
Delyth Jewell AM*

PUBLIC MEETING CND Cymru and UNA Cardiff

Thursday 30 January 2020, 7.30pm
Temple of Peace, King Edward VII Avenue,
Cardiff CF10 3AP

ALL WELCOME • ADMISSION FREE

ICAN COMES TO ABER

About 100 people came to Aberystwyth University on 31 October 2019 to hear Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, speak about the global Prohibition Treaty.

Sounding a warning

Beatrice's talk and the question-and-answer session that followed were inspiring, but also troubling: she explained how women and children are more susceptible to radiation than men, and warned that a nuclear war between India and Pakistan would result in so much airborne dust and debris that global temperatures could fall by up to 10° C, resulting in the collapse of the global food system.

Time to disinvest

More hopefully, Beatrice reported that the Dutch and Norwegian state pension funds – two of the largest five pension funds in the world – have disinvested from British Aerospace, because of BA's involvement in the Trident replacement programme; international financial institutions are deserting nuclear weapons, even though those countries' governments have not signed the treaty. She also told us that whilst the USA has not signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the last US company that was producing cluster bombs, Textron, has stopped producing them because the US military has stopped buying – meaning that in effect the USA has given up plans for using cluster bombs.



Prof Ken Booth, Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth, and Beatrice Fihn, ICAN's Swedish Executive Director.

Brian Jones

THE MILITARISATION OF SPACE

Dave Webb discusses the wider, military perspectives which are transforming the UK's fledgling space industry.

On 18 July 2019, Penny Mordaunt, then Defence Secretary, outlined a new £30 million space programme for the Ministry of Defence, involving the development of small satellites. The work will be supported by Artemis, a new transatlantic team involving UK and US defence personnel working closely together.

The UK space programme might be new, but there is nothing new about the intention.

The UK designated space a 'Critical National Infrastructure' in 2015 and the UK and US have worked closely together on a range of military and intelligence programmes for years.

The UK also specialises in miniature satellites through Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), founded in 1985.

In 2005 Elon Musk's SpaceX company bought a 10 percent share. In 2008 the EADS Astrium group purchased another 80 percent. SSTL has captured 40 percent of the global small satellite market and the MoD has paid them over £4 million to develop Carbonite 2, a small, low-orbit satellite launched in 2018 to provide high-resolution reconnaissance for intelligence gathering.

Small satellite systems are cheap to launch and difficult to detect, making them useful for covert operations such as the monitoring, assessment and even sabotage of other space objects; the US already suspects Russia of using them for "unusual activities" in space. Artemis will probably be launched from a dedicated small-satellite launcher at the new Cornwall Space Hub at Newquay airport, or maybe the one being developed at Sutherland in Scotland.

The UK will be the first partner

to join Operation Olympic Defender, a US-led international coalition aimed at deterring "hostile actions by rivals." Mordaunt announced that "today we show the sky is no longer the limit for our Armed Forces" and that Joint Forces Command will become Strategic Command and will coordinate the war-fighting domains: Air, Land, Sea, Cyber and Space. This echoes Trump's Space Command, activated in 2019 as a precursor to his Space Force. US Space Command was first created in 1985 to coordinate the use of space by the USAF and in 2002 it became part of US Strategic Command.

In just a few decades outer space has become of the utmost importance for global commercial, political and military interests. The military now depend heavily on satellites for communication, navigation, surveillance, reconnaissance and the command, control and targeting of missiles and drone operations.

Other nations are also openly recognising the importance of space.

Shortly after Donald Trump announced the creation of the US Space Force with an estimated \$4.7 billion start-up, President Macron proclaimed that France had allocated 3.6 billion euros to its own military space force to take warfare into space.



The 'Final Frontier': an inspiration for young people or the ultimate battleground? In September 2019 the UK Space Agency met in Newport, Gwent. A development grant of £500,000 was earmarked towards the development of Llanbedr, Gwynedd, as a spaceport.

◀ Mordant talked of facing up to “evolving threats” by working more closely with “international allies through Five Eyes, NATO and now Operation Olympic Defender.” ‘Five eyes’ refers to the intelligence services of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US. Shortly after World War II, the UK and US signed up to an intelligence sharing agreement called UKUSA, described by Edward Snowden as a “supra-national intelligence organisation that does not answer to the known laws of its own countries”. Originally established to share intelligence on the Soviet Union, information gathering has since grown exponentially through ‘Communications Intelligence’- the monitoring of international communications by intercepting electronic communications via satellites and tapping into fibre optic cables.

One major collection centre is the NSA Spy Base at Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire. The alliance has also grown to at least 35 and also uses 88 locations in US embassies and consulates to eavesdrop on foreign diplomats, communications and government installations.

All this, plus Trump’s plans to weaponise space, and the decision by the NATO Summit in London to develop a policy for warfare in space, represent a huge threat to international security. They also threaten the 1967 Outer Space Treaty (OST) which declares that outer space should be “the province of all mankind” and space activities should be carried out “for the benefit and in the interests of all countries”.

Many of the 132 signatory states are now deploying military satellites and 4 of them (the USA, Russia, China and India) have also developed and tested anti-satellite weapons. If a vital satellite should malfunction at a time of international tension and another nation is blamed – it could result in a nuclear exchange.. Every year a resolution calling for “International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space” is adopted at the UN General Assembly. Russia

and China also introduce an annual resolution on a treaty for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, to prevent any nation from gaining a military advantage. The resolution is overwhelmingly adopted – except by the US who vote against, and Israel, who abstains.

The US says the treaty is not needed as there are no space weapons, but others are suspicious and frustrated that no progress can be made until the most powerful country in space agrees. It may therefore be up to us.

An active international network – the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space – connects activists and campaign groups around the world. They coordinate an annual ‘Keep Space for Peace Week’ to highlight the need to demilitarise thinking about outer space.

heddwch>action:

In October 2019 40 Keep Space for Peace events were held in 10 countries... please join in! See www.space4peace.org.

This article is taken from a longer paper to be printed in “*Transform – A Journal of the Radical Left*” in January 2020.

Dave Webb is Professor Emeritus of Peace and Conflict Studies at Leeds Beckett University and Convener of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. He is Chair of CND-UK and a Vice-President of the International Peace Bureau.



Keep Space for Peace: protesters in Canada, October 2019

What has climate action to do with the peace movement? Everything! From oil wars to the trillions of dollars wasted on armaments and WMDs, disarmament and peace are essential prerequisites for a sustainable planet.

EXTINCTION REBELLION-HEDDWCH

Extinction Rebellion ('X-R') is a worldwide environmental movement founded in 2018. It calls for non-violent direct action to impress on governments the urgent need for action on climate change. One of its leading activists is the veteran Trident Ploughshares campaigner Angie Zelter, from Knighton, Powys.

In July 2019 Angie was asked about creating XR-Peace as a peace bloc for XR's planned October Rebellion. This proposal was soon endorsed by 11 peace groups including CND-UK, CND Cymru, Pax Christi, the Movement Against War (MAW),

Women in Black (WIB), Quaker Peace and Service (QPS), Trident Ploughshares (TP), Stop the War, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and War Resisters International.

"There can be no real justice while the Government continues to breach the law by threatening mass destruction and mass murder by deploying nuclear weapons and when the Attorney General refuses us permission to bring a public interest case against Trident"

Angie Zelter

REPORT FROM THE FRONT LINE

On 7 October 2019 about 75 of us set up outside the Ministry of Defence (MoD) buildings at 6 am, with 2 people locked onto a car, 3 people locked onto a mock Trident missile, with banners at both ends of the blockade.

It took the police around 6 hours to clear the site, with 23 arrests. Among the protesters were individuals and affinity groups from Wales, Cornwall, Yorkshire, London, and Scotland. The early start meant that the actions featured prominently in national media coverage of the start of the rebellion.

Protests continued throughout the two-week long rebellion, with more arrests outside the MoD, and at blockades at the HQ of British Aerospace, making the links between UK arms sales to Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the climate and ecological emergency, and at Leonardo UK's HQ to protest about the company's provision of guidance systems

for missiles used in Yemen and Syria.

Over the 2 weeks of rebellion XR Peace totalled 57 arrests for public nuisance, highway obstruction, aggravated trespass, criminal damage, and breaches of Section 14 orders (which have since been ruled as illegal by the High Court).

Angie Zelter



Lotte Reimer

Aberystwyth youth climate strike, September 2020.

WHAT DO WE WANT?

"Now is the time to work together, globally, to create a resilient and caring society that will:

1 Speak the truth about the climate and ecological emergency, emphasising 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;

3 Insist that the Government and all political leaders create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice;

4 Demand that the government work to reduce international tensions, avoid war as a method of resolving conflict, eliminate nuclear weapons, dramatically reduce military spending and redirect resources currently in the MOD budget to address the climate and ecological emergency that now faces all peoples of the earth."

heddwch>action:

CND Cymru would like to set up an XR-Peace Affinity Group to take part in future actions.

We need both people willing to risk arrest, and non-arrestable people to provide legal, physical and emotional support, take photos, etc. Training will be provided. Please contact heddwch@cndcymru.org if you are interested.

More information: <https://xrpeace.org/>

PLOGOFF REMEMBERED

France has 58 nuclear reactors, but none of them are sited at Plogoff (Plogouñ), in Brittany. That is because of a famous confrontation between local anti-nuclear activists and armed police and even paratroopers. This epic campaign took place between 1976 and 1981, when the project was finally cancelled. Linda Rogers of PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) was invited to an annual commemoration.

In August 2019 I was honoured to take part in the memorial events for the successful struggle in Plogoff, Brittany, against the building there of a new nuclear power station. The events were organised by Chantal Cuisnier of Réseau Sortir du Nucléaire Cornouaille (Kernev) and Gilles Simon of the Plogoff Memory of a Struggle Association.

I was invited there with my friend Michiko Yoshii, a professor at the University of Okinawa in Japan who had supported PAWB in Wales in 2018. We attended a commemorative picnic, bringing together an international group of supporters, and we walked together over the dunes and heather of the coastline saved from the power station, which was so like the landscape of Ynys Môn.

We watched a film of the running battles with riot police (I was kindly given a copy, to be shared at future events) and it was like watching footage of the 1984 miners' strike. We shared our experiences.

Our hosts promised to come and support us in Wales. There

were of course already so many connections between our peoples: many had visited the Eisteddfod, including members of the Breton Democratic Union, whom I met running a stall for Palestine.

Tregaron is twinned with Plouvien, a local town, and invitations are being prepared for the 2020 National Eisteddfod! "Courage" is the cry raised by the Bretons to us in Wales. The statue built to the battles of Plogoff is a reminder, a boy kneeling, with a slingshot in his hand. "Stones against guns" is the slogan. We can win, is the message.



*'Yma o hyd'...
Still here and campaigning*

THE WORLD NUCLEAR WASTE REPORT

*Why do we continue to produce radioactive waste when we don't know what to do with it? The German politician **Rebecca Harms** is a member of Alliance 90/The Greens, and served as an MEP from 2004-2019. Her latest initiative has confronted governments with many awkward questions about managing nuclear waste.*

In 2018, after working on nuclear waste management in EU member states and some neighbouring countries, and after the failure of the EU Commission to establish in common binding rules necessary for the management of nuclear waste, I proposed to a group of experts from different countries that we work on a report to describe the situation and attempt to compare policies. Because of limited funds and lack of access to necessary data we decided to focus on Europe and the United States in the first volume.

The final disposal of highly radioactive nuclear waste presents governments worldwide with major challenges that have not yet been addressed and entail incalculable technical, logistical and financial risks. This is the conclusion of our first "World Nuclear Waste Report - Focus Europe".

According to the Report, over 60,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel are stored across Europe (excluding Russia and Slovakia) in interim storage facilities. Spent fuel rods are a highly



Rebecca Harms

Heinrich-Böll Stiftung/Wikimedia Commons

radioactive form of waste. To date, no country in the world has a repository for high-level waste from nuclear power in operation. Within the EU, France accounts for 25 percent of the current spent nuclear fuel, followed by Germany (15 percent) and the United Kingdom (14 percent). The risks of interim storage are higher than necessary because 80 percent of spent fuel today is still in wet and not yet in dry storage.

In addition, more than 2.5 million m³ of low- and intermediate-level waste has been generated in Europe (excluding Slovakia and Russia). Over its lifetime, the European nuclear reactor fleet is estimated to produce around 6.6 million m³ of nuclear waste. Four countries are responsible for most of this waste: France (30 percent), the UK (20 percent), the Ukraine (18 percent) and Germany (8 percent).

According to the World Nuclear Waste Report, many governments underestimate the costs of interim and final storage. No country has a consistent financing model to date in places. This poses further financial risk for taxpayers.



Radwaste protesters at the Wylfa site, 2017

PAWB

“The amount of nuclear waste is growing. 70 years after the start of the nuclear age, no country in the world has found a real solution for the radioactive legacies and other risks of nuclear power.”

▶ The biggest challenge is spent nuclear fuel. Although it accounts for only a small proportion of nuclear waste in volume, it is the most difficult part of the problem to solve because of its high and extremely long-lived radioactivity and heat generation.

Increasing amounts of high-level waste have to be interim-stored for ever longer periods of time, as no country in the world has yet commissioned a deep geological repository for such waste. And an apparent problem is that interim storage facilities which have not been designed for such long-term use and storage facilities are already reaching the limits of their capacities. For example, storage capacity for spent fuel in Finland has already reached 93 percent saturation. Sweden’s decentralised storage facility CLAB is at 80 percent of its capacity.

In addition to the safety risks, governments and operators often significantly underestimate the costs of decommissioning, storage and disposal of nuclear waste. In many countries there is a large gap between the occurring costs and the financial resources earmarked for it. The problem would be exacerbated by the fact that final disposal also involves incalculable risks, which could lead to enormous cost increases, as the German government currently experiences with the Asse repository.

Nearly every government claims to apply the polluter-pays-principle, which makes operators liable for the costs of managing, storing, and

disposing of nuclear waste. In reality, however, governments fail to apply the polluter-pays-principle consistently.

We have to assume that it will still take several generations before a first repository can be put into operation that has been searched for and approved to the best available knowledge. With this report we want to contribute to a debate about the real costs of nuclear energy and the literally eternal risks of nuclear waste.

Scientists who contributed are participating in events to present the report. For Brussels, Paris, Washington and Prague debates are already in preparation. We also hope that we will find funds for next volumes of the report to cover difficult issues like retrievability and alternative concepts of longterm storage and to include more country chapters. Since it is definite that the burden of the nuclear waste will be handed to next generations, I hope that we support them at least with the knowledge we have today.



North Wales protesters line the Menai Suspension Bridge. The first volume of the new World Report' focuses on Europe.

Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (as amended)

Trawsfynydd Site
Licensed Site Boundary

NO TO SMRS AT TRAWSFYNYDD OR WYLF A

A Small Modular Reactor (SMR) ranges in size from 10-300 megawatts. A single unit has been proposed for the community of Trawsfynydd. But the arguments for the SMR are flawed and misleading:

- An “assembly line” SMR factory would require the production of many hundreds of units to become economical, a huge upfront investment that has attracted no buyers.
- Nuclear power is no longer cost-competitive, but it would still be cheaper to build one 1,000 megawatt reactor than hundreds of SMRs.
- Renewable energy is cheaper still, injecting far more jobs into the economy across the project’s entire supply chain.
- The SMR would be manufactured at a faraway “factory” and only potentially “assembled” on site, drastically reducing local job opportunities.
- SMRs still produce radioactive waste deadly for tens of thousands of years and with no place to go. Trawsfynydd would become a de facto nuclear waste dump site.
- All fission reactors, including the SMR, release radioactive contamination into the surrounding air, water and soil, harming human health.
- Despite 60 years of research, the safety flaws of SMRs have not been solved, leaving them vulnerable to serious accidents. A hosting community would take all of the risk while reaping only minimal and short-term employment benefits.
- To bring down costs, SMR proponents want existing safety standards weakened, and no emergency planning zone, leaving local government authorities unprepared in the event of an accident.

Linda Pentz Gunter, Beyond Nuclear

EDF'S MANY HEADACHES

EDF still haven't applied for a new licence to dredge sediment from the Hinkley Point C site and then dump it in Cardiff Bay... but that could be because of the other problems it faces.

An official French government report rapped EDF on the knuckles for lacking a “culture of quality,” as reflected in huge delays and price overruns at a nuclear plant it has been building for more than a decade.

French lessons

EDF began work on the Flamanville European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) in 2007, with a planned launch date of 2012. It has now been delayed to 2022, and costs have more than tripled to 12.4 billion euros.

In September 2019, EDF announced that Hinkley Point C reactor would also be delayed, and cost between £1.9 and 2.9 billion (US \$2.4-3.7 billion) more than initially estimated. France relies on nuclear power for 72 percent of its electricity needs. The French government wants to reduce this to 50 percent, closing 14 reactors and developing more renewable energy by 2035.

Late Finnish

A similar EPR third generation nuclear power plant project in Olkiluoto in Finland is now 10 years behind the initial target date. EdF’s Chinese EPRs, Taishan 1 and 2, which were meant to start generating in 2013, have started commercial generation in December 2018 and September 2019 respectively.

Brian Jones, Vice Chair, CND Cymru



Hinkley mud protestors in Cardiff, 2018

WYLFA NEWYDD: CONSENT DEFERRED

Back in January 2019, Hitachi announced that they were halting any work or expenditure by Horizon in further developing their application for building two huge new ABWR reactors at Wylfa.

In any case, Horizon had already presented the full planning application to the Inspectorate in Autumn 2018. The inspection process continued until the middle of March 2019, and the Inspectorate presented their report to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in July 2019. Andrea Ledsom had three months to respond.

To everyone's surprise on October 24 she announced that she need fuller answers before she could approve the application. Therefore Horizon, Natural Resources Wales and Ynys Môn County Council have to respond by the end of 2019 to 13 pages of questions. Her (or a successor's) intention is to announce a final decision before the end of March 2020.

Although PAWB presented many arguments about nuclear technology itself and about the linguistic and social impact of building these reactors on communities in Anglesey and Gwynedd, no attention was paid to these issues by the Planning Inspector. The application can always be resubmitted for approval, but only with increased costs and workload for Horizon.

Also during Autumn 2019 the Westminster government set up a public consultation on the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) financing model, with a view to using it to help pay for the construction of new nuclear reactors.

As taxpayers we would be expected to pay upfront for these monsters, ourselves taking on liability for all the financial risks and the safety of dubious nuclear technology, whilst enabling greedy capitalist companies to make money at our expense.

We expect to hear more about the results of this consultation in the New Year, 2020. The nuclear industry is prepared to go to any lengths to secure its survival, so we must watch every move they make and keep telling the obvious truth – that this is a dirty and dangerous industry, harmful to human health and the environment, and eye-wateringly expensive.

It is difficult to know at the moment whether the Tory victory on Ynys Môn will be enough to attract investors to such an extortionately expensive project. We can expect enthusiasm for the nuclear cause from Virginia Crosbie, the ex-chair of Kensington Tories, and we will have to present our case to her, namely that she is supporting a dirty and dangerous technology which threatens human and environmental health.

Dylan Morgan, People Against Wylfa B



Tenacity! The PAWB campaign against Wylfa B has now lasted 32 years!

AROUND WALES



OFÔNIFYNWWY

GENERAL ELECTION 2019 WALES:

Lib Dems, Greens and Plaid Cymru were part of a Remain electoral pact.

Labour [-6] 22 40.9%

Aberavon, Alyn & Deeside, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff Central, Cardiff North, Cardiff South & Penarth, Cardiff West, Cynon Valley, Gower, Islwyn, Llanelli, Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney, Neath, Newport East, Newport West, Ogmore, Pontypridd, Rhondda, Swansea East, Swansea West, Torfaen

Conservatives [+7] 14 36.1%

Aberconwy, Brecon & Radnorshire, Bridgend, Camarthen West & South Pembrokeshire, Clwyd South, Clwyd West, Delyn, Monmouth, Montgomeryshire, Preseli Pembrokeshire, Vale of Clwyd, Vale of Glamorgan, Wrexham, Ynys Môn

Plaid Cymru [N/C] 4 9.9%

Arfon, Camarthen East & Dinefwr, Ceredigion, Dwyfor Meirionnydd

Lib Dems [-1] 0 6.0%

Brexit [new party] 0 5.4%

Green [N/C] 0 1.0%

• Big reach on Wales media

At the end of November Facebook monitoring showed that in one week the CND Cymru page reached 37.8K people and had 5.4K engagements, reports our social media coordinator, Jill Gough. Support the page yourself! <https://www.facebook.com/cndcymru/>

• Llanrwst to Tregaron

With fine views over forest and mountains, the August 2019 Llanrwst National Eisteddfod site had been relocated to avoid the ever present risk of floods in the Conwy valley. Even so heavy rain still took its toll on the Maes B evening gigs and on finances. Overall, CND Cymru had a very successful week, sharing a tent with Cymdeithas y Cymod (the Fellowship for Reconciliation in Wales). Interesting conversations and networking meetings evolved, with over 40 new members recruited. Five Assembly Members and one Member of Parliament signed the ICAN Parliamentarian Pledge. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped – we always need more, so if you want to help at the 2020 Eisteddfod, please get in touch! The location this year will be in Ceredigion, at Tregaron, a town with a special resonance for Welsh campaigners as the

birthplace of Henry Richard MP (1812-1888), the pioneering campaigner for peace and internationalism.

• End of an era (we hope)

In September 2019 the workforce from Wylfa A, now being decommissioned, turned out to see the last 'flask' of spent fuel leave by road for the railhead at Valley. Campaigners living along the busy North Wales Coast line, which passes through many town and villages, are greatly relieved that after decades the risk from the 'nuclear trains' is now at an end. On 19 December local residents were informed that as defuelling at Wylfa A was now complete, the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations no longer applied. Local residents no longer had the right to receive information about accidents, consequences, countermeasures or emergency plans. PAWB is investigating.



The nuclear railhead at Valley

PAWB

AROUND WALES



OFÔN I FYNWY

• *White poppies 2019*

Bangor City Council laid a white wreath alongside the red at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday 2019, a welcome change in official policy after many years of campaigning. Deputy Mayor Owen Hurcum emphasised that remembrance should include all victims of war, from service personnel to civilians and conscientious objectors, interned at a camp on Bangor's Beach Road during the Second World War.

It was Aberystwyth who established the white poppy principle, and there again this year white wreaths were laid by Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network and other allied groups.

Meanwhile Veterans for Peace member from North Wales Kathy Coutanche attended the Cenotaph remembrance ceremony in London. Her personal account described an emotional and eye-opening experience: "The response from the public was overwhelmingly positive and uplifting. The disrespect we receive from the establishment just strengthens our resolve. Veterans have been treated appallingly by this government and many do not have the opportunity to tell their stories..."

• *Building peace in Bangor*

On 16 November 2019 Bangor Cathedral hosted a networking event for a variety of peace, justice and other social groups, open to those of all faiths or none. Stalls and discussions were held and the event was followed by a vigil. Bangor Street Singers were in fine voice and a children's performance was coordinated by Penny Kemp. One of the most active campaigners in Wales today was there – of course – the irrepressible Donald Saunders, veteran conscientious objector from the Conwy County Peace Group, who was celebrating his 95th birthday that morning. An inspiration to us all.

• *Solidarity from Wales*

While the UK media has been sinking in the all- engulfing quagmire of Brexit, international crises have burgeoned around the globe, from Lebanon to Chile, from Bolivia to Gaza and Hong Kong, from Yemen to Kashmir. Human rights and peace activists across Wales have reacted with protests or with marches of support ... whether for Catalans, Kurds or Palestinians. Donald Trump's unconditional backing for Israel's illegal settlements in Palestine has finally destroyed the myths of the Oslo Accord and the viability of the two-state solution. At the centre of so many of the world's flashpoints are arsenals of nuclear weapons. There will be no peace without justice.

• *Brecon revival*

On 19 October 2019 Brecon hosted a meeting and benefit for CND Cymru at its wonderful community venue, the Muse. In the afternoon there was an inspiring talk by John Gittings on "Peace, Poverty and the Climate Crisis", and in the evening a very enjoyable disco with Neil Bovington (DJ Neilly B) with live songs from his daughter Minnie and local singer-songwriter Bob Evans. Attendance was something of a 'select few', but the session was greatly appreciated by all who came. Most importantly, local links were re-established, and we hope

to revive the Brecknock Peace and Justice Group. Anyone in the area who might be interested please contact Ian Milton either on on Facebook, or by email at ian.milton@mypostoffice.co.uk, or call 07974 861604.



Bob Evans plays at The Muse

Norma Couper 1929-2019

Norma Couper, a tireless campaigner for peace and social justice, died on 21 August aged 89. She was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and grew up in a politically conscious family – her father was a Labour Councillor.

When Norma was 20, she joined Aberdeen's Unity Theatre, a socialist drama company where her future husband Alastair Couper saw her perform. At this time a strong tradition of working class theatre took root and many amateur groups were formed as offshoots of the Workers' Theatre Movement and the Unity Theatre Society. At 21 Norma worked as PA to the Labour Party's Hector McNeil, Secretary of State for Scotland in the government of Clement Attlee.

After marrying in 1958, Norma and Alastair lived in the South Pacific and then Canberra and Auckland. By this time four children had arrived – Callum, Rona, Katrina and Roderick. During this period she worked as a researcher for Alastair, who was becoming a renowned author and activist for the rights of seafarers.

From the late 1950s Norma had taken part in the annual Aldermaston marches. She went on

to become Secretary of CND Scotland.

Norma also became a campaigner for the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

In the early 1980s Norma studied for a degree in Cardiff, going on to teach English to refugees. She campaigned against the Royal Ordnance (nuclear weapons) Factory in Llanishen. This led to local campaign group Women for Life on Earth marching to Greenham Common and setting up the Women's Peace Camp against the siting of cruise missiles. From the 1980s Norma was a member of Côr Cochion Caerdydd – a socialist choir that still performs on the streets of Cardiff. Norma attended many demonstrations against Trident and the Stop the War marches in 2003. Norma is survived by her four children, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Wendy Lewis

Mary Korn 1939-2019

We are saddened to hear of the death of Mary Korn, whilst recuperating from a riding accident she suffered in 2017. Mary was a peace activist in North Wales at the height of the 1980s disarmament campaigns.

Mary was born in Wexford, Ireland, in 1939. Her father was killed in action in Greece in 1943. She became a medical secretary in London in the late 1950s, marrying her husband Tom in 1965. When he was appointed consultant haematologist at Bangor's C&A Hospital (later Ysbyty Gwynedd) in 1975, they moved to Anglesey.

In the 1980s Mary raised funds for Anglesey CND by sponsored cycle rides and holding popular mini-festivals in Penmon, featuring stalls, local bands and kids' activities. She organised CND street stalls and attended marches locally and



Daniel Korn

in London. She visited Greenham Common and was arrested and fined. Mary was a keen internationalist, a host to overseas students and she visited eastern Europe during the Cold War years. Mary moved to Waunfawr in 1997. At her funeral on 2 December, the final music played was Peggy Seeger's 'O How I long for Peace'

Philip Steele



Wendy Lewis

Books

Climate Resistance Handbook: Or I Was part of a Climate Action, now what?

Daniel Hunter, Peace News Publications 2019 ISBN 0978-0-359-67267-7 £3.50 including p&p from Peace News, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DY or downloadable from <https://trainings.350.org/climate-resistance-handbook/> This short (62 page) booklet, written by Daniel Hunter, global training manager of international climate action group 350.org, has a foreword by Greta Thunberg. It is an easy, informative read. Full of examples of campaigning victories and defeats, it aims to help activists plan successful strategies, rather than falling into the trap of organising a series of events. Highly recommended - buy it, read it, and pass it on!

Writings for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence

Daniel Jakopovich, Democratic Thought, Zagreb 2019 ISBN 9 789535 513421 paperback £10.00

Daniel Jakopovich is a Croatian peace campaigner, sociologist and poet. He lives in London. This collection of essays and poems will appeal chiefly to those interested in philosophy and peace studies at an academic level, but it also has useful insights for the wider peace movement, when discussing for example the moral implications of Britain's profligate military spending.

Theatre

LLYFR GLAS NEBO *takes to the stage*

Welsh language with English surtitles

The novel *Llyfr Glas Nebo* ('Blue Book of Nebo') by Manon Steffan Ros was published by y Lolfa in 2018. It won the Prose Medal at the Eisteddfod and went on to sweep the board at the Wales Book of the Year awards in 2019. It was reviewed in *Heddwch* no. 70: a story set in rural North Wales after the destruction of infrastructure by a terminal disaster.

Manon Steffan Ros has now reworked this as a drama, which is currently under production with Cwmni Frân Wen, directed by Elgan Rhys. In February and March it will be touring Wales, visiting Caernarfon, Pwllheli, Cardiff, Brecon, Aberystwyth, Llanerchrugog, Pontypridd, Camarthen, Pontardawe, Felinfach and Bangor.



Krisina Banholzer

A Fukushima-style disaster hits North Wales. Tara Bethan plays Rowenna.

Film

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Directed & written by Álvaro Orús Spain 2019 Pressenza International

CND Cymru has copies of this new hour-long documentary film, which tells the story of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, whilst also briefly outlining the effects of nuclear weapons. We hope to stage the Welsh premiere of this film at the National Assembly in January, after which the film can be shown anywhere in Wales.



Pressenza

heddwch>action: If you would be interested in organising a showing of the film, please contact Brian Jones on heddwch@cndcymru.org or 01792 830330

CND CYMRU

CND Cymru campaigns alongside organisations in Wales and internationally, for peace, environmental and social justice and to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction.

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Please send
any comments,
contributions, or
dates of events to the
editor.

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2020.



BANNERS FROM YESTERDAY

A cache of banners from the 1980s and 90s recently turned up at Greenhouse in Bangor. They are from CND Cymru, Greenpeace, Women Against Militarism and the original PAWB campaign.