



HEDDWCH

Number 70 > Winter 2018-19 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Dai Owen



Truth versus Power

Speak out against the nuclear nightmare.

Speak out against stealth bombers, Trident missiles, nuclear dumps and disasters, selling bombs to tyrants, against a new arms race, against militarism in our schools.

Speak out for human rights, for international law and cooperation, for transparency, accountability, democracy and peace with justice.

Speak out for our children and our children's children.

TRUMP'S BONFIRE OF THE TREATIES

In May 2018 the USA pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal and has now re-imposed sanctions, escalating the danger of war and impeding chances of political reform within Iran. In October Donald Trump signalled his intention to scrap the crucial INF Treaty too.

Brian Jones considers the consequences.

The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty began the wind-down of the Cold War. Negotiated by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, it followed extensive protests against these weapons being stationed at Greenham Common, Molesworth, and other European locations.

Missile cutback

The United States and the Soviet Union agreed to eliminate all their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers. This was the first time the superpowers had agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals, and eliminate an entire category of nuclear weapons, agreeing to extensive on-site inspections for verification. The US destroyed 846 missiles and 32 launch sites, and the USSR destroyed 1,846 missiles and 117 sites, by June 1, 1991.

Hurdles overcome

The treaty was negotiated even though the US claimed that the Soviets were violating the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM). The successful negotiation of the INF Treaty built trust between the two superpowers, moved the Soviet Union into

full compliance with the ABM treaty, and paved the way for the massive reductions of the nuclear weapons of both countries under the first START agreement.

Storm clouds return

In 2007, Russian president Vladimir Putin declared that the treaty no longer served Russia's interests. In 2014, President Obama accused Russia of breaching the INF after it allegedly tested a ground-launched cruise missile. He reportedly chose not to withdraw from the treaty under pressure from European leaders, who said such a move could restart a nuclear arms race.

Cold War II?

The danger is that in withdrawing from the INF treaty, President Trump has fired the starting pistol on Cold War II – only this conflict could be bigger and more dangerous than the last; we may not be so lucky this time. President Trump has already signalled his intention to build up America's nuclear weapons, and without the INF treaty both the USA and Russia will have a free hand to develop and deploy whatever nuclear missiles they like, with no oversight or transparency.

Has Russia violated the INF Treaty?

The fact is we don't know – Russia is also accusing the USA of violating the treaty. We should exhaust all diplomatic options to resolve those questions, rather than re-starting the Cold War nuclear arms race as the first resort. Regardless of whose fault it is or who started violating the treaty, pulling out of the INF treaty is in nobody's interest. We need to rise above petty name-calling when the stakes are this high, and do what is in everyone's interest.

CONT'D ▶



No more warheads! Protestors blockade AWE Burghfield in October 2018 (see p8)

◀CONT'D

Is it really about China?

Is Trump leaving the treaty because it ties the USA's hands with regard to China?

No, that's simply not true. The vice-chair of the

US Joint Chiefs of Staff said the US can already use air- and sea-based missiles to restrain China, and leaving the INF is unnecessary in the US's confrontation with China. And it's worth remembering that the US has over 9,000 nuclear weapons, whereas China has about 500 – the US hardly needs more of them!

The way forward

The UK government and other European leaders must make it clear that the USA remaining within the INF treaty is essential to prevent nuclear weapon escalation. We should be working toward removing all nuclear weapons from European soil and joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – we need to pull up the handbrake on this new nuclear arms race by supporting this treaty.

There can be no winners in a nuclear arms race. Even if we are lucky enough to avoid a nuclear war, we all still lose as resources and ingenuity are directed towards building more nuclear weapons, instead of addressing the very real problems facing the world and its people.



Here's to the future! Cardiff supports a Global Ban. CND at 60 session, September 2018.

GOING FOR THE GLOBAL BAN

Whilst President Trump talks about withdrawing from the INF treaty, more countries have signed up to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

There are now 70 countries which have signed the treaty, more than a third of all the countries in the world – and 19 of them have ratified the treaty. The treaty will need 50 states to ratify it before it comes into force.

- There's an up-to-date list of which countries have signed and/ or ratified the treaty on the CND Cymru website www.cndcymru.org (click on Information).

We are expecting about 20 countries who have signed the treaty to ratify it in the next year – ratification involves passing legislation

incorporating the treaty into national law, which often takes one and a half to two years. If progress continues at this rate, the 50th ratification should take place during 2020; hopefully by then at least another 35 or so countries will also have signed up to the treaty, meaning that the treaty would be supported by the majority of countries of the world.

heddwch>action:

The CND Cymru website also lists the countries which voted for the treaty originally, but which haven't yet signed. Please email or write to the relevant Embassy, especially if you've got a personal or business connection with the country, urging them to follow up their vote by signing the treaty as soon as possible.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND?

The public debate about new nuclear projects, civil or military, is all about money and jobs. The invisible killer, radiation, rarely gets a mention in the press. Jill Gough reminds us what is at stake.

Radioactive waste is produced at every stage of the nuclear fuel cycle, from uranium mining, processing and enrichment, reactor operation, warhead manufacture and reprocessing of spent fuel. Much of this will remain hazardous for many millennia.

• **A big problem:** Even without new nuclear power stations or weapons, over 4.5 million cubic metres (4.9m tonnes) of highly dangerous radioactive waste from existing facilities in Britain already needs to be managed. If 10 new nuclear plants were built in Britain, the waste they would create would triple the overall radioactive waste to be managed. This legacy is a lethal commitment that our society continues to wish upon our children's children, their children's children, ad almost infinitum...

• **What is nuclear waste?** Some radioactive substances or objects, eg uranium and plutonium, nuclear fuel and spent nuclear fuels, are not officially considered as 'waste'. Since it is said that they could be of future use, they are classified as 'radioactive materials' and 'being safely stored'. However all substances that have been part of the nuclear process or come into contact with the

reactor are likely to be radioactive. Radioactive waste comprises a number of radionuclides – unstable configurations of chemical elements that decay, emitting ionizing radiation which, ingested or just on exposure can harm any living thing, causing sickness, illness and cell mutations which may not even be apparent for several generations. Different radioactive isotopes last for different periods of time, from minutes to hundreds of thousands of years.

• **Storage options:** Around 80 percent of Britain's nuclear waste is currently stored at Sellafield and Drigg in Cumbria. An Intermediate Level Waste Store has been built at Trawsfynydd. Wylfa A has kept its spent nuclear fuel rods in an above-ground dry store. Spent fuel from Wylfa B would be twice as radioactive as that from Wylfa A. It could not even be moved off-site for about 140 years. The current long-term "solution" for dealing with highly radioactive waste involves burying it in deep underground sites. Whether the storage containers, the store itself, or the surrounding geology will offer enough protection to stop radionuclides from escaping in the long-term is impossible to predict.

• **Transportation:** Nuclear wastes are transported mainly by rail from Wylfa A and Trawsfynydd (both being decommissioned) to Sellafield in Cumbria. Radioactive waste is carried by rail through towns or along public roads, risking accidents or even a terrorist attack.

• **The Welsh Government** is currently searching for communities in Wales to store 650,000 cubic metres of 'legacy radioactive waste'. The bribe is an "annual community investment funding" in the first phases of the project of between £1m and £2.5m per year and allegedly "the creation of 550 permanent jobs". <https://beta.gov.wales/geological-disposal-radioactive-waste>

@Julian Wynne



Standing stones near Wylfa date from the Bronze Age. Proposed waste from Wylfa B would remain radioactive 100 times longer than the period these stones have already existed.

SHIPS THAT DUMP MUD IN THE NIGHT

Cian Ciarán explains the ins and outs of the Hinkley mud campaign – and how the Welsh government has been breaking its own laws.

- I have been campaigning against the dumping of mud from Hinkley Point nuclear power station in Cardiff Grounds, less than 2 kilometres from the capital. I believe that, given the lack of evidence and the uncertainties surrounding the material dumped by EdF, the Welsh Labour government was required by law to suspend the licence.
- In March 2018 marine pollution consultant Tim Deere-Jones challenged Natural Resources Wales over its reliance on International Atomic Energy Agency guidelines. He wrote that there was no legal reason why NRW couldn't require more thorough testing, but received no reply.
- In June Richard Bramhall of the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance provided evidence to NRW showing that the health risks of inhaling plutonium and uranium particles from the mud were far greater than the IAEA assumed. In the correspondence that followed, Richard pointed out that the IAEA sets only minimum standards, while the law in Wales requires NRW to take account of all relevant evidence and to change decisions where appropriate.
- Bramhall says his evidence

established a significant uncertainty upon which NRW is legally obliged to act. NRW replied that the Westminster Government is responsible for considering the evidence, and that NRW only has to make sure they use internationally recognised standards.

- Despite this, NRW wrongly relied on outdated IAEA guidelines in their 2018 assessment and wrongly interpreted the rules of OSPAR (the North Atlantic marine environment convention). Core samples taken were insufficient under international rules and the tests did not cover all significant radioactive substances. The independent CRIAD report in May 2018 found highly radio-toxic americium and recommended testing for several other alpha- and beta-emitting radionuclides.

- A motion debated at the Welsh Assembly on 10 October was jointly put forward by the Plaid Cymru and Conservative Assembly Groups. The debate failed to put the Welsh Government on the spot and resulted in the motion being voted down – but the public deserves answers and action.

- By failing to halt the dumping and issuing an unlawful licence, all who voted for it are also complicit in that illegality. The voting on the 10 October was divided on purely political lines. They ran away from challenging EdF and compliant officials – even though Professor Keith Barnham of Imperial College had supplied evidence of leakage from the nuclear cooling ponds that contain sludge from broken nuclear fuel canisters. Effective scrutiny by the Welsh Assembly has failed us.



Each load dumped weighs 2,000 tonnes. Operations are expected to resume after the winter.

WYLFA JITTERS

People around the village of Cemaes are getting worried as Horizon Nuclear calls in the bulldozers... PAWB reports on the campaign.

The November 2018 collapse of Toshiba's bid to build a new nuclear power station at Moorside in Cumbria must pose a sobering reality check for Hitachi, whose Horizon Nuclear subsidiary is still planning to build new reactors at Wylfa in the north of Anglesey.

The sums don't work out

If Hitachi does go ahead and build, which even now is far from certain, it flies in the face of economic common sense. In this topsy-turvy world a Tory government is planning massive public subsidy for an ailing industry. The possible hit to the taxpayer could be over £5-10 billion.

'Let's start anyway, before it's approved'

Horizon PR is as glossy as ever, but the extreme size of the site and its implications are beginning to worry many local people. In September, Horizon Nuclear addressed the Planning Committee of Ynys Môn County Council. They sought permission to 'prepare' the Wylfa B site, even though a Development Consent Order had yet to be issued. Supposing Wylfa B doesn't go ahead? Horizon says they

will make the land 'acceptable' again. What does that actually mean? PAWB was given only three minutes to raise concerns, and a legal objection from Greenpeace was waved aside. Only councillors representing wards near the site were allowed to speak, and in the end they nodded the measure through through unanimously.

Fukushima farmers visit Ynys Môn

There are ongoing visits to Anglesey by Japanese media, and regular anti-Wylfa demos in Tokyo, too. Following the visit of PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) to Japan in May 2018, two Japanese delegations came to Wales to share campaigning. The first was made up of farmers from Fukushima and a journalist. They addressed busy public meetings in Cemaes, Menai Bridge and Caernarfon, they toured the site and the coast, they met the press, Welsh farmers and school kids.

FoE Japan lobby the Assembly

The second delegation, in October, was introduced by

our friend Ayumi Fukakusa of Friends of the Earth Japan, and included five academics, including Prof. Michiko Yoshii of Okinawa and Prof. Megumi Sakamoto of Fukushima University. They addressed a packed meeting in Bangor, spoke to 180 15 year-olds at Ysgol David Hughes and went on to Cardiff, where they met AMs and anti-nuclear campaigners. While our Japanese visitors were here, two Anglesey County Councillors were flown to Japan, to meet Hitachi. They did not ask to go to Fukushima prefecture, to meet Fukushima survivors. Nor did they speak to the many opponents of the Wylfa project in Tokyo. They had business to attend to.

heddwch>action:

A change.org petition from FoE Japan and PAWB calls for an end to Hitachi's nuclear plans for Anglesey. It needs your support!

<https://www.change.org/p/stop-hitachi-s-wylfa-nuclear-project?>



PAWB welcomes Japanese campaigners to Bangor, October 2018

WAR WITHOUT END? 1918 – 2018

November 11th marked 100 years since the Armistice, the ceasefire which brought the First World War to an end. About 23-26 million soldiers were wounded worldwide in this conflict, and about 8.6 to 10.8 million were killed, as well as some 2.25 million civilians. A further 5-6 million died from starvation or disease.

The legacy

HG Wells envisaged this as the 'war that would end war'. And yet the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 not only failed to stem the tide of slaughter, its desire for revenge and opportunistic imperialism engendered further wars and injustices. Like some terrible genealogy, the lines of bloodshed trickle down through the century, through the Second World War (over 60 million dead), to Hiroshima, Korea, Vietnam, to the wars which blighted the hopes of the millennium – Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

The engines of war

In 1961 outgoing US President Dwight D Eisenhower (yes, a Republican!) warned of the dangers of what he termed 'the military-industrial complex', the close alliance between arms manufacturers, the military and of course (at the time unspecified) politicians – all those with a vested interest in maintaining war. 'The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists', said Eisenhower, 'and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes.'

Never again

Successors of Eisenhower have sadly maintained the toxic relationships of the military-industrial complex, as have both Westminster and indeed Welsh governments. Even so, important safeguards and limits have over the years been secured under international law. Today

Donald Trump seems ready to renege on these treaties and recreate an arms race as if the Cold War had never ended. The most fitting memorial to the victims of 1914-18 is to build and maintain international cooperation and to work for global disarmament and an enduring peace.

Philip Steele

A Page in the Sea

At Colwyn Bay on 11 November 2018, the hundredth anniversary of the Armistice, a large portrait of the poet Hedd Wyn was etched on the sand, and then slowly washed away by the tide.

Hedd Wyn ('blessed peace') was the bardic name of the poet Ellis Humphrey Evans (1887-1917) from Yr Ysgwrn, Cwm Prysor, who submitted his poem Yr Arwr to the National Eisteddfod from the Western Front. Killed at Passchendaele, he was posthumously awarded the Chair.

With his Pages in the Sea project, film director Danny Boyle, a one-time graduate of Bangor University, seems to have devised a peaceful and thoughtful way of remembrance, without drums, flags or marches. Similar commemorations took place at Ynyslas, Swansea, and Freshwater West.



Royal Welch Fusilier volunteers in Caernarfon, 1912.
How many would survive the decade?

AROUND WALES...O FÔN I FYNWY...AROUND WALES

• *CND Cymru are pleased*

to report that Jill Evans has agreed to resume the Chair of CND Cymru. Jill has always been a staunch supporter of disarmament and a committed anti-nuclear campaigner. As a Plaid Cymru MEP, she has worked closely with the wider peace movement across Europe and beyond. On Hiroshima Day, during the Cardiff National Eisteddfod, Jill discussed with us ways of encouraging support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

• *Solidarity forever...*

CND Cymru would like to thank Côr Cochion Caerdydd (the Cardiff Reds' Choir) for the sums they have raised and generously donated this year. We particularly appreciated their passionate singing at the Cardiff eisteddfod in August.

• *On 6 September 2018 the*

Northwest Wales Green Party organised a successful protest at the gates of the Horizon Nuclear site at Wylfa on Anglesey. There was a good turn out, addressed by the Greens' co-leader Jonathan Bartley.

• *Trident Ploughshares*

successfully blockaded AWE Burghfield on 24 October 2018, in support of the Global Ban Treaty. Burghfield and Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishments are the UK's

nuclear warheads factories. Of the eight protestors arrested for 'locking on', four were from Wales: Awel Irene, Jan Jones, Marie Walsh and Brian Jones. All are pleading not guilty.

• *On the dark and rainy night*

of 7 November 2018 a vigil was held by the runways at RAF Valley on Anglesey, to protest about their training of Saudi Arabian pilots – despite the ongoing slaughter and humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The vigil was organised by Cymdeithas y Cymod, and supported by members of CND Cymru, Veterans for Peace, Bangor & Ynys Môn Peace & Justice, Conwy County Peace Group, North Wales Quakers and Cymdeithas yr Iaith.

• *Good news! It seems that after*

four years of public protests, the Arms Fair will NOT be returning to Cardiff in 2019. The

arms trade is not only immoral, it is also counterproductive in resolving conflicts. What is more, one third of debts in the world's poorer nations result from borrowing money to buy new weapons. Our solidarity and sympathy goes forward to the new hosts, the city of Birmingham.

• *White poppies, which*

honour the war dead of both sides, as well as civilians and conscientious objectors, are finding more acceptance each year. At the Aberystwyth remembrance on 11 November, town Mayor Talat Chaudhri wore a white poppy beside the red, and seven white wreaths were laid by the Town Council, by the Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network, Côr Gobaith, Aberaid (refugee support), Quakers, Women in Black and Côr y Gors.



Kevin Mason

White poppies for peace laid at Aberystwyth war memorial on 11 November 2018.



• **All aboard the Peace Train**, in support of the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons! The Hereford Peace Council's initiative to send messages and petitions to the Westminster government from Wales and the Borders, via rail journeys to Newport on 24 October, was successful.

Mary Millington collected signatures on stations between Aberystwyth and Newtown, and messages were also sent from the North Wales coast via Chester. Many signatures had also been collected by CND Cymru at the Cardiff eisteddfod. A choir met the train at Abergavenny.

• **Jobs not Bombs was the** theme of a day school held in Swansea on 3 November 2018 by the newly formed CND Cymru group within Welsh Labour.

Fifty people turned out. One comment they left behind summed it up well:

"Trade Unions (and all of us) need to take a moral stance on what is good for everyone, not short term fear-mongering about job losses. And we need to take seriously the opportunities to replace skilled jobs in the military industrial complex with skilled jobs in tackling climate change – so that banning nuclear does not equal job losses."

Paul Flynn

• *We were sorry to hear in October that Paul Flynn is to retire, due to ill health. Paul has been Labour MP for Newport West and a long-standing member of CND Cymru. We are grateful for his support over many years and wish him well.*

John Cox writes

Paul and I were in school in Cardiff at the same time (he at St. Illtyd's and I at Cathays High). Years later, meeting on the Maes, he remembered (with approval) my challenging a government Minister for Foreign Affairs who, at an all-Cardiff 6th form Conference on United Nations day, in 1952(?), defended using

napalm against civilians in the Korean war. Paul has been a consistent opponent of (dare I say it – imperialist) wars throughout his political life, being particularly effective in exposing the uselessness of the war in Afghanistan.

Paul was long ahead of most of the left on green and anti-nuclear issues and, had the Ecology Party (and later the Green Party) not been created to challenge the Labour Party, his efforts to persuade the Labour Party to adopt a green agenda might have been successful decades sooner. He has been a lifelong opponent of nuclear weapons and has been a thoroughly reliable ally in CND's campaigns.

Paul has been more amusing and insightful than most politicians – his blogs are always worth reading and rarely self-serving. His campaigns have been broader than most (notably, his advocacy of cannabis for appropriate uses) and – this may seem a bit snobbish – his cultural horizons have been broader than many. Unusually for a Labour politician, he made the effort to learn to speak Welsh sufficiently well to be invited to S4C debates and has been consistent in supporting all measures to strengthen Welsh devolution.

I'm proud to have known Paul Flynn since our schooldays.

RIGHTEOUS ANGER

Juley Howard with Faith Moulin
 368 pp 2017 £8.99 or £10 incl
 post and packing from
 brian.jones@phonecoop.coop

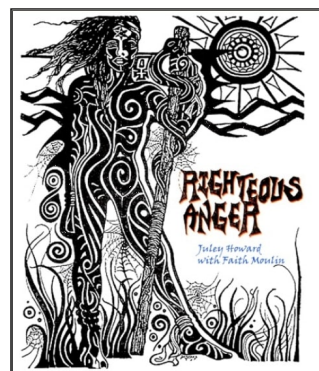
I can remember having to stop the car when Radio 4 news stated that three British women who I knew had stopped a British nuclear weapons test in the Nevada desert...

Juley Howard, a serious and sincere sixth-former who wanted to study Religion and Politics, first visited Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp in December 1983; soon she was living there full-time.

This book, based on Juley's contemporary diaries, gives one woman's perspective on the non-violent direct action she took against nuclear weapons

and records her detailed memories of everyday life in the Camp. She describes the lives and actions of the women, the brutality of constant evictions, her frequent court appearances and prison experiences.

Juley also took up opportunities to travel and visit other countries – including a conference in Libya where she and her teenage companion were locked in a room with Colonel Gaddafi while he spoke for three hours – as well as war-torn Central America and First Nation northern Canada. Juley's anti-nuclear convictions led her to support the Western Shoshone Native American people who have been exploited and dispossessed by US and British nuclear testing on their native lands, leading to the



action I mentioned initially.

This book is a unique account of the life of a remarkable, ordinary woman during the political and social upheavals of Thatcher's years, and reading it really reminded me of how it felt to be involved in anti-nuclear campaigning in the 1980s.

Brian Jones

LLYFR GLAS NEBO

Manon Steffan Ross
 143pp, Y Lolfa 2018 £8.99
 (Welsh language)

This is the book everyone has been talking about since it won the Prose Medal at this year's National Eisteddfod. The set theme of the competition was 'Energy', and it poses quite a challenge to write an engaging novel on such a topic.

Manon imagines what it would really be like if there was a nuclear accident at the Wylfa power station, and her achievement lies in describing the world that ensues. There is no mention of the arguments for or against. Just a mother and her

children trying to survive. On hearing of the subject, I imagined visiting Ysgol Nebo, which is just by my home, and running it past them. Having read the book, I won't be able to: it describes a world that's just too awful. As a book intended for young people, the more who read it the better. This is a book that has captured the national imagination.

Why? Because this science fiction is close enough to reality. The book is set in 2026, and the End occurred in 2018. Those who survived have fled, there are no shops, no food apart from what you can grow yourself. The animals are defective, but

worst of all is the overwhelming loneliness.

In the midst of all this, 15-year old Siôn is trying to make sense of the world. At times when I was reading this, I had to go out and get some fresh air, and be thankful that I was living before the End. As mother of a 15-year old living near Nebo and worried about 'bloody Wylfa', it was uncomfortably all too possible. The next time somebody says to you that we have to accept the plans for Wylfa Newydd because of economic reality and job opportunities – just hand them a copy of Llyfr Glas Nebo. That should be enough.

Angharad Tomos

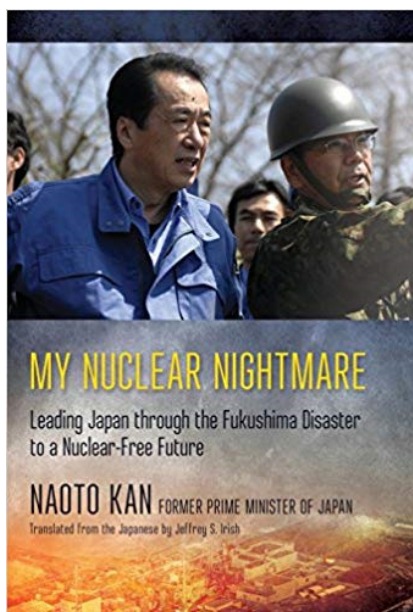
MY NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE
Leading Japan through the Fukushima Disaster to a Nuclear-free Future
Naoto Kan, 200pp, Cornell University Press 2018 £18.99
(Translated from the Japanese by Jeffrey S Irish)

Naoto Kan kindly gave his book to me as a PAWB delegate visiting Fukushima in May 2018. The nightmare in the title refers to his experience and the decisions he had to make during the unfolding and ongoing disaster at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant – a nightmare that came out of the blue for a nation certain that their nuclear power was safe.

The inadequacy of the response to the disaster from both the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency and TEPCO, the owners of the plant, only serves to underline how vulnerable we all are to a nuclear incident, simply because those in charge do not foresee an accident and therefore do not prepare for such an eventuality. Our authorities are unable, or

unwilling, to do what Naoto Kan was forced to: “Imagine (my emphasis) people unable to live within a 250 kilometre (155 mile) radius of the plant for dozens of years.” He describes with chilling force how, “following March 11, 2011, eastern Japan was occupied by an invisible enemy called radiation...it was an enemy that we ourselves had created.”

It is with great poignancy that Naoto Kan outlines how Japan, having agreed following the Pacific War that its citizens should never again be asked to sacrifice their own lives for their country, were once again organising “suicide squads” to enter the devastated plants. These are shocking revelations. Anyone unsure of their position in relation to new nuclear power should read this account,



written with bravery and humility by a man still burdened with the responsibility of these terrible events, if no longer in power.

Naoto Kan stands as a clear and powerful voice against the dangers of nuclear power and for a future where renewable energy meets domestic demand and creates new jobs.

Linda Rogers

APPEAL

My name is Bethan Siân, and I am a research student at Aberystwyth University's History and Welsh History department. My PhD research looks at the peaceful protests in Wales during the Cold War years, 1979-1989.

Oral history is the main source of the PhD – therefore I am eager to record the stories of those who have been part of the movement. If you participated in the peace movement in Wales during the 80s and are happy to share your experiences with me, please contact me. My e-mail address is bsj1@aber.ac.uk, or you could write to me at Office 0.06, International Politics Building, Aberystwyth University. SY23 3FE. Diolch.

Sarah Hipperson 1927 – 2018

"I was a mother, and I'm a grandmother now, but we all have a life of our own. I felt I had a job to do at Greenham."

In October, we lost yet another dear friend and activist. Most will remember Sarah from those peace camp years at Main Gate of USAF/RAF Greenham Common. For over 40 years Sarah dedicated herself to the creation of a nuclear free, just and peaceful world, consistently keeping CND Cymru and Cŵr Cochion Caerdydd in touch with issues and developments at Greenham.

Sarah was very much "an activist" in many fields - mother, grandmother, midwife, magistrate, peace and justice campaigner and author, writing later that "non-violence is neither an easy - nor a soft option". Representing herself in court; she called-out any nuclear policy as "illegal, immoral, and insane".

She held her childhood experiences of wartime air raids in Glasgow as responsible for planting the seeds of her political awareness. She later trained as a nurse and

midwife, moved to Canada, married and had children.

Returning to Britain, Sarah served as a magistrate. She marched with CND and jointly founded Catholic Peace Action. On her first non-violent direct action she scattered blood and ashes outside the MoD in London, symbolising the consequences of nuclear war. This resulted in the first of her 22 prison sentences over 17 years.

While at the peace camp until it closed in 2000, Sarah continued to work to establish the Commemorative Peace Garden on the site.



Sue Lent

In Greenham Common: Non-Violent Women v The Crown Prerogative (2005), she documented her many legal challenges and her life's journey toward the practice of non-violence.

As Greenham Peace camp finally closed Sarah told us:

"Our time at Greenham is an experience I'd never want to have missed. I feel very privileged. I don't think I could have spent this part of my life in a better way." It is we who were privileged to have campaigned alongside Sarah.

Jill Gough

John Large 1943 – 2018

We note with sadness the death of Dr John Large, who was a great and supportive friend of the anti-nuclear movement. Although he was busy advising governments as an independent nuclear engineer, he never refused to help campaigning groups like PAWB and Stop Hinkley in their long battles against the nuclear industry. We remember him coming to Cemaes Village Hall in the 90s to give a presentation on the dangers of the decommissioning process.

At the end of 2001, John produced a report warning that the more intense Magnox fuel should not be used instead of Magnox fuel in reactors which were already old. His warnings were heeded, because the Wylfa reactors plodded along with Magnox fuel for the rest of their operating lives. When we heard that Hitachi had bought Horizon in October 2012 and that they wanted to build their ABWR design here, John was the person to turn to immediately for confirmation that this was indeed an outdated plan, and basically

the same kind of reactor that blew up in Fukushima in 2011, and that they would use high burn-up uranium in the reactors which would produce much hotter and more radioactive waste.

John was good company, warm and witty. It was a privilege to have his help in the middle of busy international schedules. Remembering the grassroot struggles alongside work advising governments was the measure of his greatness, for which we will be greatly indebted to him.

Dylan Morgan

Genny Bove 1962-2018

The lasting image I have of Genny is in a peace gathering, in her shorts and walking boots, one of her colourful home-made banners behind her. Genny was born in Hendon, London on 27 February 1962. She was 16 when she met Alan her partner, a relationship that was to be an enduring one of 40 years. Genny and Alan moved up to Moss in Wrexham and Libby their daughter was born on 1 March 1991.

Jill Gough has written of Genny: 'Genny has been one of the greatest and most passionate Peace and Justice

campaigners I have worked alongside. Whether making her magnificent banners, home schooling her daughter Libby, fighting for workers' disability rights, befriending Chelsea Manning's family in Pembrokeshire, setting up the very active Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum and its website'.

Wales and indeed the UK has lost a passionate peace and justice campaigner at a time when we need people like her more than ever.

Of all she leaves behind, I believe it is how her daughter Libby is living her life in such a principled manner that is the greatest tribute to Genny.



May you rest in peace Genny, as you campaigned for it so bravely in your life.

Mair Jones

Gwyn Griffiths 1941 - 2018

Our comrade Gwyn Griffiths, who died in August, was a life-long political activist. Gwyn not only campaigned against nuclear weapons and for peace and social justice but also as a member of the Welsh Communist Party, an activist in the Welsh Language Campaign, and in the Welsh anti-apartheid movement.

Many will remember Gwyn at

protest events and conferences. Originally from Ceredigion, his employment had taken him from Urdd Gobaith Cymru/ The Welsh League of Youth in the 1960s, as press officer for BBC Wales, to becoming a freelance writer, including writing for Y Cymro and the Morning Star and gaining the time to also research, write and publish his articles and books.

Amongst the 25 books he published during his life were, to those of us learning about Wales' legacy of struggle for international peace and justice, the very welcome volumes: Henry Richard - Apostle of Peace and Welsh Patriot (2012) and

Henry Richard - Heddychwr a Gwlatgarwr" (2013), reviewed at the time here in Heddych. Gwyn Griffiths had been raised in Swyddffynnon near Tregaron, the town where Henry Richard was born and brought up.

At next year's Lorient Celtic Festival, members of Gwyn's family will receive on his behalf the Urzh an Erminig (Order of the Ermine), Brittany's highest cultural honour, recognising his role in developing and strengthening the historical links between Wales and Brittany.

A modest and gentle, strong and consistent supporter of CND Cymru, Gwyn will be missed by his comrades and CND Cymru members.

Jill Gough



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.

www.cndcymru.org
heddwwch@cndcymru.org
twitter: @cndcymru
facebook: cndcymru



CONTACTS

Brian Jones

01792 830 330
brian.jones@phonecoop.coop

Duncan Rees

07774 268 371
Duncan.rees01@gmail.com

Philip Steele

01248 490 715
phil_steele@btinternet.com

John Cox

01495 773 495
drjohncox121@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP, AFFILIATIONS & TREASURER:

Michael Freeman,

CND Cymru,
9 Primrose Hill, Llanbadarn Fawr,
Aberystwyth SY23 3SE
michael.freeman9@btinternet.com

NATIONAL SECRETARY:

C/o Llys Gwyn,
Glynarthen, Llandysul, SA44 6PS
01239 851 188

HEDDWCH

is the magazine of
**Wales' Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament** (CND Cymru)

Editor:

Philip Steele
phil_steele@btinternet.com

Translator:

Siân Edwards
sian@siandefynnog.wales

Production & mailing:

Redkite Print
jon@thefreeflyer.com

The content of HEDDWCH does not necessarily reflect the opinion or policies of CND Cymru. We welcome debate and discussion.

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

The next edition of HEDDWCH will be published in Spring 2019.



*Darren Williams of Welsh Labour
Grassroots and Mark Serwotka, General
Secretary of the PCS Union, address the
Labour CND Cymru - Jobs Not Bombs
meeting in Swansea.*