



# HEDDWCH

Number 71 > Spring 2019 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

*Deep disposal of highly radioactive waste?*

*County, Town and Community Councils are all saying*

## NO BURIAL IN WALES



### WHO CAN BE BRIBED?

Not Brymbo, not Llanllechid, not Ceredigion, not Aberystwyth, not Neath Port Talbot, not Powys, not Bala...

Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) wants to find a community prepared to 'host' a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), where radioactive waste can be stored for hundreds of thousands of years.

We say stop making nuclear weapons, stop building nuclear power plants. Existing waste? Keep it where it can be monitored and easily retrieved.

For the sake of future generations....

## THE WAY FORWARD: Wales, Europe & the wider world

*I am writing my first article for Heddwch as Chair of CND Cymru – for the second time! I am grateful for your support and delighted to take up this very important position and become one of the team once more. It has always amazed me that such a small group of people can achieve so much in organising as CND Cymru. I believe that in the coming years we can do even more, working closely with others in the peace movement to provide a lead in building a peaceful and more just nation. I look forward to the challenge ahead.*

I do not know, as I write, whether I will still be an MEP or not by the time this article is published. We have been through three turbulent years. It is more important than ever that we bring our communities together with a common purpose. CND Cymru can play a key role in that.

### ***Peace is the priority***

Behind the media focus on Brexit, there are developments that pose a great threat. The European Union was created to prevent further catastrophic wars between European states. It replaced weapons with dialogue. We must re-focus on working for peace. We cannot accept another nuclear arms race on top of all the chaos we face now.

### ***The INF in danger***

The United States and Russia have announced they will suspend participation in the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces in Europe Treaty – the INF Treaty. The Treaty was signed by Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev in 1987 and was one of the major landmarks in ending the Cold War. Some 3,000 warheads were removed and destroyed.

At that time many of us had taken part in the massive protests which mobilised right across Europe. The INF was a response to that. It shows that protest can be effective. It was the first time the superpowers agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals.

### ***Lessons from Lithuania***

In my twenty years in the European Parliament I have seen many changes. In 1999, I went

to Lithuania as a member of the European Parliament Joint Delegation. Lithuania had applied to join the EU and one of the major stumbling blocks to their membership was the Ignalina nuclear power station. Ignalina was built using the same blueprint as Chernobyl.

The closure and decommissioning of the nuclear power station was a condition of joining. There was little other employment in that area and most families who lived there depended on it. A small group of us MEPs went to meet local people in a very difficult public meeting. They rejected safety concerns about the plant and put the employment case very powerfully, but accepted reluctantly that close it would, if Lithuania was to join the EU.

We all know that these things take time. Ignalina wasn't actually closed until 2009, five years after Lithuania had joined the EU. Like Wales, Lithuania is a small country. It has a population of 2.8 million people. No independent country in the world of its size had ever decommissioned such a reactor. It was only able to do so with the assistance of the EU.

### ***Radioactive waste disposal***

In January, the European Parliament adopted the NNP Ignalina decommissioning report, calling for an increase in EU funding, due to the costs of storage and disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste. The EU invested in the project, recognising not only that this was crucial for the whole of Europe but also that the skills developed in the decommissioning could be utilised in other countries.

The UK Government is searching for communities in Wales willing to store 60 years' worth of radioactive material. I am pleased that so many local authorities are rejecting the proposals.

### **Renewables focus**

In January 2019 Hitachi suspended plans for the Wylfa Newydd nuclear plant in Anglesey. The UK Government still offers incentives to new nuclear rather than for more effective and cheaper options – onshore and offshore wind, tidal and solar. We cannot hitch our energy needs and economic success to a dangerous and unsustainable energy source when Wales has a wealth of renewable resources.

### **People power for a Global Ban**

So a lot of campaigning lies ahead of us. But there is also a positive campaign we are engaged in. In July 2017 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted by the UN in New York. It bans states from developing, testing, producing, possessing, trading, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or even to allow them to be stationed on their territory. The nine states that possess nuclear weapons boycotted the process. They said it was unrealistic! We have to prove them wrong.

The UN treaty itself came about through people power. A movement called the International

Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons – ICAN – was launched in 2007. It brings together over 500 organisations across the globe, including CND Cymru.

The treaty is legally binding on those countries that sign and ratify it, but not countries that haven't signed up. It will come into force when fifty countries have signed and ratified it. This is an opportunity to change direction on an international level. It is a framework for disarmament and a world without nuclear weapons. To date, 23 countries have signed and ratified the Treaty whilst 47 others have signed and are in the process of ratification.

### **It's time to mobilise!**

So there are many initiatives for peace and disarmament. When Wales declared itself a nuclear-free country over thirty years ago, it was a statement of will.

We have to mobilise again for peace in Wales. Just as school pupils are protesting for action on climate change, we must do the same for peace. The two go hand in hand.

We have to ensure that Wales's voice is heard loud and clear on the international stage, working for a sustainable economy and a peaceful future. It is within our grasp.

**Jill Evans**



*Brian Jones*

*CND Cymru supports global prohibition, y Morlan, Aberystwth, February 2019.*

## LOW-YIELD = HIGH-DANGER

*The euphemisms are scary enough – ‘low-yield’, ‘tactical’, ‘battlefield’ or ‘flexible’ nuclear weapons. They serve to normalise and proliferate nuclear weapons. Trump’s new generation of warheads, the W76-2s, are already rolling off the production line in Texas. Duncan Rees sounds a warning.*

### **Making it ‘usable’**

The nuclear arms race became deadly serious in the 1950s and 60s, and its terrifying history is well documented. So-called “deterrence” was the name of the game – but that was, and is, a very expensive and extremely dangerous insurance policy – only needing to fail once to bring about nuclear holocaust.

Less well known is the fact that from early on in this process, the military was already looking for ways to make nuclear weapons “more usable.” They sought a weapon that could be deployed on the battlefield, possibly under the control of field commanders, and as part of a strike force to be used alongside conventional weapons. Hence the deployment in Europe of mobile launch vehicles carrying tactical nuclear weapons by both Warsaw Pact and NATO. Alongside this came the development of lower-yield nuclear weapons, and the neutron bomb (which was only withdrawn from development following huge protests).

### **Heightened risk, volatile world**

CND Cymru has always argued that the deployment of so called low-yield or tactical nuclear weapons makes full-scale nuclear war more likely, because



Cuba Si!

the use and even the very presence of such weapons would make war and hence nuclear escalation more probable. With military flashpoints now extending from the usual European/ US/ Russian theatres of operation – to areas like the Korean peninsula, the Indian sub-continent and the Middle East, the potential for the deployment of “low yield or tactical” nukes in these areas is a matter for grave concern.

### **Top Trumps**

For some years nuclear arms reduction talks between the main nuclear powers had been making some progress – including in drastically reducing the numbers of tactical nuclear weapons. Now however with President Trump (who else!) in the lead we seem to be in danger of heading in the opposite direction.

In a comment on the new US nuclear posture review, published in February 2018, CND has said: “This develops

the framework and makes nuclear war more likely. It takes the lid off the restraints on both new-build and nuclear weapons use. The most significant element of the review is commitment to a whole new generation of nuclear weapons, with the emphasis on low-yield, often described as ‘usable’, nuclear weapons. It should be pointed out here that the bombs used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki are technically low-yield in today’s parlance, so we are not talking about something small. This goes hand-in-hand with the recently announced \$1.2 trillion programme for nuclear weapons ‘modernisation’”

### **Don’t go back there!**

Taken alongside the threat of new Intermediate range nuclear forces being introduced into Europe by the US, these developments are as dangerous as anything we have seen since the introduction of Cruise missiles at Greenham Common and Molesworth in the 1980s.

# NO TO DEEP DISPOSAL!

Where can a site be found for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for high level radioactive waste? This fruitless search began back in 1982, with the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive (NIREX). The search is yet again on the agenda, as **Sean Morris**, Secretary of the NFLA (Nuclear-Free Local Authorities), explains.

A formal request has gone out from the UK Government to all Welsh Councils, asking for their interest in ‘volunteering’ for a process to find a deep underground location that would store over 70 years’ worth of the UK’s high and intermediate level radioactive waste. The storage period would be over hundreds of thousands of years.

Serious opposition has been expressed across the political spectrum in Wales, with either strongly worded statements or resolutions rejecting the Government’s offer coming from County Councils in Swansea, Powys, Denbighshire, Anglesey, Ceredigion and Neath Port Talbot. Sixteen city or town councils and 50 Community Councils have also voted against the proposal.

As part of the process, Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) had organised a series of public consultation meetings across England and Wales to discuss how sites would be evaluated. With a growing level of public opposition in Wales, RWM decided in March, at the last moment, to postpone meetings planned in Swansea and Llandudno and convert them into ‘webinars’ – a tactic criticised by the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance as a wholly inadequate ‘sham’.

Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) welcomes opposition to the scheme, and advocates instead a different policy for radioactive waste management – along the lines of the Scottish Government’s ‘near site, near surface’ retrievable and monitorable storage policy.

- For further information the NFLA have developed a factsheet on the issue – <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Rad-Waste-Brfg-76-Deep-waste-repository-factsheet.pdf>

## heddwch>action:

Please contact your Local Authority, City/Town and / or Community Councillors.

**For contact details go to** <https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-councillors> .

**For an update on how councils have voted, go to** <https://www.cndcymru.org/nuclear-waste>

**For further information see also** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/geological-disposal-facility-gdf-for-high-activity-radioactive-waste> and

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/cnd-cymru/high-level-radioactive-waste-to-be-buried-in-wales/2190759164279714/>

Philip Martin



## WYLFA IN ZOMBIELAND

*In the end, Horizon's fall from grace came quickly. Phil Steele of PAWB reports how the Japanese-owned consortium announced in January 2019 that it was pulling the plug on developing the Wylfa B nuclear plant in Ynys Môn.*

The precise nature of this decision to quit was somewhat ambiguous in translation: it was 'frozen', it was 'put on hold', it was 'canned'. Or was it definitively 'scrapped'?

### **The bottomless pit**

The leap in Hitachi shares on publication of this statement showed the reason: the costs of this white elephant had become an intolerable burden for the corporation. No new investment was forthcoming.

### **Flogging a dead horse?**

The Westminster government, the nuclear lobby and some local politicians put up a barrage of bluster, expressing optimism for a re-start. It seems clear that any further funding would have to come from the UK government, or rather from the taxpayer or consumer, perhaps using an RAB (Regulated Asset Based model, see <http://www.dieterhelm.co.uk/energy/energy/the-nuclear-rab-model/>).

Whether new money will be on the table this summer, in view of the current Brexit meltdown, is anyone's guess. As indeed is what kind of government will actually be in power. Labour's Shadow Energy Secretary, Rebecca Long-Bailey, said in March that a Labour government would be looking to revive Wylfa B and other zombie-status nuclear

sites, as well as going all out for renewables. The trouble is, you can't do both. Nuclear is now so expensive that it crowds out the necessary investment in renewables.

### **Let's pretend**

Delays open up many questions about the validity and duration of the current National Policy Statement (NPS), which remains the legal foundation of the new nuclear programme. However Hitachi's DCO (Development Consent Order) application still trundles along in a parallel universe in which Wylfa B will be saved by some deus ex machina. Various applications have now been dropped from a Welsh remit, such as the question of pylons and grid connections,

and the premature site preparation and clearance 'called in' by the Welsh government. However these remain embedded in the DCO – a tactic criticised by PAWB as a bypass of Welsh democracy. In a surreal series of meetings in Trearddur Bay this March, consultation on the environmental impacts of Wylfa fretted over such questions as whether the interim radioactive waste storage unit should have a grass roof, in the interests of sustainability. The lawyers are still making the money, though, now there's a surprise.

### **Is there a Plan B?**

The Wylfa B project was hyped from the start, and the politicians who held it out as a panacea to the public have palpable



**11 March 2019: protestors against Wylfa B gather by the Menai Suspension Bridge to mark the 11th anniversary of the Fukushima disaster.**

Melnyr Tomos



What happens next? Campaigners discuss the issues in Caernarfon.

disappointment and some anger to contend with. PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) has always considered economic and environmental alternatives, publishing a prospectus called *Manifesto Môn* back in 2012. PAWB is now reconsidering renewable energy options and engineering, regeneration of communities, new transport possibilities and cultural projects. In March 2019 the IWA (Institute of Welsh Affairs, a think-tank)

produced a plan for Wales to be 100 percent sourced by renewables by 2035, creating perhaps 20,150 jobs.

**Game over?**

The future is clear enough and the writing is on the wall for nuclear. So please, when MPs or AMs or trade unions talk of saving nuclear, or reviving fantasies about SMRs (Small Modular Reactors) just tell them that the nuclear parrot is not resting, it is a dead parrot, as dead as a dodo.

**TRAWSFYNYDD: the SMR delusion**

*The last roll of the dice for a desperate nuclear industry is the mass-produced Small Modular Reactor or SMR. Deilwen Evans of CADNO looks at military motives and prohibitive expense.*

The plan is to save money by basing the SMR design on those used in nuclear submarines. One type of SMR could contain 2.5 tonnes of plutonium at the end of its life.

The message of the government in London is that we must have nuclear energy whatever the cost. Although 2017 report of the ‘National’ Audit Office (NAO) revealed serious shortcomings in the economic

case, defence sources insist that ‘the survival of the British nuclear submarine industry depends on the continuation of UK civil nuclear power’. William A Von Hoene Jr, Chief Strategy Officer of the US Exelon Corporation, declared that present costs including maintenance are too expensive. There is no evidence that the Trawsfynydd area is prepared to accept them.

**HINKLEY: dredging deferred**

*All has gone quiet in the row over the dumping of potentially radioactive mud offshore near Cardiff, a story which hit the headlines in 2018. But the battle is far from over, warns CND Cymru’s Brian Jones.*

EdF’s licence to dredge and dump mud from the outflow pipes of Hinkley Point A and B in Bridgewater Bay has expired ... but as EdF are planning further dredging and dumping in 2020, we are expecting them to put in an application to NRW (Natural Resources Wales) for a new licence.

**More transparency, please**

When NRW gave evidence to the Welsh Assembly’s Petition Committee in 2018, they said that they would treat any future similar licence applications differently. We’ve been in touch with the Assembly Members who were on the Petitions Committee, and received very supportive replies from Mike Hedges (Labour), Rhun ap Iorwerth (Plaid Cymru) and Janet Finch-Saunders (Cons), all wanting to ensure that NRW operate with greater transparency. We may be able to take legal action before any new licence is granted, in which case we would avoid the £118,000 a day compensation that EdF’s legal team threatened us with last autumn.

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

## • Court case to be heard at last

The much delayed hearing for those arrested last October at the Trident Ploughshares blockade of AWE Burghfield, one of Britain's nuclear warheads factories, is now scheduled for 23rd and 24th April 2019, at Reading Magistrates' Court. The arrested protestors from Wales included Awel Irene, Jan Jones, Marie Walsh and Brian Jones.

## • The kids are alright!

CND Cymru has welcomed the 'Youth Strikes 4 Climate' protests carried out by school children around the world, inspired by the example of Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg. Nuclear, climate and environmental issues are of course closely related, and all are critical for future generations. In February 2019 hundreds of Cardiff school kids protested outside the Senedd in Cardiff. They make us proud!

## • Views from Aberystwyth

On 16 February 2019 CND Cymru met for an all-Wales get-together in the Morlan Centre, Aberystwyth – unintentionally accompanied by the soothing sound of a choir together singing madrigals next door!

After a morning committee meeting, the afternoon was taken up with a well attended public meeting and discussion, featuring CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans talking about the global ban treaty, and Linda Pentz-Gunter of the US movement Beyond Nuclear addressing issues such as the health effects of nuclear power stations on women and children living in the vicinity, and why Small Nuclear Reactors are emphatically not a technology to be pursued.

## • The politics of hope

In January 2019 the Menai Branch of the United Nations Association (UNA) held a timely public meeting in Bangor at which Andrew Lane, Director of the Quaker Council for European Affairs, spoke on 'Hope over Fear in International Politics'.

Also in January, Cyffwrdd Celf Cyf and Pontio in Bangor staged a successful day of discussion, film, art and music to celebrate jointly the cultures of Wales and Syria.

## • International briefings

With Brexit dominating all the media, momentous world events are rarely getting the necessary coverage these days. Bangor & Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group has tried to remedy this with briefings on key topics. In February 2019 Adrian Sharratt of the Labour Party gave a presentation exploring the complex historical and political background to the war in Yemen. On 8 April 2019 (7pm, Quaker Meeting House, Bangor) the always lucid Ben Gregory of Wales Nicaragua Solidarity will again be updating and analysing the news from Latin America, with special reference to Venezuela and Nicaragua.



*Bubbling up! Kids in Llangejni take action on climate change, 15 March 2019*



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

**• Women, War and Peace**

On 8 March 2019, International Women’s Day was celebrated at Storiol, Bangor, with the launch of a small exhibition called Women, War and Peace by the Wales Centre for International Affairs (WCIA). The event was accompanied by a talk from Annie Williams on ‘Votes for Women – the Bangor Suffragists’.

**• Stop the Arms Trade now!**

Bargas Hatem reports that Conwy County Peace Group held a public meeting in Llandudno on Saturday 23 March, addressed by Mike Kavanagh from Campaign Against the Arms Trade. Mike highlighted the role of the UK as a major world manufacturer, promoter of DSEI, and exporter of weapons to countries involved in wars of aggression and internal suppression, reinforcing military solutions to international problems. The UK sold £ 4.7 billion worth of arms to Saudi Arabia since 2015 when the Yemen bombing started risking serious violation of international humanitarian law. The UN documented attacks against schools, markets, weddings and funerals. A call for an embargo on arms sales to Saudi Arabia was warmly received.

On 25 March the Labour Party, Plaid Cymru, Greens, SNP and Lib Dems wrote jointly to the UK government calling for this course of action.

**• Welsh energy at a crossroads**

A seminar for a green nuclear-free Wales is being held on Ynys Môn at the Telford Centre (opposite Waitrose) in Menai Bridge town, LL59 5EA, from 10.30am – 1.30pm on Saturday 13 April. It is being organised by the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities (NFLA) in conjunction with CND Cymru, PAWB, CADNO and WANA. Robat Idris will be talking about moving on from Wylfa B; Prof. Steve Thomas of Greenwich University will be discussing Small Modular Reactors; Sean Morris (NFLA) will be addressing the problems

of the deep disposal of radioactive waste; Beca Roberts of DEG Wales will be discussing community action for rural renewables. A panel discussion is to be chaired by Dr Carl Clowes.

**• Hiroshima Day 2019**

On 6 August 2019 Pembrokeshire Peace Group are hosting a Hiroshima Day event at the Picton Centre Haverfordwest from 6pm till dusk. This is a free event with NGO campaign stalls, music and hot food followed by commemorative candle boat launchings. All are welcome. For more information contact [pembrokeshire.peace.group@gmail.com](mailto:pembrokeshire.peace.group@gmail.com)

**CND CYMRU** 

**Y DRENEWYDD - POWYS - NEWTOWN**  
**Neuadd Eglwys y Methodistiaid Wesleiaidd,**  
**y Drenewydd**  
**Wesleyan Methodist Church Hall,**  
**Back Lane, Newtown**  
**Powys SY16 2NH**

**Dydd Sadwrn Mehefin 1af**  
**Saturday 1st June**

*Cyfarfod y Pwyllgor 11.00am Committee meeting*  
**Cyfarfod Blynyddol Cyffredinol Cyhoeddus**  
**Public Annual General Meeting**

**2.00-4.00pm**  
**BETHAN SIÂN**

**Yr Eryr a'r Golomen : yr ymgyrch heddychlon**  
**yn erbyn USNF Breudeth yn ystod y 1980au**  
*The Eagle and the Dove: the peaceful*  
*campaign against USNF Brawdy*  
*during the 1980s*  
 +  
**y Cytundeb ar Warhardd Arfau Niwcear**  
**The Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons**

**CROESO I BAWB – ALL WELCOME**

## OPPORTUNITY: become a Peacemaker for a year!

*Are you committed to peace and would you like to make a difference? Would you like to spend a year from September 2019 working on a paid/ funded placement which would help you to develop your skills, knowledge and commitment to peace and at the same time support an organisation to work for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world? If so, why not apply to become a Peacemaker?*

The scheme is open for applications now, with a closing date of 2 May. Peacemakers are funded for a year by Quaker Peace and Social Witness and supported by a host organisation to develop a peace or conflict transformation-related project which they can call their own.

Further details regarding the scheme can be found here: [www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace/peacemakers](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace/peacemakers), whilst more detailed information and an application form can be found here: [www.quaker.org.uk/job-opportunities/jobs](http://www.quaker.org.uk/job-opportunities/jobs).



Quakers in Britain

Please consider this opportunity yourself, and promote it widely amongst your networks.

The Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA) has been invited to apply to be a host organisation for the scheme, so there is a possibility that a placement could be located in the Temple of Peace in Cardiff.

If this were to come about, the specific brief of the Peacemaker would be to continue to develop the WCIA's Peace Schools Scheme and Young Peacemakers Awards. This is part of the legacy of the Wales for Peace project, which explored Wales' peace heritage since WWI, and how it relates to conflict and peace today.

Peace Schools can be either primary or secondary schools, and are places where peace is a common thread in learners' everyday lives, where the curriculum contains opportunities to learn about and reflect upon stories of peacemakers – from Wales and beyond; and where learners are encouraged to be critical active citizens of Wales and the world.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please email [janeharries@wcia.org.uk](mailto:janeharries@wcia.org.uk)

Don't hesitate! Apply today and/or spread the news to others in your networks!

**Jane Harries**

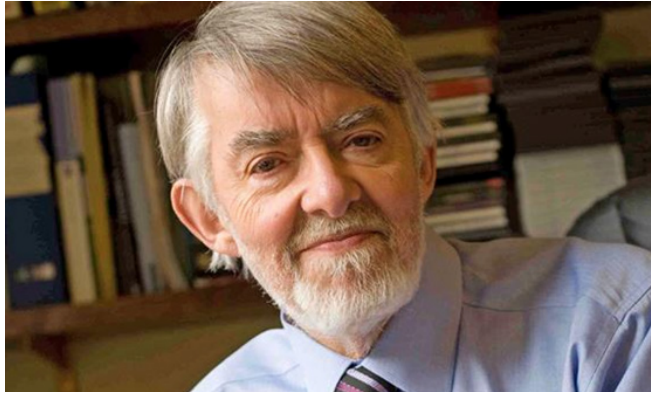
### NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2019: LLANRWST

The National Eisteddfod returns to Llanrwst in the beautiful Conwy valley this summer, from Saturday 3- Saturday 10 August. As ever, it offers a great opportunity to meet up with other CND Cymru members, to recruit, campaign, lobby and discuss. If you wish to help on the stall, please contact **Brian Jones** on **01792 830330** or **brian.jones@phonecoop.coop**

<https://eisteddfod.wales/2019-eisteddfod>

## Paul Flynn MP 1935-2019

*Paul Flynn was born in Cardiff and represented Newport West for Labour from 1987 until 2019. CND Cymru has been privileged to have had Paul Flynn as comrade, fellow campaigner – and fully paid up member – since its inception.*



### **Nuclear power opponent**

From the 1970s, Paul highlighted the dangers of nuclear energy while championing safer, cleaner and cheaper renewable energy alternatives. As a Gwent County Councillor he vociferously opposed a nuclear power station at Portskewett.

It was not built. Paul was consistently involved in the campaign to stop Hinkley C nuclear power station, objecting to the plans for Wylfa B and proposals for Small Modular (Nuclear) Reactors at Trawsfynydd.

On becoming an MP in 1987 Paul's first three questions in the Commons addressed nuclear safety, rhetorically asking "Why are we so committed to future nuclear power technology when we know that it will fix another financial albatross around taxpayers' necks?" As an MP he notably asked 1,410 parliamentary questions on nuclear issues and was described by a BBC commentator as "the thinking man's Dennis Skinner" – he said he rather approved of that comparison!

### **Nuclear Free Wales**

In 1980 Paul was one of a group of fellow campaigners who met in Aberystwyth to establish the Welsh Anti-nuclear Alliance (WANA). As WANA Press Secretary, he played a prominent part in persuading 22 Welsh Councils including all the Welsh counties to declare themselves 'nuclear free'.

### **War and nuclear weapons**

In 1981, Paul supported the send-off of the March from Cardiff to Greenham Common. He was a speaker at the Bridgend (GCHQ) Bunker protest events and campaigns at Caerwent in the 1980s, and a frequent speaker at CND Cymru and Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) events over the decades. A strident critic of the military attacks on Iraq and Afghanistan, he notably, in the House of Commons, read out a list of the names of 176 British military personnel killed while serving in Iraq. In 2012 he was suspended from the House for accusing the Government of lying about Afghanistan.

For over 30 years Paul attended

the annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations at Tredegar Park, Newport. Sean Morris of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) commented: "Paul was an indefatigable peace campaigner and a real pleasure to work with and a true advocate for a nuclear free world". In 2005 Paul wrote: "I cannot think of any conceivable use that nuclear weapons could have, apart from the prestige they give us. They also undermine our position in international talks. How dare we tell Iran not to develop nuclear weapons, when we are going ahead with updating ours?"

These memories represent only a tiny particle of all the remarkable work Paul Flynn achieved – in campaigning and as an MP. He has been a great strength over many decades. Always strong minded - and very eloquent in both Welsh and English.

*We have been privileged to know and work with Paul. Our thoughts, thanks and warm wishes go to Sam, and to his family.*

Jill Gough

## Jill Gough, a portrait

*For almost as long as I can remember, Jill Gough has been the driving force behind CND Cymru. Her commitment, enthusiasm and drive has always been an inspiration. More than that, she has the ability to show people that every action they take for peace, however small, is invaluable in the global campaign.*

*When I became Chair of CND Cymru, my job was made easy by Jill's untiring work. She would alert me to issues, write press releases, briefings, action plans and, of course, edit the brilliant Heddwach. She was always there for help and advice.*

*Jill is a wonderful and kind person. Her smile lights up the room. Jill can bring people from all backgrounds – and from all political parties! – together in a common cause. She builds people's confidence and self esteem. She has a genuine concern for other people which makes her very special. Jill has been crucial in making CND Cymru a broad peace movement, rooted in Welsh communities.*

*Diolch yn fawr Jill. You are amazing!*

**Jill Evans, Chair CND Cymru**



**2007: Jill Gough marches with the late, great Ray Davies (centre) and Dai Davies, then MP for Blaenau Gwent**

***Over the last year, Jill Gough, National Secretary of CND Cymru, has had to take a step back from the fray, for reasons of ill health. However Jill is still a vital and busy member of the CND Cymru team, organising and inspiring. She has been talking to Heddwach.***

Jill first learned about nuclear bombs at the age of 10, while playing with her friend on the pavement outside her home on a council estate. She was terrified, and this contributed to her commitment to build a world in which conflict is resolved non-violently and nuclear power is outlawed. In the 1960s Jill started a Youth CND Group with friends. She spent teenage holidays working on archaeological sites, often alongside US draft dodgers and Vietnam protestors. Jill

came to Wales in 1970 to study archaeology at Cardiff University. She says that "Wales is her country", having been inspired by its pacifist and non-conformist traditions, its republicanism, history, culture, language and landscapes.

Jill's community-based ideals led her to teach as deputy head at a Pembrokeshire primary school. She left to raise a family, passing on her ideals to her children. Parenting in the

*For me, the life and spirit of Wales and of CND Cymru is epitomised in the life and spirit of Jill Gough: alternative, radical, beautiful, embracing and inspiring. Thank you for being you!*  
**Linda Rogers, Bangor & Ynys Môn Peace & Justice**

Reagan and Thatcher years renewed her feelings of urgency to stop nuclear war. In Pembrokeshire she became an activist with Preseli Anti-Nuclear Group. At this time a Nuclear Free Wales was achieved, as potential radioactive waste sites were being test-drilled. She helped organise protests at the US Submarine Tracking Station at Brawdy and then with Aberystwyth CND and Peace and Justice Network.

Jill opposed US Cruise missiles, visiting and supporting the Greenham Common women's peace camp and RAF Molesworth. Ensuring that our children have a future is part of child rearing. Jill was pregnant in April 1986 when the catastrophic nuclear accident occurred at Chernobyl. No Government bodies had any advisory information for the public, even though officers in protective clothing were taking radioactive samples in the Cambrian Mountains.

Jill became National Secretary of CND Cymru in 1991, and edited over 65 editions of Heddwch from 1993. In 1995 CND Cymru raised over £10,000 to take aid, with Adi Roche and the Ireland-based Chernobyl Children's Project, to hospitals and orphanages in the contaminated zones of Belarus. As a member of the convoy, Jill recalls meeting many mothers of sick and dying children, one of whom asked her to "please stop this ever happening to any parent or child again".

During the Bush-Blair wars in the 2000s, Jill played a key role in coordinating peace and



**1995 At Vaselivichi In the Chernobyl-polluted Gomel Region of Belarus. The ambulance, after unloading the medicines at hospitals across the area, was donated to an orphanage.**

justice groups across Wales and gave valuable assistance to the Cynefin y Werin network. She has been invited to speak at schools and groups across Wales and internationally. Jill feels proud of speaking alongside MSPs in the Scottish Parliament and also in the London Assembly, where she indicated that the River Thames might be a good place to start dredging as a base for Britain's nuclear submarine fleet!

Jill and her children have protested at the Trident base at Faslane, and Jill was a familiar face in the Peace Tent at eisteddfodau, or at ceremonies commemorating Hiroshima. She protested against low-level military flying, the continuing military use of Mynydd Epynt, drones at Parc Aberporth, rendition and Guantánamo Bay.

*Cont'd p 14*

*For wisdom, good sense, dedication to the movement, and one hundred percent kindness and warmth, Jill Gough is second to none. Working alongside her on many occasions has been a real pleasure.*  
**Kate Hudson, CND UK**

*Cont'd from p 13*

## Jill Gough, a portrait

She supported whistleblower Chelsea Manning and her Pembrokeshire family, opposed the planned war complex at St Athan, climbed up Sellafeld during a Greenpeace protest, and opposed Wylfa B.

Now a *mam-gu*, Jill says that over the decades of campaigning she has learned that there is no such thing as "ordinary" people and that organising and acting together is always best. She has always said to others that it is like a relay race, and now it is her turn to pass on the baton. Jill is an anarchist at heart, one who believes in people, a bridge builder whose only weapons against the powerful and fractious are humour, non-violence, goodwill and sympathy. It's a combination that works pretty well!

*Thank you, Jill, for clear vision, loving care for the earth and all life upon it, stellar writing and organizing skills, and the creativity, courage, compassion and perseverance you have shared with the movement for a peaceful and nuclear-free future.*

**Felice and Jack Cohen  
Joppa, The Nuclear Resister**

## 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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