

heddwch

Number 67 > Winter 2017 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

NUCLEAR WEAPONS: *breakthrough at the UN*

History was made on 27 October 2016 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted a remarkable resolution.

It proposed 2017 as a date for negotiating a new, legally binding treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons. The UN vote is important because it moves diplomatic and legal action beyond the veto of nuclear-

dependent governments that want to keep their 'privileges' under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

It came as no surprise that the USA, UK, France, Russia and Israel voted against, together with Australia, Japan and most of NATO. But they can't block the process that the UN has now launched. Now they have a choice: whether to

boycott the negotiations, in the knowledge that the non-nuclear nations can bring a nuclear ban treaty into force with or without them, or participate, in hope of weakening the outcome to fit their nuclear interests.

If past experience with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Mine Ban Treaty, and the Cluster Munitions Convention is anything to go by, the UK's attempts to prevent negotiations going ahead will soon make way for tactics to derail, dismiss, obstruct and undermine a constructive outcome.

When a nuclear prohibition treaty is concluded, however, the UK will soon sign, though without much enthusiasm, and try to delay ratifying the treaty for as long as they can in order to save whatever they can from the Trident renewal fiasco.

And in a generation, UK politicians and diplomats will probably take credit for the treaty as a long-standing British objective.

Picture: Richard Outram



Caernarfon: International Peace Day, September 21st 2016 (see p.4)

Continued on Page 2

NUCLEAR WEAPONS: *breakthrough at the UN* (continued)

Here's CND Cymru's guide to the resolution and its implications:

• What was the vote?

The 'Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament' resolution was passed, with 123 states voting in favour, 38 voting against and 16 abstentions. Of the nine nations which possess nuclear weapons, five voted against starting negotiations on banning nuclear weapons (Britain, France, Israel, Russia and the United States), three abstained (China, India & Pakistan), and North Korea voted in favour of the ban.

• When will the negotiations take place?

The resolution stipulates that the negotiating conference will convene twice in 2017. The first meeting will be held on 27-31 March and the second meeting will be held on 15 June-7 July. The resolution calls on states participating in the conference to 'make their best endeavours to conclude as soon as possible a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.'

• Who can take part in the negotiations?

All states, however they voted on the resolution, and also international organizations and civil society. We want as many as possible of the states that voted No to participate in the negotiations in good faith. We are confident that many will. All states will be encouraged to participate, but none will be given the power of veto to block the negotiations or decisions. This makes it possible to envisage a nuclear ban treaty being delivered in time to be adopted by the United Nations at a high level meeting in 2018, as some states have already advocated.

• What impact will this treaty really have if nuclear-armed states don't sign it?

Banning nuclear weapons is not the same as eliminating them. A ban on nuclear weapons will establish an international norm against the possession of nuclear weapons, which will help



BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS BANNED 1972



CHEMICAL WEAPONS BANNED 1993



LAND MINES BANNED 1997



CLUSTER BOMBS BANNED 2008



NUCLEAR WEAPONS BANNED ____ ?



to reduce the perceived value of such weapons. It will draw the line between those states that believe nuclear weapons are unacceptable and illegitimate, and those states that believe nuclear weapons are legitimate and able to provide security. While the dismantling of all nuclear arsenals might be a long process, banning nuclear weapons will make the maintenance and development of nuclear weapons less attractive and more difficult, both for existing nuclear weapons possessors and potential new ones. Previous experiences with biological weapons, chemical weapons, landmines & cluster munitions, shows that prohibition precedes elimination, even if not all states initially sign the treaty.

• Why should the UK join the treaty negotiations?

Under Article VI of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty, the UK is legally obliged 'to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament'. Far from being a leader on multilateral disarmament as it often claims, the UK government is currently opposing new multilateral negotiations towards a global ban treaty, as well as choosing to retain its nuclear arsenal and upgrade associated systems. The UK is rapidly losing its claim to credibility on nuclear disarmament: the government must re-evaluate whether it will support the UN ban process or end up on the wrong side of history.

The treaty – a view from Sweden

Sweden established a commission to review the potential of the nuclear weapons ban treaty.

The result is a policy that has been exhaustively thought through, and tempered in the fires of scepticism and hostility from opposition parliamentarians and defence ministry hawks.

In summary, here are its main elements:

- * The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, and the associated risks, mean that action is essential; it is not sufficient just to continue current approaches and maintain the status quo.

- * It is anomalous that nuclear weapons are the only category of weapons of mass destruction

not prohibited by international law; it is logical to remedy this with a new legal instrument.

- * Pursuing a ban treaty is entirely consistent with Sweden's disarmament and security policies: there is no need to choose between supporting ban treaty negotiations and pursuing closer defence ties with regional partners.

- * A ban treaty will complement and support the NPT, CTBT and other instruments.

- * A ban treaty may ultimately prove not to be effective, but that is no reason not to attempt it.

- * Sweden will support any and all measures, concrete or normative, that may contribute to making progress on nuclear disarmament – including a ban treaty.

• Does NATO membership prevent states from participating and signing this treaty?

NATO member states have reserved the right to adopt independent national policies on nuclear weapons as long as the Alliance has existed.

Before the UN vote, the Norwegian, Dutch and Belgian parliaments strongly argued for their governments not to oppose the resolution, though only the Netherlands had the courage to defy the NATO whip and abstain.

It is hard to make a better, more measured case for pursuing the ban treaty. The ban is not a magic solution, or some terrible threat to international stability, but one tool (among many) that can and should be used right now to contribute to progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Brian Jones

heddwch>action::

Have your elected representatives signed the Global Parliamentary Appeal for a Nuclear Weapons Ban?

If not, please talk to, write to, or email them asking them to sign.

By the beginning of December 2016, the following Welsh politicians had signed: Mick Antoniw AM, Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM, John

Griffiths AM, Llŷr Huws Gruffydd AM, Mike Hedges AM, Bethan Jenkins AM, Dai Lloyd AM, Julie Morgan AM, Adam Price AM, Jenny Rathbone AM, David Rees AM, Simon Thomas AM, Joyce Watson AM, Leanne Wood AM; Ann Clwyd MP, Jonathan Edwards MP, Paul Flynn MP, Nia Griffith MP, Liz Saville-Roberts MP, Jo Stevens MP, Mark Williams MP; Jill Evans MEP, Derek Vaughan MEP.

Full information (including bilingual versions of the appeal) is available on the CND Cymru website www.cndcymru.org or the ICAN website www.icanw.org



**Towards
a global
nuclear
treaty ban**

WALES NEWS

Moving forward

2016 will be remembered as a year of crises.

The desperate and depraved wars in Syria and Yemen, the refugee crisis, the double earthquake of Brexit and Trump, the surge in violence and racial hatred, the growing evidence of climate change... Global security is suddenly full of unknown futures, in which the work of CND Cymru will be as relevant as ever.

Across Wales, despite division and hurt, there is a burgeoning of solidarity, political debate, refugee support and anti-racist action. Young people are energised. While the big questions remain unanswered, small and local actions are becoming a seedbed for future progress.

White poppies

Peace, please – for EVERYONE.

The message is from 8 year-old Elis Gruffydd ap Gwynfor, from Cynwyd, near Corwen in Denbighshire. 2016 was record year for the sale of white poppies, which commemorate all victims of war.



90 years and still marching

You don't need emails and social media to organise an effective protest.

In 1926 no fewer than 2,000 women gathered in the small North Wales town of Penygroes to march for peace. This was organised by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The Penygroes women headed for Caernarfon, where a British Pathé film clip that still survives shows them carrying their banners. Many travelled on to 15 meetings at coastal towns, including Bangor, Penmaenmawr, Conwy, Rhyl and Holywell. Twenty continued to London, where two of them addressed a crowd of over 10,000 'peace-maker pilgrims' in Hyde Park.

On International Peace Day, 21 September 2016, this event was commemorated on the Maes in Caernarfon. A march of over 300 people (see cover picture) included children from many local primary schools. Activists from the district organised the event. The Caernarfon Peace Heritage Group is establishing a 'peace trail' (which can be followed with a phone app), a Wales for Peace initiative.

Rhyl to Newport

Bruce Kent never gives up!

In January 2016 the veteran campaigner for disarmament came to a Peace Weekend organised by the energetic new People's Assembly at Rhyl. This inspiring event can be viewed on You Tube under: Rhyl People's Assembly – Bruce

Kent, Peace Weekend. Take a look! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CK9okLNac0> Bruce Kent returned to Wales in November 2016 to address a meeting of Newport CND, alongside activist Marie Walsh and with Dr John Cox in the chair. Bruce Kent's message is as clear, incisive and witty as ever.

NFLA: no-nuke options for Wales

The Wales Forum of the NFLA (Nuclear Free Local Authorities), backed by CND Cymru and Friends of the Earth (Wales) met in Bridgend on 21 June and in Llangefni on 19 November 2016.

The southern meeting called for decentralised energy and a stop to new nuclear, and it expressed concern over radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea. In Llangefni, PAWB (People Against Wylfa B/Pobl Atal Wylfa B) and CADNO (see p10) joined forces with the the NFLA. Speakers expressed local concerns about the proposals for Wylfa B and the threat of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) at Trawsfynydd, and considered an alternative energy strategy for Wales.

War is Peace

This Orwellian slogan – appropriate in our own 'post-truth' era – was the title of a seminar held in September 2016 by Stop the War Aberystwyth and Ceredigion.

Professor Ken Booth, writer and researcher into international diplomacy, and John Rees of Stop the War, considered the nature and politics of conflict.

Aberporth drone crash: the truth at last

Back in September 2014 over 200 protestors converged on Parc Aberporth, Blaenannerch, the military drones facility in Ceredigion.

CND Cymru, Drape the Drones and other groups in Wales were protesting against the presence of Watchkeeper drones, which are being tested in the skies above West Wales. The case being made against the drones was that the Watchkeeper programme was a colossal waste of at least £1.7 billion, and that wherever the drones were deployed they could only make the situation worse.

£Millions gone in just a few seconds

Less than a month after the protest, on 16 October 2014, one of the Watchkeeper drones crashed during a landing attempt. Fortunately for the military personnel responsible, the crash took place within the confines of the airport. No-one outside the base spotted it. The unused aviation fuel did not catch fire, so there were no loud explosions or plumes of smoke. The remains of the drone were removed to a covered

'secure' area and were later whisked away to various facilities in England for another more forensic examination.

Pancake landing

The MoD finally published its recently declassified Accident Report in 2016, slipping it into the public domain in August, when most people were sunning themselves on the beaches. It turned out that almost all public misgivings about drone safety were justified. The controllers had decided to override the automatic landing software and attempted to land the drone manually, because of approaching bad weather. They thought they had got the drone on to the ground, but they hadn't. The drone was still 5 metres up in the air. In an instant it nosedived so hard and fast into the ground that it wrote itself off. This farcical sequence of events may remind our older readers of a catchphrase from *The Navy Lark*, a BBC radio sit-com broadcast from 1959 to 1977: 'Left-hand down a bit, right-hand up a bit, back a bit, steady as she goes' – followed by crashing and smashing!

Public at risk

The potential for a real disaster to have occurred that day is not as amusing. In the immediately surrounding area are homes, a chapel, workplaces, a school, a second-hand car dealership and the main Cardigan to Aberystwyth trunk road. It was a miracle that the out of control military drone didn't crash onto any of these. In Part 3 of the report the West Wales Airport Air Traffic Service Manager states that he made a conscious decision not to call 999 because '... he was aware of a potential public relations issue'. He would have known that there was unused aviation fuel in the drone and had that fuel ignited he would have needed to call out the emergency services, surely the first thing anyone would do. But then – think of the bad press if all this had got out.

Jon Plumpton

What a bargain!

Freedom of Information requests have revealed that the Welsh government, the Welsh Development Agency, the local authority and the EU invested about £17 million of public money into the development of Parc Aberporth between 1999 and 2015. Politicians of all main parties promised job creation. We now know that just 3 permanent staff support flights from Aberporth, and that there are only 8 other full-time staff (and 20 to 40 people who pop in now and then).



The crashed military drone: 'Left hand down a bit.....'

Jobs without bombs?

On 27 October 2016, the United Nations adopted a resolution which should have all campaigners for a more peaceful world shouting for joy.

Negotiations are to be launched to outlaw nuclear weapons worldwide (see p.1-3). Britain, however, has opposed the resolution, making a nonsense of previous claims by Defence Secretary Michael Fallon MP that, "We share the vision of a world that is without nuclear weapons, achieved through multilateral disarmament."

Unions and nuclear weapons

So no support for either unilateral or multilateral agreements from the Westminster government after all. Are we surprised? Perhaps more shocking is the stance taken by certain trade union leaders in support of nuclear weapons, because, they say, we need the jobs. This means, in turn, that we need to keep the nuclear industry intact. Any ideas we might have cherished of a future powered in a sustainable, safe, and environmentally friendly fashion have been nuked.

New times, old thinking

This short-sighted view is thoroughly destructive of the positive political movements recently emerging. Neither nuclear power nor Trident will have the support of the majority of those people supporting

Jeremy Corbyn, no matter the claims of union leaders within Unite or the GMB.

It would appear, however, that these unions would rather risk the splitting of the Labour movement than risk a split in the union itself. This is part of the contrived and tortured statement made by the Unite Executive on Trident: "We ... of course accept the compelling moral argument against the use of nuclear weapons ... But neither is there a moral case for a trade union accepting the obliteration of thousands of its members' jobs ..."

On the other hand, the union welcomes the Labour Party Defence Review and the emphasis Jeremy Corbyn "rightly places on world disarmament."

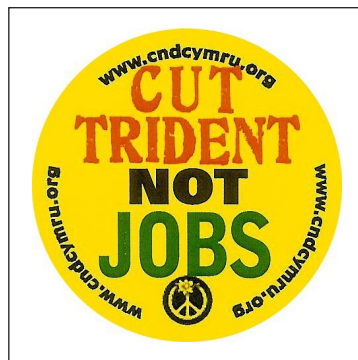
The whole document reads like the old Tory construct of backing multilateral, but never unilateral, disarmament – aka a totally self-serving whitewash.

If these union leaders have no vision themselves, they could draw ideas from the Scots.

The Scottish option

In April 2015 a report was published by STUC (the Scottish Trades Union Congress) and by Scottish CND showing how the skills in Trident-related work could be transferred to alternative economic development.

Models have been used such as the work carried out in Europe at the end of the Cold War, when programmes



were developed to enable speedy transition to civilian use following the closure of defence bases and the reduction of defence manufacturing.

The report also outlines that more jobs would be created if the same amount of money as is invested in Trident were to be invested in other areas of public spending. The report also emphasises the promotion of a green economy, something we all support, don't we?

Linda Rogers

- In the Trident replacement vote at Westminster on 18 July 2016, 471 MPs voted for, 116 against. Check here to see how your local MP voted at Westminster: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/19/trident-how-your-mp-voted>

heddwch>action:

Work within your trade union to oppose military and civil nuclear. Is your trade union CND-affiliated?

See <http://www.cnduk.org/get-involved/trade-unions>

ATOMIC WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT

Burghfield shutdown

June 2016 saw a month of international non-violent protest and blockade organised by Trident Ploughshares at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Burghfield.

This plant near Reading in Berkshire, designs, manufactures and services Britain's nuclear 'deterrent'.

Welsh Day of Action

The Welsh Day of Action (15 June) saw CND Cymru members and other activists from Blackwood, Caerphilly, Swansea, West Wales and Powys join the action. At the North Gate, Cardiff's Côr Cochion and Aberystwyth's Côr Gobaith were in fine voice. Despite the UK government's austerity agenda, it is still happy to pay out up to £167 billion for the renewal and maintenance of Trident: "Obscene amounts are spent on useless nuclear weapons, while support for the most vulnerable in our society is under constant attack by this government" said Wendy Lewis, from Caerphilly.

For the Trident Ploughshares film of AWE Burghfield 2016 (starring CND Cymru, Côr Cochion and Côr Gobaith!) go to You Tube: Month of Actions Opposing the Renewal of Trident

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOyyJhvGS-dA&feature=youtu.be>

How is AWE set up?

AWE is owned by a private consortium which includes Lockheed Martin UK, Serco and Jacobs Engineering Group, with the UK government

owning a 'golden share'. Their sites at Aldermaston, Burghfield and Blacknest in England and at RNAD Coulport in Scotland are owned by the Ministry of Defence. Aldermaston was the target of Britain's first big march against nuclear weapons in 1958, called by the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War (DAC).

AWE under 'special measures'

In July 2016 the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) announced that AWE Burghfield was to be placed back under special measures ('enhanced regulatory attention') because of a lax safety regime. Meanwhile AWE Aldermaston wins the prize, remaining in special measures for the fourth year running.

AWE staff in walk-out

Anti-nuclear protestors are not the only ones to shut down Burghfield and Aldermaston. In November 2016 workers at both AWE sites downed tools as unions rejected changes to their pensions agreement.

CND Cymru wishes them every success, and hopes they find safer and fairer employment in more ethical and useful branches of the engineering industry.

heddwch>action:

Join in non-violent direct action!

For forthcoming events or contacts visit Trident Ploughshares website

<http://tridentploughshares.org>



Protestors with a giant plywood submarine 'locked on' to block the Construction Gate most effectively.

Wylfa, will it or won't it?

During 2016 engineers have been drilling into the seabed at Porth y Pistyll, by Wylfa Head at the spectacularly beautiful and stormy top end of Wales.

They've been checking the geology, prior to the construction of a seawater coolant intake for the proposed £14 billion power station. A new wharf is being planned too, for receiving reactor components and building materials by ship. So is the new project well under way? In a word, no. As we go to press, even the reactor design, an Advanced Boiling Water Reactor of dubious efficiency, still has to be formally approved. Will Wylfa Newydd really happen? In the current political climate and unknown economic future, who can say?

Reality check

Around Cemaes, the nearby village, scepticism is growing. The vast size of the site is increasingly apparent and there is some anger about planning issues, roads and house demolitions, and about new super-pylons (just putting cables under the Menai Strait would cost £100 million). No Wylfa, no super-pylons, says PAWB. The hype about job creation is beginning to be punctured too: only 25 percent of the proposed 10,000 (really?) construction workers are expected to come from North Wales, and only 45 percent

of the proposed 850 permanent staff. Public outcry over this news included the County Council for once, and a promise to reconsider was made by Horizon Nuclear. We'll see about that.

Bechtel the builders, can they fix it?

Does the name Bechtel sound familiar? It ought to. It is the USA's largest construction and civil engineering corporation. It is the company that was given the job of 'reconstructing' Iraq after the 2003 war. It had close links with the CIA and a long history of pipeline construction across the Middle East. Its record in Iraq became infamous, and in 2006 a US government audit concluded that it involved gross mismanagement. So who better to partner Hitachi and the Japanese JGC Corporation, as proposed builders of Wylfa B, than this bunch?

- Bechtel was involved in the Manhattan project, which developed the first atomic bombs, dropped on Japan in 1945, and in nuclear testing in the Nevada desert.
- After World War II Bechtel became a major player in the nuclear power industry and radioactive waste disposal. In 2016 the US Energy Department identified over 500 faults in their cleaning up operations at the Hanford nuclear plant in Washington State.
- In 2014 Bechtel became the UK Ministry of Defence's preferred bidder for the procurement of military equipment for the RAF and Royal Navy.

Lost in translation

They just don't get it, do they? About 57 percent of the Anglesey population are Welsh speakers. So when Horizon Nuclear complains that it wants language protection measures deleted from the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Development Plan, it displays its ignorance of the local culture and creates a PR disaster into the bargain.

In November three Welsh language campaigning groups (Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, Dyfodol yr Iaith and Cylch yr Iaith) joined forces to slam Horizon's proposals regarding language, housing and planning.



PAWB and CND Cymru supporters join the Japanese peace campaigner and Buddhist monk Rev. Gyoro Nagase on his two-day walk from Ynys Cwytan to Wylfa power station in 2016.

NUCLEAR POWER - HINKLEY

May takes the dead end option

Going nuclear is a bad idea for so many reasons, but making the decision on the grounds of political expediency is a surefire recipe for disaster.

Theresa May's resurrection of the Hinkley C project, just across the water from Cardiff Bay, is a case in point. In the summer of 2016 an unprecedented agreement broke out amongst journalists left and right, amongst Greens and City analysts, amongst political cartoonists, even amongst French trade unionists: they all agreed that the Hinkley C project had become the biggest white elephant in the of history of infrastructure and should be aborted as quickly as possible.

Back on track?

When 'Maggie' May took over from Cameron, the champagne for EDF was cancelled and the project was put on Pause. A

good idea. But in September the Hinkley project was switched back to Play, despite worries about the cost and the geopolitics with China. May, in a blind panic post-Brexit, wanted a big infrastructure project to reassure the world that it was business as usual.

Who profits...

'Business as usual' these days means that corporations cream off the profits while the poor old public picks up the tab. This is not nationalisation, it is Robin Hood in reverse: robbing the poor to pay the rich.

We have now learned that the insanely extortionate Hinkley deal will cap the amount that the operators and investors in the project would have to pay for the storage of radioactive waste.

Let the taxpayer stump up for the rest.

...who pays?

Other companies, not just EDF, are rubbing their hands in glee as this principle is adopted. NuGen, the company planning to build three Westinghouse reactors at Moorside, in Cumbria, suggested in November 2016 that we the taxpayers should take on the engineering costs for nuclear new build, too. You may remember (but they don't) that back in the days of Tony Blair, the Tories said they would only go for nuclear if it could pay its own way.

Wilful myopia?

It seems very strange that the majority of politicians in Wales fail to grasp the blindingly obvious fact that nuclear technology is rapidly moving into history, or that if any of these supersized mainframe power plants ever are completed, they will be dinosaurs. Renewables really are on Fast Forward, along with energy storage schemes, smart grids which can handle variations in supply, and local community generation. The frantic efforts to keep the nuclear industry on life support, and on training new generations in nuclear engineering, would surely have nothing to do with having a workforce able to turn out weapons of mass destruction. Would it?

◀ Catch 22

In October 2016 National Infrastructure Planning officers came to Llangefni to discuss with the public the 'development consent process' for Wylfa B. The process is fundamentally flawed because it is predicated on the National Policy Statement (the 'bedrock' of the planning law, according to the NIPs), a political fiction in the first place and one that is now hopelessly out of date.

The clue to this kind of planning lies in the word 'consent'.

The sole aim of the exercise is to expedite approval, by ticking boxes. Their system is full of 'Catch 22' clauses, providing every opportunity to pass the buck and bypass democratic process. Such was the response from the audience that the NIPs people never got beyond page 3 of their PowerPoint presentation.

heddwch>action:

PAWB needs your support. See p14 for forthcoming events in 2017. On Facebook visit the group Stop Wylfa – No Nuclear in Wales. For the website go to <http://stop-wylfa.org/wp/>

heddwch>action::

Sign a petition against Hinkley C! Go to <http://stophinkley.org/PETITION.htm>

Trainspotting

They look harmless enough as they hurtle through busy stations and suburbs, but some trains are not what they seem to be.

If their livery says Direct Rail Services, they carry nuclear freight and are owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. DRS has depots at Crewe and Carlisle, and it regularly operates trains along the North Wales coast.

Waste from nuclear power plants, containing the plutonium that can be used in nuclear weapons, may be taken to the overflowing nuclear cesspit that is Sellafield, or else to Capenhurst for enrichment and reuse as fuel. The trains carry large white or cream-coloured 'flasks' containing highly radioactive fuel rods. Safety testing methods for these have been criticised and there is evidence in some cases of radioactive contamination migrating to the surface of the flasks (or 'sweating'). Nuclear trains may derail, like the one travelling from Barrow to Sellafield in September 2014.

DRS trains travel through congested junctions,



A nuclear flask is loaded onto a DRS train at the Valley railhead.

towns and cities even at peak hours, passing within 3 metres of passenger trains. An accident could become a major disaster. Welsh DRS trains pick up their loads from Wylfa at the Valley railhead on Anglesey. They proceed through Bangor, Llandudno Junction, Colwyn Bay and Fflint.

- In July 2016 Welsh anti-nuclear activists leafleted stations at Bangor, Colwyn Bay and Rhyl, with similar actions taking place from Bridgewater to Bromley, from London to Inverness.

SMRs: the fox bites back

In Meirionnydd, veterans of the struggle against Trawsfynydd, the controversial lakeside Magnox plant which operated from 1965 to 1991, have reactivated.

CADNO (Cymdeithas Atal Dinistr Niwclear Oesol – the Society for the Prevention of Nuclear Annihilation) held their first new meeting in Maentwrog in October 2016. Cadno means 'fox' in Welsh. So why is this particular fox back in the henhouse?

Well, the new flavour of the month among the nuclear lobbyists is the Small Modulator Reactor or SMR, and they are eyeing up Trawsfynydd (formerly nicknamed Trawsnobyl) as a

handy location. 'They' in this instance includes not only the zealots of the Nuclear Industry Association but the local Plaid Cymru MP, Liz Saville Roberts, and the Good Lord himself Dafydd Elis Thomas AM, who recently declared himself an Independent in the Senedd.

CADNO is concerned about radioactive waste, about risks to public health and safety, the impact on farming and tourism, and the potential links of this technology to the military's need to maintain nuclear engineering skills, or to the nuclear submarines which carry Trident.

Are SMRs the cutting edge of a new nuclear renaissance? Not at all, they are the desperate last

throw of the dice for an industry which, including Hinkley C, is running out of time. SMRs are neither that small, that new, that contained, nor that safe. They are outrageously expensive.

Even the US Government's Accountability Office suggests as much in its 2015 report. Wake up, politicians! SMRs are long-term disasters in the making. As CADNO points out, the future is renewable. That revolution is well under way.

heddwch>action:

Do you want to support the CADNO campaign?

Contact Awel Irene on 07867 790 971 OR Dylan Edwards on 01678 520 428.

OBITUARIES

John Ainslie

Co-ordinator, Scottish CND

1954 – 2016

Our colleague and comrade, John Ainslie died of cancer at the early age of 62 in October 2016.

As the first Trident submarine arrived at Faslane in 1992, John, in a canoe, had been one of the flotilla out on the Clyde to 'welcome' it. John was gentle and unassuming, yet a very active campaigner. He wrote several useful reports on aspects of nuclear policy, in addition to taking Scottish CND 'on to the streets'.

John knew that Scottish independence could well secure the abolition of Trident and that Scotland could set an example to the world. His most recent published report (July 2016) concerned the pretence that the British Trident system was British, when in fact it depends entirely upon the USA.

In the weeks before he died he was working on a report about the potential impact of a nuclear weapons convoy accident.

We bid a very sad farewell to John, but know that he will still be there alongside us on the streets, at Faslane and elsewhere.

Vera Jones

CND Cymru

d 2015, Llandrindod

Our appreciation must be recorded for the generous donation that Vera has left CND Cymru in her will.

Vera Jones was very active in CND Cymru for many years. She and her sister Muriel were notably committed to supporting the Greenham campaign and, for over 30 years, annually oversaw the planting of a peace tree in Llandrindod, in commemoration of the suffering of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Rowena Thomas

Anti-nuclear activist

d 2016, Bwlchgwyn, Clwyd

Rowena Thomas, who was always passionately opposed to war and nuclear weapons, sadly passed away in 2016.

She saw no boundaries between her roles and work as a schoolteacher, mother, yoga teacher, a Christian and a community activist. On retiring from teaching in her 60s she spent the next 30 years of her life being extremely active in the peace and anti-nuclear movement. Apart from taking action at Greenham, she notably spent several weeks in prison for 'cutting the wire' of several nuclear installations and military sites, as part of the Snowball Campaign in the 1980s. Rowena, along with Lib Rowlands-Hughes, Llangollen, also famously erected 'Welcome to Nuclear Free Wales' signs on the border with England as the Declaration was made in 1982. That only touches the surface of all the constant direct action she took to further the cause of a peaceful, just nuclear-free world. Rowena has now passed her baton on to us.

Dr Rhoda (Doni) Jones

CND Cymru

1919-2016, Llan Ffestiniog

We were sad to hear of the passing of Doni, a stalwart of CND Cymru and other campaigns over many years.

Doni was our reliable CND Cymru Groups and Affiliates Secretary for many years. She contributed to CND Cymru Council meetings, took part in demonstrations, memorably for Nuclear Free Wales, opposition to Trawsfynydd and Wylfa nuclear power stations, Cruise missiles and Trident. Always good company, Doni will be sorely missed. CND Cymru sends condolences to Bini and the family.

OBITUARY

George Crabb:

Our Friend, Comrade, Brother: 1924 - 2016

Over his 91 years George was an extraordinary example of a human dedicated to making the world a better place; working alongside others for true social justice and peace. George was no less active in our campaigns against nuclear power.

George Crabb was until recently an active member and Vice-Chair of CND Cymru. Over many years, together with his late wife Jeanne, he had been an absolutely reliable member of many other groups dedicated to change. These included Cardiff Peace Shop, Cynefin y Werin, Cowbridge CND, Bridgend CND, Ex-Services CND and Veterans for Peace and the Bridgend Bunker Campaign.

Solidarity forever

George was an active member of the Communist Party of Great Britain to the end. He used to say that he had lived through the build-up of the fascist parties in Spain and in Germany, and was well aware of their intentions and consequences.



The campaigner

The Snowball Campaign saw George and Jeanne cutting fences before handing themselves in to the police. George will be remembered for Caerwent, Brawdy and Llanishen CND, the Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance, the Stop Hinkley campaign; the campaign which saw the erection of a commemorative stone to Welsh conscientious objectors in Cardiff's Temple of Peace garden, and the *Senedd i Gymru* campaign...

George always wore his father's military medals at commemorative and protest events to bear witness to the fact that lies were told about 'the war to end all wars'.

When George came to Wales as a miner in the 1950s, the Communist Party was strong, particularly because of the traditions of solidarity, non-conformism and socialism amongst the Welsh in general and the miners in particular.

As a young mine worker George had stood in at a League for Greek Democracy meeting as an NUM delegate for the lodge – this turned out to be fateful as it was here that he met his future wife, Jeanne. Many if not all of us will always think of George and Jeanne together. With shared ideological vision, they were well fitted to travel the politically interesting seas of the 1950s...60s...70s...80s...

90s... and on into the twenty-first century.

A 'special needs' teacher

Having previously trained as a teacher, George went to work in the special needs school at Pentyrch – Craig y Parc. He was then headhunted by Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Penarth (the Penarth School for the Physically Handicapped). Around 1966, the Spastics Society (now Scope) was building groundbreaking new schools. George was offered the headship of Meldreth Manor in Hertfordshire, with Jeanne on his team. This was a tremendous opportunity for them both, putting them at the cutting edge of education provision for children with

OBITUARY



cerebral palsy. The focus was on recognising the needs of the whole child – their physical, emotional and academic needs.

There are different types of violence – and keeping people under lock and key in mental institutions because they are 'different' is a violation of human rights. George always knew that only people whose world view is informed by *chwarae teg*, social justice and peace could stand at the foot of such a steep hill and see clearly what they had to do, and how to do it. Jeanne & George eventually returned to South Wales where George took up the residential headship of Ysgol Erw'r Delyn (Penarth School for the Physically Handicapped).

The Welsh language

George knew that real change can only be achieved by helping individuals lead fulfilled lives and by organising

solidarity between working people, whatever language they speak. On retirement George and Jeanne moved to Cowbridge. Both learned Welsh. They attended day classes, evening

classes, crash courses, Llangrannog courses, Eisteddfod courses and residential courses. They inevitably ended up fluent in Welsh and taking their own classes in Cowbridge.

Active for peace

With Jeanne he became ever more active in the peace movement. They travelled to the USSR as part of a peace delegation in the 1980s; represented Wales at a protest about the launch of nuclear submarines in Brittany; represented CND Cymru in Ireland; sat down in the road at Hinkley Point and at Trawsfynydd nuclear power stations, and 'trespassed' on land designated for military training on the Brecon Beacons.

Jeanne and George were part of the monthly Wales vigils at the USAF base at Molesworth (a site planned for US Nuclear

Armed Cruise Missiles – as at Greenham Common). Here they had to sleep out under the stars on the cold ground – tents were not permitted. They did this once a month for a year. It worked. Today, US nuclear armed Cruise missiles are not based at Molesworth, nor at Greenham.

Voices together

As do many, George rightly believed in progress through the joint energy, will and struggles of real, ordinary (special) people. Like the member of a choir – and George was a member of Côr Meibion y Machlud – he understood the power of voices raised together in unison.

There is a myth that as we age we become less engaged and more reactionary. It isn't true, and George's life is the proof.

'We may not be able to see him in front of us, but all George worked for and cared about is still here, and our struggle must continue. George's hands are still holding ours. We promise to continue with this wholly good man's work, in the determined, intelligent and gentle manner of our deeply missed and dear friend and comrade.'

Jill Gough
National Secretary of CND Cymru

Rhyl People's Assembly Peace Weekend 2017

**Fri 13- Sun 15 January
Speakers and
discussion**

**Saturday 1-5pm
St Mary's Church,
Wellington Road**

http://www.rhylpeoplesassembly.org/about_us

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/560851544039911/?fref=ts>



**Pobol Atal Wylfa-B
People Against Wylfa-B**

**will be holding
important meetings in
2017: Saturday March
11th (location tbc);
August 5th-12th during
the Anglesley National
Eisteddfod.**

*Click this link to sign the petition
"Allow Parliament a vote on
planned Hinkley Point C/Bradwell
nuclear power plants"*

<https://petition.parliament.uk/signatures/28897598/verify?token=tUnilo8Tw5fUXZKy0Dm4>

HEDDWCH

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

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Redkite Print

redkiteprint@thefreeflyer.com

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**The next edition of *heddwch*
will be published in Spring
2017**

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activities across Wales.**

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**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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