

HEDDWCH



Number 83 > May 2023 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Kristen Dvergsdal/Atomwvpen



NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ILLEGAL!

Tell that to the leaders of the world's nuclear powers: Putin, Biden, Macron, Sunak, Kim, Modi, Sharif, Xi and Netanyahu. These men all refuse to sign the TPNW (the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons). We reject this global nuclear blackmail and demand the just and enduring peace offered by the TPNW.

Our apologies: due to illness, the December issue of Heddwch could not be printed. However it can be viewed in newsletter format on our website: www.cndcymru.org/en/heddwch-magazine/

Nuclear deterrence never offered genuine security, and under the often reckless leadership of the current nuclear powers, the risks are increasing day by day. Russia decides to station nuclear weapons in Belarus. The Ukraine war escalates, with no clear diplomatic endgame in sight. The USA and its allies wind up tensions in the Indo-Pacific through the new AUKUS pact, which undermines the principles of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Sending US nuclear submarines to South

Korea only escalates tensions with the North.

As we reach the 20th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, the UK is sending high-penetration anti-tank shells, which contain depleted uranium (DU) to Ukraine, despite the effects of this in Fallujah, where exposure to radioactive and chemically toxic uranium dust were a possible cause of a rise in cancers and birth defects.

www.cadu.org.uk/intro.htm

The world is threatened by a climate crisis, by natural disasters, by economic chaos. Nuclear warfare is never the answer.

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Elfed Jones

CND Cymru on the road, Ynys Môn 2022

THE MISSING LINK

What lies behind the enduring obsession with civil nuclear power? It is eye-wateringly expensive; it is vulnerable to military attack and natural disasters; it leaves a radioactive legacy which can last thousands of years. To re-classify nuclear power as 'green' is patently absurd.

Civil and military nuclear applications, from the start, were two sides of the same coin. The 'atoms for peace' slogan, coined by US President Eisenhower in 1953, was Orwellian Newspeak. The world's first nuclear power station, Calder Hall (1956), was designed to produce weapons grade plutonium, as were subsequent Magnox reactors.

Non-nuclear countries such as Iran may wish to acquire this capability from scratch, but what about countries who already have sufficient weapons-grade material to maintain their nuclear arsenal? What drives the civil nuclear lobby? After all, the current proposals for SMRs and larger reactors cannot meet the crucial deadlines for net zero. Spiralling costs and time overruns are endemic to the nuclear industry. Cheap renewables are racing ahead.

It seems that the desire for a civil nuclear renaissance is driven by the need to defray the expense of researching and manufacturing new military nukes. The AUKUS pact (see p5) will involve Rolls Royce in the UK building nuclear-powered subs for Australia, employing a large work force in Derby. Tom Purnell, Business Development Director of the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, welcomed this: 'The naval propulsion market has a very large



CND Cymru protesters in Aberystwyth, March 2023. One reason we oppose civil SMRs (Small Modular Reactors) is because of their close ties with military R&D.

crossover in the manufacturing capabilities and skills required by the civil nuclear industry, with many of the same nuclear-ready manufacturers working in both sectors. To meet the requirements of AUKUS and the UK's own submarine programme at the same time as we build a new generation of nuclear power stations to meet our national targets for decarbonisation and energy security (sic), we need to invest and innovate to develop the capabilities and skills of the UK supply chain.'

In a letter to the Guardian on 16th March Professor Andy Stirling of Sussex University wrote: 'In committing to "proactively look for opportunities to align delivery of the civil and defence nuclear enterprises", long-hidden military dependency on civilian infrastructures is at last openly admitted. Nuclear submarines would be too costly to build and maintain without an 'industrial base' largely funded by elevated consumer electricity bills.'

A MESSAGE FROM OSLO

PETER ADAMSON, *from Abertillery, reports from ICAN's 2023 forum*

In 2017 the Nobel Peace Prize committee awarded its accolade to ICAN—the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons—for its work that led to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Nuclear weapons were banned as the treaty came into force in January 2021, but countries must sign up for and ratify the treaty. No nuclear armed state has so far done this.

The forum was upbeat and professional. Young people were in the majority. There was a strong sense of urgency to get nuclear armed and nuclear complicit states to act on the Treaty, given the heightened nuclear threat arising out of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and that other existential threat to life on our planet, climate change.

Maja F Thompson and **Daniel Högsta** of ICAN Norway began proceedings. Delegates were shown a moving presentation from Hiroshima survivor **Setsuko Thurlow**. **Nina Tannenwald** spoke about her book, *The Nuclear Taboo*. The book's thesis is that since the dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki there has been a tacit

acceptance within nuclear armed states that the actual use of nuclear weapons was unthinkable. However, the 21st century has given us political leaders such as Trump and Putin, who openly speak of using nukes, thereby eroding the nuclear taboo.

Afternoon sessions enabled delegates to attend smaller discussions. I attended one session on the effects of radiation. A speaker from Kazakhstan, where 466 atomic tests took place during the Soviet era, described what the legacy of this was for many ordinary people in his country. See www.nuclearartestimpacts.org

'Building a Grassroots Campaign' was the title of another session. Speakers included the **Scottish MSP Bill Kidd**, **Ellie Kinney** from CND UK, **Lucy Tiller** of youth TPNW, **Lisa Korosova** from Ukraine and a Nigerian—**Uve**—representing African youth. Organise campaigns around local circumstances, was the advice, for example the proximity of a nuclear site to a community, or actual war on your doorstep. But engage with



Kristen Dvergssdal/Atomvappen

Oslo, home of the Nobel Peace Prize, was host to the March forum of ICAN.

AUKUS AND THE NEW COLD WAR

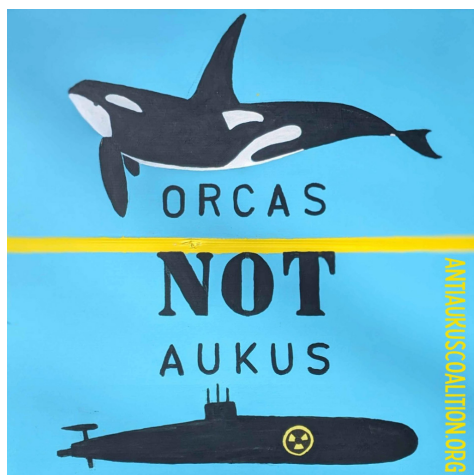
people involved in different campaigns too and find common ground. **Bill Kidd** spoke of the online campaign, 'Don't Bank on the Bomb', which anyone can get involved in. **Uwe** spoke of how Africa was a nuclear-free zone, apart from the uranium mining that takes place there.

On Thursday evening delegates were invited to a reception in Oslo City Hall. The event was hosted by **Marianne Borgen**, mayor of Oslo and a long-time campaigner for nuclear disarmament.

MSP2, the meeting of state parties, the annual gathering of signatories to the TPNW, takes place at the UN headquarters in New York on 22 November 2023. The gathering will be hosted by Mexico, the first UN member to declare itself a nuclear-free zone.

The climax of the two days was a gathering outside the nearby Norwegian parliament building. Informal conversations I had with Norwegian attendees revealed that they believed Norway would sign the TPNW very soon. Norway is already a nuclear-free zone and given its history of administering the Peace Prize, this is a glimmer of sanity in an otherwise depressing climate of increasing belligerence between nations.

PETER ADAMSON



Is this really the time to be reviving a global Cold War? **Biden, Sunak and Albanese** evidently thought so, resetting to the old Cold War default when they signed up to the AUKUS Indo-Pacific pact in March 2023.

AUKUS (Australia-UK-US) is an all-Anglo-Saxon military alliance, designed to keep China in its place and the USA on top. It sets up an expansion of US military bases across the region and passes on nuclear powered submarine technology to a non-nuclear state (Australia), thereby undermining the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The subs themselves will be conventionally armed—for now.

Will it work? Probably not, because AUKUS escalates

rather than defuses the perceived threat. US hubris in the past has so often created the very situation it has sought to remedy. **Former Australian PM Paul Keating** calls AUKUS the 'worst deal in history'. There are even sceptical voices within the US intelligence community.

In Australia, the eye-watering long-term cost of the new plan, currently heading towards \$368 billion, is regarded by many as prohibitive. AUKUS is opposed by Australia's Council of Trade Unions: Wales TUC please take note! Selling AUKUS to the public as enhancing Australian sovereignty is risible: over here, we all know just how 'independent' our own deterrent really is.

PHILIP STEELE

MILITARISATION IN RUSSIA

DR JENNIFER G. MATHERS is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University



Wikimedia Commons/Kremlin.ru

Members of the Youth Army shake hands with Putin

One of the many things that we have learned as a result of the mass invasion of Ukraine that Russian forces began on 24th February 2022 is the extent of militarisation of Russian society, and the lengths that **Vladimir Putin's** regime will go to ensure that future generations of Russians embrace military values.

The American feminist scholar **Cynthia Enloe** defines militarisation as a step-by-step process that leads us to believe that militaries and military solutions can provide us with the answers to our problems. We can see this search for military solutions to the problems of everyday civilian life happening when a community welcomes the jobs that will be created by the opening or expansion of a facility that produces technology, equipment or weapons for the use of the armed forces, or when a family is relieved that a talk with a military recruiter has inspired their teenage son to pay more attention to his studies and think about his future.

As these two examples make clear, Russia is by no

means the only country with a militarised society or with political leaders who actively promote militarisation as a means of securing their grip on power. But it is worth paying special attention to the processes of militarisation at work in Russia because they are likely to shape the kind of post-war and, perhaps, post-Putin Russia that will emerge when the war in Ukraine is finally over.

The most sinister processes of militarisation at work in Russia are the ones that target children. The Russian state has organised a series of concerted campaigns that are designed to give young people a personal connection to the war in Ukraine and to the Russian soldiers who are fighting in it. In school, pupils learn about soldiers from their town, city or region who are fighting in Ukraine, write letters to them expressing their support and admiration, and send them care packages. At one level, this seems quite harmless and even positive: we should all want children to learn to care about others. But one of the effects of this form of altruism is to make the war in Ukraine part of the

everyday lives of children across Russia. Actions that are performed frequently, especially if they are associated with a practice that is as ordinary for children as going to school, quickly become normalised. It is much harder to question a practice that is thoroughly embedded in our everyday routine.



Wikimedia Commons/Mil.ru

Victory Day Parade in Moscow, 2019

Efforts to develop a sense of admiration for soldiers and military achievements on the part of young people go well beyond the current war. A new initiative provides schools with special desks for pupils that are decorated with the images and life stories of Russia's military heroes from the past—the Second World War or the Soviet war in Afghanistan, for example. The number of desks in each school are limited, so the chance to sit at one of these special desks is reserved as a reward for the pupils with the best marks—linking proximity to military heroism with academic achievement.

Processes of militarisation that are aimed at children are not limited to activities that take place in schools. Popular culture is a powerful way of making the life of a soldier appear exciting and full of adventure. In 2022 a new animated Russian film was released about the Tsarist-era military leader **General Alexander Suvorov**. With primary school children as the target audience, the film features an average teenage boy as the main character who saves the life of the famous hero during the Napoleonic wars. *Suvorov: The Great Journey* is just one of many Russian films and television programmes aimed at young people that take their inspiration from military history and serve the dual purposes of patriotic education and entertainment.

been militarised. One of the most popular fastest-growing clubs for young people in Russia is the “Youth Army”, which is sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. Members have their own, distinctive red and beige uniforms and learn military skills such as firing weapons. They also engage in community projects, such as creating street art featuring patriotic images and slogans, or befriending children from the Donbas region who have fled (or been forcibly relocated) to Russia as a result of the war.

But while it is important to be aware of the efforts that Putin's regime devotes to militarising the next generation of Russian citizens, we should not fall into the trap of thinking that Russians are inherently warlike or that wars involving Russia in the future are inevitable. In fact, the very scale and scope of these state-sponsored militarising processes demonstrate that the state realises it cannot afford to relax its efforts to achieve its desired results. Militarisation is both powerful and insidious, but it can be resisted and it is reversible.

DR JENNIFER G. MATHERS

And other leisure activities for children have

REMEMBERING CHERNOBYL

The radiation released by the April 1986 nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, in Ukraine, was equivalent to 200 Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs combined. 237 emergency workers developed acute radiation sickness, and many died.

I visited the Chernobyl exclusion zone on a warm sunny day in 2006. The Geiger counter allowed us just 20 minutes. The forest was

green and lush, but there was an eerie silence. In a field, the helicopters and fire engines used in the early days of the crisis lay rusting. The exclusion zone will remain unsafe for thousands of years. In Wales, over a thousand miles away, hundreds of farms were contaminated and under restrictions for over 20 years—whether Chernobyl was the only source of contamination or not.

The Ukraine war has yet again endangered nuclear sites such as Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia: the IAEA is urgently seeking safety protocols. Remembering Chernobyl must strengthen our resolve to oppose nuclear power and its enormous dangers, whether caused by accident or attack.

JILL EVANS
CHAIR CND CYMRU

POETRY

THE EARTH NO LONGER WHOLE

MO OGIER

The earth where
 gulls at half tide
 anticipate the Sun's full rise

The earth where
 poppies and pea stalks entwine

The earth where
 baton, knife and gunfire
 are language

The earth where
 a woman
 hunched, clothed in black
 wanders a deserted street
 in a bomb crumbled habitat

As we celebrate
a full moon
which crosses this splintered earth
whole, not yet reduced

 we fear
 more division
 more destruction

 the earth where..... |

• From **Mo Ogier's** recently published anthology *Step Outside*. Available for £6.00 plus p&p. Enquiries/orders via mo.ogier@freeuk.com. **Mo** was part of the Greenham Common protest and many other actions against war. She currently volunteers to assist refugees in Aberystawyth,



Freeuk

WOMEN'S PETITION FOR PEACE

As we celebrate its centenary, the oak chest containing the peace petition of almost 400,000 signatures has been returned to Wales from Washington DC.

The petition, or Memorial, was from the women of Wales to the women of the United States in 1924. Following the terrible First World War, the League of Nations was seen as a way of achieving a warless world. The League of Nations had over 400 branches in Wales. A conference of women members in Aberystwyth in May 1923 resolved to appeal directly to women in the USA to persuade their government to join the League. In just seven months, 390,296 names were collected door to door. An extraordinary achievement!



Washington DC 1924:
Annie Hughes-Griffiths (centre)
with Gladys Thomas, Mary
Ellis and Eluned Prys.

In February 2024 a delegation, led by **Annie Hughes-Griffiths**, sailed for New York with the seven-mile-long petition in its specially made chest.

They were greeted by hundreds of women

and embarked on a tour of the USA to spread the message. They met **President Coolidge** who promised that the petition would be kept in the Smithsonian, the National Museum of American History, "for all time".

There it remained. Until now. The story was rediscovered recently and **Heddwch Nain/Mam-gu** was set up, not only to mark the centenary but also to continue the campaign for a warless



The Memorial Chest is welcomed home.

world. They brought together a partnership including the National Library, the National Museum, Wales Women's Archive, the Welsh Centre for International Affairs and others, under the leadership of **Academi Heddwch Cymru** and supported by the Welsh Government, to co-ordinate the work. In the National Library the petition names will be digitised so everyone can check whether family members signed. Thousands of volunteers are needed to transcribe names and the least we can do is match the commitment of the women in 1923/24.

What our grandmothers did show was that a small group working in a small country can be a catalyst for great things. The story inspires everyone who hears it and will continue to inspire generations to come.

We thank the Smithsonian for gifting the chest and the petition back to Wales. But they will not forget this story. In Washington they will keep the other copy of the leather cover and text of the Memorial for all time. So, our shared history of peace and friendship will endure.

JILL EVANS
CHAIR CND CYMRU

'WELSH AFFAIRS': IN WHOSE INTEREST?

Westminster's Welsh Affairs Select Committee held four formal sessions on nuclear power between November 2022 and February 2023. Linda Rogers gave evidence at one and observed the others.

The committee members were in a good mood. Some had just returned from a visit to Vogtle, a nuclear power plant being built by Westinghouse in Georgia, USA (and, typically, running late and over budget). Were we about to join this renaissance?

Companies giving evidence included Westinghouse, Bechtel, Rolls-Royce, Great British Nuclear (GBN) and Cwmni Eginio. Their answers to questions from committee chair **Stephen Crabb** were downbeat, often incoherent. They called for momentum, a detailed programme, clarity about sites—and funding. How much? Well, funding had to be policy-led, said GBN—and as yet there were no policies. Cwmni Eginio could offer little clarity about its own future role.

Government ministers were now questioned. The response of **Graham Stuart** (Energy Security and Net Zero) was Boris-like: 'We need to do it—risk it!'. Welsh Secretary **David TC Davies**, when asked why people should invest in Wales amidst these uncertainties, suggested that the skills and training could also be used at Sizewell C.

NGOs were represented by **Neil Crumpton** (PAWB) and **Doug Parr** (Greenpeace). They provided detailed and documented evidence as to why new nuclear was not needed in Wales, given the potential of renewables, energy efficiency, community ownership and development of the smart grid. I gave evidence against the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) model of funding, and pointed out the undemocratic way in which Sizewell C's Development Consent Order was issued—a precedent for Wales?

None of this evidence was taken into account by Crabb, nor the fact that the pro-nuclear evidence was nebulous. Commenting on the budget on 15 March, Crabb claimed that the Chancellor had given a vote of confidence in nuclear energy, "on the back of evidence to our committee." He welcomed the decision to include nuclear energy in the UK's green taxonomy, "as this reflects the views expressed to our committee."

NOT all the views. When I asked Stephen Crabb when the report would be published, he replied that it was yet to be decided. The full report will disclose that this Welsh Affairs Committee (apart from a few praiseworthy exceptions such as **Beth Winter, MP for Cynon Valley**), had been less about the affairs of Wales, more about the affairs of a struggling nuclear industry.

LINDA ROGERS

- As we go to press, it has been announced that the Welsh Affairs Select Committee report will be published on 3rd May.

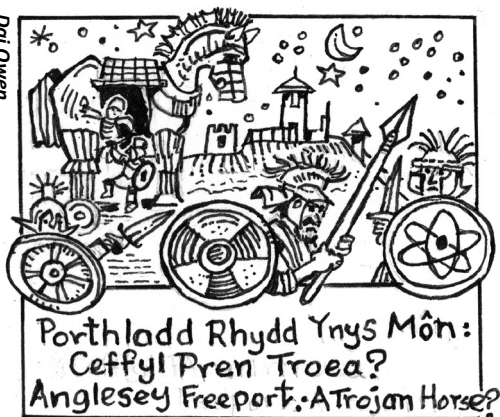


William M Connolly

Trawsfynydd: an uncertain future

IS ANGLESEY FREEPORT A TROJAN HORSE?

Dai Owen



Welsh anti-nuclear activists are ringing warning bells that the new Anglesey Freeport represents a way in for unwanted new nuclear developments on the island. Six backers of the bid, Assystem, Bechtel, Last Energy, MoltexFlex, Rolls-Royce SMR, and Newcleo are leading nuclear industry businesses

vying to develop new nuclear power plants at the Wylfa site on the island and elsewhere in the UK.

All are competing for public funds, issuing media releases that make outrageous claims for their unproven, unauthorised, and unbuilt so-called Small Modular Reactors. Also behind the bid are Bangor University's Nuclear Futures Institute; M-Sparc, with its connections to the University's nuclear department; and nuclear enthusiasts, Ynys Môn and Gwynedd Councils.

Wales can be powered wholly by wind, hydro, solar, tidal and wave technologies. Campaigners will fight for the Freeport to instead become a renewable energy centre of excellence on the self-styled Energy Island.

RICHARD OUTRAM

NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (NFLA)

CHALLENGING MILITARISM IN WALES

Heddwch ar Waith (Peace Action Wales) is a new campaign grouping of peace and justice organisations which has just been awarded funding by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

Over the course of the next 16 months, four working groups will be formed

- to map out the extent of militarism and bring this information to the attention of the people of Wales using innovative and collaborative activity;
- to disseminate information on non-violence engaging and supporting 'Young Peacemakers';
- to build a network of lobbyists that will

communicate regularly with our political representatives;

- to work towards Wales becoming a Nation for Peace, with the adoption of Peace Ambassadors within local authorities.

AWEL IRENE

heddwch>action:

Would you or your local group be interested in being part of one these four working groups? Contact **Jill Evans** jillrhondda@yahoo.co.uk or **Rhun Dafydd** rhundafydd@gmail.com or leave a message on **01766 772788**.

HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE



A new US Space Force site at Brawdy?

Cawdor Barracks at **Brawdy**, in Pembrokeshire, is being considered as a possible site for deep space radar surveillance. It is part of the US Space Force's plans to create a global network of such sites, in order to gain strategic advantage for the US and its allies. The site would be operated by the Ministry of Defence.

Shock and awe

The 20th anniversary of the Iraq invasion gave us all much food for thought, remembering the massive demonstrations in London and in Wales, the founding of new peace and justice groups all over Wales, the work of CND Cymru, Cynefin y Werin and Stop the War. **Tony Blair** believed he had history on his side. The current media coverage suggests that it was we who were in the right all along. However current events suggest that few lessons were learned



Marian Dellyth

from the debacle. Thirty-one detainees remain in Guantánamo to this day. The Middle East remains in chaos.

Fukushima's ocean dumping

The 12th anniversary of the Fukushima disaster on 11th March was a time for global protests this year, because of Japan's decision to release a million tonnes of water (treated,

but still containing radioactive tritium) into the Pacific Ocean. This has enraged Japan's fishing communities and raised concerns in South Korea, China and Pacific islands. At a protest in **Aberystwyth** hazmat-suited CND Cymru members poured symbolic buckets of 'radioactive' water into the Irish Sea.

At another protest on the **Menai Suspension Bridge** in Ynys Môn, protestors poured water into the Menai Strait, while **Linda Rogers** read out a letter of support from **Ayumi Fukakusa** of Friends of the Earth Japan. As the gateway to the island, the bridge has been used for many nuclear and anti-war protests over the last 30 years. It is to be noted that beeped support from passing motorists is now pretty well universal. **Virginia Crosbie** MP, please take note.

PAWB



HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

Philip Steele/ CND Cymru



CND Cymru supporters push the message in Caernarfon

Gwynedd protests against SMRs

Following last year's successful anti-SMR walk from Trawsfynydd to Wylfa (and many places in between), protests were held again this March by supporters of CND Cymru, Cadno and PAWB at **Trawsfynydd** and at **Caernarfon**, where a stall was set up by the Lloyd George statue on the Maes, to spread the message and hand out leaflets.

Women against the Bomb

On 26th March there was a screening of *Women Against the Bomb*, a fascinating documentary exploring the experiences of the Greenham women. It was part of the WOW (Wales One World) film festival, and shown at Arts Centre in **Aberystwyth**. After this showing there was a Q&A session with Greenham pioneer **Ann Pettitt** and **Bethan Siân**, current National Secretary of CND Cymru. Two days later the film was shown in **Swansea** at the Taliesin Arts Centre, with a Q&A session led by **Clare Hudson** and

Rebecca Johnson.

Eisteddfod comes to Llŷn

The 2023 **Llŷn and Eifionydd** National Eisteddfod pitches up at **Boduan**, near Pwllheli, from Saturday 5th August to 12th August. Hiroshima Day is on the 6th and Nagasaki Day on the 9th. We hope to see you at the Pabell Heddwwch (Peace Tent) and if you are able to lend a hand, do get in touch with **Bethan Siân** (see Contacts p16). In 2024 the festival will return to the south: Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Teledyne 4 on trial

The trial of protesters from Palestine Action is to be heard at Caernarfon Crown Court from 9th May. Last December **Susan Bagshaw** (Commins Coch), **Morwenna Grey** (Machynlleth), **Ruth Hogg** (Aberystwyth) and **Tristan Dixon** (Huddersfield) broke into Teledyne Labtech's factory at Presteigne, which supplies Israel with electronic warfare and radar systems. They are charged with causing £500,000 worth of damage.

SUMMER 2023 DIARY DATES

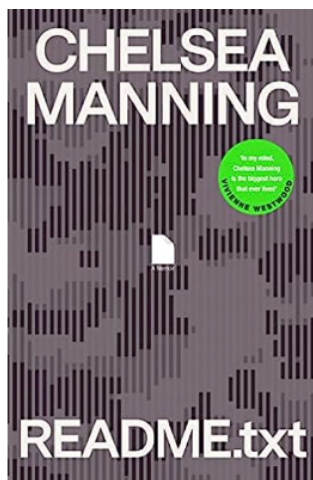
- Saturday 22 April: CND Cymru supports The Big One—Unite to Survive for Nature, Biodiversity and the Planet; Saturday 29th: A day visit to this 4-day protest, **Wrexham** to London and back by coach; 5.30 am—midnight. Tickets £35 (£20 for under-18s/unwaged)

XRWreccsam@protonmail.com

- Friday 19th May 9am—5pm Temple of Peace, **Cardiff** CF10 3AP Academi Heddwwch Cymru in partnership with the Norwegian Taiji Centre: New Perspectives and Learning on the Nature of Peace.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-perspectives-and-learning-on-the-nature-of-peace-tickets-576237801777?aff=ebdsreoeysmlcollection

- Saturday 20th May: Stop US nuclear weapons being stationed once more at 'RAF' Lakenheath in Suffolk. Do organise minibuses or lift shares and get those Welsh banners there in solidarity! For more information check cnduk.org/lakenheath/

**README.txt****Chelsea Manning, Bodley Head**

2022, 272pp

Hdbck ISBN 978-184792, £15.99

Pbck ISBN 978-1529110623, £10.99

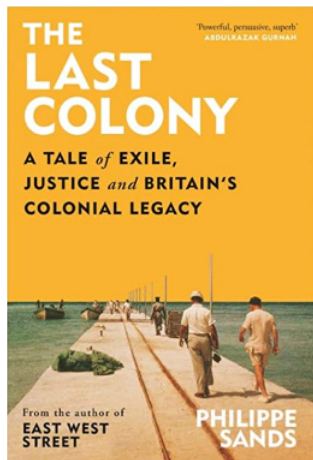
Although written in a clear, accessible style, Chelsea Manning's autobiography is not an easy read.

Manning's Welsh mother had married a US serviceman from RAF Brawdy and Chelsea was raised in the USA. The narrative takes the reader from her difficult early years to enlisting, serving in Iraq, and finally on to Wikileaks and prison. The account is shocking and depressing. Chelsea describes herself as a 'transparency activist'. As an intelligence analyst she was exposed to, and traumatised by, the war in Iraq. The 'jarring dissonance' between the truth and the sanitised version given to the public drives her to action. This much we know, but the book explains her decision

making and explores the mental and emotional cost to herself. Disturbingly several sections in the book have been redacted—still hidden!

I found some technical terms challenging. I knew IRL (In Real Life) because MSTM (My Son Told Me), but not all. This, however, did not interfere with the narrative or lose its key messages. Chelsea's intelligence and resilience shine through, enabling her survival and her fight for hormone treatment in order to transition.

On the 20th anniversary of the Iraq Invasion, her story is one we really should know!

DENISE MACQUIRE**The Last Colony: A Tale of Exile, Justice and Britain's Colonial Legacy****Philippe Sands, W&N**

2022, 224pp, English language

Hdbck ISBN 978-1474618120, £13.20

Pbck ISBN 978-1474618144, £9.99

In 1966 Britain leased the island of Diego Garcia to the USA as a military base. The population of the whole Chagos Archipelago was forcibly evicted to Mauritius and the Seychelles. Diego Garcia played a major part in the Afghan and Iraq wars and was used for CIA rendition. It will doubtless remain crucial to the AUKUS pact.

The legal fight of the islanders to return home exposed the British and US position as hypocritical, racist, morally bankrupt and legally untenable—the latter confirmed by the UK High Court in 2000 and by the International Court of Justice in 2019.

Leading international lawyer Philippe Sands traces this shocking story through the experience of a Chagossian woman called Liseby Elysé and places it in the context of decolonisation, human rights and self-determination.

PHILIP STEELE



Celia Lang

1946—2023

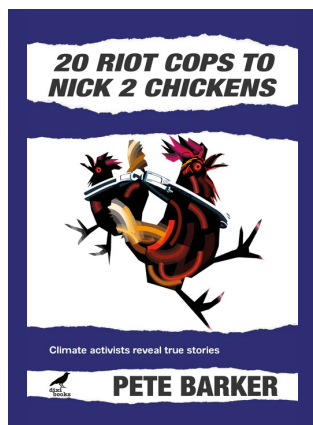
It was so sad to learn in February that dear Celia had died. What an intrepid woman! For Celia, an NHS midwife, campaigning—for social and environmental

justice, disarmament and peace—was part of her being, working consistently with local Amnesty, Peace and Disarmament and Palestine Solidarity groups in Wales.

Friend and fellow campaigner Dave Rendle commented: “Our dear friend and human rights warrior will be deeply missed. Celia touched us all individually with her kindness, valued friendship and her deep passionate commitment to human rights. Let our thoughts and our condolences be with her beloved partner Graham and all of her family.”

JILL GOUGH

REVIEWS



20 Riot Cops To Nick 2 Chickens
Pete Barker, Dixi Books
 2022, 232pp
 Pbck ISBN: 978-1913680565, £13.99

Pete, a Greenpeace activist living in mid-Wales, tells the inside story of 24 non-violent direct actions over the last 15 years: from planning, training and nervous anticipation, to improvisation, euphoria and exhaustion! Some of the actions succeeded in changing government policy; some were successful but sadly didn't change policies, and those struggles continue. This book would be a good introduction for anyone considering getting involved in non-violent direct action—something we all may have to do!

BRIAN JONES

A TRIBUTE TO CELIA IN VERSE:

TABOO NIGHTS

Taboo nights with Celia
 And friends in Capel Iwan,
 Nevermore will we spend time,
 On fun so palsei wowsey.
 Cardigan rock and roller,
 A jiver through and through,
 Energy legendary
 In all things that she would do.
 Bro Emlyn Peace and Justice,
 CND and Amnesty,
 Onstreetsflew banners up high,
 Wore her heart upon her sleeve.
 At work she'd been a midwife
 Her whole life filled up with care.
 If you never had enough
 You knew Celia would share.
 Those times when Cee would
 phone me,
 Heard that twinkle in her eyes,
 She knew how to get her way,
 Cee knew how to organise.
 Now that she has gone away
 Our glorious activist,
 We'll not forget what she did,
 Our Celia shall be missed.

HARRY ROGERS
ABERBANC
 7th March 2023



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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HEDDWCH

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