



# HEDDWCH

Number 75 > Summer 2020 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament



## NHS NOT TRIDENT

*It's time to re-set our priorities...*

The next generation of nuclear weapons could cost us about £205 billion. That money could be used for supporting our National Health Service, our carers, doctors and nurses. It could help us tackle the climate crisis or eradicate inequality. We need international cooperation, not weapons of mass destruction. **LET'S CHOOSE LIFE OVER DEATH.**

## AN EXIT FROM DYSTOPIA

How many horsemen does it take to make an apocalypse? The Coronavirus arrived on a planet already riven by the climate crisis, by droughts and floods, by famine, poverty, inequality, racism and war. Covid-19 is far from over, and in its wake a global economic meltdown seems inevitable. The rise in authoritarian rule, populism and a disregard for international law and diplomacy compounds our many problems.

But here comes the silver lining. Society has been shown to exist, whatever Margaret Thatcher said. The lockdown has been grim and heartbreaking for many, but it has forced people to take stock, to appreciate the natural world, to realise the value of cooperation and solidarity.

Now is not the time to focus on a new arms race. The post-Covid world must seek a sustainable future for the planet and its peoples. The Trident replacement is a criminal waste of public money: it steals funds needed to build a better society. Finance the NHS, not the warmongers.

Nuclear 'deterrence' belongs in the last century – its warheads cannot defend us against today's cyber-attacks, lone acts of terrorism or pandemics. Even

some top-brass generals quietly agree, but these 'toys for the boys' make the politicians feel big. It is ironic that a book currently being published by neo-con hawk John Bolton reveals that Donald Trump, commander-in-chief of US forces, wasn't even aware that the UK had a nuclear deterrent. Yes, that is how important British hubris is in the scheme of things.

The NHS was founded three years after the Hiroshima bomb ended the Second World War. It remains an inspirational achievement and a triumph against adversity. In contrast, the perpetuation of nuclear weapons 75 years after Hiroshima is a failure, a legacy of despair.

**Philip Steele**

## 'BAN THE BOMB'



This issue marks the 75th anniversary of the first atomic bombs. They were dropped on Japan as the Second World War was already in its final days, and served more as a warning to our ally, the Soviet Union, that a new global power struggle was underway. It became known as the Cold War.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) was launched in London in 1958. Its emblem, the semaphore letters N and D combined, became known worldwide as a symbol of peace.

### *Philip Jones Griffiths*

was born in Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, in 1936. He became a radical pacifist and conscientious objector. During the Cold War years Griffiths became celebrated internationally for his pictures of early CND marches, for his searing record of war as shown in his influential book *Vietnam, Inc.* (1971), and also for his moving photographs of everyday life in Liverpool and South Wales. He died in 2008. His archived work is held in Aberystwyth at the National Library of Wales.



*Aldermaston march 1960  
by Philip Jones Griffiths.*

## TWO STEPS FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK

**Brian Jones** reviews current treaty developments

**First the good news: despite the problems caused by Covid-19 worldwide, five more countries, Belize, Botswana, Fiji, Lesotho and Namibia, have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, bringing the total to 40.**

Dr Carl Clowes has written an excellent article on Lesotho's ratification, which you can read here: [nation.cymru/opinion/lesotho-has-led-the-way-on-nuclear-weapons-but-can-wales-follow/](http://nation.cymru/opinion/lesotho-has-led-the-way-on-nuclear-weapons-but-can-wales-follow/)

Only 10 more states need to ratify the treaty before it enters into force, hopefully later this year, or early in 2021. Ireland should ratify the treaty soon, as both tiers of government have passed the legislation to ratify. It's possible that there will be a number of countries who sign or ratify the treaty this August, 75 years after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings; there can hardly be a better way for a country to mark this anniversary other than by supporting this treaty to ban all nuclear weapons everywhere.

### **US missiles in Germany**

Another piece of good news is that the debate about Germany hosting US nuclear weapons has re-opened. Germany is one of five European countries who host nuclear weapons (the others being Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey) and it has a very strong anti-nuclear movement. Although only about 20 US nuclear weapons are based in Germany, the political ramifications of

a decision to refuse to continue hosting those nuclear weapons would be immense: at the very least, it would ignite the same debate in Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands... although Poland has been mentioned as a possible replacement host for US nuclear weapons.

### **Closing 'Open Skies'**

However, the bad news is that President Trump continues to tear up international treaties; following the USA withdrawing from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces treaty, banning missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 km, Trump has announced that the USA will withdraw from the Treaty on Open Skies following this November's presidential election. This treaty was designed to enhance mutual understanding and confidence between Russia and all the NATO countries, by allowing "spy planes" to fly over each other's countries, to gather information. Open Skies has been one of the most wide-ranging international efforts to date, promoting openness and transparency of military forces and activities ... but is not to President's Trump's liking.

### **Testing back on the agenda**

As if that's not enough, it's reported that on 15 May the Pentagon discussed re-starting nuclear weapon tests. Although the USA has not ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which 184 states support, America has not conducted any nuclear weapon tests since 1992. Quite apart from the physical environmental damage, it would be

a huge setback to the international efforts to control nuclear weapons. It is to be hoped that wise heads will convince Trump that there is nothing to be gained, and so much to be lost, by America resuming nuclear weapon tests.



**Swedish campaigners call for a global ban on nuclear weapons.**

## WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...

*A geopolitical storm is breaking. These are extracts from a longer discussion paper by Linda Rogers*

### **An incitement to war**

Donald Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is a provocative and highly dangerous action. He is now imposing sanctions on those countries that formally supported Iran in not developing nuclear weapons.

All foreign entities party to the deal with Iran, including Russia and the China National Nuclear Corporation, will be subject to penalties if they continue cooperation with Iran.

Under the JCPOA, the Arak research reactor was being converted so that it could not produce more than minuscule amounts of weapons-grade plutonium, closing off a potential pathway to nuclear weapons.

Iran was able to import near-20 percent enriched uranium fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor (TRR), which meant the country had no reason to enrich uranium to that level.

The deal also allowed for the export of Iran's spent and scrap research reactor fuel, which removed any potential for this fuel to be reprocessed or converted for weapons use in the future.

That these three waivers for civil nuclear cooperation with Tehran have been ended is a strong provocation to Iran to go ahead and develop weapons-grade material. This in turn is a direct incitement to Israel to attack Iran; the near-20 percent enrichment for the TRR was the theme of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "red line" speech at the United Nations in 2012, where he foreshadowed the threat of an Israeli military strike against Iran.

***We need to support the Iran nuclear deal and end sanctions on Iran.***

### **America puts uranium first**

The US has now leant on the UK and other countries to extricate themselves from Chinese investment. That would have spelt the end of the nuclear industry in Britain.

The US, however, have a new energy policy and its aim is "to restore America's sovereign ability to control its use of the most powerful naturally occurring element on the planet – uranium – for peaceful uses and defensive purposes." (*Restoring America's Competitive Nuclear Advantage; A Strategy to Assure US National Security. Department of Energy 2020*).

The US Department of Energy (DoE) has announced a plan to restart production of nuclear weapons-grade, highly enriched uranium for the first time since 1992, "to fuel Navy nuclear reactors in the 2050s."

***Under the heading Workforce and Supplier Base, it is explained that the USA needs a civil nuclear programme because "a defense-only perspective fails to provide economies of scale to stimulate sufficient demand to protect US national security interests."***

And there you have it. The prime motivation for the use of nuclear power has nothing to do with energy production for civil purposes, so-called "green" technologies or any such green-washing argument.

The technical hitch in this grand scheme is that the US nuclear industry is struggling to exist and so needs to find buyers. Who will buy? It looks like we might well.

***Our special relationship might be becoming very special indeed.***



## PEMBROKESHIRE

## PEACE GROUP

*marks Hiroshima*

*Day 2019 by*

*making peace*

*lanterns and*

*launching them*

*downstream.*

*This ceremony*

*has its origins in*

*Hiroshima itself, where*

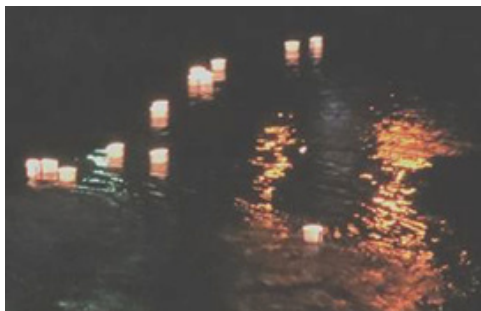
*each year paper lanterns are*

*set adrift in the Motoyasu River,*

*below the Atomic Bomb Dome.*



David Watson/ Pembrokeeshire Peace Group



## NEVER AGAIN

*The devastation of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by US planes in 1945 was a defining moment in human history.*

*David Wood sets down the grim facts.*

- The United States detonated two nuclear weapons over Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 August and 9 August 1945.
- In Hiroshima alone, around **20,000** soldiers were killed outright and between **70,000** and **126,000** civilians, out of a population of approximately **345,000** – around **30 percent** of the population. About **70,000** were injured.
- Some **69 percent** of Hiroshima's buildings were destroyed. To compound things, over **90 percent** of the doctors and **93 percent** of the nurses in Hiroshima were killed or injured with many hospitals destroyed or heavily damaged.
- Two types of atomic bomb were produced: a **uranium** gun-type bomb on Hiroshima and a **plutonium** implosion bomb on Nagasaki.
- The Hiroshima bomb was dropped from **9,470 metres** and took **44.4 seconds** to fall to a detonation height of **580 metres**. It released the equivalent of **16 kilotons of TNT** (67TJ) with only 1.7 percent of its material fissioning.
- The radius of **total destruction** was about **1.6km<sup>2</sup>**, with **fires raging across 11km<sup>2</sup>**.
- When US scientists swept the area in Hiroshima with a Geiger counter a month later, there was little measurable radioactivity. This was due to the fact that the bombs were detonated at around **580 metres** above sea level.
- Most of the radioactive debris was carried off in the mushroom cloud that followed the explosion, and plenty of **lethal fallout** in the form of "ashes of death" and "black rain" spread over a large area.
- The long-term effects of radiation exposure increased cancer risks of survivors. The most deadly effect was **leukaemia**, which appeared between four and six years later.
- **Britain** had jointly developed the bomb with the USA under the top-secret **Quebec Agreement** of 1943. It was complicit in the bombing, formally agreeing to the action in Washington DC, on 4 July 1945.

# HIROSHIMA: 75 YEARS ON

Bethan Siân interviews CND Cymru Vice-Chair Dr John Cox.

**BS: What do you remember from the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?**

**JC:** Very little – other than the war apparently ending because of it. I don't recall hearing about radiation and other horrific aspects for another two years and then, not from what the British government said, but because Japanese survivors brought over exhibitions of artwork based upon their experiences.

I was ten. Our knowledge of radiation and genetic effects only came two or three years later. It was only then I became conscious of campaigns and, in 1952 in school, I collected signatures against the atomic bomb. But it was years later, when we in Britain seemed to be potentially under threat, that the campaign took off. I don't think this was delayed shock at the idea of having killed so many thousands of Japanese – it was more because we now appeared to be in danger of a war between the Soviet Union and America.

The big movement against atomic weapons began when the Soviet Union tested an atomic bomb – until 1949 it seemed that we weren't at risk because America had a monopoly.

**BS: Did your perception change once you started to train as a scientist?**

**JC:** No. I don't think so. The motivating thing was humanitarian. The Japanese survivors made an

exhibition in bamboo that toured the world and revealed that the children of those who were radiated inherited genetic problems. That had a very, very big effect on me and people generally. I don't think I needed to be a scientist to understand the implications.

**BS: How did the Hiroshima campaigning change in the 80s in comparison to the 50s and 60s campaigning?**

**JC:** In the 50s and 60s there were two strands; and there were also in the 70s and 80s, but the relative strength of the two strands changed. I think in the 50s and 60s, it was a big moral cause with 'a plague on both your houses' – equally blaming America and the Soviet Union. But by the 1980s, it was obvious that America (and Britain, as its junior partner) were the pacemakers and the peace movement responded by being more against American and British initiatives to develop new weapons. The Soviet Union was criticised for following the lead of America and Britain, but it was no longer 'a plague on both your houses'.

That's even more clear today, with America's military expenditure greater than the total of the



Ground Zero, Hiroshima, 6 August 1945

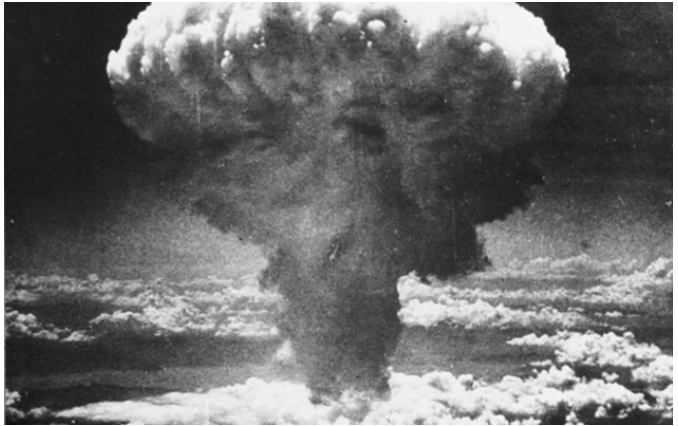
nearest 20 countries; it's clear that there's one huge leader and we have to recognise that in our campaigning. The impetus for the arms race hasn't come about from a perceived threat, basically it's internally driven – as Eisenhower had warned. The commercial aspect is this – if you produce socially useful things, like food, houses, then eventually demand is satiated and your business can't grow.

But more weapons create a demand for more weapons. That's why the armaments industry (like the illegal drugs industry) has expanded relative to the socially useful economy and is relatively far more influential than in 1945.

That's the biggest change that I've noticed over my lifetime. When President Eisenhower warned of the danger of the military-industrial complex acquiring too much influence, only two US states were highly dependent on armaments. Since then, arms manufacture has been disbursed to every US state and now the industry is constantly lobbying senators and representatives to support whatever new thing they come up with. That's what Eisenhower was warning about; the power of the military-industrial complex can overwhelm the democracy – and essentially, as it has happened in the United States.

**BS: How important do you think it is to keep the Hiroshima campaign alive within the current political climate? President Trump has recently announced that America is developing, in his words, a 'super-duper missile', which is 17 times faster than what Russia and China have now.**

**JC:** It makes no difference if a thing hits you at 17 times the speed of the last 'super-duper' missile. But we don't have the capacity to be 17 times more horrified. The ebbs and flows of protest movements are difficult to predict. You see that



**Nagasaki, 9 August 1945. This bomb killed 35,000 people outright.**

with the last few weeks with the Black Lives Matter movement – that's an issue that has been around for 200 to 300 more years. So, I don't think because you've been campaigning for 50 years against nuclear weapons that somehow or other the campaigning will drop because it's old hat. Some issues, are 300 to 400 years old and are just as active as before.

**BS: Do Hiroshima and Nagasaki still have the capacity to shock?**

**JC:** Remember, the atomic bombs that dropped on Japan were 100 to 1000 times weaker than the thermo-nuclear bombs of today. They were ten to twenty kilotons' strength and we now have bombs of twenty megatons – a thousand times more powerful explosive power. So, it's just so horrific, that it's difficult to get it across how bad it is. You have an outrage when someone urinates outside Parliament, which is greater than worrying about bloody nuclear bombs! It's an extraordinary world, honestly.

**BS: Why do you think that it is that way?**

**JC:** I think you get inured. So much horror, and fake horror, about things which are trivial. Or relatively trivial that you really can't believe – it's outside our comprehension to have nuclear weapons. Alright, I'd admit it myself, we can talk about it in the same breath, almost. But you can't imagine how horrific a nuclear war would be.

## GETTING THROUGH TO THE PRESS

*How can campaigners make the most of news outlets? Marc Jones offers some tips.*

### heddwch>action:

- **News journalism** boils down to two basic questions. What happened? How do you feel? It is largely reactive. **Investigative journalism** is different – it's pro-active in seeking out what's happening and exposing it to a wider audience. It may rely on a whistleblower, on piecing together disparate pieces of information, on Freedom of Information requests or simply good specialist knowledge.
- The difference between these two types of journalism has been accentuated by the cull of local newspapers in recent decades and the use of public relations by large companies, councils and voluntary organisations to spin their own views. This change has been dubbed **churnalism** – journalists simply churning out press releases. It leaves journalism weakened – but opens opportunities for campaigners.
- **News stories** rely on 5 'Ws': who, what, when, where, why? When you write your press release send in the story as you'd like it to appear. A 20-word 'intro' should be enough to include those five key elements. That's where you 'sell' the story.
- Aim to grip! Think carefully about a **headline** – a striking metaphor or visual image can elevate a story to a front-page

splash. Most press releases are basic, responding to an event. Tell people what happened and what you think of it. Add a **picture**, stick your **contact details** at the bottom and any notes, stats or links to back up your story.

• **Human and local interest** drives stories, not dry data. Present numbers in terms that are readily understood. Avoid jargon and dull statistics, unless aimed at a specialist audience.

• **Do I send out to all media outlets?** Usually yes, but sometimes no. Remember 'journos' love exclusives. Think about which audiences you're trying to reach.

• **What if the media approach you?** Always write a quote and send it. Don't spout off on the phone – you may misspeak, they may misquote.

• If you are being interviewed on television, don't be bullied...

if it's for a news item they'll probably only want a 20-second **soundbite**. So say what you want in that 20 seconds. If you fluff, start again. But check it's not live!

• As local newspapers fold, news and opinion have moved increasingly **online**. Be part of that by having your own website or blog. It's a useful archive of your campaign with a database of knowledge.

• **Social media** offer instant, direct, global access, and can drive traffic to your website. Social media tend to attract different age groups – primarily Facebook and Twitter for old gits and Tik Tok, Snapchat, Instagram etc for the rest.

• Even so, journalists remain important. Nurture and **update contacts**. Not only will they use your stuff more but they'll come to you as a friendly, quotable campaigner more often.



*A press scrum at the Wylfa nuclear site, when Japanese ex-PM Naoto Kan called for Hitachi to withdraw.*



## JETS OVER LLANBEDR

*Stop foisting military bases on deprived rural areas, says **Mabon ap Gwynfor**.*

The military development of Llanbedr airport is once again making headlines. This time it's not drones being proposed, but rather the transfer of some operations from Valley, in Anglesey, to facilitate the training of chiefly fighter pilots. This proposed development is a reflection on the current tenants' utter failure to market the site and secure its future as a civilian airfield, which would justify their application for an air traffic zone and develop its use further.

But it's also far more than being a simple marketing failure. It illustrates not just the failure of one company, but the abject failure of governments' economic plans to invest in our communities. This in turn creates a vacuum that enables the military to step in and justify their presence on the grounds of job creation. This fundamental failure must be addressed. At the end of June we heard the Prime Minister of the UK boasting of his intentions to invest billions into infrastructure. Yet not a penny of that money was earmarked for Wales. This centralisation (by both governments) in the big cities deprives our more rural communities. That leads to despair, which in turn leads to any investment being welcomed, wherever it comes from.

This is now an established pattern, refined by the Westminster government in the full knowledge that deprived, isolated and poor communities will grasp at any crumbs offered them, more often than not from industries unwelcome in the more populated communities closer to the government home.

## FROM WALES TO YEMEN

Yemen lies devastated by war and hunger. In July the UK resumed arms sales to the chief belligerent, Saudi Arabia, despite losing a 2019 legal challenge on humanitarian grounds by Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT). Last year 30 Saudi pilots were trained to fly Hawk combat jets at RAF Valley. These are made by BAE Systems, who have sold £15bn of arms to Saudi Arabia in the last 5 years. Kuwaiti soldiers from the Saudi-led coalition have also been trained, at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon.



This process needs to be changed. The first step is to accept that there are no immediate solutions to the dire problems handed down by the Government of a rotten state. That having been said, we must set about developing long-term plans, which means starting with community development. These answers won't come from the desks of officials, but from the heart of the community. What are the needs of a community? What are its strengths? What resources does it have? By recognising these things it is possible to direct the investment so that it can set its own course.

In doing this we can ensure that the economic circumstances do not exist that allow military organisations to become the cuckoo in the nest. We cannot lose any more of our communities to militarism.

# IS THIS THE NUCLEAR ENDGAME?

*The nuclear industry, ailing worldwide, is increasingly desperate. Can it survive a financial crisis, the rift with China and the rise of renewables? Dr Carl Clowes takes stock.*

After Hitachi 'realised' that Wylfa Newydd was not financially viable, they suspended their interest in it, in January 2019. Despite this, Horizon Nuclear's application for a Development Consent Order went forward to the Planning Inspectorate, with the aim of selling the package on if Hitachi didn't come back to the table. Whilst there are ongoing discussions about other ways of financing nuclear projects by the RAB (Regulated Asset Base) method, these would entail extra upfront payments by the public – and these seem unlikely to win government support at Westminster in the current economic climate.

## Delays and more delays

Any decision on the Horizon application of October 2019 was deferred while the Minister sought further details, especially regarding the environmental impact of the project. Come March 2020 the Minister declared the latest answers to be unsatisfactory and announced another postponement, this time until September 2020. PAWB has called for Horizon's planning application to be refused in its entirety. Time will tell, but one side effect of the delay is that the costs of renewable technologies, such as wind and solar, are rapidly undermining any objective case for investing in new nuclear. Costs for offshore wind have plummeted to £40/Mwh. Another significant side effect of the delay in building Wylfa Newydd is the need to avoid thousands of workers moving into the area at the worrying time of Covid-19.

## CADNO says no to Rolls Royce

Rolls Royce is leading the consortium which has set its sights on building an experimental Small Modular Nuclear Reactor (SMNR) at Trawsfynydd. The dangers of building multiple reactors, thereby creating more waste and more targets for terrorists, are obvious. CADNO, the movement campaigning locally against any new nuclear plant on the site,

have shown their dismay at being used as 'guinea pigs' by Rolls Royce. "What we need", they say, "is safe, sustainable employment (now – not in ten years' time), taking advantage of the rich resources of the area to generate power without pollution." Rolls Royce's estimated price for the SMNR is £60/MWh, 50 percent more than offshore wind. The area's all-important need for jobs is argued over by CADNO and by politicians both local and national. According to the latest statistics, there are almost two times as many jobs in the UK's alternative energy sector – 115,000 compared with 65,000 in nuclear. It's high time our politician woke up to the remarkable potential of alternative energy, especially in rural areas such as Snowdonia. Cheaper, cleaner, safer!

***In October 2018 Rolls Royce conceded to a parliamentary committee in Westminster the potential for cross-fertilisation between the skills needed for civil nuclear generation and those needed for the military. That is what drives the political agenda behind nuclear power more than anything else.***



## It's that Hinkley mud again

*Mud – and now dust – from Hinkley...*

**Brian Jones** offers an update on Cardiff's troublesome neighbour across the water.

It all happened on a windy 10 June: firstly, on the Hinkley Point C construction site, a 35-metre high, 5,000-tonne silo in the concrete batching plant “suffered structural damage”, releasing a huge cloud of dust. The dust cloud was described as “not toxic or harmful to health”, according to an EdF spokesperson. Strangely, for a windy day, EdF also said that “the dust fell on our site and has not spread into the community”. Dust, like radioactivity, is obviously very scrupulous when it comes to borders drawn on a map!

### **What kind of consultation?**

Later on the same day, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) released their response to their “pre-application” consultation on EdF's plans to dredge more sediment from Bridgewater Bay (where the outflow pipes of Hinkley Point A and B have deposited radioactive particles for the last 50+ years) and then dump the sediment off Cardiff Bay. The consultation was very narrowly focussed on EdF's sampling plan. It suggested slight improvements to EdF's plans, but ruled many of the consultation responses as “outside the scope” of the consultation. CND Cymru's submission, and Prof Keith Barnham's submission, are on our website <https://www.cndcymru.org/hinkley-mud-campaign>

On 10 July 2020 First Minister Mark Drakeford announced a ‘committee of experts’ to consider the implications of Hinkley Point C on Wales. Richard Bramhall of the Low Level Radiation Campaign, said “We look forward to seeing the work of the committee chaired by Dr Jane Davidson. We hope to see a transparent process with open meetings and freely available minutes and reports. We see the need for the widest brief to consider all the issues, to co-opt other experts when required, and to ensure the representation of community interest groups.”



*At issue is the methodology for testing the mud for radioactivity, and the effects of dumping it offshore in the Cardiff Grounds.*

We also await NRW's decision on whether or not EdF need to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for their plan.

### **Covid-19 and nuclear costs**

Construction at Hinkley Point C has continued through the coronavirus pandemic, although workers have voiced concerns about social distancing measures, and photos have emerged showing crowded canteens. EdF maintain that Hinkley Point C will be working in 2025, nine years after construction began, but most observers believe that they are already 18 months behind schedule; the cost is believed to have increased to £23 billion. EdF is currently about 44 billion euros in debt to the French government; all its current nuclear power station construction projects are behind schedule and over budget, many of their operating French nuclear power stations require expensive up-grades, and they are just starting to face decommissioning costs. Who wants to invest?

### **heddwch>action:**

Please write to your MS about the threat from Hinkley mud, and sign this petition to the Senedd calling for an Environmental Impact Assessment:

[https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/200157?fbclid=IwAR10\\_rObZpKUqqeffriyfSoC5V\\_PefvzFjStyBjRiCXYSE5cI8EdWczpf5o](https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/200157?fbclid=IwAR10_rObZpKUqqeffriyfSoC5V_PefvzFjStyBjRiCXYSE5cI8EdWczpf5o)

*see also [www.change.org/geigerbay2020](http://www.change.org/geigerbay2020)*

# WALES IN LOCKDOWN CYMRU DAN GLO



## THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

As the last issue of *Heddwch* was going to press, cancellations of spring and summer events due to the Coronavirus pandemic began to come in thick and fast. The UK government belatedly realised the extent to which the calendar needed to be shut down... and so began months of worry, tragedy, isolation, acts of self-sacrifice, applauding the NHS, friendship and cooperation.

### Contingency planning – a timely reminder

The failures in planning for this disaster serve as a stark reminder of what might happen in the event of a nuclear war, an accident in transporting nuclear materials or warheads, a major emergency at a nuclear power station. We can never say, 'Oh, it would never happen' – it already has.

### Llandudno's goats get political fame

Under lockdown, city streets became abandoned, looking like dystopian film sets. A pair of peacocks took to parading down Bangor's empty High Street. Long-horned Kashmir goats fled the green pastures of the Great Orme and came

down to forage around the mean streets and leafy gardens of Llandudno. They became media sensations overnight, and were even adopted by the political cartoonist Steve Bell, to join the satirical menagerie he features in his cartoon strip *If...*, in *The Guardian*.

### Meeting – and choral singing – online

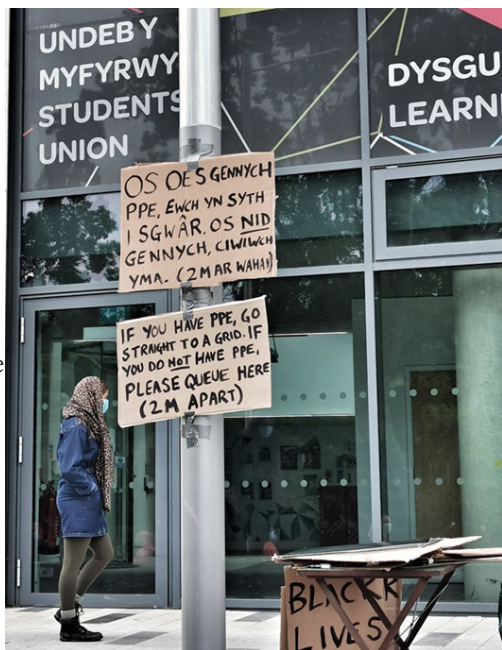
The CND Cymru committee kept in touch via conference calls or Zoom, and local peace groups such as the Conwy County network also maintained electronic contact.

Aberystwyth's Côr Gobaith managed to keep up their singing by sharing online, and to include choir members Lotte Reimer and Kelvin Mason who were locked down in Denmark. The Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice group Skyped weekly, and

they too managed to keep in touch with their member Nick Jewitt, locked down in Uganda. Larger organisations such as Stop the War, Extinction Rebellion and People's Assemblies set up Webinars, virtual workshops, talks, discussions and performances.

### New rules for public protest

On 25 May the death of George Floyd at the hands of the police in Minneapolis triggered huge protests against racism across the USA and overseas. In Wales, crowds also came out to protest ▶



Paola Dyboski-Bryant

**Protesting 2020-style meant keeping safe during the pandemic. Face masks, hand sanitiser, gloves and social distancing grids were now the order of the day.**



# WALES IN LOCKDOWN CYMRU DAN GLO



◀ in the weeks that followed, keeping it local. Mostly they did achieve an acceptable measure of social distancing. This spacing out of crowds not only made things safer, but often made a striking visual impression.

**Black Lives Matter** protests were held in Cardiff, Swansea, Caerphilly, Carmarthen, Aberystwyth, Wrexham, Denbigh, Bangor and Caernarfon.

In July another series of socially distanced public protests erupted as Trump's plan for the Middle East proposed the illegal annexation of Palestinian territories.

## **Statues, heroes and villains**

After a protest in Bristol resulted in a statue of the slave trader Edward Colston being thrown into the harbour, Wales too began to reconsider the role played in its own history by publicly honoured figures of the imperial and commercial past, such as Robert Clive, Thomas Picton, Richard Pennant and HM Stanley. The debate soon widened, to consider how modern Britain still has to come to terms with its legacy of empire.

One Welsh statue that deserves respect in our own age is that of Henry Richard MP, born in

Tregaron in 1812. Known as 'the Apostle of Peace', Richard was an anti-slavery campaigner, a Congregationalist minister, a pioneer of internationalism and Secretary of the Peace Society.

## **Festivities postponed**

The National Eisteddfod, due to be held at Tregaron this August, has of course been postponed until next year, along with this year's Urdd Eisteddfod and the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. Alternative online eisteddfod activities can be accessed bilingually via AmGen on <https://eisteddfod.wales/amgen> or <https://eisteddfod.cymru/amgen>

As we go to press, CND Cymru is working on an online Hiroshima Day presentation for 6 August. Watch CND Cymru Facebook and website notifications for forthcoming details. Hiroshima commemorations have been a memorable part of the National Eisteddfod over many years.

## **Thanks to key workers**

The extraordinary effort put in by doctors, nurses, carers and other key workers across Wales has been inspirational, as have countless acts of kindness and neighbourly behaviour. As we go to press for this issue, the rules are cautiously being relaxed – but it's not over yet. **KEEP SAFE!**

© AZZ Lennox



**Conwy Castle is lit up with rainbow colours as a tribute to NHS workers and carers.**

**WALES AND THE BOMB**  
**The Role of Welsh Scientists**  
**and Engineers in the**  
**British Nuclear Programme**  
**(Scientists of Wales series)**

**John Baylis**

University of Wales Press 2019  
 ISBN 978-1-78683-359-4  
 £16.55 (Kindle £12.38)

Yes indeed, Wales and the Welsh are very much part of the nuclear weapons story. *Wales and the Bomb* chronicles the contribution of Welsh scientists and engineers to the British nuclear programme. From the final stages of the Second World War to the present day, Welsh scientists and engineers, later working in England at Harwell Atomic Energy Research Establishment and Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment, were central to the development of Britain's first nuclear weapon, tested at Monte Bello in 1952. They also participated

in working groups which established the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) and to the development of Europe's first nuclear reactor.

***People and places***

In his investigation of the "impressive" academic contributions of 43 listed Welsh men (and 2 women) in the development of nuclear weapons, John Baylis alternates chapters between descriptions of the evolution of British nuclear weapon systems; beliefs of political, military and scientific figures; treaties and investigations, with details of the careers of the participating Welsh individuals. Several Welsh scientists work at AWE Aldermaston today. Nuclear weapons technology research also took place in various universities in Wales. Rhydymwyn Valley Works near Mold and the Mond Nickel Factory in Clydach were also involved in early nuclear-related experiments.

***Why so many from Wales?***

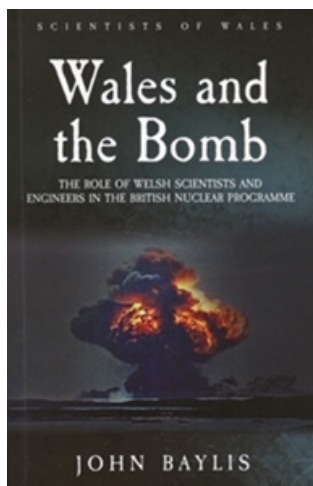
Baylis examines the reasons why the nuclear weapons industry was so attractive to so many from Welsh working class backgrounds. Disciplines in science and engineering have apparently strong historical roots here, while even "the leaders of Welsh Methodism filled their hymns with scientific references"! The Welsh culture of valuing

education encouraged aspiration. Welsh universities had a good academic reputation and Harwell and Aldermaston encouraged chiefs to employ graduates from their old colleges. Welsh employees at these establishments enjoyed good transport links to their home country and excellent salaries and working conditions. The new technology was probably so exciting that few stopped to contemplate the moral implications of nuclear weapons.

***Was their work worthwhile?***

*Wales and the Bomb* perpetuates the historically illiterate half-truth that "the bomb" has prevented war since 1945. As a *Heddwch* reader you probably know where you stand on this issue. However the book remains an intense, well-written, objective and well-referenced summary of the early development of the British Nuclear Programme. Hardly any of our campaigning work against the bomb gets a look in – apart from a nod to the Women for Life on Earth's 1981 walk to Greenham Common to protest against US nuclear weapons. We are however rightly reminded that the Wales that emerges from this book is not one of a peace-loving monoculture: reality is more complicated than that.

**Jill Gough**



# Ifanwy Williams

## 1922-2020

*Ifanwy was how everyone knew her and for those of us who attended rallies and peace meetings over the years, Ifanwy was the smart, graceful one who always had a smile.*

Her peace convictions were nurtured as she grew up in Liverpool. She remembered her brothers were not allowed to belong to the Scouts because of the organisation's militarism. Neither were they allowed to play gun fighting as children in the home.

As the Second World War started, as a teenage schoolgirl Ifanwy was sent to Denbigh and then Dinmael to avoid the bombing. Here she joined a local society that debated Welsh nationalism, socialism and peace. Three of her brothers and one sister joined the Armed Forces. But from the beginning Glyn, another brother, and Ifanwy were conscientious objectors.

In 1949, Ifanwy married the Reverend DJ Williams and moved to Swansea. She remembers in the early 50s pushing her pram, with Nonn, her daughter in it. She was part of a group of Quakers on the streets of Swansea in an anti-nuclear demonstration.

Ifanwy moved north to Caernarfon and then to Porthmadog. And that was another radical time, with meetings to build bridges between Welsh and English people who had moved to the area to live. Here she was also an active member of CADNO, the group that keeps a foxy eye on the Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station.

To crown her peace activism, Ifanwy was elected chair of the Dwyrdd and Glaslyn group of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and led local activities for ten years – naming military drones as Adar Angau, 'birds of death'.



She was one of the founders of 'Heddwch Nain/ Mam-gu, Our Grandmother's Peace', a campaign to celebrate a Peace Petition signed by 390,296 women from all over Wales. In 1923 it was calling for a world without war. This Youtube link is an opportunity to hear Ifanwy speak about the petition: <https://youtube/6hfp-ZhJNAE>

**Awel Irene**

## POETRY

### Space and Return

the gap at the end of this line  
is so you can breathe

the same air I just breathed  
now that we're suddenly so close  
on either side of a planet or a screen  
and this one

is where you sound out  
the names of those who can't  
or trace the outline of a body  
pressed to the ground  
and the space is too small but a whole  
white page wouldn't be enough  
silence for you to fill.

**Zoë Skoulding**

# 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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