



# HEDDWCH

Number 76 > January 2021 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament



## NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD

Good news at last! On 22 January 2021 we take our first real step towards a global ban, when the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons) is enacted at the United Nations. It can be activated by any of the 50 countries who have ratified it so far.

***Nukes are going illegal!***

# 2021 RE-START

*There are good years and bad years, but 2020 was so bad it just made you want to switch it off, pull out the plug and start all over again. However as the year ends we've had some good news to celebrate. The new vaccines for Covid-19, for example, although they may take some time to make the difference.*

## **Wales puts peace at the centre**

We welcome a new peace institute for Wales, Academi Heddwch Cymru. It aims to maintain a focus on peace issues in Welsh government strategies and policies, to encourage peace research and practice, and to engage with the public. CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans explains all on p6-7.

## **Global ban begins here**

The UN global ban treaty (TPNW) has passed the required number of ratifications to be enacted in January 2021 – see p3-4. This is a game-changing addition to international law. Much hard work lies ahead to drag the nuclear powers into 21st century realities, but the hope is that as the years pass they will be feeling increasingly isolated. Trump's last-minute attempts to prevent smaller nations from signing up is perhaps a testament to its potential effectiveness.

## **Trump's Long Goodbye**

Trump's incoherent policies on the environment, the climate, the pandemic, racism, women's rights and migration have been divisive and abhorrent. As we go

to press, Trump is still in denial and busy throwing spanners in the works. The assassination of Iran's leading nuclear scientist at the end of November 2020 could reignite conflict across the Middle East. If there is one demonstrable need for the TPNW, this is it.

## **Hello Joe**

The Biden-Harris victory is to be welcomed. Not because Biden has a sufficiently radical agenda or a big enough majority to deliver our wish list, but because Trump was singularly unfit for office. The new administration will at least engage with diplomacy and international treaties – but our welcome has to remain conditional. Biden's new team includes some hawkish interventionists.

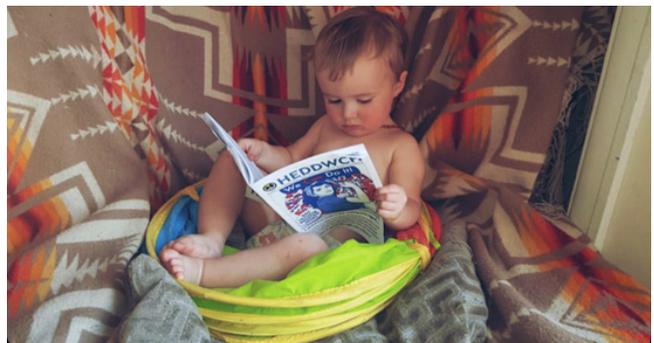
## **A never-ending campaign**

Congratulations to PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) on their victory against Hitachi's bid to build a new nuclear power plant on Ynys Môn – but it's not over yet. It seems that, like Sisyphus, PAWB is condemned to roll the same boulder up the same hill for eternity. Even now our desperate politicians are trying to stitch together a last-minute deal with the US military-industrial complex. On p.8 you can find out just why that is such a bad idea.

## **Another Boris fantasy**

Westminster plans the biggest hike in UK 'defence' spending in 30 years. £16.5 billion is to be wasted on space wars, ray guns, cyber attacks and gunboat diplomacy – in addition to Trident replacement. Investment in civil new nuclear is greenwashed. Foreign aid is cut. Covid-19 frontline workers deserve better than a public sector pay freeze. Wards, please, not wars.

**Philip Steele**



**Heddwch's Future Generations consultant is demanding better news in 2021.**

## UN LANDMARK FOR GLOBAL BAN

***Fantastic news! On 24 October, the 50th UN member state ratified the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).***

The nine states that finally got the Treaty across the line were Honduras, Jamaica, Malaysia, Malta, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Saint Kitts & Nevis, and Tuvalu. This means that the treaty will now enter into force on 22 January 2021. It will extend existing international legislation, which already bans chemical and biological weapons, to include nuclear weapons.

**Brian Jones**

“We have seen the terrible devastation nuclear weapons cause and the long shadow they cast on generations of survivors. The adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons three years ago was a significant step towards our long-term ambition for a nuclear-weapons-free world. As more nations ratify this treaty, together we create hope for a different future without nuclear weapons and without a nuclear deterrent.”

**First Minister Mark Drakeford (Welsh Labour)**

“As a party which has always opposed nuclear weapons, Plaid Cymru welcomes this historic step forward. We take every opportunity to promote the case for a nuclear-weapons-free Wales and world. In discussing the future Wales we want to build, we will always prioritise investment in what truly protects us and helps us achieve a sustainable society. Nuclear weapons can play no part in that.”

**Adam Price (Leader, Plaid Cymru)**

“As leader of an outward looking, internationalist party, I want the UK to work closely as part of the UN, NATO and with partners across Europe to reduce the global nuclear weapons stock. When I was an MP, I was proud to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons through signing the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge.”

**Jane Dodds (Leader, Welsh Liberal Democrats)**

“We must do all we can to ensure that the senseless use of weapons of mass destruction will never occur again. The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a welcome and important step in securing a safer future for all. With the climate emergency and global Covid pandemic highlighting the need for international cooperation and collaboration, the case for prohibiting these obscene weapons of mass destruction has never been stronger.”

**Anthony Slaughter (Leader, Wales Green Party)**

### DID YOU KNOW?

***On 24 January 1946 the UN General Assembly adopted as its very first resolution the establishment of a commission to ensure the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction. 75 years on...***



ICAN

***The TPNW was piloted by ICAN (the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons). It has taken 3½ years from adoption (above) to enactment.***

# hashtag #nuclearban

• There has been widespread support for TPNW from faith leaders across Wales. For 22 January there are plans for peace events and the ringing of church bells – or handbells outside chapels and any places of worship without bells. Other options and events may be appropriate for other faith groups and their traditions.

• CND Cymru will be organising an online celebration on 22 January with music from choirs and soloists – details will be available nearer the date.

• The landmark news was headlined on BBC World Service, but received minimal publicity in the mainstream Welsh and UK media ... We're hoping that, with your help, there will be lots of celebratory activities across Wales for the entry into force of the treaty on 22 January – despite the January weather!

• Obviously the Covid-19 situation means that we can't organise large-scale events, so it's a chance to use your imagination. To get you started, here's some ideas that individuals, families and small groups can do:

- Download and add a message to our "I support the TPNW because ..." poster – or create your own – and take and post a selfie using the hashtag #nuclearban. Posters available here: <https://www.cndcymru.org/information/TPNW/poster>
- Make a poster or large banner and tie it onto railings in a prominent place. Two people can maintain social distance holding a 2-metre long banner.
- Decorate and photograph a cake with an anti-nuclear message.
- Plant a memorial tree with a TPNW plaque.
- Write a message on the beach, in the sand or with stones or seaweed.
- Whatever you do – please take photographs and send them to us!

## heddwch>action:

### **Volunteers needed**

CND Cymru only achieves anything due to our members giving their time to campaign. We'd like to have two or more volunteers to promote the TPNW amongst faith groups, and two or more volunteers to campaign on disinvesting from nuclear weapons producing companies. If you'd like to volunteer, please email [heddwch@cndcymru.org](mailto:heddwch@cndcymru.org)



## THE REAL DEAL

### *Why is the multilateral global ban treaty such a big deal?*

Because although other treaties have limited the ways in which nuclear weapons can be developed or proliferated, none until now has declared the weapons illegal in themselves.

The new treaty does not undermine existing treaties, as has been claimed; rather it reinforces them in its definitions, and takes into full account the humanitarian implications of every aspect of nuclear armament.

For example the TPNW addresses the effects of nuclear weapons testing on humans. Cold War weapons testing (see p.5 opposite) scars people's lives to this day, having left a toxic radioactive legacy from Kazakhstan to Nevada, to Australia and the islands of the South Pacific.

# THE LEGACY OF ATOMIC TESTING

*The armed forces, civilians, scientists and indigenous peoples who were exposed to the tests during the Cold War are still suffering. Alan Owen, who is based in Llanddarog, Camarthenshire, campaigns on their behalf.*

My father was James Ronald Owen, known as 'Jessie' to his friends. He was in the Royal Navy and in 1962 attended all of the Operation Dominic series of atomic tests on Christmas Island (Kiritimati). Unfortunately, he died in 1994 of a heart attack. My brother Gordon James Owen died in 1996 also from a heart attack, aged 31. My sister was born blind in her left eye. We believe that their deaths and disability are connected to the

***Our supporters saw the deadliest of man's creations with their own eyes: no one should ever see that again.***

tests. I continue to campaign in memory of my father and brother.

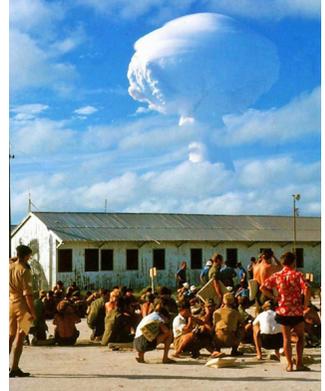
I was chairman of the British Nuclear Test Veterans from 2017 until 2020, when I set up LABRATS to provide an

international voice for the survivors of the atomic tests and to campaign for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. Why 'lab rats' or 'guinea pigs'? All were used in experiments to test the effects of nuclear warfare, with no regard for their health or safety. Millions were exposed to fallout and many families still suffer from illness and deformities. Many are no longer alive today, and their stories remain unheard by the general population.

I was first made aware of the global extent of the problem when I was a guest speaker at the National Association of Atomic Veterans in the USA and spoke to Marshallese, Gilbertese and French Polynesians. These people have suffered so much, their homes destroyed and their lands contaminated. The Runit Dome waste depository in the Marshall Islands is a ticking environmental time bomb.

LABRATS International promotes the work of individuals and organisations representing atomic and nuclear test communities around the world. We aim to provide information about the tests and expose the injustice experienced by veterans who took part.

We must never forget what the tests did to this planet, how much destructive power an atomic weapon has and the consequences for everyone



***Operation Dominic was a series of US tests, releasing 24 bombs to the south of Christmas Island over 78 days. British forces observed the tests.***

involved. The worldwide testing programme ran from 1945, until 2017 in North Korea.

LABRATS provides help and guidance on the US RECA programme, which provides financial assistance to UK participants in Operation Dominic. We lobby governments and campaign with weekly blogs, podcasts and social media.

## **heddwch>action:**

You can find out about our work online at <https://www.labrats.international/> and follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/atomiclabrats> or twitter @atomiclabrats.

Our website hosts videos, research documents, a directory to other organisations and links to social media.

# A NEW VISION FOR WALES

*Academi Heddwch Cymru will aim to put peace at the centre of the political and social agenda, says Jill Evans, Chair of CND Cymru.*

On 21 September 2020 Wales joined the world in having its own research and information body dedicated to peace. Academi Heddwch Cymru was officially established on International Peace Day.

Our plans for an actual launch at the Tregaron Eisteddfod, like so many other things, were ruined by the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst disappointed, we decided to go ahead and bring the Academi into being nevertheless. Building Wales back again after this year of trauma will need the input of the Academi Heddwch to ensure that our future is different.

## ***The birth of an idea***

Many of us had campaigned for over 10 years for Wales to have its own peace institute. Most countries in the world have one, although these vary greatly in nature. Identity and minority rights are a significant feature of several. It was vital that our Academi Heddwch would be specifically Welsh and respond to our needs.

The idea was first proposed following UK government plans to privatise and merge all military training at a massive military academy in St Athan/Sain Tathan in the Vale of Glamorgan. This would have been the focus of all war preparations, not only for the UK but for any other countries that wished to pay for training.

The proposal was welcomed by the Welsh Government and many politicians. It was seen as a crucial financial investment. Thousands of new jobs were promised. Most of these were not new but would have been relocated from other parts of the UK. Real facts and concerns were brushed aside. Many of us who opposed the plans were attacked in the media: I was even called “dangerous”!

Everything was being turned on its head. Contrary to our long peace tradition, Wales was set to become the focus of global war preparations. We agonised about how our politicians could entertain such a future for our nation.

## ***Wales and Flanders***

I discussed this with a Flemish former colleague of mine in the European Parliament, Nelly Maes. She suggested we should work for a Peace Institute, as they have in Flanders, to advise and inform government decisions. The Flemish institute was set up in 2004, funded by the Flemish Parliament. The parliament has a duty to consult it and consider its advice. It ensures that all aspects of any proposal are considered in terms of its wider impact.

## ***Assembly petition***

I talked widely about the need for a peace institute in Wales and the idea quickly gathered support. A petition to the National Assembly in 2010 gathered over 1,500 signatures and was supported in principle by the Assembly, although at the height of austerity policies no funding was available.

## ***A way forward***

In subsequent years our small but dedicated steering group explored many options for



***Brussels 2009: John Cox, Ben Gregory and Jill Gough meet up with Nelly Maes, Jill Evans and Tomas Baum.***

***“Peace does not just mean the absence of war. It is about non-violence, sustainability, equality and justice. An academy which researches the effects of government decisions and the possibilities for government action, including in education, will be of huge benefit.”***

setting up a body that was unique to Wales and which would have the respect of the Welsh Government and others in order to function effectively. We already have an active peace movement in Wales which campaigns on many issues. The Academi Heddwch is something quite different. It will bring together experts and academics to produce reports to guide us in building a sustainable and peaceful society in its broadest sense.

### ***Coming together***

The Academi Heddwch has brought together all our universities, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, the Learned Society and the peace movement. We also have the support of the office of the Future Generations Commissioner. In our foundation year we will work on broadening our appeal to all sectors of society.

### ***Past, present and future***

We are in the process of identifying research work already being undertaken which can contribute to our understanding of our history and our future in terms of Wales as a nation of peace. We plan to organise conferences and seminars when circumstances allow as well as publishing reports.

One of the Academi's first practical projects is leading the work to commemorate and raise awareness of the women's peace petition to the USA in 1924. We are preparing for an exhibition in the National Museum and in the National Library. We are also preparing a book about this remarkable achievement.



***WCIA Young Peacemakers at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in 2019, pupils from Ysgol David Hughes, Menai Bridge. Education will be a priority of the new Academi Heddwch.***

The Academi has its base in the Temple of Peace and Health in Cardiff, although in reality the work will take place throughout the country.

### ***A spark of hope***

It is early days but I do believe that our Academi Heddwch will become a valuable and valued asset for Wales. It will put us firmly on the international peace map.

It has been a long and often arduous process and huge thanks are due to the very, very many people who have played a part along the way. Without all of that effort we could not have come so far. However, we still have a long way to go.

2020 has been a year of crisis and anxiety. The establishment of the Academi Heddwch has been one bright light in the darkness: a light that will help guide our path to a better and a different future.

# ONE LAST THROW OF THE DICE?

*What next for Wylfa? Robot Idris hopes it isn't this US consortium...*

On 16 September 2020 Hitachi abandoned their plan to build a nuclear power station at Wylfa. So why aren't we celebrating the end of Anglesey's nuclear nightmare? Horizon, the local company which is the public face of Hitachi over here, has asked for a further extension until 31 December 2020 for obtaining a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the London government – in order to suit a new US consortium comprising Bechtel, Westinghouse and Southern Power.

Bechtel was to have been one of Hitachi's partners in building Wylfa. They have form:

- Fined nearly \$58 million for fraud along with another company at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the most contaminated site in the USA.
  - Water privatisation in Bolivia which was unaffordable for ordinary folk, before getting kicked out of the country.
  - Contracted to build a chemicals factory for Saddam Hussein, despite knowing that he had already used chemical weapons against the Kurds.
  - Profiteering from the Iraq War with a US government contract worth \$680 million.
  - Westinghouse is bankrupt as a result of its nuclear ventures with Southern Power. They quit building AP1000 reactors (the sort proposed for Wylfa) in South Carolina, leaving taxpayers still having to pay for a power plant which is not operational, which has doubled in price. And in the US state of Georgia, a similar project is years behind schedule, with uncertainty that it will ever be completed.
- Now who in their right minds would welcome such a consortium? Right first time – some of our politicians! And we should not forget the threat of SMNRs either...

*...and what if 2021 proves to be the end of the road for Wylfa B? Dr Carl Clowes looks at alternative outcomes.*

The decision by Hitachi to terminate their interest in the 409 ha of Heritage Coast at Wylfa creates several opportunities. Re-possession of the site, rich in history, visual beauty and wildlife has led **Wylfa Ni ('Our Wylfa')**, an ad hoc group, to seek support for transferring the land owned by Hitachi back into local ownership.

Such a transfer would ensure accountability for the land with the people of Ynys Môn. Whatever is 'agreed' on the use of the land, any proposal(s) will, of course, need to be sustainable and environmentally responsible. An option appraisal will include opportunities for:

- employment
- linguistic and cultural gain
- educational value

Ideas to date include interpretation of the site's rich archaeology and the diversity of the island's geology as manifested in its UNESCO Geoparc status.

An early approach has been made to Hitachi HQ in Tokyo outlining the objectives of Wylfa Ni and seeking an accommodation with our ambition.

PAWB/foe Japan



*Goodbye Hitachi! PAWB would like to thank our anti-nuclear friends from Japan for their brilliant support over the years.*

**HINKLEY AT THE SENEDD**

In 2018 EdF dredged sediment from Bridgewater Bay, where the outflow pipes of Hinkley Point A and B have deposited radioactive particles for 50+ years, and dumped it off Cardiff Bay. In 2020 EdF asked Natural Resources Wales (NRW) if they could apply for a licence to dump more sediment in

2021, without conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Following a massive 10,000+ petition and with a Senedd debate scheduled, EdF announced that they will conduct an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment). It won't be binding.

At present, the issues to be addressed by the EIA are still being determined, but one consequence of the Senedd debate is that Members were able to raise key issues. These will need to have been (or seen to have been) addressed when the mud question returns to the Senedd.

**Brian Jones**

**EGINO: SPOT THE SPIN**

Welsh Government Economy Minister Ken Skates has touted a new company, Cwmni Eginno, to develop Trawsfynydd for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs). The site could even include a potential medical research reactor. Dr Ian Fairlie, former head of the Secretariat of the UK

Government's Committee Examining Radiation Risks of Internal Emitters (CERRIE) commented: "There are currently no medical research reactors in the UK. All isotopes needed for medical purposes can be produced much more safely by cyclotrons, and there is unlikely to be any shortage of

such isotopes. Although some Cobalt-60 isotopes used to come from Canadian nuclear reactors, these are being shut down. The nuclear industry is falsely claiming that reactors are needed for medical purposes – they are not."

**Brian Jones**

**ONE NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT TOO MANY**

The UN says we have just 10 years to respond to the global warming crisis. One of the 10 points in the Westminster government's response is to build a number of Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs); but even if the Trawsfynydd site is to see the 'first reactor of this type', the Rolls Royce technology is not yet ready. CADNO wants jobs now, not in many years' time. In 15 years renewable energy generation in Wales is projected to rise by 500 percent, and the consumption of electricity to decrease by 18 percent. Only half of the electricity generated in Wales is actually consumed

here. Mochras, near Llanbedr, is named on maps as a potential storage site for nuclear waste. One type of SMNR contains 2.5 tonnes of plutonium at the end of its life. That is why we needed a Wellbeing of Future Generations Act in Wales. According to William van Hoene, of US energy provider Exelon, the costs of SMNRs are unreasonable. Many countries are now abandoning the nuclear industry, but Britain is trying to resurrect it. Why? Three years

ago, a National Audit Office report showed serious flaws in the case for building more nuclear power stations. Studies by Sussex University and others show clearly the connection between civil nuclear and Trident.

Let's send a clear message to our Councillors, to Ken Skates and to Westminster: NO SMNRs!

**Deilwen Evans, CADNO**



**No entry! Keep SMNRs out of Trawsfynydd.**

# WALES IN LOCKDOWN CYMRU DAN GLO



## **The long haul**

When the last issue of Heddwhc came out, few of us imagined that come the autumn the infection rate would return to the levels seen in the spring. The announcement of favourable vaccine results in November gave rise to some hope for 2021, tempered with caution. In the meantime, let's appreciate our teachers and health workers – and stay safe.

## **Online lifeline**

Zooming, Skyping and Teaming have established themselves as the norm. For CND Cymru committee members and Peace and Justice groups across Wales it has made life easier and many of us have taken to participating in webinars worldwide. But in the longer term, solidarity cannot be built in two dimensions.

## **Nuclear forum**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Wales Autumn Seminar took place online at the end of October, chaired by Sean Morris and introduced by Cllr Sue Lent (Cardiff).

For CND Cymru, Thomas Pitt spoke about the International Campaign for the Abolition of

Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) the encouraging progress of the UN global ban treaty (TPNW), and the need to re-engage Welsh councils.

Tim Deere-Jones spoke about Cardiff's Geiger Bay campaign, and the public health, environmental and safety concerns connected with Edf's dumping of mud from Hinkley. Neil Crumpton spoke for PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) about the prospects for Trawsfynydd if proposals for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors went ahead, and on what might happen with Wylfa.

Dan McCullum, Director of the Egni Cooperative, spoke about how Welsh councils could help deliver low-carbon energy solutions.

## **Hedd poppies**

White poppies are worn in remembrance of all victims of war, including civilians and the enemy. This year the Peace Pledge Union's white poppies were available for the first time in Welsh (with HEDD at the centre). Small numbers had been made on request previously, but now they may be ordered as mainstream along with Welsh-language publicity material.

## **Remembrance**

Selling and distributing white poppies was difficult this autumn because of the 'firebreak' Covid lockdown, but from Aberystwyth to Knighton socially distanced and masked events were held to lay white wreaths alongside the red.



Knighton Action for Peace & Justice

*White poppies were laid by Knighton Action for Peace and Justice, Knighton and District Refugee Support Group, Amnesty International and Radnor Palestine Links.*

# WALES IN LOCKDOWN CYMRU DAN GLO



## Vandalism condemned

At Knighton white wreaths were removed and vandalised after the ceremony. However the local branch of the British Legion later released a conciliatory statement: ‘These wreaths were laid as part of the town’s act of Remembrance on Armistice Sunday. They should have been treated with the same respect as any other wreath laid as part of that ceremony. The local branch is appalled that some individuals’ personal dislike of, or disagreement with, either white poppies or the organisations which laid them, resulted in this act of vandalism. We would hope that in future years these unfortunate events will not be repeated.’

## Whose freedom?

At a Westminster Hall debate in October 2020 Virginia Crosbie, Conservative MP for Ynys Môn, said ‘My children hear the [Hawk] jets as they fly over our home near [RAF] Valley, and I say to them, “It’s the sound of freedom.” ‘ These are the Hawk attack jets used to train Saudi Arabian pilots for the war in Yemen (see *Heddwch 75*), where child casualties are rising sharply. As International Trade Secretary Liz Truss considers hundreds of new applications for arms export licences to Saudi Arabia, Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) are taking the government back to court.

## Written in stone?

Following the Black Lives matter protests in Wales last summer, the Welsh government commissioned Cardiff community leader Gaynor Legall to head up an audit of monuments, street names and buildings connected with the slave trade and imperialist oppression. Over 209 instances were found from all over Wales. Campaigners who for 10 years have been protesting about the statue of HM Stanley in Denbigh, hoped that this would at last hasten its removal.

## Palestine to Pontypridd

Lockdown has its own special meaning for people in Gaza, where about 47 percent of essential medicines have run out. South Wales showed its solidarity with all those suffering in Palestine on 28 November 2020, with distanced demos taking place in Pontypridd, Cardiff, Newport, Caerphilly, Brecon, Abergavenny, Penarth, Bridgend and Swansea.

## Penally protests

Among the issues which broke through the Covid fog in Wales this autumn was the decision by the Home Office in September to use a run-down army camp at Penally, Pembrokeshire, surrounded by barbed wire, to house asylum seekers from Iran and Iraq.

There was no consultation with local people or the devolved administration. There were ugly demonstrations by far right groups outside the camp, countered with repeated protests by the West Wales Forum of Stand up to Racism – welcoming the refugees and deploring their living conditions. There were also protests by those held inside the camp.



Patrick Connellan

Stand up to Racism protestors picket the Penally camp in 2020.

# NUCLEAR PHYSICS WITH A CONSCIENCE

I read with great interest **Jill Gough's** excellent review of *Wales and the Bomb* in *Heddwch* no.75 (Summer 2020), writes **Chris Jones**.

However I was somewhat taken aback by the suggestion that few [of the Welsh scientists involved in the development of the bomb] stopped to contemplate the moral implications of nuclear weapons.

My father, W. Mervyn Jones, was one of these scientists. Following his graduation in Physics with first class honours at Aberystwyth University in 1942 he was directed by a visiting panel to work with Professor Franz Simon on the Tube Alloy Project (the pseudonym for the atomic bomb project) at the Clarendon Laboratory in Oxford. On completing his D.Phil from Oxford University in 1946 he moved to Harwell where he was employed as a Scientific Officer.

My father and many of his colleagues (Welsh and other nationalities) were appalled by Hiroshima and Nagasaki, having previously held to the view that the bomb would never be used and that it would deter future wars.

The moral implications of this act were hotly disputed amongst the scientists involved. An excerpt from my father's diary for January 1946 states the following:

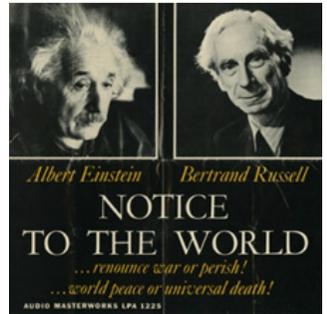
"A meeting took place at six in the lab to discuss a draft letter from the T.A. [Tube Alloy] group at Oxford to other members of the T.A. group [across the UK] regarding our attitude to atomic energy.....we wanted to stress its possible bad effects [but this] was objected to by Professor Simon. He said he thought we ought to say we felt a responsibility and that we therefore wanted to form some sort of a group. [However] we didn't want to form a group unless it was composed of people of the same aims. A motion that our chief aim was to publicise the dangers of atomic research was carried...."

My father left Harwell in 1948 and was appointed as a Lecturer in Physics back at Aberystwyth University, where he spent the rest of his working life. He stated the reason for his leaving Harwell as: "I felt I was losing touch with physics and was unhappy at the decision to develop the nuclear 'device'" (*100 years of Physics at UCW Aberystwyth 1884 to 1984* by W M Jones)

In the 1950s my father became an active member of CND when it was first formed and frequently joined the Aldermaston marches.



W. Mervyn Jones in 1949.



Russell-Einstein Manifesto, 1955.

He was also active in "Pugwash" which was set up by Bertrand Russell and Joseph Rotblat in 1955. Initially called the "Russell-Einstein manifesto", it became "The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs" after its 1957 meeting in Pugwash, Nova Scotia. Its aim was to foster the peaceful application of science globally. It is still active, see <https://britishpugwash.org/>

Rotblat believed that scientists 'should always be concerned with the ethical consequences of their work', a view which my father held strongly.

# FOUR DECADES OF CAMPAIGNING: *an archive of activism for future generations*

As Heritage Advisor to the Welsh Centre for International Affairs in Cardiff, **Craig Owen** has been archiving the history of CND Cymru.

With the passing into international law of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – poignantly coinciding with UN Day 2020 – CND Cymru deserves to take a moment of reflection on the four decades of campaigning that have culminated at this point.

CND Cymru has worked closely with the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA) ‘Wales for Peace’ project ([www.heddwch.cymru](http://www.heddwch.cymru)) at the Temple of Peace, throughout the COVID shutdown, to digitise the CND Cymru Archives. To mark #Hiroshima75 in August 2020 – with National Eisteddfod plans cancelled due to the pandemic – the WCIA ‘launched’ the first stage of the CND archive, now permanently and publicly accessible through the national digital archive People’s Collection Wales (maintained by the National Library of Wales).

The first stage of the CND Cymru Archive records and celebrates 40 years of nuclear activism Wales-wide – featuring full contents

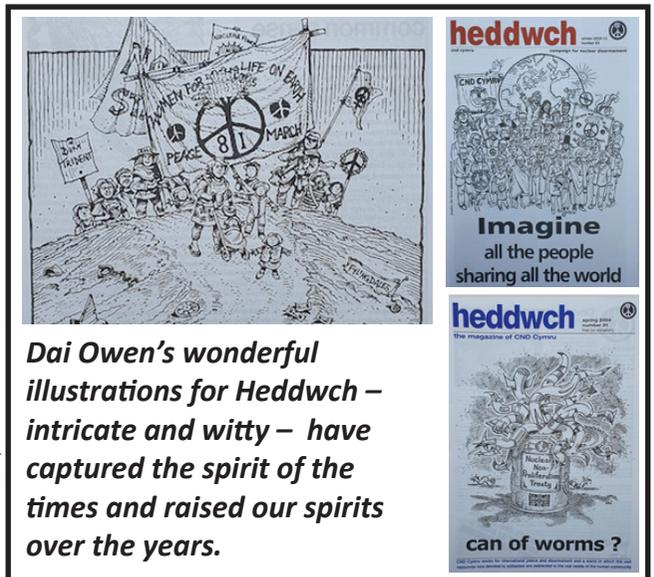
of *Heddwch*, *Campaign Wales* and *Campaign Action News* magazines from 1982-present (both Welsh and English copies), as well as archives from the 1982 Bridgend Bunker Campaign.

## heddwch>action: Call for volunteers

The second stage of work, currently under way, involves adding content listings for each publication (so that specific articles become visible in relevant Google searches); digitising and adding further archive materials from CND members; and translation into Welsh of the Archives Homepage.

- View ‘Hiroshima75’ CND Archive Launch WCIA Article - <https://www.wcia.org.uk/wcia-news/wcia-history/hiroshima-75/>
- CND Cymru Archive Homepage - <https://www.wcia.org.uk/cndcymruarchives/>
- People’s Collection Wales – Wales for Peace Home - <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/users/8498>

If any CND Cymru members (or children / students / furloughed folk!) are able to volunteer to help with these tasks – which can all be done remotely / working from home – please contact [craigowen@wcia.org.uk](mailto:craigowen@wcia.org.uk)



*Dai Owen’s wonderful illustrations for Heddwch – intricate and witty – have captured the spirit of the times and raised our spirits over the years.*

**Confessions of a Non-Violent Revolutionary** (*Bean Stew, Blisters, Blockades and Benders: The True Story of a Peace Activist in Thatcher's Britain*) by Chris Savory

Clairview Books 2020 (English language)  
ISBN 9-781912-992140  
Paperback, 192pp £12.99

This memoir by Chris Savory tracks his part in those heady (mostly 1980s) days of direct action and grassroots campaigning. If you remember those chilling Thatcher and Reagan times of Greenham, Molesworth and Menwith Hill, the Miners' Strike, Reclaim the Night, the 1982 World Peace March, Pershing and Cruise and the Poll Tax campaign and more, this book brings it all back.

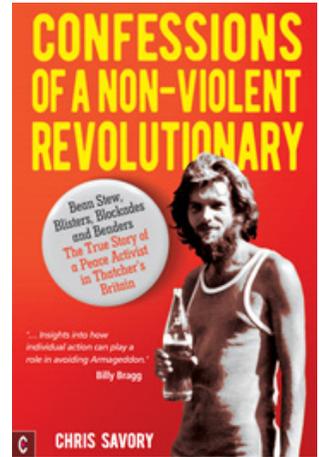
As always, despite the fact that learning from the past is so important, most of us were so busy in those days that much went unrecorded. Chris, (as did Ann Pettit of course with

*Walking to Greenham: How the Peace Camp Began and the Cold War Ended*) has managed the almost impossible by writing his memories – and in a highly entertaining way.

He clearly illustrates the importance of direct action, both as a means of publicly highlighting an issue, and as a sort of therapy for activists.

In these dark sleepless nights of 2020 BBC Radio World Service gloom, after decades of campaigning and when time is running out, one reminds one's self, as should we all: "Had we not taken the action we had, things might well be worse now", and that if we hadn't spoken out, those coming after us would look back and say "all those appalling things were going on and no one said anything or took direct action".

Chris writes of individuals, peace marches in the USA with monks, and across Germany to a US nuclear missile base, and most recently of an XR



demonstration on Westminster Bridge. And there are some interesting (if grainy) photos too. Sadly very little about all that was going on Wales.

So, the message is quite definitely "Keep at it"! And – "If you remember the 80s, you were definitely, like Chris Savory, there." To get where we are now, we had to be there then. Thanks Chris, it's a jolly reassuring fireside read for these lockdown times.

**Jill Gough**

**The Levels** by Helen Pendry

Parthian Press 2019  
(English language)  
ISBN 9-781912-109401  
Paperback, 282pp £8.99

Readers of *Heddwch* will be familiar with the drone crashes at Aberporth in Ceredigion. This novel, by Machynlleth author Helen Pendry, starts

with a fatality caused by such a (fictitious) accident. But was this really an accident? The tough, no-nonsense narrator begins a quest to find a missing friend who may hold the answer – but as in all good quests, she ends up discovering more about herself, and a lot about human nature, in

her search for the truth. The novel confronts head on the exploitation of rural Wales by the military-industrial complex, by dodgy money, self-serving politicians and a sensationalist press.

The novel is prefaced by a quotation in Welsh from Iolo Morganwg (Edward

# JAN MORRIS 1926-2020

Many tributes have been paid to Jan Morris, who has died at the age of 94. We remember her as a good friend of CND Cymru. Jan was born James Morris in Somerset, to a Welsh father and English mother. She had a conventional upper class English upbringing, but identified strongly with her Welsh roots. Her subsequent life was far from conventional. As a journalist with *The Times* in 1953, she broke the news of the ascent of Everest. In 1956, with *The [Manchester] Guardian* during the Suez Crisis, she was the first to prove France's clandestine support of Israel's invasion of Egypt (along with Britain). In 1961 she covered the trial of the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann. In 1964 Jan Morris began the process of transition, with a gender reassignment operation in 1972. She wrote about her experiences in *Conundrum*

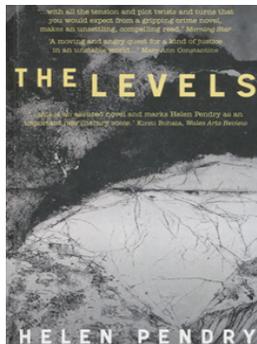
(1974). In 1978 she completed her three-part history of the British empire, *Pax Britannica*. Jan was already well established as an essayist, who wrote inspiring accounts of cities and journeys. Her enduring fascination was with Venice. Her writing is vivid and expressive, tempered by historical insight. Jan Morris's home was at Llanystumdwy, and her passion for Wales was reflected in a number of her books, such as *Wales, the First Place* (1982) and *Wales: Epic Views of a Small Country* (1984). She was an opponent of the Falklands War of 1982. Jill Gough recalls meeting with her in the 1990s. "I had a long conversation with Jan about her



desire for peace and nuclear disarmament in Wales and the wider world. Following her death, the London media has largely ignored Jan's wholehearted support for an independent, nuclear-free Wales. She stayed firm to these ideals to the end." Jan is survived by her lifelong partner Elizabeth and four of her children, including her son Twm Morys, the poet, editor and musician.

## BOOK REVIEW

Williams, 1747-1826): 'It would be a wonderful thing to have a history of the Arts of Peace amongst the Welsh, and more wonderful still would be to bury in the oblivion of the deepest pool in Hell all the history which deals with wars and Warriors and Kings'. The quest leads us through rural Wales in winter, mapping its geology and lakes, its industrial past and its problematic



present. It presents ethical issues such as violence at the personal, the societal and the state level, and homes, homelessness and belonging. The story would make a compelling film or television series – but if your sympathies lie with lolo, read this novel now.

**Philip Steele**

## 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

*Heddwch* is the magazine of the Wales Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND Cymru). The content does not necessarily reflect the opinion or policies of CND Cymru. We welcome debate and discussion. Please send any comments, contributions or dates of forthcoming events to the editor.

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