



HEDDWCH

Number 79 > December 2021 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament



NO to a new cold war

The climate is on Red Alert. A pandemic has killed millions. People are homeless, stateless, hungry and on the move. So is this really the time to be testing hypersonic missiles and stoking up the rhetoric for a Second Cold War?

WANTED: A NEW VISION, NOW

As we go to press, China is being targeted in a new Cold War of words, Afghanistan is starving, Eastern Europe is tense. In this febrile atmosphere, even the limited cooperation between the USA and China at COP 26 came as a welcome surprise.

But active diplomacy must become the rule, not the exception, and be extended across the board. A global ban on nuclear weapons is a necessity, before international relations unravel any further.

In this issue of *Heddwch* we look at the current status of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW, p3), and the many failings of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT, p4) the USA shrugs its way out of Afghanistan and again pivots to the Indo-Pacific region. The UK and Australia are on board too, in a new military pact called AUKUS (see p5).

COP 26 and after

COP 26 takes small steps, but as an urgent response to the climate crisis it falls far short.

As COP 26 conference unfolded in Glasgow, climate protests were held across Wales (see p8 & 10). The greenwashing of new nuclear power as a climate solution, and the concealment of its military links, are ever more apparent. Civil nuclear developments are discussed on p8-9.



Mission Photographic Ltd

CND Cymru national secretary Bethan Siân speaks from the steps of the Senedd about the twin threats: nuclear weapons and climate change

Covid worldwide

Every aspect of our lives is still affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, and our teachers, carers and nurses still struggle for funding. Not until every country in the world, rich and poor alike, has had equal access to vaccines, is there any hope of a just solution.

Greenham Women everywhere

A revival of the old Greenham spirit really is most welcome. On p6 Sue Lent reports on the re-enactment of that 1981 walk from Cardiff to Greenham Common, while Jill Gough's book review on p12 recalls those wonderful banners of the Greenham Women. On p7 Mary Jones makes plans for celebrating the 1982 declaration of a Nuclear-Free Wales.

Victims of nuclear tests

LABRATS are building an international register of 'atomic descendants' which will

provide statistical information for campaigns, and show governments that the testing programme is still affecting over a million descendants worldwide. Entries into the database will remain confidential. To register, visit <https://www.labrats.international/irad>

Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Many thanks to Sean Morris, Secretary of the NFLA and firm supporter of the anti-nuclear movements in Wales. We wish him well in his new post as Policy and Strategy Lead at Manchester Climate Change Agency, and welcome as from 8 November 2021 his successor, Richard Outram, an Oldham councillor, who has campaigned with CND.

PHILIP STEELE

• **Erratum:** we apologise for a typographical error on p9 of *Heddwch* no. 78. In Dr Ian Fairlie's article on *Nuclear Fusion*, 1018 becquerels should have read 10¹⁸ becquerels.

GLOBAL BAN IS MAKING HEADWAY

Chile and the Seychelles have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) since the last issue of Heddwch, bringing the total number of states which have ratified the treaty to 56. And the world of finance is starting to take note, says BRIAN JONES.

We hope to see more ratifications soon, as several states, including Guatemala, Ghana, Tanzania, Peru, Mongolia, and Timor-Leste, announced at the United Nations recently that they are working to ratify the treaty. They, and 27 other countries, are trying to complete their ratification processes in order to take part in the first “Meeting of States Parties” to the TPNW, which will be taking place on 22-24 March 2022 in Vienna, Austria.

No more bullying tactics

In the last few months of his term in office, President Trump instructed US ambassadors to dissuade countries from signing or ratifying the TPNW, suggesting that US aid and

contracts might be cut if countries supported the treaty. Although the USA – like all the nuclear weapon states and their allies – still opposes the treaty, President Biden has officially revoked Trump’s policy.

Another positive sign of movement towards the TPNW is NATO members Norway and Germany’s announcement that they will attend the Meeting of States Parties as observers. Hopefully this decision might cause other NATO governments to consider attending the conference. The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) has formally backed the TPNW ‘because peace is union business!’ Wales TUC take note.

Investors do take note

Swedish insurance group Länsförsäkringar, with over \$40 billion in assets, and three major Belgian financial institutions – KBC Bank, VDK Bank and De Groef Petercam Asset Management – has cited the TPNW as the reason for adopting new policies of ending investments in companies associated with the production of nuclear weapons. These moves are particularly significant as neither Sweden nor Belgium has joined the TPNW, and, indeed Belgium even hosts US nuclear weapons at the Kleine Brogel air base. Nevertheless, the financial sector is taking notice of this treaty. The international work to cut off funding for weapons of mass destruction is starting to pay off, and we expect more financial institutions to follow suit. The firms who profit from sustaining a nuclear arms race are listed in this damning ICAN 2021 report: Don’t Bank on the Bomb! https://www.icanw.org/perilous_profiteering_companies_building_nuclear_weapons_and_financial_backers?

Merthyr Tydfil has become the second county council in Wales to pass a motion in support of the TPNW, as part of the ICAN Cities Appeal.

Bethan Siân



CND Cymru calls for a global ban at the COP 26 climate protest in Cardiff, 6 November 2021 – Jill Evans, Felix Parker-Price and Nick Yeo.

PROLIFERATION TREATY IN DISARRAY

It is often said that good things come to those who wait. If this holds true, the 10th Review Conference (RevCon) of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), initially scheduled for April 2020 and now delayed for a third time until January 2022, will be a nailed-on success!

Sadly, the actual prospects are less encouraging, as a brief overview of the nuclear weapon states' actions reveals.

Double standards

Starting close to home, the UK's decision to increase its stockpile of warheads by over 40 percent earlier this year caused widespread consternation and has further eroded confidence in the country's ability to abide by its international obligations. Likewise, satellite images have revealed two new nuclear missile silo fields under construction in China's north-western provinces, which represents a tenfold increase in its number of silos. Both countries have a long-held policy of 'minimum deterrence'; if this was ever true to begin with, logic dictates that it cannot be now.

The two biggest nuclear powers, the US and Russia, are continuing their modernisation programmes, to the tune of \$1.5 trillion in America's case. Figures on Russia's military spending are harder to come by, but ICBMs generally don't come cheap. It is difficult to square any of these actions with the NPT commitment to 'pursue negotiations in good faith

on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament'.

Midde East stalemate

And then there is the Middle East. Disagreement over Egypt's proposal for a regional WMD-free zone was the final nail in the coffin for the last RevCon in 2015. The elephant in the room remains Israel – like India, Pakistan and North Korea, not a party to the NPT. Having made no secret of its attempts to sabotage the Iran nuclear deal, Israel is a constant obstacle to disarmament and refuses to engage on the issue.

Hopes and fears

And yet, there are causes for hope. In Fumio Kishida,

who represents a constituency in Hiroshima, Japan has a new Prime Minister who is more sympathetic to nuclear disarmament than his recent predecessors. However, Kishida does aim to double military spending and support nuclear power. Meanwhile, the TPNW continues to gather support and will hold its first Meeting of States Parties in the New Year. Ultimately, though, change is needed at the top table. It is not too late to rescue a meaningful agreement, but a significant change in mindset is urgently required, and one of the big players will need to take the lead. Otherwise, hypocrisy will be the only winner when the RevCon finally convenes in New York.

THOMAS PITT



Nuclear weapon states within the NPT are the USA, China, Russia, the UK and France. Nuclear states outside the NPT are India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.

A NEW ORDER – OR JUST MORE DISORDER?

The pivot of US and UK strategy from the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific is supposed to bring about a brave new world. PHILIP STEELE fears that this new Cold War is just one more disaster waiting to happen.

The ‘peace dividend’ from the last Cold War was squandered on the so-called ‘War on Terror’. This blighted the new millennium and sowed dragon’s teeth in its wake. And yet now there is talk of a Second Cold War.

Goodbye Kabul....

The US-led 2001 attack on Afghanistan was never justifiable. It was marred by the death of innocent civilians, by prisoner abuse and renditions to Guantanamo. Hard-won advances in the country’s human rights, education and the role of women were jeopardised by massive corruption and favours to the elite. The immediate collapse of the Afghan government in August 2021 revealed its shallow foundations. The USA was right to withdraw, but the chaotic and violent exit was unforgivable. Joe Biden’s parting speech was strangely devoid of empathy or vision.

China and AUKUS

Biden’s sudden lurch to Indo-Pacific geopolitics was almost Trumpian. His hawkish rhetoric is depressingly reminiscent of a Cold War mindset and it has ratcheted up global tension with a nuclear dimension. Fox News, the Murdoch press and the Tory Right now rail against everything Chinese.



China is clearly the (unnamed) target of the AUKUS pact of September 2021. This cosy Anglo-Saxon alliance includes the USA, UK and Australia. Australia gains nuclear-powered submarines. This raises serious legal concerns regarding the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). What’s more, the submarine deal was in breach of an existing commercial contract between Australia and France, causing a major rift amongst close US allies.

Why the sound and fury?

Is this tension all about whether Tweedle-Dum or Tweedle-Dee dominates the world economy? Is it about internal US politics, priming Trump voters by echoing the still lurking ex-president’s sinophobia? Is it drummed up by hawks such as Secretary of State Anthony Blinken? Is the military-industrial lobby seeking new markets and the

Pentagon more power? Is it all of these things?

Whatever happened to détente?

Some commentators say that Biden will in the end seek a quiet diplomatic solution. The surprising US-China change of tack at COP 26 bodes well. The trouble is that the Pandora’s box of a Cold War and a new arms race has now been re-opened, and at a perilous moment. Human rights abuses are currently rampant around the world, amongst friends as well as foes. However sabre-rattling only serves to shore up the power of non-progressive elements at home and abroad. The only way forward is through détente.

heddwch>action:

Ask your Westminster MP to sign this Early Day Motion (EDM 493), opposing the AUKUS pact. <https://cnd.eaction.org.uk/EDM493>

BACK TO GREENHAM

*The 1981 march from Cardiff to the Greenham airbase was the catalyst for the epic protest and Women's Peace Camp. Forty years on, Cardiff Councillor **SUE LENT** takes to the road again.*

As a young child, Rebecca Morden went to Greenham with her mother, and she remembers the “Embrace the base” action in December 1982 when 30,000 women held hands around the 14-km perimeter fence. Determined that the Greenham Women shouldn't be forgotten, she set up “Greenham Women Everywhere”, securing Heritage Lottery funding for a project that has grown and grown. Greenham introduced so many women to feminism and the power of women working together.

I was one of those women who told their stories. My 13-month-old son Chris and I were two of the band of “36 women, 4 men and 3 babies” who walked from Cardiff to Greenham Common in August 1981. We had a common purpose, which was to protest against nuclear weapons and the decision by the Thatcher government to allow US Cruise

missiles to be sited at RAF Greenham Common, an airbase in Berkshire.

The 40th Anniversary march, as before, started at Cardiff City Hall and followed the same route. Lots of Greenham women turned up. Jane Hutt MS and Ann Pettit spoke, as they had in August 1981. Frankie Armstrong and Côr Cochion Caerdydd sang. I gave my recollections and Jill Evans, who had also walked that first day, spoke on behalf of CND Cymru.

In 1981 we walked on the roads but this time we walked on pavements, the roadside, through fields and along canals. I didn't do the whole 193 km this time, but Bath to Melksham with Chris was a lovely bank holiday treat. The lovely Becca read from my original diaries each day. This led to the bizarre experience of turning up at the lunch stop

between Bristol and Bath and Chris becoming aware of women pointing at him and whispering that he was “the baby in the pushchair”!

In 1981 hardly anyone had heard of Greenham Common but this time many whom we met along the way remembered the march passing through. As in 1981, we were a mixture of young and older, we sang as we walked and we enjoyed meeting new people and having the time for long conversations.

Arriving at Blue Gate on the last day was amazing. Exhausted after a 24-km walk we were met by crowds of supporters who accompanied us across the Common to the Control Tower. A weekend of reminiscing, sisterhood and song followed. Greenham Women are still everywhere. I can't wait for the Anniversary of “Embrace the base” in December 2022!



Sue Lent (left) and the Greenham women, 2021.

THE 1982 NUCLEAR FREE WALES DECLARATION

Commemorate – Celebrate – ACTIVATE says **MARY JONES**

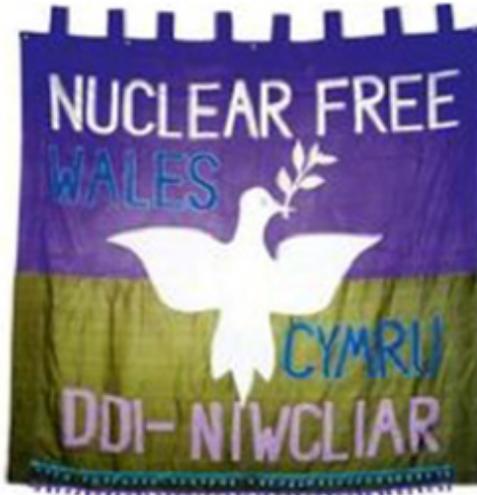
The Clwyd Declaration of 1982 was the successful culmination of major campaigns in communities across Wales, resulting in the then eight county councils of West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gwynedd, Clwyd, Powys, Dyfed, and Gwent all passing ‘nuclear-free’ resolutions.

We are celebrating that achievement by organising a touring exhibition, with venues selected around Wales to represent those old counties. The Nuclear Free Wales Banner, designed and made by Thalia Campbell, is returning to Wales from the Bradford Peace Museum and will be accompanied by information panels showing the historic events of 40 years ago. But this is more than a trip down memory lane!

Why does it matter now?

Today we are at a major crossroads, where the threat to the planet from both nuclear weapons and climate change has never been greater – and action has never been more urgently needed to avert disaster. Globally, nuclear weapons use massive energy and resources in research, production, operation,

dismantling and eventual waste storage, never mind the environmental catastrophe that would be created if they were ever deployed. This is in



addition to the environmental devastation wreaked by decades of uranium mining, nuclear testing, and nuclear waste dumping. Local authorities across Wales are rightly looking at what action they can take to help avert climate disaster. Forty years on from their historic ‘Nuclear Free’ declarations they can take action again, by supporting the global campaign for money spent on nuclear weapons to be invested instead on dealing with the effects of climate change. Some Welsh councils have already signed the ICAN Pledge

in support of the United Nations Treaty outlawing nuclear weapons – let’s work together to get all 22 councils on board in 2022 !

The year-long activities will begin with a CND Cymru on-line meeting on 23 February 2022, and end with an exhibition event at the Senedd on 1 December; they will also include a visit to the National Eisteddfod in Tregaron in August. Throughout the year exhibitions are planned for Wrexham, Bangor, Aberystwyth, Llandrindod Wells, Haverfordwest, Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff

and Newport.

heddwch>action:

What can you do to help?

- Do you have old photographs, press cuttings or other material that could be used to illustrate the old county campaigns of 40 years ago ?
- Can you help organise an exhibition in one of the above areas and/or lobby your current council to support the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons?

For more information about how to get involved email mary.jones17@outlook.com

CLIMATE CRISIS? NUCLEAR IS NOT THE ANSWER

Roo Pitt



Nuclear power is bad for the climate!

- The nuclear cycle as a whole cannot be called low carbon, if it includes (as it does) mining, transportation, concreting and construction, steel manufacture, decommissioning and habitat destruction.
- In times of drought, nuclear power stations consume vast amounts of water.
- Nuclear power stations' coastal sites are vulnerable to rising sea levels and extreme weather events.
- New nuclear investments divert funds from renewable energy. The industry's cost overruns are notorious.
- The nuclear lobby cannot build in time to meet the carbon reduction targets set at COP. The

industry has an appalling record of delays.

- Civil nuclear power and military nuclear developments are closely related and always have been. See <https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/hidden-military-implications-building-back-new-nuclear-uk/>
- Renewables are cheaper and offer plenty of safer job opportunities. Intermittency is no longer a problem, baseload is no longer an obstacle.
- Long-term radiation hazards place future generations in danger for thousands of years. Nuclear waste can be stored, but not effectively disposed of.

.....nuclear weapons are bad for the climate!

- A nuclear war and the resultant firestorms would have direct impacts on the global climate, such as a long 'nuclear winter'.
- Nuclear weapons and testing cause long-term environmental damage.
- Climate change and dwindling resources encourage further armed conflict, forming a vicious circle.
- Military carbon emissions (fuel, explosives, defence construction) are massive, even in so-called peacetime.

Roo Pitt



Above and below: Climate protest, Bangor, November 2021.

HINKLEY C APPEAL

The "Save the Severn Estuary" group has launched a legal challenge against the MMO (Marine Management Organisation) issuing a licence to EdF to dump sediment off Portishead. But legal fees are expensive, and so we need donations!

heddwch>action:

If you would like to contribute to the legal costs, please see

<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/save-the-severn-estuary/>

NUCLEAR GAMES ARE BACK ON

Bechtel and Westinghouse, despite their track record, have been lobbying the Welsh Affairs Committee at Westminster, reports **DYLAN MORGAN** *of People Against Wylfa B.*

The past months have proven that CADNO and PAWB still have a great deal of work to do. Before the end of summer, it was announced that an American, Mike Tynan, had been appointed as Chief Executive of Cwmni Egin, at the Trawsfynydd nuclear site, by the Welsh Government. He is a former head of Westinghouse in Britain, the very company that went bankrupt in 2017 under Toshiba's ownership in the United States.

That bankruptcy led to the demise of the NuGen consortium on the Moorside site next door to Sellafield. The wish there was to build three Westinghouse AP1000 reactors, but considering the history of trying to build the AP1000 reactors on the V.C. Summer site in South Carolina, it was no surprise that nobody wanted to gamble on investing in the AP1000 at Moorside.

Money matters

There was also an American presence in a one-off session of the Welsh Affairs Committee in Westminster in September, to discuss possibilities for the Wylfa site. Bechtel/ Westinghouse were present to boast about the AP1000 reactor. However, what became obvious was their desire for substantial

public funding from Johnson's government. That would attract investors in their view. No mention of course of the AP1000 failures. The second company to appear was Shearwater Energy, a small company who say they would like to build 12 77MW reactors from the American company NuScale at Wylfa.

Their representative made bold claims that they could complete the work without public subsidies and that the plan could be operational within five years. Unfortunately for Shearwater, only the 50MW version of the NuScale reactor has been approved by American regulators. Therefore it could take quite some time yet to complete the assessment of the 77MW reactor.

Crosbie's agenda

Ynys Môn MP Virginia Crosbie's influence in setting up this meeting was quite evident, as was her enthusiasm for the Bechtel/ Westinghouse proposal. She has been busy since then trying to arrange a visit to the Wylfa site by the US Chargé d'Affaires in London.

PAWB took advantage of the opportunity to write to the Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Philip T. Reeker, to remind him among other things that the Planning Inspectors who studied Horizon's full planning application recommended refusal of the Development Consent Order to them.

We also offered to meet him if he decided to come to Ynys Môn!



Protestors from Cadno and PAWB take on Bangor University's 'New Nuclear Futures Institute' with some spooky street theatre.

The filming was streamed on Facebook see

<https://www.facebook.com/milyr.tomos/videos/837702300250236>

HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE



From North Wales to Liverpool

On 11 September CND Cymru supporters and peace campaigners from across North Wales went to Liverpool to call for cancellation of AOC Electronic Arms Fair Europe (renamed the Digital Arms Fair). The Fair itself went ahead on 12-13 October and was met with further protests and arrests. Over 80 companies were on the guest list, including Raytheon, Elbit, Israel Aerospace Industries and MBDA, 'a world leader in missile systems'.

Aberystwyth marks Day of Peace

On 21 September Aberystwyth Town Council officially marked the UN International Day of Peace for the first time. The Mayor, Alun Williams, recalled the town's longstanding support for disarmament and peace, citing a League of Nations conference in 1926, a peace pageant in 1935, CND protests in the 1960s, opposition to the Iraq War in 2003, the acceptance of white poppies of remembrance from 2004, and conferences establishing the Academi Heddwch. Local resident Rose Voon also spoke at the event, and Côr Gobaith sang in whole-hearted support.

Happy Birthday to Us!

The 40th anniversary of the founding of CND Cymru as an autonomous national organisation was marked by an online session with contributions from Jill Evans, Rhodri Glyn Tomos, Dr John Cox, Stephen Thomas, Dr Rebecca Johnson, Jill Gough and Bruce Kent. On 15 September Heledd Fychan MS addressed the Senedd to wish CND Cymru a happy 40th birthday. She added that we can only truly celebrate once the world has been rid of illegal and immoral nuclear weapons.

Climate protests target COP 26

On 6 November, while COP 26 was in session in Glasgow, rallies were held across Wales, from Swansea to Cardiff, Llangollen to Bangor. CND Cymru supporters marched alongside a huge range of other organisations, including Code Red for Humanity, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Extinction Rebellion, Christian Aid, the Women's Institute and Unite Community. Other Welsh protestors had already travelled north to Scotland, several cycling all the way from Ceredigion!



Sam Bannon

Sam and Paul Bannon from Glyn Ceiriog, near Llangollen, protest against the forthcoming Liverpool arms fair.

HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE



Homage to Catalonia

In October 2021 Bethan Siân of CND Cymru joined up with three members of Youth and Student CND to attend a weekend conference of the International Peace Bureau Youth Network in Barcelona. The team presented a workshop, 'Protest and Survive – Youth, Peace and Enduring Time' and participated in other workshops on, for example, 'The Impact of Nuclear-Testing and Climate Change on Frontline Communities'; 'Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones – Strengths and Gaps', and a 'Feminist Peace Workshop'. Presentation videos, games and discussions led to lively exchanges and networking with delegates from many lands.

No to fusion in South Wales

It has been announced that both Aberthaw and Pembrokehire's Haven Waterway have been ruled out as potential sites for a new STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production, see *Heddwch* 78) nuclear fusion project. England and Scotland remain contenders in this fantasy fusion league.

Aberystwyth investigates nuclear Arctic

On 5 October the *Cambrian News* reported that Dr Arwyn Edwards, Reader in Biology

Coppieters Award 2020 & 2021

In Brussels, on 15 October 2021, CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans and Nelly Maes, who both did so much to establish peace institutes in Wales and in Flanders, received recognition for their hard work. The international Coppieters Awards stand for peace, democracy, cultural diversity, minority rights and self-determination. Congratulations to both, well earned.



Jill Evans and Nelly Maes receive their awards.

at Aberystwyth University, in association with academics in the USA, had published new research about the impact of global warming on the Arctic permafrost. Perhaps two-thirds of the permafrost could have thawed by the end of this century. The danger of the release of greenhouse gases such as methane are already well documented, but this research also points out the danger from radioactive contaminants such as plutonium and caesium, a legacy of the USSR's nuclear testing programme 1955-1990,

not to mention abandoned nuclear submarines. The Greenland ice sheet is also contaminated with radioactive waste from US military operations in the 1960s.

White poppies accepted by the BBC

The BBC has followed the lead shown by many Welsh councils and permitted their presenters this year to wear white poppies if they so wish. White poppies commemorate all victims of war, friend or foe, military or civilian.

WOMEN FOR PEACE

Banners From Greenham Common

Charlotte Dew

Four Corners Irregular No.8

224 p Hardback ISBN 978-1-909829-18-3

£14.00

“Banners – some beautifully crafted, others spontaneously assembled – are central to the story of Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp, from its beginnings in the late summer of 1981 until it disbanded in 2000.”

Even when interviews are lacking in mainstream media, when passers-by can’t hear all the words of songs being sung, or military “security” and civilian police have been trained not to listen to campaigners and protestors – beautiful banners with clear words on them can never consciously or unconsciously be ignored. Banners might be considered “a backdrop” to a demonstration while actually, in the bright, clear, aesthetically brilliant form that these were displayed at Greenham Common and elsewhere, often with clear messages and quotations and fronted by so many great ‘ordinary’ (whatever that means) Greenham Women, they could never be forgotten.

The women’s campaign to stop the locating of US Nuclear-Armed Cruise Missiles in Britain had already begun when the march from Cardiff to Greenham commenced in August 1981. Ann Pettitt, one of the organisers of the first Greenham march from Cardiff, might have echoed the words of other women’s movements of the past when she spoke of one of the aims of the March as being to “gatecrash the closed world of the media debate on defence issues...to use the media to wake up the public to what is happening.”

Charlotte Dew, in her beautifully crafted volume, seeks to inform the reader of this heritage in her sensitive description and



analysis of a superb collection of photographs of Greenham (and related) banners. For those of us who were there, an overview of the whole context and understanding, including plenty of interviews about the experience of others, including participating in direct action, is really helpful. It affirms our commitment and memories of the time. No we weren’t dreaming! It was the privilege – just as we remember. It also provides a positive context to present-day and future campaigns.



Women for Peace - Banners from Greenham Common is all the more inspirational for being a book written by a woman about the actions of women. It is illustrated by photographs of more banners from all over than many of us will ever have seen in one place! No care has been spared in the production of this book. The careful descriptions, references



Banners aloft! From Charlotte Dew's Women for Peace

and narrative are too good to ignore. The author herself interviewed many of the women about their creation of banners; about their motivation and experience.

While the book concerns brilliant banners from all over Britain, and at the Greenham Common Peace Camp, it is very welcome that those from Wales, from north to the south, are included. It is impossible here to name all the women banner makers.

However, it is worth noting that Thalia Campbell based at that time in Borth, Ceredigion, along with family and friends, were exceptional in their creation of campaign banners, and not only for Greenham. Thalia describes how they worked constantly, designing, making and displaying scores of their exceptional banners. Charlotte

Dew interviewed Thalia in 2020. Although I know Thalia, and consider myself a Greenham Woman, I learned a great deal of new information from all of this book. It would make an ideal gift for any Greenham Women friends you may have, and I suspect that if you buy one, you will want to keep it... so maybe buy two.

JILL GOUGH

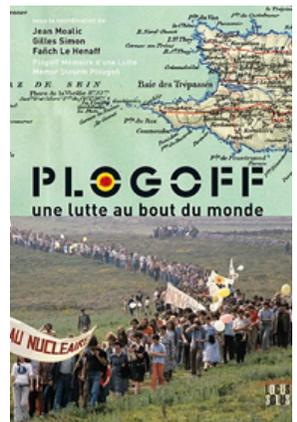


**PLOGOFF une lutte au bout du monde
PLOUGOÑ ur stourm e penn ar bed**

eds Jean Moalic, Gilles Simon, Fañch Le Henaff
Non-fiction [French-language] ISBN 978-2-36833-3396
Locus Solus Paperback 176 pp 2021

How's your French? This book records one of the most epic protests in the history of nuclear power, when in the 1970s the people of Plogoff in Brittany took on EDF, the French government, the riot police, the military police and even the paras – and won! The ongoing celebration of these events is joined by activists from Wales to Japan. This book is packed with wonderful graphics, posters and photography. It is worth every Euro and can be ordered directly from our inspirational Breton comrades at <https://www.locus-solus.fr/product-page/plogoff-une-lutte-au-bout-du-monde>

LINDA ROGERS



VIGIL [English-language].

Created by Tom Edge

Starring Suranne Jones

World Productions for
BBC1.

Six episodes August-28
September 2021, still
available on BBC i-Player



BBC/World Productions

For the many CND Cymru members who have trekked up to Scotland over the years to blockade the nuclear naval base at Faslane, *Vigil* featured some familiar geography – and the opening sequence with its ‘Scots Say No To Trident’ graffiti offered a reassuring message. Was this series far-fetched and inaccurate? Well, it was a nailbiting thriller, not a documentary, so creative licence was surely permissible. But this story of spies and murders and intrigue did

contain some broader truths and packed some punches. The claustrophobia of being on board *HMS Vigil* mirrored the stifling secrecy and closing of ranks by the British establishment. The police investigation of individual acts of murder was ironic in view of the mass murder sanctioned by the warheads the ship carried. The armed forces were shown to be beyond the law (at a time when our actual UK government

likes to call investigation of war crimes ‘vexatious’). The naval personnel were shown as dehumanised by military discipline. The isolation of the command from the outside world showed the insane risks of this type of warfare. And the series did draw attention to the historical sinking of trawlers by nuclear submarines in the Irish Sea. This gripping piece of fiction provided useful food for thought and debate— as well as being very exciting.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Steve Howell

Fiction [English-language]

ISBN 978-0-9317071-4

Quaero Publishing, Welshpool
2021

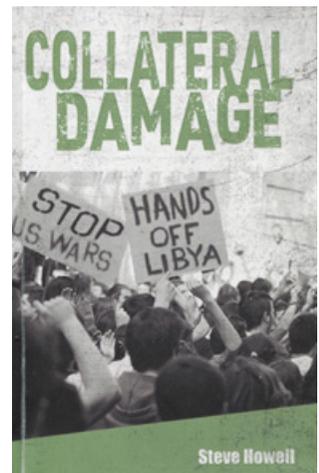
Paperback £8.99 294pp

In 1986 US planes bombed Libya. It is now a year later and the body of a peace activist named Tom Carver has been found dead on a beach in Tripoli, during an international peace conference. Back in London his partner Ayesha Khoury, a Palestinian from Lebanon, seeks the help of her

friend Hannah and a young lawyer called Jed in investigating how Tom died. Mysteries multiply – and people are not whom they seem to be. Justice is obstructed by state agencies. The scenarios are credible, with real-life parallels which are as relevant today as they were in the ‘80s. As Ayesha says in the book: “Where does it end if states act like terrorists?”. This well-paced political thriller is the third novel from Steve Howell, a journalist and activist based near Welshpool, who worked closely with Jeremy Corbyn in the 2017 general election. To

order directly go to:

<https://www.steve-howell.com/collateral-damage/>



Steve Howell

Brenda Davies

1929-2021

Brenda Davies, who died in July, the day after her 92nd birthday, lived in Dunvant, just outside Swansea, for all of her life. She was married to Islwyn, minister at Ebenezer, Dunvant, and they had two sons, Geraint and Teifion. Brenda was a quiet but determined and proud Welsh woman, who would use every opportunity to state her strong anti-nuclear views.

For Brenda, socialism, Christianity and pacifism were all the same passion. When arrested at Brawdy on a 'Snowball' action, she used the opportunity to explain fully to

the young policeman detaining her, exactly why she was there and prepared to make this stand – and he listened! During a nightwatch at Greenham, the camp at the main gate was raided by police and bailiffs, arresting the women, and destroying their possessions. Brenda quietly helped to gather up as much as she could to keep it safe from the dumper trucks, calmly ignoring the chaos around her.

A member of CND and CND Cymru from its inception, as well as an active supporter of Swansea and Christian CND, Brenda always thought it important to wear her CND badge so everyone she met would know exactly what she



stood for. Until the end of her life she took a lively interest in politics and was always optimistic: after a chat with Brenda, I would come away feeling stronger and more positive about the future.

VEE WOOD

BOOK REVIEW

THE WELSH WAY Essays on Neoliberalism and Devolution

eds Daniel Evans, Kieron Smith and Huw Williams, with a foreword by Michael Sheen
Non-fiction [English-language]
ISBN 978-1-914-595028
Parthian Press 406pp 2021

This collection of 24 essays delivers a socialist broadside against the state of devolved Wales today and its 'failure of imagination' – the sell-out of would-be progressive political parties to the market-obsessed policies of neoliberal capitalism. It tackles a broad spectrum

of issues, including feminism, education, health and social care, prisons, policing, farming, language, culture, identity and sustainability – and more besides.

The essay *Atomic Wales: Embracing Nuclear Colonialism* by Robat Idris looks back to the Nuclear-Free Wales declaration of 1982 and the strong opposition in Wales to nuclear power and nuclear weapons at that time. How come that energy has become dissipated amongst our politicians in the intervening years?

Robat Idris blames the toxic policies of neo-liberal

economics. He takes aim at many Welsh Labour and Plaid Cymru politicians, at all levels of public representation. Their seduction by the nuclear lobby is incompatible with a socialist or indeed an independent Wales. How can any meaningful Future Generations Act ignore 10,000 years of hazardous nuclear waste? The transnational giants skim off the profits while the public and Welsh communities carry the costs, the liabilities, the risks and the social and cultural impact. That is the process which Robat Idris describes as a form of nuclear colonialism.

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.



website: www.cndcymru.org
e-mail: heddwch@cndcymru.org
twitter: @cndcymru
instagram: @cndcymru
facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cndcymru/>

CONTACTS:

CHAIR: *Jill Evans* [Rhondda]
jillrhondda@yahoo.co.uk
 07803 902 401

NATIONAL SECRETARY:
Bethan Siân [Aberystwyth]
bsj11@outlook.com
 07933 791 207

TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP:
Michael Freeman
michael.freeman9@btinternet.com
 CND Cymru,

9 Primrose Hill, Llanbadarn Fawr,
 Aberystwyth SY23 3SE

John Cox [Abersychan]
drjohncox121@gmail.com
 01495 773 495

Brian Jones [Pontardawe]
brian.jones@phonecoop.coop
 01792 830 330

Duncan Rees [Deeside]
Duncan.rees01@gmail.com
 07534 975 461

Philip Steele [Ynys Môn]
phil_steele@btinternet.com
 01248 490 715

JOIN CND CYMRU NOW!
<https://www.cndcymru.org/take-part/membership>

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.

Editor: Philip Steele
phil_steele@btinternet.com 01248 490715

Translator: Siân Edwards
siandefynnog@hotmail.co.uk

Production and mailing:

Redkite Print
jonplumpton1@gmail.com

The next issue of *HEDDWCH* will be published in April 2022.

PAPER OR DIGITAL?

Subscribers: do you wish to cut down on the use of paper? Please remember that *Heddwch* can be sent to you electronically if you prefer. Just notify michael.freeman9@btinternet.com of your current e-mail address.

