

HEDDWCH



Number 81 > August 2022 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Freepik



It's not a crime to flee from war

According to the UNHCR, there are now 100 million people in the world who have been forced to leave their homes because of war, persecution or human rights abuses. Refugees deserve to be welcomed in by their fellow humans. They do not deserve hostility, deportation, or being tagged like criminals.

The real crimes are committed by governments which bomb distant lands, torture or sell arms to dictators. *It is they who should be held to account.*

BRUCE KENT 22 June 1929 – 8 June 2022



Bruce Kent (centre) with Ray Davies and Jon Plumpton

"It is an honour as Chair of CND Cymru to pay tribute on behalf of our members to the wonderful Bruce Kent. His contribution to CND and the peace movement is immeasurable.

An inspiring and powerful speaker, he had high praise for Heddwch, of which CND Cymru can be rightly proud.

Perhaps our greatest tribute to him is for each of us now to reaffirm our own commitment to nuclear disarmament and to peace.

JILL EVANS

- Welcome back to Ceredigion and real, non-virtual *eisteddfodau*. Tregaron will at last host the *Prifwyl* as planned, from 30 July to 6 August, and the Peace Tent will be there on the Maes as ever. Please call by, to join CND Cymru – and to help out if you can!

We hope that this edition of *Heddwch* will encourage debate in these troubled times, in the spirit of Tregaron-born MP Henry Richard (1812-1888). Hiroshima Day on 6 August will also be a cause for much reflection.

- Covid is of course by no means over, and new, albeit less extreme, variants run rife as we go to press. We still need to take care, and remind

this government that we still need to support nurses, carers and other front-line workers, rather than spend billions on Trident submarines and nuclear warheads. Nurses not Nukes!

- In this issue of *Heddwch* we look at the horrors of war in *Ukraine* (p3) and at growing tensions around the world, *NATO and the new Cold War* (p6).

Once again Britain is to be used as an aircraft carrier by US bombers, resulting in protests at 'RAF' Lakenheath' (p7).

On a more positive note we report from *Vienna* (p4-5) on the first meeting of states who are party to the TPNW, the UN's global nuclear ban treaty, which now has 86 signatories

and 66 ratifications. Support for the treaty has been voted for in Wales by the Senedd, and by councils including Gwynedd, Bangor City, Nefyn, and Merthyr.

We take a sceptical look at *nuclear power projects in Wales* on p8-9. These days the links between the civil and military sectors of the nuclear industry are freely admitted. We report on the *Nuclear Free Wales at 40 tour* on p10, and are inspired on p11 by the achievements of Wales's *Young Peacemakers* and the Urdd.

A round up of *Welsh News*, including help for refugees is to be found on p12-13. On p14-15 you will find a book review and tributes to the late **Cen Llwyd** and to **Bruce Kent**.

WAR AND PEACE IN UKRAINE

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 ignited an all-out war, which still drags on with no end in sight. Whatever the triggers of this conflict, the facts on the ground are undeniably brutal.

In 2022 Ukraine's apartment blocks, schools and theatres are every day being pounded into oblivion, in breach of the Geneva Conventions. Perhaps 7 million Ukrainians have been displaced within the country, and over 6 million forced to flee elsewhere, including Wales. Over 10,000 deaths have been officially reported, but all agree that the real figures are much higher: an accurate count is impossible to ascertain.

Nuclear and global risks
The use of nuclear weapons has been threatened by Russia, and the locations of Ukraine's 15 civil nuclear reactors are of great concern. Never was there a clearer argument for nuclear weapons to be removed from theatres of conflict.

The impact of the war and sanctions on the global economy

are severe, and the inability to export grain from Black Sea ports is a threat to many countries vulnerable to famine. A swift end to this war is essential.

Weapons, winners & losers

The response by Ukraine's allies has been to further expand NATO and to pour money and weapons, worth many billions of dollars, into Ukraine. The Westminster government has ordered the Scottish and Welsh governments to divert a total of £95 million from their devolved domestic budgets to the cause. Biden and Johnson pledge to 'stay the course' until a Ukrainian victory is secured. It is unwise to escalate a war without any exit strategy in place, as was demonstrated in Vietnam. In the end all wars come down to a ceasefire and a treaty. A prolonged war could

spread like wildfire and result in the use of nuclear weapons, negating any benefit to the Ukrainian people. If however, total victory is achieved for Ukraine, the country will still have to live with a resentful neighbour and the prospect of further conflict.

What kind of peace?

The right to self-determination is embedded in the UN Charter. Ukraine deserves a just peace, but also one that is secure and sustainable. Surely in the end that will have to be based on progressive people-to-people solidarity? Democracy could be guaranteed by a pan-European peace accord, including all the former Soviet nations – rather than by a US-led military alliance repeating the failed solutions of the last Cold War.

PHILIP STEELE



Ukraine today: siege warfare in the 21st century

HOW TO ACHIEVE A GLOBAL NUCLEAR BAN

As war erupts in Europe, a global ban on nuclear weapons must now be a top priority.

THOMAS PITT welcomes the landmark decisions made during Nuclear Ban Week in Vienna.

There are times when it feels as though disarmament activists are faced with an endless barrage of bad news, as the world lurches from one crisis to another. It comes as a welcome change, then, to be reporting on a positive development in the form of the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), held in Vienna from 21 to 23 June 2022.

That the meeting took place at all is in itself cause for celebration. As those who have followed the development of the TPNW will know, a huge amount of hard work has gone into the Treaty from its inception to its adoption at the United Nations in 2017, through to its entry into force last year. The 1MSP was the culmination of these efforts.

In addition, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic poses extra challenges for the organisation of any such international meeting and it is a relief that the 1MSP did not suffer the same fate as the 10th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), originally scheduled for 2020 but as yet still to take place after several delays.

Youth for a global ban

On 21 June, a parallel 'Youth MSP' was held alongside the main conference (organised by the recently-formed international campaign



ICAN supporters team up in Vienna

group Youth for TPNW), bringing together young activists from around the world to share experiences and build a movement for global nuclear disarmament. Unfortunately, flight cancellations at Heathrow Airport prevented me from attending, but it was a great pleasure to meet many of these inspiring people during the rest of the week.

1MSP agrees its strategies

At the 1MSP itself, a number of important steps were agreed relating to the implementation of the TPNW. These included: setting a deadline of 10 years for the elimination of nuclear weapons by nuclear-armed states joining the Treaty, and 90 days for their removal from host states; measures on victim assistance and environmental remediation; the establishment of a Scientific Advisory Group to provide regular reports on nuclear weapon-related developments; and commitments on the universalisation of the Treaty to persuade more countries to join.

>>> FIND OUT MORE

• Key documents

<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/nuclear-weapon-ban/1msp/documents>

• Statements

<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/nuclear-weapon-ban/1msp/statements>

Gaining support

On this subject, it was encouraging to see 34 states attend as observers, with many expressing their intention to ratify the Treaty. Amongst the observer states were four NATO members (Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway), plus NATO applicants Finland and Sweden. The tone of their contributions was more mixed, with some, such as Germany, emphasising the positive aspects of the TPNW and their desire to work co-operatively with its States Parties, although they did stress their view that adherence to the Treaty would be incompatible with their NATO obligations (a view not shared by all commentators).

Sticking points and issues

Others, such as Sweden, were disappointingly negative, focusing on what they see as the Treaty's shortcomings in terms of the perceived lack of clarity over its verification regime and the lack of support from nuclear-armed states. Sweden and others also expressed concerns over the relationship of the TPNW to the NPT, much to the frustration of the TPNW's advocates, since particular care has been taken to ensure the Treaties' compatibility. It therefore comes as a welcome development that States Parties agreed to appoint an informal facilitator to enhance co-operation between the two treaties, in order to emphasise this point to TPNW-sceptics.

Amongst the technical discussions, there were also moments of emotional impact. In particular, Teburoro Tito, former President of Kiribati and

**"Nuclear weapons are a global scourge.
Let's eliminate these weapons before they eliminate us."**

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
Secretary-General of the United Nations

now the country's Permanent Representative to the UN, made a heartfelt contribution, calling for people of all nations to work together, and even breaking into song at one point to declare, 'We are one big happy family for peace, love and harmony'. Tito also chaired one of the many excellent side events, this one featuring activists from a number of Pacific Islands, who discussed the damaging effects of nuclear testing on their communities that are still being felt to this day.

The way forward

Finally, it was agreed that the next Meeting of States Parties will take place from 27 November to 1 December 2023 in New York. There remains much work to be done and nobody present was under any illusions about the difficulty of realising the Treaty's end goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. However, there is a real sense of momentum building around the TPNW, despite the many obstacles it faces and the unstable international situation. As the 1MSP's President Alexander Kmentt put it in his closing remarks, 'where every indicator on nuclear weapons is pointing in the wrong direction, we point very clearly in the right direction'. We can only hope.



GLOBAL MILITARISATION

Is there a collective noun for a gathering of hawks? It would certainly apply to the Madrid summit of NATO in June, which confirmed NATO's global ambitions.

The Ukraine War has been used to justify a raft of international policy initiatives designed to boost 'Western' power under the leadership of the United States. However many of these policy shifts were already being put into place by the Biden administration before Putin's brutal invasion of Ukraine.

NATO expansion

Nostalgia for a Cold War mindset includes NATO's fundamental commitment to nuclear deterrence. Never an effective tool for peace, deterrence does not prevent wars, it just heightens the stakes. It increases the risk of destroying the world as a consequence of 'first use' or accidental error. To pursue this policy at a time of climate crisis and economic meltdown is doubly dangerous and immoral – although the military-industrial corporations will doubtless make a nice profit.

The further expansion of NATO to include Sweden and Finland changes the balance of power in Europe. Even Germany's Social Democrats, the original architects of *Entspannung* or *détente* in the Cold War, now support a new policy of military support, as do their coalition partners, the Greens. In Britain, a Brexiteer government is quite happy to surrender sovereignty to the USA in military matters. This will impact us here in Wales, too.

Not-so-Pacific war games

While the world is engaged with the horrors of Ukraine, on the other side of the world tension is being stoked up with China over the potential flashpoint of Taiwan. Japan's former PM Shinzo Abe was calling for US nuclear missiles to be stationed in Japan, before his assassination on 8 July. UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has expressed a

willingness to arm Taiwan against China. From 29 June to 4 August 2022 the RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) naval exercise will involve 26 nations including the UK, and 25,000 personnel, led by the US Third Fleet. All these manoeuvres may in fact only serve to shore up domestic support for the authoritarian Chinese president Xi Jinping, who faces internal unrest within the Party.

In Australia, the ousting of PM Scott Morrison by Anthony Albanese of the Labor Party, which has in the past had anti-nuclear sympathies, may possibly lead to some reassessment of the AUKUS (Australia-UK-US) naval pact. Albanese may not make major waves, but he has in the past been a supporter of the global ban treaty ((TPNW), which has great public support in Australia.

PHILIP STEELE



The NATO summit was met with large street protests against militarisation.

PROTEST RETURNS TO LAKENHEATH

History seems to be on a rewind at the moment. As CND Cymru commemorates its part in the Greenham Common campaign 40 years ago, recent news from Lakenheath should dispel any lingering doubts that a new Cold War is already underway.

It looks like US nukes are returning to 'RAF' Leakenheath in Suffolk, home of the USAF 48th Fighter Wing (motto. 'Ensuring Freedom's Future'), after an absence of 14 years. The base's bunkers for storing nuclear warheads are being upgraded alongside sites in five other NATO countries, a long-term refurbishment that has cost over US\$384 million.

At the NATO summit in Madrid this June, the USA announced that it would be sending two squadrons of F-35 'stealth bombers' to be stationed in Britain. This escalation of nuclear risk will only make it harder to secure a peaceful

future for Europe, and place the UK nations on the front line.

CND Cymru will be supporting the next Lakenheath protest on Saturday 17 September.

- At Menwith Hiill in Yorkshire, the last Cold War never ended. The spy base at Menwith Hill in Yorkshire, with its white golfball-like domes, is run by the US National Security Agency and supported by GCHQ. It has been targeted by protestors for 40 years or more, and its annual Independence from America Day was held this year on 2 July.



WE'RE BACK!

On Saturday 21 May 2022, around 350 protesters amassed outside RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk to protest against the possible stationing of US nuclear warheads at the airbase.

SAM FAIRBROTHER was there with Youth and Student CND.

This demonstration was called by CND following the discovery by Hans Kristensen of the Nuclear Information Project, that the base is to become involved in NATO's new military strategy, along with other bases in Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Turkey. F-35B fighter jets have been stationed there since Autumn 2021. They are capable of carrying B-61.12 nuclear warheads, currently in production in the USA.

The protesters heard speeches from members of Lakenheath Action Group, Suffolk councillors, Nuclear Free Europe, the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, and the Labour and Green parties. Pending further confirmation of weaponry that is or will be stationed at the base, RAF Lakenheath could well become a regular site for protest over the coming years.

THE BIG NEW NUKE HYPE

Members of the community of Llanfechell, one of the nearest villages to Wylfa, held a meeting on 3 June 2022 to hear the leading environmentalist Tom Burke. He is a former director of Friends of the Earth, who now runs the international think tank E3G. There was a good turnout to hear Tom's penetrating analysis of Johnson's energy security 'strategy'.

He emphasised that the most important words in the Westminster government's statement were 'subject to value for money and the spending review'. That the Treasury insists on including that statement proves that they are still distrustful of the tremendous cost of nuclear energy.

Tom listed the many hoops Rolls-Royce would have to pass through to achieve the 16 orders needed to build modular reactors:
 'For them to be modular, you need to build a factory to house a production line; to build a large and expensive factory, you

will need sites; to get sites, you will need planning permission. To get planning permission, you will need approval from the nuclear regulator. To get regulatory approval for a new SMR, you will need to build one to demonstrate that it can operate safely. But to build one that is not small but is modular, you will need a factory.'

Tom believed that under Johnson, the Westminster government lacked the capacity to go through all these necessary steps. He was also of the opinion that there were big problems with the cost of the Westinghouse AP1000 reactor,

referencing how Toshiba Westinghouse was financially ruined in 2018 due to cost overruns when trying to build the VC Summers plant in South Carolina.

He referred also to similar cost overruns and delays at the Vogtle site in the state of Georgia, where they are trying to build another AP1000.

Tom's final message was that we should keep up our campaign and highlight all the problems associated with new nuclear, whether traditional large reactors or smaller modular.

DYLAN MORGAN

Cymru Werdd Ddiniwclear
FFRYNT UNEDIG
GYMREIG YN ERBYN
YNNI NIWCLEAR

10am Sadwrn 23 Gorffennaf. Ymgynnull ar Y Maes,
 Caernarfon cyn mynd i Llety Arall, 9 Stryd y Plas

Green Nuclear-Free Wales
A UNITED WELSH
FRONT AGAINST
NUCLEAR POWER

10am Saturday 23 July. Meet on Caernarfon square
 before going to Llety Arall, 9 Palace Street

PAWB
 CADNO
 CND CYMRU
 BEYOND
 NUCLEAR
 CYMDEITHAS
 YR IAITH
 WANA
 NFLA

COFIWN FUKUSHIMA REMEMBER

PAWB's next big public event will be a national conference in association with CADNO, CND Cymru, WANA (the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance), Cymdeithas yr Iaith, Beyond Nuclear International and the NFLA (Nuclear-Free Local Authorities). The date will be Saturday 23 July in Llety Arall, Stryd y Plas, Caernarfon. We'll start by gathering on the Maes (town square) at 10.00 am, for a short protest. The conference can also be joined online.

WHY WE ARE WALKING FROM TRAWSFNYDD TO WYLFA

Sunday 4 - Saturday 10 September 2022

Members of the youth cohort of CND Cymru will be embarking on a 7-day march from Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station in Gwynedd to Wylfa Nuclear Power Station on Ynys Môn in September, in protest against the Westminster government's decision to locate Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs) on the decommissioned sites.

This decision came hand in hand with the growing frustration felt by young people following the government's 'greenwashing' of nuclear energy; selling it as a form of clean, safe and homegrown energy against the backdrop of the climate crisis. We are equally concerned about the disastrous effects of uranium mining on the lands of indigenous people in Australia as well as in areas of the Global South - not to mention the links between nuclear power, the military and nuclear weapons.

The young people who have decided to march against the construction of SMRs at Trawsfynydd and Wylfa want their voices heard in the debates that will depict the future landscape in which

SAVE THE SEVERN

Save the Severn's Judicial Review came before the High Court in London in March. We argued that the granting of a revised licence to dump c800,000 tonnes of contaminated sediment to make way for a water cooling system at Hinkley C nuclear power plant was unlawful.

The Severn Estuary is supposed to have the highest level of international marine protection, yet England's Marine Management Organisation (MMO), has in effect exempted EdF from protecting the environment. However the court



CND Cymru

Sam Bannon, Bethan Siân and Felix Parker-Price

they will have to live in. They demand to see preparations for a genuinely green future and the creation of jobs that will not come at the expense of the health of workers and their communities, or the environment. Climate justice cannot be achieved by nuclear energy.

BETHAN SIÂN

ruled that Hinkley C is of 'national importance', overriding these concerns before the law. Many thanks to over 1,400 people who funded the action. The fight goes on.

- Hinkley's new cooling water intake could kill about 50,000 fish every day it operates. EdF have asked permission to omit the Acoustic Fish Deterrent that is required by their licence.

Please sign this petition to the Senedd:
<https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/245194?fbclid=IwAR3H4wKWoCocnSmmp5ufTMsBrdIJq9qUg4jQwvbM-EA5b-1G7ZO5hDBfZv9c>

CIAN CIARÁN

INSPIRED BY THE PAST – MOTIVATED BY THE PRESENT

CND Cymru's touring exhibition Nuclear Free Wales at 40 has so far visited Wrexham, Llandudno, Bangor, Llanidloes, Llandrindod, Brecon, Haverfordwest, Aberystwyth and Swansea.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make this happen - and especially to those of you who are continuing to campaign for your Council to become a 'Nuclear Ban' Community.

MARY JONES

CND Cymru



Bethan Siân and Michael Freeman, Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth.

CND Cymru



Jill Rolfe, Jane Terris, Judith Shaw and Pam Williams,
Hanging Gardens Café, Llanidloes.

ON THE ROAD

Information about the exhibition can be found at
<http://www.cndcymru.org>

30 July – 6 August

National Eisteddfod, Tregaron
Brian Jones 01792 830330
brianjones@phonecoop.coop

8 - 15 August

Aberdare Library

10 August

1pm meeting with Beth Winter, Labour MP for Cynon Valley.
Mary Winter
marywinter2@btinternet.com

Still to be confirmed for September/October/ November:

Bridgend/Cowbridge

Pam Greenup 07703393008
pamgreenup3@gmail.com

Cardiff

Sue Lent 07790962764
lentsusan93@gmail.com

Newport

Mary Jones 07767495932
mary.jones17@outlook.com

The tour's finale for 2022 will be 6 December at the Senedd, from 12.00 noon to 1.15pm in the Pier Head Building: featuring speakers and Songs for Peace from Côr Cochion Caerdydd. Come and show your support for TPNW: bring banners!

NB The event will be followed during the afternoon by a Nuclear Free Local Authorities Welsh Forum Meeting at 1:30pm.

GREEN SHOOTS FOR THE FUTURE

The world is dark, and challenges to our fragile ‘peace’ are many and enormous. In spite of everything, however, there are new shoots in Wales that give us hope for a more peaceful and sustainable future, says JANE HARRIES.

After two years online, this year’s Young Peacemakers Awards, jointly organised by the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA) and the Llangollen International Musical Festival, will once more happen face to face. On 7 July a number of children and young people will be celebrated for their creative and critical contributions as young peace activists, writers, artists, climate champions and global citizens.

The breadth of this year’s entries has been striking. In over 60 entries, children and young people across Wales have expressed their concern about issues ranging from the war in Ukraine to the treatment of refugees, from equality for women and girls to the climate emergency. We are grateful to the many school and youth work staff who have encouraged children and young people to get involved. The Urdd’s Message of Peace and Goodwill on the Climate Emergency inspired a number of this year’s entries.

There have also been notable examples of young people’s own ingenuity and initiative: a group of young people in North Wales used social media, film and interviews to address the issue of race and hate crime and ensure it is addressed in their school and community. In South Wales a small group of young people were moved by the story of the camp for asylum seekers in Penally to organise a campaign focusing on the importance of welcoming and celebrating refugees, including organising a poster competition for schools and creating a mural in their town.



These are inspiring examples of young people taking positive action as global citizens and peacemakers. On 7- 8 July in particular, children and young people are encouraged to visit the Llangollen Eisteddfod and take part in a range of peace activities, including workshops around combatting prejudice and stereotypes.

On 25-26 July a small group of young people will receive training in the Temple of Peace in Cardiff to prepare them for their role as Young Peace Ambassadors. Funded through the Women’s World Day of Prayer and the WCIA, this training will be run by Cymdeithas y Cymod and WCIA staff with input from volunteers, professionals and politicians.

The Young Ambassadors will learn about Wales’ rich peace heritage and about the work of peace groups in Wales today..

HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

Weapons testing in West Wales

MoD Aberporth is a military training range managed by Qinetiq. It tests air-launched weapons and military drones. For three weeks from 6 -24 June (weekdays 9am-4.30pm) it issued an exclusion order for all shipping, including fishing vessels and pleasure craft, from most of Cardigan Bay, a vast area of the Irish Sea. A spokesperson explained, 'This trial has one of the biggest weapon safety traces that we use'.

Thales accused of complicity in war crimes

The French armaments and cyber company Thales

stands accused by the ECCHR (European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights) and also by the independent Yemen-based group Mwatana for Human Rights, of complicity in war crimes in the Yemen conflict. Thales has close links with the Welsh government, Blaenau Gwent Council and the University of South Wales. In 2019 Thales set up the National Digital Exploitation Centre in Ebbw Vale. Thales also employs 60 people at Aberporth, a centre for developing drones such as the Watchkeeper.

Thales has received millions of pounds in public money from the Welsh government.

Ssssh?! No respite for GCSE students

In recent years the peace of Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd has been increasingly shattered by low-flying jets and the notoriously noisy Texan T-1 trainers, causing local Plaid Cymru MPs to complain to the MoD. An exasperated Dylan Minnice, head of Ysgol Botwnnog, called for the RAF to avoid exercising during school hours in the month when GCSE and A-levels are being taken by his pupils.

The MoD has stated that its training programme is essential, and that they will not alter current practice.

From Knighton to Faslane

A giant CND symbol was greeted by supporters as it passed through Knighton, Powys, on 8 June. It was heading for Faslane, the nuclear submarine base near Glasgow, where so many CND Cymru members have protested over the years. This occasion marked the 40th anniversary of the Faslane Peace Camp, founded on 12 June 1982. The symbol was then moving on to be part of a successful blockade at Coulport, the Naval Armaments Depot on Loch Long. Faslane veterans will be undeterred by the

Westminster government's new Public Order Bill. This re-packages those amendments to the (now enacted) Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts

Bill which were thrown out by the Lords. Priti Patel's new Bill proposes draconian penalties for non-violent direct action tactics, such as the 'lock-on'.



A giant CND symbol is greeted in Knighton, Powys, on its way to protests at Faslane and Coulport.

HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE



CND Cymru at Glastonbury

In June the rainbow-coloured giant CND symbol also made an appearance at Glastonbury (as usual alongside Brian and Jan Jones, raising funds for CND Cymru, and many festival goers from Wales), returning after two years of Covid lockdown. CND first teamed up with the festival organisers back in 1981, and were instrumental in making it the huge event it is today.

Welsh government attends arms fair

Despite past assurances by the Welsh government in Cardiff that it would review its policies regarding arms fairs, it is continuing to attend events such as England's Farnborough International Airshow (18 – 22 July 2022), a multi-billion dollar marketplace for the aerospace, cyber and defence industries. The Welsh government has in the past justified its penchant for

military investments because of job creation. However such jobs raise ethical questions and are often of little sustainable benefit to the community.

'Cut war not welfare'

Following a call by Shavanah Taj, Wales TUC General Secretary, demonstrators from all over Wales travelled to London on 18 June to protest about the soaring cost of living. The Trade Union-organised march 'We Demand Better' was attended by thousands, and featured many placards demanding 'Nurses not Nukes' and 'Cut War not Welfare'.

Welcoming refugees

The Welsh Refugee Coalition works with groups across Wales, such as Croeso Menai and Croeso Teifi. 'Cities of Sanctuary' include Cardiff, Swansea, Hay-on-Wye, Brecon and Talgarth, Neath Port Talbot and Wrexham. Wales itself became the first

'nation of sanctuary' in 2019.

Events supporting refugees have been held the length and breadth of Wales, and included sponsored walks, concerts and fundraisers. Universities, schools and youth groups have all played a part in welcoming refugees.

Rwanda flight protest

The Westminster government's treatment of Ukrainian refugees has often been bureaucratic or laissez-faire, whilst Afghan or Syrian refugees attempting a sea crossing have been met with an officially encouraged 'hostile environment.' Priti Patel's plan to deport the latter to Rwanda faced legal challenges from Mark Serwotka's PCS Union, Care4Calais, Detention Action and Asylum Aid. Stand up to Racism organised a protest in Swansea. The first flight was scuppered on 14 June by an injunction from the European Court of Human Rights.



Patrick Connellan

Refugees from Cardiff on a day trip to Tenby in June. A message in the sand reads, 'No Deportations to Rwanda'

Cen Llwyd

1952-2022

We remember Cen Llwyd chiefly as a language campaigner, but he was never a single issue activist. He had a well rounded personality, driven by his vision of a just, peaceful Wales in which everyone was equal. To Cen, 'Peace' was not just a slogan for a badge or sticker, but a passionate belief. He detested arms manufacture and the trade in death to the depths of his being.

In the 80s, it was completely natural that Cen should found CND Dyffryn Teifi. He visited Greenham and campaigned tirelessly against the nuclear bunker in Carmarthen. Non-violent campaigning was part of his life as a minister.

There comes to mind a lifetime of preaching and his contributions to *Munud i Feddwl* ('A Minute to



Think') on Radio Cymru, which were a great help to the peace movement. When things sometimes seemed dark, Cen always had a couple of sentences to remind us of the truth. For over half a century Cen was a quiet but constant flame testifying for peace. We owe him our thanks.

ANGHARAD TOMOS

BOOK REVIEW

THE HALF-LIFE OF SNAILS

Philippa Holloway

Parthian Press 2022 376pp

ISBN 978-1913640576

English language. Hdbk £15.00

This is a timely novel, uncanny in its prescience. Through connections made between the fight against Wylfa B on Ynys Môn, and the unfolding disaster of Chernobyl, at the time of the political and armed conflicts in Ukraine in 2014 which are the backdrop to the present war, we are brought a new perspective on the world. We are invited to question our own values, our actions, through the struggle of the young, female protagonist, fighting against the building of

a new nuclear power station on the site of her farm in Wales.

The writing is of someone who observes and listens. The narrative voice is authentic and feeling, without being sentimental. We have a collision of occurrences: birth; cancer; the spread of radiation, invisible and deadly. These threads are woven into a dense tapestry, with the beauty of nature a constant reference and counterpoint. Philippa Holloway has clearly done her research. The detailed descriptions of what it is to be in a radioactive zone chimed strongly with my own experiences during a visit to Fukushima, with radioactive

contamination becoming the new normality. It brings home to the reader how quickly our environment can be transformed.

Most movingly, we are also reminded of the people who have lost their lives, attempting to clean up and make safe after nuclear accidents. What are we doing now to prevent such accidents happening again? As I write, the war in Ukraine threatens further nuclear disaster. This important book speaks of the consequences of action, personally and for the world. It offers the chance of change, of the possibilities of action, so needed now.

LINDA ROGERS

Bruce Kent

1929-2022

I first met Bruce at a CND demonstration in the late 1960s, outside Porton Down (Britain's research centre for Chemical and Biological Weapons). He was not at that time a member of CND but had been invited there by Father Simon Blake (then a CND Vice-Chair), who confided in me that Bruce would make a 'good member'.

I soon appreciated Bruce's charisma and developing commitment to CND's campaigning issues, although his primary commitment during those years remained with Pax Christi and his Church. He was 'Monsignor' Bruce Kent throughout the 1970s and until his CND activities caused tensions to develop.

In 1974 I invited him to co-author a special pamphlet for Christian CND, which we republished several times. But, undoubtedly, the best thing I personally ever did for CND was to invite Bruce to join the (British) CND Council, with a view to replacing me as CND Chair after twelve months.

I will never forget his first CND Council meeting. Apart from Bruce we were unadventurous and perhaps a bit dour. The same things were said at every meeting. Bruce said not a word until we discussed the upcoming demonstration at Faslane and then transformed the meeting by proposing to conduct an exorcism to rid the base of the evil that must reside within it. We received more publicity for that demo than we had enjoyed for a decade and, naturally, more coverage of Bruce conducting the exorcism than all our posters and carefully-worded slogans.



Bruce brought with him a different angle on issues and shook us up. Suddenly we were newsworthy again. Admittedly the new deployment of Cruise and Pershing missiles made CND campaigning more topical than it had been in 1966-76, but Bruce's approach was always more lively than his immediate predecessor was able to achieve. He lifted our spirits.

And Bruce also changed in response to the events and campaigns. When I first recall his attitude to NATO, he was relaxed about a non-nuclear Britain remaining a member – but later he agreed that we should campaign for NATO (and all nuclear weapons military alliances) to give up nuclear weapons.

Bruce was also supportive of CND Cymru and knowledgeable about peace campaigning in Wales – from Henry Richard through to Côr Cochion Caerdydd. Until very recently he accepted speaking invitations throughout Wales. He will be sorely missed.

DR JOHN COX

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

SOCIAL MEDIA: Jill Gough
jillegough@gmail.com

John Cox [Abersychan]
drjohncox121@gmail.com
 01495 773495

Brian Jones [Pontardawe]
brian.jones@phonecoop.coop
 01792 830330

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

Philip Steele [Ynys Môn]
phil_steele@btinternet.com
 01248 490715

DELEGATES TO CND UK COUNCIL
 Linda Rogers [Ynys Môn], Bethan Siân
 [Aberystwyth], Duncan Rees [Wrexham]

HEDDWCH

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EDITOR: Philip Steele

phil_steele@btinternet.com 01248 490715

TRANSLATOR: Siân Edwards

siandefynnog@hotmail.co.uk

PRODUCTION & MAILING: Redkite Print

jonplumpton1@gmail.com

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