



## ***CHALLENGING THE NARRATIVE***

The year 2023 has seen the world in meltdown. The political order has again descended into violent turmoil, from Ukraine to Sudan to Gaza. Belligerent nations and their backers brandish arsenals of nuclear weapons. The risk of wider conflict is a real threat. The natural world is also in turmoil, as wildfires and floods ravage the globe. This is the time for life-affirming action, creating peace and justice for our planet and its peoples. No to perpetual war.

GAZA



Pablo Picasso, 1937

CEASEFIRE  
NOW



Following CND Cymru’s AGM in Aberystwyth (and online) on 16 September 2023, we are pleased to announce that our new Chair is Mabon ap Gwynfor. He takes over from Jill Evans, who remains on the Committee. Many thanks to both.

In this issue

Nuclear arsenals: No to state nuclear terror	3
Israel-Gaza War Building peace, not bombs	4
Israel-Gaza War For children and the future	5
Israel-Gaza War Can laws mitigate wars?	6
Nuclear power Campaign updates	8
News round-up Wales Mona to Monmouth	10
Reviews: Drama and cinema <i>The Big Mistake</i> , <i>Oppenheimer</i>	12
Tributes and memories	12
CND Cymru Contacts	16

Abby Poulison



Above and front cover: the 4-day CND Cymru march from Trawsfynydd to Boduan arrives at the Eisteddfod on 6 August (Hiroshima Day) 2023

NO TO STATE NUCLEAR TERROR

*“Nuclear weapons are the most destructive power ever created. They offer no security—just carnage and chaos. Their elimination would be the greatest gift we could bestow on future generations.”*

**UN Secretary-General António Guterres**

*“Only an explosion that shakes the Middle East will restore this country’s dignity, strength, and security. It’s time for a doomsday weapon...”*

**Israeli Knesset member Revital Gotliv (Likud)**  
**calls for nuclear missile attacks**  
*October 2023*

THE NUCLEAR ARSENALS

[est. ICAN— International Campaign Against Nuclear weapons]

- **12,700 WARHEADS IN THE WORLD**
- **9 COUNTRIES POSSESSING NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

Russia	5,889
USA	5,224
China	410
France	290
UK	225

Pakistan	170
India	164
Israel	c90
North Korea	c30

- **24 X HIROSHIMA**  
The USA’s new B61-13 gravity bomb is 24 times more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima. It could kill over 300,000 people in one blast, and injure hundreds of thousands more...
- **£205 BN**  
Lifetime cost of UK’s new Dreadnought class nuclear submarines. Each to be armed with 8-12 ballistic missiles, each carrying up to 8 warheads [est. British CND]
- **40%**  
Commitment to increase (2021) Britain’s nuclear arsenal. Most major powers are now increasing their number of warheads.

NUCLEAR TREATIES—LATEST NEWS

Russia has reversed its ratification of the **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)**. Although a step backwards, this step is more of a “nuclear sabre rattling” stunt than having any practical implications, as the CTBT has never entered into force – because none out of China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the USA has ratified the treaty.

That said, even without entry into force, the CTBT has been incredibly successful: it created and sustained such a powerful norm against nuclear testing that fewer than a dozen nuclear tests have been conducted since its adoption in 1997, and only North Korea has tested nuclear weapons in this century.

More positively, two more countries have signed the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**, bringing the number of signatories to 93 – close to half of all states in the world – with 69 of those states having ratified the TPNW. The Second Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW is taking place at the end of November (as we go to press) at United Nations Headquarters in New York; hopefully there will be some more states signing or ratifying the treaty coinciding with this conference.

## BUILDING PEACE, NOT BOMBS

Philip Steele



*Vigil for peace and justice, held every Sunday in Caernarfon since the start of the war.*

These are troubled times internationally, with the war in Palestine and Israel taking centre stage once more. Some say that this war started on 7 October when Hamas gunmen viciously attacked innocent Israeli residents, killing around 1,200 victims, according to recent estimates.

### ***The background***

It is true to say that this was the single bloodiest attack suffered by Israel since the establishment of the Israeli state, but it is not true that this was the start of the war. Because, according to the United Nations, almost 6,500 Palestinians have been killed and more than 152,000 injured as a result of acts of war between 2008 and 2023. We know blood has been spilt far too often among the Palestinian and Israeli people over the decades.

### ***The international context***

An additional factor, of course, is that this is a proxy war between much larger actors. Israel is a nuclear-armed state, while Iran, which supports Hamas, is doing everything in its power to develop nuclear weapons. Each side will try to enlist the support of its international allies as things heat up.

### ***Stop the killing now***

It's the innocent who are suffering in the midst of all this. Roughly half the population of Gaza is under the age of eighteen, and at the moment, all are trapped in a bloody war zone with rockets and missiles landing around them, and water, electricity and other essentials of life denied to them. There must therefore be a truce in order to at least allow these sufferers to access shelter, food and water.

But a ceasefire must have the full backing of the United Nations and prevent the war from escalating. Inevitably, another traumatised generation, thirsting for revenge, is already being raised under the shadow of the bombs and missiles. The worldwide family of nations must offer hope to this generation and a reason for them to see the value of following the path of peace.

**It is only by laying down arms and starting to discuss – no matter how difficult and uncomfortable that may be – that we can provide hope and build the peace that the world craves.**

Let us commit to doing everything possible to work towards a ceasefire and the peace which will follow.

**MABON AP GWYNFOR**

*October 2023*



## FOR CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE

Between 2002 and 2015, as an MEP for Wales, I visited Palestine and Israel over ten times. My last visit to Gaza was in January 2010, a year after the invasion by Israel which killed 1,200 people and destroyed schools, hospitals, houses and factories.

It struck me then that over half the population of Gaza are children. I wrote at the time: "They have seen things no child should see. It is hard to imagine living in such poverty and in such fear. The faces of the children often reflect the horror. But they also show hope that their future can be better."

**Today, words fail me. It breaks my heart. By 12 December over 18,000 people in Gaza have been killed in the attack and little aid is getting through to**

**people in desperate need. Again we see the rubble of hospitals and schools. However much we struggle to find hope today, our inspiration must be the people themselves.**

### **Working together**

Israeli and Palestinian women are working together for peace. On 4 October 'Women Wage Peace' and 'Women of the Sun' held a joint event with the message: "We, Palestinian and Israeli mothers, are determined to stop the vicious cycle of bloodshed and to change the reality of the difficult conflict between both nations, for the benefit of our children."

Women Wage Peace has since issued another statement including the following: "We are a movement made up of Jewish and Arab women with

*diverse opinions and positions, and we found ourselves inside this crazy, threatening, horrible and frightening movie. There are no words in any language to describe what we all went through this past week...*

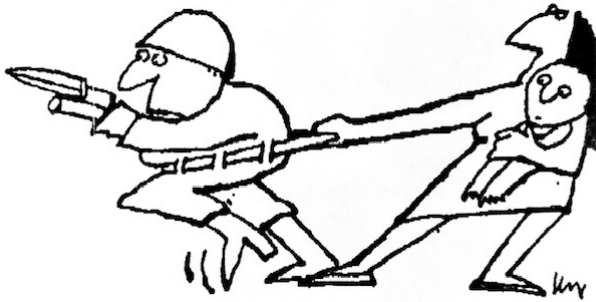
*"Even in the most difficult situations, it is our obligation as mothers, as women, as human beings and as an entire nation not to lose basic human values..."*

*"We must turn every stone in order to reach a political solution. This is our obligation for the future of our children. This is our obligation to both Israeli and Palestinian children. They deserve a future of security and freedom, not a future of death, war and destruction."*

JILL EVANS



## CAN LAWS MITIGATE WARS?



From Ukraine to Gaza, accusations of injustices and war crimes fly back and forth. Legal disputes over annexation of territory are central to both of these seemingly intractable conflicts. Israel's occupation and settlement of Palestinian lands since 1967 is agreed by widespread legal consensus to be contrary to international law. Other overlapping international legal challenges concern humanitarian offences, human rights and war crimes.

In March 2023 Vladimir Putin was referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague, for Russia's alleged war crimes in Ukraine. Following the brutal (and criminal) cross-border attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023, Benjamin Netanyahu announced a series of draconian measures for Gaza. They may have been carefully (if cynically) phrased, but once implemented on the ground they could only be categorised as breaches of the Geneva Conventions – despite Netanyahu's Trumpian claim that the IDF is “the most moral army on Earth.”

### **Double standards**

Putin's accusers, such as Biden and Blinken, Sunak, Starmer and the EU's Ursula Van der Leyen, now rushed to support Netanyahu, even when the IDF's death toll surpassed 11,000 dead (two-thirds of them women and children) and over 1.5 million civilians had been uprooted from their homes and directed to zones which were still being attacked. It is clear from these contrasting responses to the Ukraine War and the Gaza War that the ‘rules’ of war are being blatantly undermined by double standards.

The Israeli government seeks to justify its actions by citing the criminality of the Hamas attacks of 7 October as unique acts of barbarism, unconnected with the longstanding suffering of the Palestinian people. But surely, a basic principle of justice is that two wrongs cannot make a right.

### **Terrorism and context**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres was right to condemn the Hamas attacks *and* to say that they did not occur within a vacuum. History

*In brief...*

## THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

<https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions/overview-geneva-conventions.htm>

- No targeting of civilians or crucial infrastructure
- No destruction of schools, hospitals or housing unless being used for military operations
- No killing of opponents who are injured or captive
- No excessive ‘collateral damage’ affecting civilians
- No torture or mistreatment of prisoners
- Civilians must be given safe routes out of battle zones, and humanitarian aid must be allowed in
- Humanitarian organisations such as the Red Cross or the Red Crescent may not be attacked
- No indiscriminate use of weapons
- No collective punishment

has no vacuums: all events, good or bad, have consequences and contexts. Non-state terrorism generally derives from an ongoing injustice which people have no means of rectifying. To say terrorism derives from despair is not to condone it, but to seek to identify its cause and find a cure. Vengeance only perpetuates the problem; only justice and diplomacy can restore peace and security. Within an occupied territory, the occupiers have duties and the occupied have rights under international humanitarian law, see <https://guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/article/3/occupied-territory/>

### ***Calls for a ceasefire***

In the UN Security Council, the USA vetoed serial humanitarian ceasefire proposals, while Britain abstained. The right of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to veto proposals often ensures that power and wealth can trump majority opposition or morality. On 27 October, the General Assembly of the UN General Assembly called for an immediate, sustained humanitarian truce leading

to cessation of hostilities by Hamas and by Israel. The voting was 120 countries in favour, 14 against and 45 abstentions. But the General Assembly lacks power. We need reform.

As the disaster in Gaza worsened every day, along with the likelihood of regional or global escalation – involving nuclear states – a British opinion poll (*YouGov 19 October*) suggested that over three-quarters of the British public supported a full ceasefire. Here in Wales, vigils, marches, and meetings were taking place in cities, towns and villages, all calling for a ceasefire. On 8 November, the Senedd voted for a full ceasefire. Conservatives and Labour, risking division in their own ranks, called only for a brief lull in hostilities for humanitarian aid.

### ***Stopping the drift to war***

As I write, there is no end in sight to the Ukraine or the Israel-Gaza wars. It is essential that the array of international humanitarian laws that have evolved over the ages are implemented and fostered in the name of civilisation. The morality of warfare has been intensely debated by religions, philosophers and legislators for millennia. The rapid advances of lethal warfare since the 1800s led to the founding of the Red Cross (and now Crescent), the Geneva and Hague Conventions, the League of Nations and then the United Nations, to treaties banning certain weapons, to the founding of an International Criminal Court from which the USA, Russia, Israel and Sudan have backed off).

Of course, legal limitations are stress-tested to their limits. But remember just how far we have come. Remember our fellow peace campaigners in Palestine and Israel, in Ukraine and Russia, in the USA and right here in Wales. For a start, we need to get that UN Treaty for the Prevention of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) over the line.



***The Senedd is picketed on 8 November. Since then, Israel's promises of observing humanitarian law have rung hollow. Over 18,000 civilians have now been killed.***

Philip Steele

**PHILIP STEELE**  
October 2023

# THE RADIOACTIVE CAULDRON SIMMERS ON

In spite of all logical evidence, the nuclear industry and the Westminster and Welsh governments still hope for a 'nuclear renaissance' in Britain which will include nuclear plants in Wylfa and Trawsfynydd. Here is a summary of some recent developments...

## Great British Nuclear

'Great British Nuclear' (*sic!*) was launched by the United Kingdom Government in July, with the nightmarish ambition of (once again!) spreading nuclear energy throughout Britain. The Chief Executive of GBN is Gwen Parry-Jones OBE, and she is also the Chief Executive of Magnox Ltd., and before that she worked for Horizon Nuclear Power (Wylfa – failed).

## Cwmni Eginio

The Welsh Government established Cwmni Eginio in

order to develop the Trawsfynydd nuclear site. Its main purpose is to promote more nukes at Traws, with the usual bait of jobs, and the Chief Executive is Alan Raymant, who failed in the Wylfa and Bradwell developments. An unrealistically optimistic booklet was published in May 2023. The dream/nightmare is to see Trawsfynydd become Britain's first Small Modular Reactor (SMR) site. Do you want to see the Eryri National Park become an experimental field for previously untested nuclear technology?

## SMRs Competition

The UK government has announced the names of the six companies that will go forward to the SMRs development competition: EDF, GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy International LLC, Holtec Britain Limited, NuScale Power, Rolls Royce SMR and Westinghouse Electric

Company UK Ltd. The winner will be selected in spring 2024, with the intention of seeing SMRs operational by the 2030s. Gwen Parry-Jones said: *'This is a hugely exciting day for the nuclear industry.'* NuScale has since quit its project in Utah, USA, due to rising costs.

## CoRWM visits Traws

CoRWM (the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management) visited Trawsfynydd in September. It is estimated that decommissioning costs will be over £1.3 billion in Traws and over £1.4 billion in Wylfa. Traws is seen as a site to 'lead and learn from' in decommissioning. Was the following an unintentional joke? *'We were grateful for Magnox's hospitality at lunch, including an introduction for many of us to delightful Radnor water.'* So nobody wants to risk drinking water from Lake Trawsfynydd, then!

## Institute of Welsh Affairs

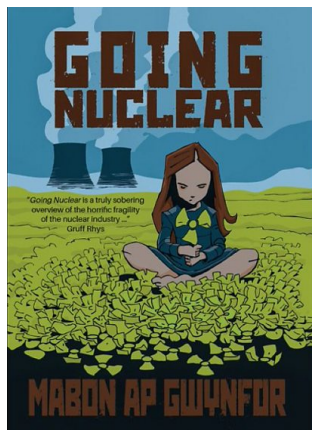
On 5 October the Institute of Welsh Affairs held a 'Powering an Energy Island and its People' event at M-Sparc, Gaerwen. There was a heavy bias towards nuclear energy, with all four on the discussion panel pro-nuclear, including the 'Atomic Kitten', Virginia Crosbie MP. Despite this, several representatives of PAWB and CND Cymru managed to express the anti-nuclear position strongly.



**All anti-nuclear groups in Wales have criticised the Eisteddfod organisers for taking sponsorship money from Westinghouse – despite its appalling record.**



## BOOK LAUNCH



**Going Nuclear**  
**Mabon ap Gwynfor**  
 2023, 210pp  
 978-1-84524-540-5, £13

A new book written and published by CND Cymru's Chair Mabon ap Gwynfor takes a hard look at the claims of the nuclear industry and examines the links between civil and military nuclear projects. It will be reviewed in the next issue of *Heddwch*, and was launched at Caernarfon on 13 November... so waste no time! Get reading.

*"This book takes us through an ideology-free, evidence-based look at the interlocking issues that make up the nuclear debate – and it couldn't be timelier since the current UK government is planning for a nuclear renaissance."*

**Dr Paul Dorfman**

## A MESSAGE FROM PLOGOFF



***The struggle against the siting of a new nuclear power station at Plogoff in Brittany flared up in the 1970s. Protestors saw off riot police, military police and paratroopers and sent EdF packing.***

It was with great feelings of honour and pride that I represented Wales in August this year at the commemoration of the 1970s battle of Plogoff and the Breton victory over nuclear power.

The occasion brought together, amongst others, delegations from Japan and Germany to meet, march, discuss and dance with the young and old of the region. Particularly moving was the presence of Noriko Ogura,

who, at the age of 81, had come from Japan to share her story of the thirty-seven-year battle of the fishermen in her village against a nuclear power plant. The battle was won, but she wept to describe how it tore the village apart. It was sad also for me to learn from the Germans and Bretons that they are experiencing, as we are, the populist push against renewable energy and the ways we might best combat climate change.

I spoke with writers, actors and film directors, all campaigning against nuclear power. These are links to be followed up, along with an invitation accepted from the Japanese and the women of Plogoff to visit Wales. I thank Mochiko Yoshii for arranging the visit and for her constant support since we met four years ago at our first visit to Plogoff. The fight continues, here, in Japan and in Europe. We will stick together.

**LINDA ROGERS**



***Gathering for the memorial hike, Plogoff 2023***

# MONA TO MONMOUTH O FÔN I FYNWY



Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru



**The grand finale at the Boduan eisteddfod: the words read 'Peace is an Action'**

## Llyn Eisteddfod 2023

The 2023 eisteddfod at **Boduan**, near Pwllheli, was a great opportunity to catch up with one another, to network, discuss and have fun. The Peace Tent was lively, with youngsters – and Dylan! – busy making origami Peace Cranes; the artist Osian Grifford had made a giant map of military sites in Wales, to which people could add during the week. Speeches included one on the links between military and civil nuclear, by Mabon ap Gwynfor, which we shall publish. A remarkable exhibition in the National Library of Wales matched the Women's Peace Petition of 1922 with original photographs of the local women who signed it. An art installation on the Maes asked people to define their understanding of Peace, and this was taken up in a grand finale commemorating

the *Tan yn Llŷn* arson attack on the RAF's 'bombing school' at **Penyberth** in 1936.

- *Westinghouse nuclear sponsorship row, see p8*

## Never again

The 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was commemorated on 6 August in **Newport** (Lakeside, Tredegar House), in an annual event hosted by Newport CND and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. On the same day, people gathered in the GRAFT Garden of the National Waterfront Museum in **Swansea**. Speakers included Paul Elliott, Cllr Alyson Pugh and Mike Hedges MS. The message was clear: outlaw nuclear weapons worldwide by signing the UN's TPNW.

## Songs – and silence

The United Nations International Day of Peace on 21 September was marked in song by **Aberystwyth's** Côr Gobaith at the town's Peace Tree.

At noon on 3 October, a silent vigil for peace in Ukraine was held in Owain Glyndŵr Square. It was part of a global mobilisation (30 September–8 October) following the International Summit held in Vienna in the summer, which called for a ceasefire (see report by Wendy Jones in *Heddwch* 84).

## Calling all students

Getting an entrée into Freshers' Week events is not quite as easy – and cheap – as it used to be at Welsh universities. So well done Sam Bannon for a very successful session at the start of the new academic year in **Bangor** uni, which these days has its own 'Nuclear Futures' Institute. Dylan Lewis-Rowlands secured a stall at **Aberystwyth** university in November.

## 'The Big Mistake'

Michael Mears's moving play about the development and use of the first atomic bomb toured Wales in September, with performances at Gleri **Caernarfon**, **Aberystwyth** Arts Centre and the Sherman in **Cardiff**. A review by Martin Morley can be seen on p12.

# MONA TO MONMOUTH O FÔN I FYNWY

## Pier pressure

On the 25 August, 40 people protested at **Bangor** Pier about the dumping of radioactive waste from Fukushima into the Pacific. On 16 September, CND Cymru members gathered on the prom at **Aberystwyth** for the same reason.

## White poppies and remembrance

In many parts of Wales in November, stalls were held to sell Peace Pledge Union white poppies, and white wreaths were officially laid at many war memorials. These represent all types of victims of war, including civilians – an appropriate commemoration in view of the tragic slaughter of civilians in Israel and Gaza. Only the late unlamented Home Secretary Suella Braverman could claim that Armistice Day was an inappropriate day to call for a Ceasefire!

## The Appeal

As we go to press, a new bilingual book has been published by Y Lolfa and will be reviewed in full in our next issue. *Yr Apêl/The Appeal 1923-24* tells 'The Remarkable Story of the Welsh Women's Peace Petition'. Edited by Jenny Mathers and Mererid Hopwood, it includes chapters by Jill Evans, Aled Eurig, Catrin Stevens, Meg Elis and Siân Rhiannon Williams, Eirlys M Barker, Annie Williams and Craig Owen. (978-1-80099-3822, £9.99)

A purple plaque honouring peace campaigner Annie Hughes-Griffiths, who organised the petition signed by 400,000 women in Wales in 1923, is being unveiled in **Aberystwyth**.

## Stop the massacre: Wales protests

On 7 October 2023 the Hamas incursion into Israel, with the massacre of about 1,200 people and the taking of 200 hostages, shocked the world. Netanyahu responded with saturation bombing of the Gaza Strip, and the cutting of basic humanitarian supplies as innocent Palestinians were driven from their homes, effectively in collective punishment. By 12 December, the civilian death toll had exceeded 18,000, about 67 percent of them women and children. Events were organised all over Wales. These included silent vigils, protests and pickets,

public meetings, solidarity with medics and journalists in Gaza, concerts and kites flying. As we go to press, no end is in sight.

So far, events have taken place or will be taking place in **Aberdare**, **Aberffraw**, **Abergavenny**, **Aberystwyth**, **Bangor**, **Barry**, **Beddau**, **Bethesda**, **Blaenau Ffestiniog**, **Borth**, **Caernarfon**, **Caerphilly**, **Cardiff**, **Cardigan**, **Chwilog**, **Criccieth**, **Gilfach Goch**, **Haverfordwest**, **Holyhead**, **Lampeter**, **Llanberis**, **Llandudno**, **Llanfyllin**, **Llanidloes**, **Llechryd**, **Machynlleth**, **Menai Bridge**, **Merthyr Tydfil**, **Newport**, **Newtown**, **Pembroke Dock**, **Penmaenmawr**, **Penrhosgarnedd**, **Port Talbot**, **Porthmadog**, **Presteigne**, **Pwllheli**, **Rhyl**, **Swansea**, **Trefor**, **Tynnewydd**, **Welshpool** and **Wrexham**.



Cardiff marchers take to the streets

# DRAMA

simon richardson



## THE MISTAKE by Michael Mears

Caernarfon Galeri, Aberystwyth Arts Centre,  
Sherman Theatre Cardiff

**Performed by Riko Nakazono and Michael Mears**

**Directed by Rosamunde Hutt, designed by Mark Friend and sound design by Claire Windsor**

This was such a thought-provoking play, quite beautifully performed and presented. With two actors, a minimal but perfect set and a theme of mind-numbing proportions, it told the story of the development and horrific use of the first atomic bomb. It showed how the idea and technology was developed in response to the presumed development of such a weapon in Germany, and

how it was then used twice against Japan. On one level this was like a science lecture, with theorems described and written out on the blackboard: the early experiments were played out like a game in a Chicago gym. The play showed how the unthinkable can be made seemingly innocuous and clever and in the end inevitable, and how the 'establishment' then justify it as the 'only way'. Riko Nakazono, with such grace, played Nomura Shipako, who represented the population of Hiroshima, and Michael Mears, quick change artist, played the nuclear physicist Leo Szilard, as well as Paul Tibbets, the pilot of the *Enola Gay* – and everyone else involved in the 'project' from Einstein, trying to cool the military, to Oppenheimer himself.

A stimulating discussion with the audience was held after the play. I suspect in Caernarfon, where we saw it, *The Mistake* was preaching to the converted. It would be wonderful if it reached out beyond, to schools and the military.

*Indeed! The Cardiff show was seen by 50 Sixth-formers – ed*

MARTIN MORLEY

## TRIBUTES AND MEMORIES



## Tim Richards

1950—2023

It was a privilege to meet Tim Richards, this Cardiff boy who was raised in Swansea, but settled here in our valley town. We became great friends.

Tim campaigned for every grassroots issue you can

name. He recognised injustice wherever it existed. Educated at Aberystwyth University, Tim not only studied Law but went on to teach it to working class students in Cardiff. It was his duty, he said.

A socialist through and through, Tim joined Plaid Cymru and stood for Council. He paused his support for a while and formed Cymru Goch, writing



## FILM

Universal

**OPPENHEIMER**

Now available on streamed platforms inc. Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV

**Directed by Christopher Nolan**

**Universal Pictures 2023**

The context of the showing of this film is outlined most usefully in a webinar arranged by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists: *Beyond Oppenheimer: building a safer future from our nuclear past* (4 August 2023). Oppenheimer served as the first chair of the Bulletin's board of sponsors. Many of the arms controls agreements from the last century sprang from the actions of Oppenheimer and his associates. The film goes to the heart of the questions raised by those scientists and which are so pertinent today: can nuclear weapons be effectively governed; can we govern the technologies of our own making; can

scientists be part of political debate today?

The film has been criticised for not exploring the devastating effects of the atomic weapons on the people of Japan. Instead, the narrative hinges around Oppenheimer as an individual. He is central to the very particular, interconnecting events that allowed the development of the nuclear bomb. The film lays out for us the different elements that were necessary, the politics of war, personal ambition, alongside the drive of scientific discovery, that made the atomic bomb come into being and use. Christopher Nolan is at pains to show us that this was not an inevitable process. The presence of Albert Einstein, and his refusal to engage with the building of the bomb, showed us the possibility of another way.

The form of the film continuously highlights the theme of the different elements at work. The past and present intersect, so we see cause and effect and how things connect historically. We see the forces at work that persuade Oppenheimer to make the decisions that he does, and I left the film with a strong sense of the importance of both common and individual responsibility.

**LINDA ROGERS**

## TRIBUTES AND MEMORIES

and editing their magazines. Welsh Socialist Republicanism was written through his soul. He returned to Plaid when Leanne Wood became Leader and was eventually elected by his village, Abertridwr, to serve on the Community Council.

Tim's love of the world and its peoples shone through, and his other passion was to protect the

world, in particular from nuclear weapons. He was an ardent supporter of CND Cymru.

He designed local leaflets and posters and would often be seen out fly-posting. The local police often called and he baffled them with his wit and knowledge. Often our cars would be littered with posters, paste and paint. Yes, paint... he loved blank walls!

His sad passing leaves an empty void that one day, younger people will fill. They will stand on the shoulders of men like my friend, Tim Richards.

*Hedd perffraith hedd, Tim bach.*

**LINDSAY WHITTLE**



## Emlyn Richards

1931—2023

The Reverend Emlyn Richards has died aged 92. Our sympathies go out to his daughter Ruth. We remember Emlyn's varied and significant contribution in his ministry, as a writer and as a progressive campaigner for peace and against nuclear weapons and nuclear energy.

Emlyn was raised in Sarn Meylltarn, Llŷn, and left school at 14 to work on a farm, before going on to study for the ministry. He went on to serve as



Emlyn Richards (left) with the late Dr Carl Clowes

a minister in Cemaes, Anglesey. In the 1980s, he became an active member of CND Cymru's Ynys Môn Branch, alongside his friend the Reverend Emlyn John. Both were very supportive of the stance of Anglesey women such as Nan Morgan, Meg Prydderch, Sioned Huws, Jean Oliver, Val Lane, Sandra Evans, Mary Korn and Jinny Thomas who went to Greenham. In 1984, as chair of the branch, Emlyn Richards led a large protest march by CND Môn in Llangefni. CND Anglesey alone had 385 members at the time.

When PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) was founded in 1988, Emlyn came to us to campaign vigorously against the Thatcher government's plans through the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) to build a pressurised-water nuclear reactor in Wylfa. For Emlyn certainly, nuclear energy and nuclear weapons were two sides of the same coin. His contributions in the public meetings where PAWB took on the CEGB representatives were extremely effective.

Emlyn continued to campaign loyally for PAWB after Tony Blair carried out two energy reviews and insisted that there should be a place for nuclear energy in electricity generation. We remember how he supported a local family, Richard and Gwenda Jones, Caerdegog. I remember the excitement in his voice on the phone when he mentioned that Horizon was putting pressure on the family to sell a significant piece of their land and that we had to have a meeting soon to organize opposition. A meeting was arranged that night! Emlyn played an important part in the victory of the Caerdegog family as Horizon withdrew their threat.

Emlyn served his members in the Cemaes area as their full-time minister for over 40 years, and for several years after retiring. The area where he was brought up in Llŷn remained close to his heart, and the linguistic richness of that area is very evident in the many books he wrote. His last book, fittingly enough, was *Cofio'r Wylfa* ('Remembering Wylfa'), published in 2021.

DYLAN MORGAN



## John Lawrence Minnion

1939—2023

My first memory of John Minnion was during an early Aldermaston March, possibly not the first in 1958 but more likely one of those from 1959-63. In those days we didn't enjoy the (dubious) pleasures of loud-hailers and whooped-up slogan shouting and, instead, relied on jazz-on-the-march to keep up our spirits. John was an accomplished jazz musician and, with his fellow musicians, did wonders for march morale whatever the weather – which, from memory, was usually bad and wet.

Between marches he was an active campaigner for CND

locally and nationally and for a short period served as our (British) CND General Secretary. But I believe he was happier as a grass-roots local campaigner than as a National Officer. He, and his first wife Heather, were regular attendees and contributors to CND National Council during all my period as CND Chair (1973-79) and always active in his (very active) local CND.

When I returned to Wales (in 1979) our paths diverged but, as I learnt at his very well-attended funeral in Newport in September, he continued promoting his twin loves of jazz and CND until age and failing eyesight began to take its toll. We met again in during an ad hoc local campaign against one of the the Gulf Wars, a year or so after he moved to Wales, to Newport, Gwent.

Thereafter we met sporadically but often and it was at his initiative that Newport CND was revived and became one of the relatively more active CND Cymru local groups in Wales – conducting leafleting, vigils and hosting a major jazz concert at a prestigious location in Newport. John made a major contribution to CND (and jazz) and my determination to continue campaigning for nuclear disarmament. He will be sorely missed.

JOHN COX

- *We were very saddened to hear this year of the death of two of our very active and much loved supporters, JOAN JUDSON and MYRLA GINETTE EASTLAND. Tributes to both of them will appear in the next issue of Heddwch.*

## CND CYMRU

CND Cymru campaigns alongside organisations in Wales and internationally for peace, environmental and social justice, and to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction.

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## HEDDWCH

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