

May 2010 Mailshot

This is going out to all CND supporters in the East Lancashire Area to keep you up to date.

If you feel strongly that Trident should not be renewed and that nuclear weapons should be abolished then there are things that you can do to help achieve those goals. A letter to your new MP, a postcard to the foreign secretary, a letter to the newspaper, a contribution to the Lancashire Telegraph blog. Your views count and you should make them known.

The **No Trident Replacement/Yes to a Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition** has had a long run and it ended on 31st March 2010. East Lancashire CND sent over **350** signatures on petitions to National CND before the closure date. Our last action was in Nelson town centre on 28th March.

The Burnley Rally on **Monday 3rd May** was well attended by our supporters and the weather stayed fair for us. Also several people came down from North Lancashire and Cumbria and marched under their own CND banner. We had a successful information stall in the Community Tent that raised over £40 from the sale of badges and from participation in Joan's amusing "Unlucky Dip" game highlighting the folly of the proposed new nuclear power stations. On the stall was literature about HANA (**HeyshamAnti- Nuclear Alliance**) who are fighting to stop the plans for a new nuclear power station in Heysham.

One of our members, Roy St Pierre, went down to Sussex in April and spent 10 days escorting the "**Flame of Hope**" from Dover to Portsmouth. You can find out more about the thrills and spills of the journey from his website at www.roystpierre.com Or www.peacebourne.serifweb.com

General Election Campaign. Good use was made by members of the lobbying tool on the CND website and by the time of the election it contained information on the views of most of the PPC's in the East Lancs area. David P attended hustings in Pendle and posed questions to the 3 PPC's present. Several members wrote to their PPC's to raise their awareness of CND's issues.

General Election follow-up.

The Conservatives are going ahead with their commitment to the renewal of Trident and the Lib Dems have negotiated the right to abstain when it comes to the vote. David Penney does a regular blog to the Lancashire Telegraph at www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk and he invites others to contribute to the debate.

Welcome letters have gone to the House of Commons addressed to each of the East Lancashire MP's from East Lancashire CND. Contact Secretary Joan West if you wish to read the letters.

Why not contact your new MP to ask them to consider signing the new EDM 110. This calls for the planned defence review to include a review of Trident.

Why not contact the new foreign secretary, William Hague and let him know your views about Trident or about the war in Afghanistan which, far from keeping us safer, is increasing world tensions.

Our MP's are now

Blackburn **Jack Straw** Labour Re-elected

Rossendale and Darwen **Jake Berry** Conservative Deposed Labour's J. A

Hyndburn **Graham Jones** Labour Retained seat previously held by G. P
Clitheroe **Nigel Evans** Conservative Re-elected
Pendle, N. and W.C. **Andrew Stevenson** Conservative Deposed Labour's G.P
Burnley **Gordon Birtwistle** Lib Dem Deposed Labour's K.U
Sadly our one East Lancs ally in Parliament **Gordon Prentice** failed to get himself re-elected.
His influence in the House of Commons will be sadly missed.

Forthcoming events

Action planned by Trident Ploughshares and Yorkshire CND for
Sunday 6th June at the Fylingdales base in North Yorkshire.

There will be a mass trespass with placards and leafleting. David Penney is planning to attend and has more details. He can be contacted on 01282 870076 or 0794 820 3836.
The new RAF Commander says that the mission of the base is four-fold

- 1) To provide uninterrupted ballistic missile warning and space surveillance.
- 2) To support the United States' developing Missile defence System
- 3) To contribute to the allied Space Surveillance Network
- 4) To support UK forces worldwide through the Satellite Warning Service.

We say - **"Keep Space for Peace"** and **"Give us back our land"**

Independence from America Demo at Menwith Hill on Sunday 4th July 2-7pm

East Lancashire CND always has its supporters there. Last year, we took our banner as usual and had a great photo of our group with Clare Short that was printed in the LET and Accrington Observer. Our group will hand out this year's CND Festival Campaign magazines. There is lots of information on the CAAB website www.caab.org.uk.

Mark Thomas – Comedian
Steve Hill - Daftasadrum,
Peter Tatchell,
Roy Bailey - Folk singer,
Seize the Day, and two other young bands.
East Lancashire Clarion Choir

There is a walk along the perimeter but due to Police restrictions this is unlikely to be around the base - and veggie food- a plenty.

Contact Joan if you need help with transport – it takes only one hour to get there by car.

Other info

Faslane Peace Camp is appealing for new peace campers. Although there are many part-time residents, there are only two full time residents and they are planning to move on. Anyone who cares about the continuation of the peace camp is invited to spread the word and/or go up there and stay for a while. Faslane Peace Camp telephone number is 01436 820 901 and all calls are welcomed

The next branch meeting will be at 7.30pm on 6th July 2010 at the Open Door Centre in the centre of Colne. At this meeting we will discuss, amongst other things, our plans for local Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemorations in August. Come if you can!