



LANCASTER DISTRICT CND NEWSLETTER - JAN/FEB 2010

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DATES FOR DIARIES

ALDERMASTON EVENTS FEBRUARY 15TH

Aldermaston Weapons Establishment is one of the places where Trident nuclear weapons are designed and built. We have news of three events planned for this date.

A blockade and demonstration at the base is being organised by Trident Ploughshares. Ploughshares actions are made by people who are committed to peace and disarmament and who non-violently, safely, openly and accountably disable a war machine or system so that it can no longer harm people.

Weather permitting, a car will be going down from LD CND. Local and Regional members are welcome to a list, but should note that they will need to arrange their own overnight accommodation. You can read more about this event on the Trident Ploughshares and Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp websites. For a lift down, contact the Secretaries at the number above.

Locally, there will be a day long silent vigil at the Friends' Meeting House, which will be supported by LD CND. Mo Kelly is the contact for this, on 63941. It is emphasised that this will be a silent, reflective event.

We have also booked a stall on Market Square for the day, and we intend to distribute postcards which people can sign and send to their MPs. 12pm to 3 pm. All members welcome.



LD CND STALL INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY MARKET SQUARE MARCH 13TH

12 pm to 3 pm. All members welcome

(NB : this date is later than planned, as Market Square was not available the week before)

Weapons of mass destruction affect non combatants, including women and children. We have traditionally had a presence in Market Square on or around this day. Now that we have a gazebo, we are less likely to get soaked if - or should that be when? - it rains. All members are welcome: this is not a women only event.

We hope to have some material about the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp to distribute, as well as the usual petitions and postcards.

APRIL 26TH (PROVISIONAL) LOCAL CHERNOBYL COMMEMMORATION EVENT

This event is intended to draw public attention to the dangers of nuclear power in the context of plans for Heysham 3. We hope that other local organisations will join us in planning and organising the event.

See the No2Heysham3 section of our website for more information on nuclear power.

NEXT LD CND MEETING

MONDAY MARCH 1st, 7.30 pm.
13 East Road.

CUMBRIA AND LANCASHIRE REGIONAL CND

As we reported in the last newsletter, we have been working with neighbouring groups and members to revitalise our regional organisation. Mell Harrison, CND Regional Worker, came to a meeting late last year, and had many inspirational ideas. The meeting supported the idea of re-launching the region, with a new name and constitution, subject to the agreement of neighbouring regions and CND nationally. We were grateful that the existing Council Delegate and Treasurer expressed a willingness to continue to work with the new grouping.

Obviously, as this is a new venture, we shall have to take things one step at a time and be careful not to over-extend our resources. But at the very least the reorganisation will sort out some of the constitutional and other issues remaining from the former Cumbria and North Lancs Peace Groups organisation. Members and newly formed CND groups in the new area will feel that there is a supportive structure available. We shall be able to work co-operative across the area, sharing transport to actions and, perhaps, holding stalls in towns such as Preston where no CND group exists. Last but not least, we hope that the region will provide democratic support for the delegate to CND Council meetings.

The inaugural meeting planned for the newly constituted and renamed CND Region had to be cancelled as the bad weather made it impossible to travel. We will notify everybody as soon as possible when we have a new date. In the meantime, we are trying to keep in touch regionally by email, and are consulting on a new constitution.

GREEN XMAS FAIR 2009

Ironically, since we had decided to make this a publicity event, not a fundraising one, and we had been allocated a stall upstairs rather than in the main hall as usual, this event was very successful both in terms of collecting signed postcards and signatures on the Trident petition and in terms of money raised. Many thanks to all who came and helped, and who provided food to sell.

BRUCE KENT VISIT DECEMBER 2009

We were delighted to welcome Bruce Kent to Lancaster again. He spent a busy day here, appearing at two events.

REACHING THE YOUNG

A interactive workshop on nuclear weapons for local sixth formers, organised by Quaker Paul Andrews, was held in the Friends Meeting House. Both Bruce Kent and Peace Education worker Anna Liddle spoke at this very enjoyable and successful event. Positive feedback has been provided from schools which attended.

Among the resources Anna used was a brilliant Japanese cartoon narration of the bombing of Hiroshima. Barefoot Gen is based on a Manga-style comic book produced by Keiji Nakazawa, who was seven years old when the atom bomb was dropped on his home city. Despite being a cartoon, it brought home the reality of nuclear weapons in much the same way that the films some of us remember seeing in our youth, such as The War Game, or Threads, did.

PUBLIC MEETING

Just over sixty people came to the Meeting House in Lancaster to hear Bruce Kent speak in the evening. A collection raised enough to pay Bruce's expenses and to contribute to anti nuclear campaigning locally.

Both events were well reported in the local press.

GENERAL ELECTION

We hope to hold a public meeting or hustings of some sort when the election is called.

One idea we had for was to draw up a short list of questions about nuclear power and weapons which members could ask canvassers for each candidate. We could also use the questions in press releases and so on.

Bring your ideas for questions to the next meeting, or pass them to the Secretaries.