

**LANCASTER DISTRICT CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2010.**

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE JOINT SECRETARIES

1. Administrative matters.

1.1 Business Meetings and Paper Communication with members.

We have met six times since the last AGM, and produced the four issues of the Newsletter promised in our constitution.

1.2 LDCND Website.

Rob Brown, our Press Officer, has developed the website he set up for us last year, and has agreed that it should also carry material from Area CND (see 1.4 below). He is now stepping down and will be sorely missed.

1.3 Arrangements for Chairing meetings.

As suggested at the 2009 AGM we have tabled a constitutional amendment to eliminate the office of Chair and institute a process of informal rotation for chairing business meetings.

1.4 Participating in Area CND.

At the 2009 AGM we promised to keep the regional situation under review. During the year Chris Prettyman withdrew from his role of Representative, and Dick Allwright replaced him as area member on CND's National Council. After a November 27 meeting expertly assisted by Mel Harrison, CND's Development officer, the area group was reformed as Cumbria and Lancashire CND, comprising Blackpool and Fylde CND, East Lancashire CND, Lancaster District CND, and North Cumbria CND. This is an 'area' in CND's structure, within the Northern Region. Dick Allwright will continue to represent LDCND and the area on the National Council for 2010-11.

1.5 Participating in national CND administrative activities.

Dick and Joan Allwright attended CND's Annual Conference, with Dick as LDCND's official delegate.

1.6 Timing of the AGM.

Given the difficulties of preparing in August and early September for a mid-to-late September AGM, we suggest the next Business Meeting consider putting the AGM back a week or more.

1.6 Annual Activity report.

LDCND produces an activity report each December, which is incorporated in the Area Report for publication in National CND's Annual Review. We are pleased to report that area reorganisation has improved the reporting process.

2. Campaigning activities through the year.

2.1 Green Charities Fair, November, 2009.

A campaigning success, with more Anti-Trident replacement petition signatures and postcard signings. We recommend an upstairs stall again. We raised £124.00, £34.00 more than last year.

2.2 Bruce Kent and Anna Liddle visit, December, 2009.

Reaching the young was a campaigning priority for 2009-10, and so we were very happy to welcome over 50 local sixth-form students for an interactive session run by Bruce Kent and Anna Liddle (National CND Education Officer) to promote thought about nuclear weapons. Bruce also

talked to more than 60 people in the evening on 'Abolishing War in the 21st Century'. The collection raised about £180, half of which was presented to Bruce for his campaigning work.

2.3 Aldermaston Blockade and local Quaker vigil, February, 2010.

No LDCND member was able to travel to Aldermaston for the February 15 Blockade so we mounted a special stall in the Market Place and supported a special 12-hour Quaker vigil at the Friends Meeting House in Lancaster. The vigil had around 70 participants during the day, and our stall attracted a good number of visitors and secured three new memberships.

2.4 International Women's Day, March, 2009.

This year, collecting anti-Trident petition signatures proved a useful vehicle for relating nuclear weapons and women's issues.

2.5 'A World Without Nuclear Weapons: Mission Impossible'.

Several LDCND members attended this Lancaster University Management School session, addressed by Sir Hugh Beach (former Chief of Army Staff) and Paul Ingram (British American Security Information Council).

2.6 No2H3 and HANA (Heysham Anti-Nuclear Alliance), April, 2010.

Last year we adopted opposition to a new reactor at Heysham nuclear power station as a campaigning priority, but, rather than act independently, we decided to look for local partners to work with. This role was taken by HANA (the Heysham Anti-Nuclear Alliance). In partnership with HANA we mounted a stall in Lancaster Market Square on 28 April to commemorate the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, drew up and part-funded a new leaflet, and helped organise a public meeting in the Gregson Centre in the run-up to the General Election.

HANA has now adopted a monitoring role, ready to become active again as the nuclear power situation develops towards significant government and commercial decisions.

2.7 General Election, April/May, 2010.

We produced a special pre-election issue of our Newsletter to encourage members to make use of National CND's special election materials, especially the website carrying information about local candidates, and to attend local hustings to put CND-related questions to them.

We e-mailed all local candidates to get position statements for the national website.

LDCND members attended the Lancaster hustings organised by Churches Together. Dick Allwright asked for candidates' positions on Trident replacement. Only the Conservative was for it. We organised the sending of more than fifty special cards to the Ministry of Defence arguing for the non-replacement of Trident.

2.8 May Day in Burnley, May, 2010.

As an act of Area solidarity, a carload of LDCND members went to Burnley to join East Lancashire CND in the annual May Day Parade.

2.9 Menwith Hill Independence Day protest, July, 2010.

A carload of LDCND members attended this excellently good-humoured event to demand independence from America on America's own Independence Day. A 'red card' was handed in to the camp commander by comedian Mark Thomas.

2.10 Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day, August, 2010.

Once again we marked this anniversary with a stall under our gazebo in Lancaster Market Square, where, in good weather, we spoke to passers-by and helped them make paper cranes in memory of Sadako Sasaki.

2.11 Lindis Percy at this AGM.

We were delighted that Lindis Percy, who was originally invited to talk at our 2009 AGM, was able to accept our invitation this year to talk about Menwith Hill and her work for CAAB in the light of the Obama administration in the USA.

2.12 Letter-writing and media coverage.

LDCND members continue with letter-writing campaigns, focussing this year on parliamentary candidates. Our Press Officer has issued numerous press releases, and made LDCND announcements via our increasingly visited website.

2.13 National and international petitions.

Anti-Trident: in March we sent over 500 petition signatures to CND for submission at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation talks in New York.

Footprint for Peace: we sent over 200 petition signatures to the USA

2.14 Financial Support for CND and other campaigns.

Public Liability Insurance: we contributed £50 to CND national costs, covering also our own campaigning activities.

Guardian full-page national CND Election advert: we sent £25 to fund this advert, which listed LDCND as a co-sponsor.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Talks in New York: we contributed £60 to fund CND representation.

World Court: we sent £25, but as a membership fee this year, as requested.

3. Fund-raising.

3.1 Our stall at the Green Charities Fair, in November, 2009 raised £124.00, £34 more than in 2008.

3.2 Bruce Kent's public talk, in December, 2009, raised nearly £90 for LDCND.

4. Plans for 2010-2011.

4.1 New anti-Trident petition, on-line and on paper.

4.2 Showing the new "Beating the Bomb" dvd.

4.3 Reorganising Newsletter distribution, and verifying membership list details.

4.4 Finding a new Press Officer.

4.5 Finding a new Website Manager.

Dick and Joan Allwright,
Joint Secretaries,
September, 2010.