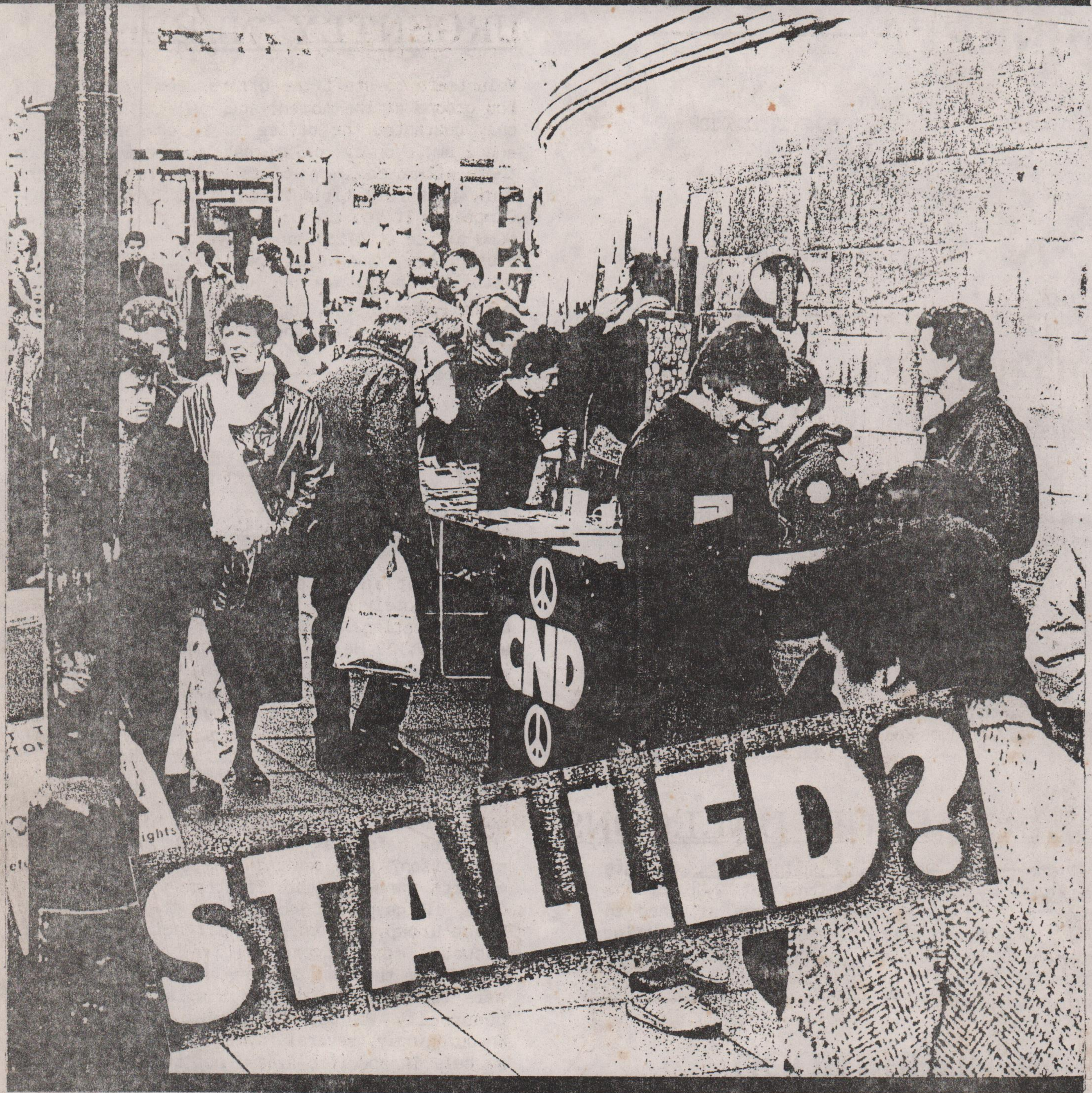


NOTTINGHAM CND Bulletin DECEMBER 1987- 20p



**PEACE MOVEMENT
CLINCHES ARMS
AGREEMENT - P.5**

EVENTS

ANTI-APARTHEID BENEFIT

DEC.18
NOTTINGHAM ANTI-APARTHEID BENEFIT CEILIDH
AT
QUEEN'S WALK COMMUNITY CENTRE
WITH
PATTI O'DOORS
8.00PM. TO LATE
£3.00 WAGED/£1.50 CONCESSION
TICKETS FROM:
MUSHROOM, 118, HIZIKI AND OUROBOROS.

FUTURE EVENTS AT WEST BRIDGFORD CND

Tues Jan 12th at 7.30 pm - THE NUCLEAR STATE - A video being shown which examines how people respond emotionally when thinking about the consequences of a nuclear war.

Tues Feb 9th at 7.30 pm - INTERHELP SPEAKER- who will discuss the organization which is designed specifically to help people cope with the emotions aroused when facing up to the nuclear threat. (NOT CONFIRMED YET - see next bulletin).

Tues Mar 8th at 7.30 pm - THE NUCLEAR HARVEST + Speaker. A video which examines the effects of nuclear war.

RELEASE OF BALLOONS

There will be a Release of Balloons at Listergate on Thursday, December 24th., at 2.00 pm. The balloons will have doves and stars attached to them, so would members please cut out and string together doves and stars and bring them along. For more information, please contact:
Doreen Gower at 785503.

NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP NEWS

Radcliffe Peace Group took part, once again, in the annual Remembrance Day ceremony. A wreath of white poppies stands beside the red ones on the war memorial in Main Road, that people as they pass may ponder on Peace.

Jos Wood.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Volunteers to staff the office seem very thin on the ground at the moment and, as a result, we can only guarantee the office to be open between 11 and 2 pm., Monday to Saturday. Is there anyone out there with a couple of hours a week to spare? The work is hardly tiring, but it is crucial to the Campaign. If you can help, please ring either the NCND office at 472556 and leave a message for Jill Robson, or 'phone me at home at 222578. Hopefully, with your help, we can have the office working normally again soon. Together we can stop the bomb and answer the telephone at the same time.

Jill Robson.

THE CASE OF THE MISSING PEACE FESTIVAL

Holmes sat in the cold, silent room, deep in thought. Surely more than three people were aware of the meeting? Or did some think it was at 8.00 and not 7.30? He remembered the exhibitors and visitors making kind comments after the 1987 Festival ... after all, this was the seventh in a row and the biggest. It actually made a small profit for CND and allowed countless groups and traders an opportunity to hold a public stall. The investigator adjusted the sash on his dressing gown and sucked pensively on his pipe ... a futile move, since it was empty, Holmes having given up the week before at Dr. Watson's suggestion. Where was Watson? Like most of the other Festival '87 members, he was unable to attend: "I'm afraid I can't come, old chap, I'm lecturing at the Forest Fields Peace Group, you know." A perfectly reasonable excuse - most of the Festival organisers had served for the last 3 years and wanted a rest, or were too busy, or through simple, old fashioned generosity wanted to give others a chance. Encouragingly, several former members made offers of help in specific areas, but there was still a shortage of basic organisers and no-one to act as boss of the collective. The future looked as bleak as the weather outlook - it seemed a shame that such a worthwhile event, attracting over 5,000 visitors, should die through lack of a few volunteers. So popular and yet so unpopular. It was a paradox ... almost an enigma. For once in his life, Holmes was stumped.

Solve the mystery by turning up at the Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road., on Wednesday, January 20th., at 7.30. ... or ring Bill/Vera Haines on 970 822 987 if you're lecturing that day.

Editorial

LISTERGATE STALL I

Several years ago, Nottingham CND pioneered having a stall on Saturdays on St. Peter's Gate, near the Broad Marsh Centre. Over the years, the idea was taken up by countless groups campaigning against world poverty, for animal welfare, for mental health - indeed, just about every cause going has set up its stall there. Nor have the causes always been from the Left - campaigners for the reintroduction of capital punishment have collected thousands of signatures and community groups such as the Scouts have rubbed shoulders with us at St. Peter's. That area, with its buskers, pavement artists, peaceniks, socialists and Jesus people, has become an exciting part of the city - a bit like the Market Square used to be years ago, a bit like London's Speakers' Corner now.

Some of the stalls have done some minor trading, a few badges here, a pamphlet there, a few quid in the donation tin. For CND, it's been an important fundraising opportunity, but probably the annual total of sales and donations for all the stalls is less than one Saturday's takings at Marks & Sparks whose doors we shiver outside. A few years ago, during the Miners' strike, the police were objecting to all the stalls because the women supporting the strike were collecting there. At that stage, all the regular stalls went legit, obtaining licences to be there from the Council and NCND has since then submitted audited accounts of all the money we take there to the Council.

In December, the relevant sub-committee of the City Council will have voted on the continuation of stall licences. This has come to the attention of a large number of groups who occasionally set up stall - many of them wrote to the Council asking them to renew their licences and to seek ways of further opening up the City Centre to community groups. It hardly needs saying that the issue is not whether they support CND (or whether we would support their aims) but whether this facility would be swept away and the facility returned solely to commercial enterprises. It is ironic that, at a time when, as it were, stalls in Russia, prohibited for decades, are being set up, here the Council discusses whether to restrict and possibly close down stalls. We hope that Glasnost will have prevailed here. Freedom should not be a party political issue.

NCND Bulletin Team.

LISTERGATE STALL II

By the time you read this, our efforts in campaigning for the renewal of the Listergate stalls' licences will be over, the sub-committee will have met and we will know the result. The 1987 licence is valid until the end of December, so we're OK legally until then. But what, after December, if the result goes against us? Well, I don't know about the vast majority of NCND members, but I have already heard more than a few incensed mutterings of "it's our democratic right" and "we'll carry on, whatever the result".

STOP PRESS 2/12/87

At 3.35 pm today, the Nottingham City Council Licensing Sub-Committee decided that, from January 1st 1988, a Listergate stall holders licence will allow them to trade on a maximum of 4 times per year. The opportunity to apply will be advertised before a decision, about who will be allowed to have a stall, is made. The NCND stall will carry on until Christmas. Volunteers please contact the office or Hilary at 625198.

HILARY TRENROUSE.

LISTERGATE STALL III

REPORT OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

At the meeting of the full City Council held on 2nd November 1987, Cllr. John Hartshorne, the Labour Group Chief Whip and Environment Committee Spokesman, moved the following resolution:- "That this Council resolves to continue to support the legitimate right of those groups who wish to continue to operate each Saturday in St. Peter's Gate."

As part of the moving speech, he presented to the Lord Mayor a petition of 640 names collected by the St. Peter's Gate Groups supporting their Saturday activities. His speech aimed at making the issue non-political, emphasising the right and need of all shades of opinion to be expressed in a democratic community. Whether, as councillors, they agreed or not with the views held was not as important as the ability of those views to be heard.

His Seconder, Cllr. Ian MacLennan, highlighted some of the problems which can occur in any society when freedom of speech is inhibited. He also made the point that Nottingham had matured by allowing not only an "alternative speakers' corner", but also other musical street entertainment.

From the Labour group, Councillors Bill Pearch, John Collins, Dennis Jones, Vernon Gapper and Collin Worthington spoke in support of the motion.

The Communist, Cllr. John Peck, made a very strong speech in support of the motion, citing the example of Amnesty International which, although it was non-political, was considered to be left or right wing politically, depending upon in which country they were operating.

The three Conservative councillors who spoke all tried to appear to be reasonable and non-political, unsuccessfully as it happened, mainly because of the waspish right wing comments and derisory noises being made all through the debate by many of their group members.

Cllr. Bateman, the Chair of the Environment Committee, complained at the motion being put "because there was no evidence that their group

would refuse any future applications for licences". He then went on to qualify this by saying he thought that it was very unfair that 8 groups in St. Peter's Gate had the opportunity of collecting money on 52 Saturdays each year whilst many other more "laudable" charities were only allowed one. This was to be something he would be giving further consideration to.

Cllr. Ross, the Environment Committee Vice-Chairman, exhibited an uncharacteristic lack of knowledge when he said that he always thought all the activities in St. Peter's Gate were illegal. Permits had been issued and not used. He then went on to itemise the occasions on which groups had sent in returns and the amounts of money collected. He finished by stating that it would be wrong for the full council to "tie the hands" of the members of the licensing Sub-Committee.

Cllr. Bradbury, the Leader of Council, thought it strange that the St. Peter's Gate groups not only operated there, but throughout the year. He thought that they should operate in the Market Square and have a "Big Bang" presentation day - completely failing to mention that he is the Chair of the Committee that permits activities in the Market Square and that would be even worse than the present situation.

The lack of argument and input from the Tories was not surprising, considering very few of their members were actually in attendance in the chamber during the debate. What was astonishing was that on the vote being called, all of their absent members emerged to vote against the motion. Obviously a "three line whip" had been imposed on a non-political motion. The motion was lost on the recorded vote - a fact that does not bode well for the future of groups operating in St. Peter's Gate.

John Hartshorne

THE DOROTHY GREEN BEQUEST

I'm not sure that all treasurers are like me, but it's really great to know there's cash in the bank. The trouble with money is that it's pointless having it unless you do something with it - the other trouble is, what do you do with it?

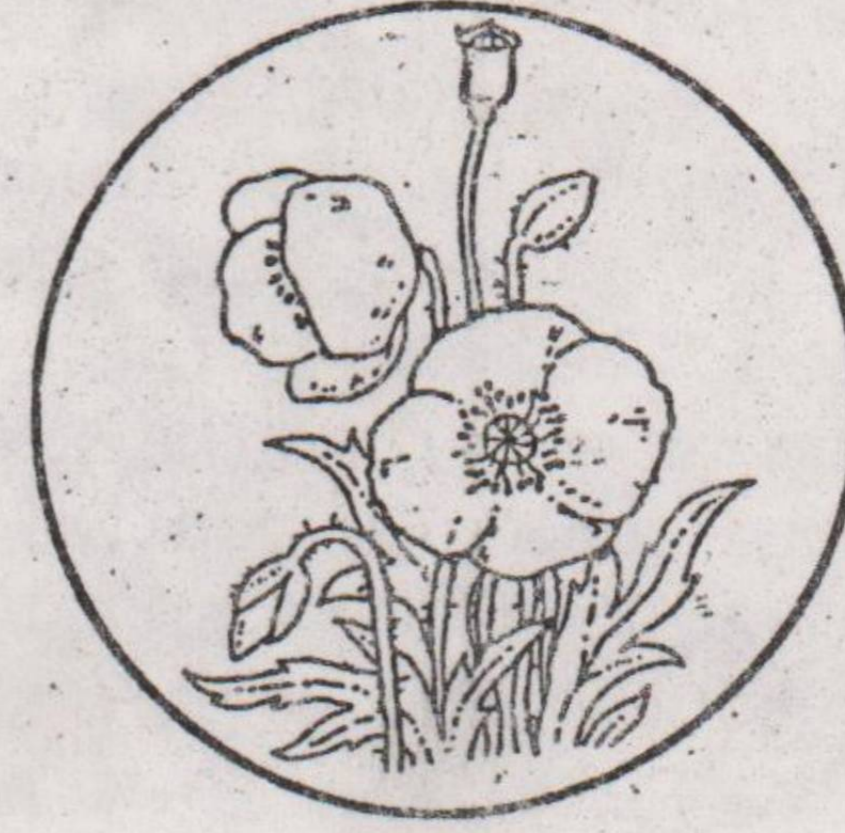
There is an infinite range of options, such as:-

- (1) Invest the money in high interest account and use the interest each year for some project or projects, such as the one suggested by Eric Jessop a couple of months ago, (about £450 a year).
- (2) Decide to spend, say £1,000 each year until the money runs out (about 6 years).
- (3) Spend the bulk of the money on some capital project.
- (4) Consider the money to be part of general funds.
- (5) Leave the money to accumulate and consider individual ideas/projects as they come along.

Think about it - the more brain cells working on ideas, the better. If ideas like Eric Jessop's

are going to happen, some sort of action and decisions are going to have to be made reasonably soon. Any suggestions to Executive, please - to be discussed at February Monthly Meeting - WEA, Feb. 11th. See Feb. Bulletin.

Rob Holland



WHITE POPPY UPDATE

As predicted, this year's commemoration of Remembrance Day provoked considerable press attention. Nottingham CND put out a leaflet, Eric Jessop, one of our ex-service members, spoke on television and there was considerable correspondence in the Evening Post in response to their editorial headed "An insult to the memory of the fallen". The Post printed a number of letters from CND members, including one from Nottingham CND itself (which resulted in one of the co-signees getting an abusive phone call at her home). One of the many striking letters in this debate is re-printed below.

Regrettably few of the anti-white poppy letters went beyond the "antics of the white poppy brigade" approach, with the Post it is believed also receiving a number of unprintable abusive letters about the peace movement. Between Nottingham CND, Selectadisc, Ouroboros Wholefoods and Mushroom Bookshop, over a thousand white poppies were sold and a small number of local people travelled to London to lay a white poppy wreath at the Cenotaph.

ROSS BRADSHAW.

NO GLORY

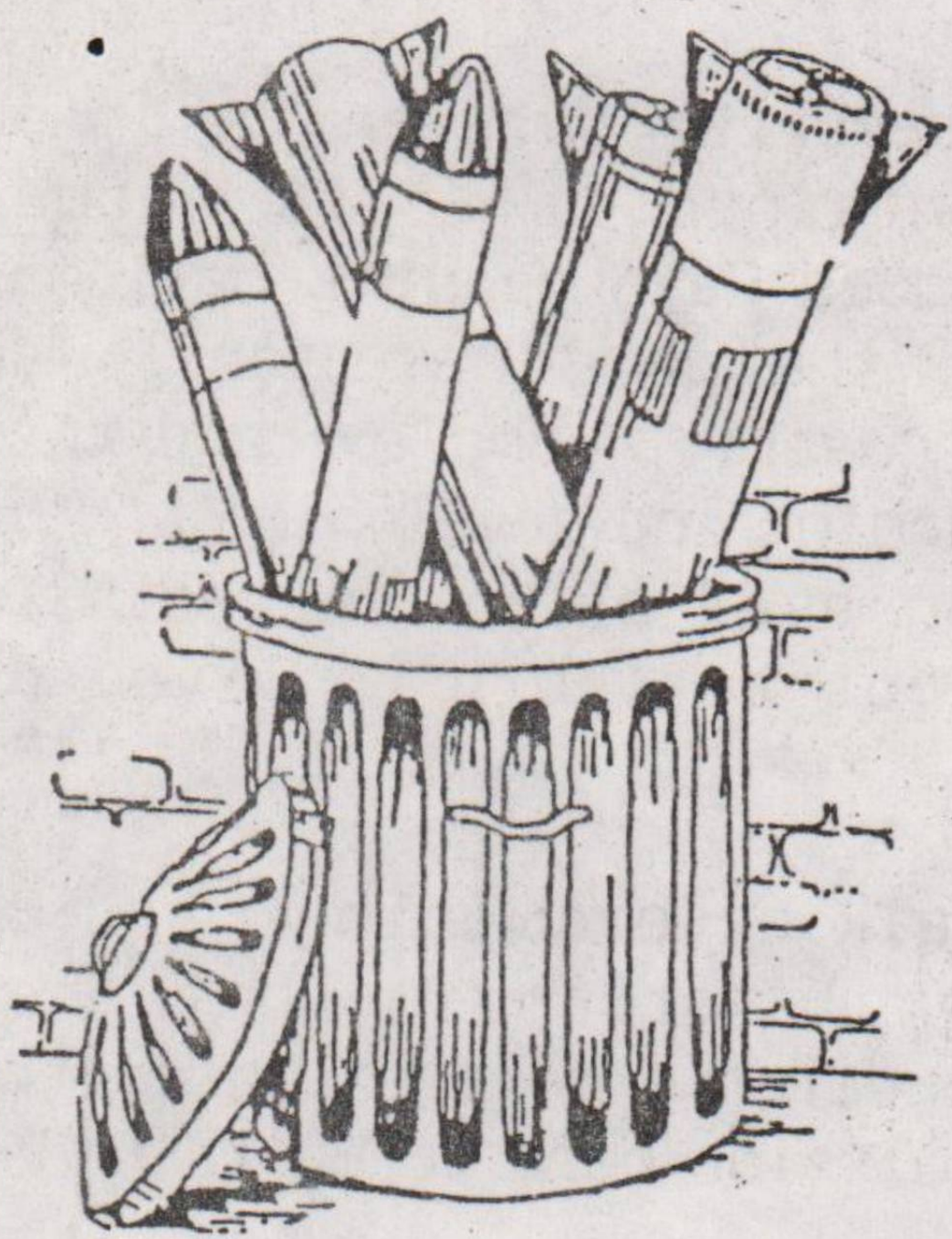
As Remembrance Sunday approaches, I am compelled to protest at the hypocrisy of our "tribute to the fallen".

These men of many wars, all beloved by somebody, did not "give their lives gloriously for King and country". Their lives were brutally taken in circumstances of squalor, filth and incredible endurance, suffering and bravery.

Last year I visited the Somme and the year before I was at Dachau. Believe me, I found no glory in either place, just sheer tragedy at the futility of war.

B. B. HOPKINSON (Mrs.)
Ashworth Close,
Bakersfield.

At the NCND stall at Listergate, on the Saturday, no trouble occurred, no abuse, all the white poppies were handed out and altogether over £150 was taken at the stall. Surely, this is the end of the White Poppy Debate. Facts have prevailed.



CELEBRATE THE REMOVAL OF CRUISE !!

We've done it! The I.N.F. talks in Washington begin on December 7th and, unless something goes drastically wrong, they will result in the dismantling of medium range nuclear weapons such as Cruise and SS20 missiles. For the first time since 1945, there will be fewer nuclear weapons in the world.

There can be little doubt that the peace movement worldwide and in this country, CND in particular, has played a major role in bringing this about. The government will be taking an entirely different line, of course, telling everybody that the talks are the result of "negotiating from strength" and not succumbing to weak unilateralism.

This argument is easily disproved. Ask yourself the following questions: Which missiles are going? Why has anybody outside the M.O.D. even heard of these missiles? How many other kinds of missile do we know about? How many others are going?

The answers to these questions make it clear that the Women's Peace Camps at Greenham Common Cruise missile base, the disruption of the genocide convoys by Cruisewatch and extensive campaigning by CND, have played a major role in making Cruise unacceptable. Molesworth Base has been a prime focus for CND and Nottingham CND has been central in this campaign which reached its peak with the Feb 6 Blockade last year, organised from Nottingham.

We will CELEBRATE the removal of Cruise on the night that an agreement is signed. This will probably be on the 8th of December. It is likely that, when the talks begin, there will be at least one day's notice in the media.

Whichever day the agreement is signed, we will gather at the junction of Mansfield Road and Gregory Boulevard between 4.30 and 5.00 of that evening. For many years, people have demonstrated on the roundabout at this junction whenever the Cruise convoy came out - now we will celebrate its removal. Bring candles in jars, banners, placards and musical instruments - we want everyone who goes past to know that we are celebrating.

At 6.00, we will form into a march and make our way to the Goose Fair site at the Forest, where we will light a beacon. In Coventry earlier this year, there was a meeting between peace activists from this country and the rest of Europe (including some Eastern Bloc countries), the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. They agreed to light an international chain of beacons on the nights that an INF agreement was signed, to show our strength, our joy and our hope for the future. There will be at least 120 beacons in Britain alone, stretching from Lewis in the north of Scotland to Cornwall in the south of England.

After this, there will be a social at the Carlton Hotel on Noel Street, organised by the fundraising group. Please come along so that we can celebrate together, show our strength and our joy and affirm our hope that this step in the right direction is merely the first!

On the Saturday after, December 12th., there will be a giant card at the Listergate stall and we will collect signatures to add to its messages calling for Britain to join in the process of disarmament. On Monday, December 14th., the card will be delivered to the Tory Party Headquarters on Hamilton Road, Sherwood Rise. We need as many people as possible for both of these events. For information or offers of help with organising, please 'phone the CND office and leave a message there or contact John Cromby on 706088 or Barbara Coulson on 625198.

John Cromby

Dear N.C.N.D.,

Reading the article on the E.N.D. Convention in the last bulletin, I noticed that there was a contingent going to Brussels for the March and Rally. I consider myself a non-activist and I realised that here was a chance to do something, as I had both the time and money to go.

So I found myself at half past five in the morning, on Saturday Oct. 24th, in a minibus, starting a journey to Brussels. The experience was well worth it. It was uplifting to see thousands of people, of all ages and from many countries, getting together with one common aim, to rid Europe of Nuclear Weapons.

I sometimes wonder when others seem unconcerned about the Nuclear issue (or even think it's a good thing!) if they are right and I am wrong? Going to a rally like this gave me new positive hope that people can get together to change thinking and events and that many, many people think this nuclear race is mad. The peace, love, harmony and positiveness that abounds on these marches gives you hope for the future.

You don't need to go abroad to get this feeling, it generates itself on any Anti-nuclear demonstration. So, if ever you feel helpless and wonder if C.N.D. has a future, remember that without mass public protest it would be unlikely that the summit talks would be happening. So make an effort and join the next C.N.D. demonstration. Together we CAN change the world.



MIKHAIL GORBACHEV AND US

Under a headline of "Gorbachev's New Manifesto Of Hope For All The World", I recently read the following words. "So we too must change some of our attitudes. The old-style anti-Soviet rhetoric, spawned in an era of fear and suspicion, seems singularly inappropriate today". Where did I read this? Not the Morning Star; not even the New Statesman; I read it in the Mail on Sunday.

It sometimes seems as if the world is turning upside down. If someone had told me a few years ago that I would today be reading such things in the Mail, I would have laughed.

A little under 18 months ago, I was taking part in a round-table discussion on Peace and Disarmament with officials from the Soviet Communist Party in a small town in the Ukraine. I argued long and hard that the USSR should drop its insistence on maintaining so-called "parity" with the USA in the nuclear arms race. The officials wouldn't have it. It was simply quite inconceivable to them.

Well, now, Mikhail Gorbachev has dropped the concept of "parity" from the USSR's military policy. Instead, the buzz word at the Kremlin is now something called "reasonable sufficiency". This means that the Soviet Union is now not so much interested in the "bean-counting" approach to arms control, but is prepared actually to make greater cuts than the US (in terms of numbers of warheads) and even resist making automatic counter-deployments of new weapons.

This is only a part of what is becoming known as Soviet "NEW THINKING" on defence and disarmament. On the face of it, it seems that Gorbachev wants to move on.... "War, at least, world war (has) ceased to be the continuation of state policy by other means". Under the umbrella of "New Thinking" are a number of ideas and themes. That defence is not just a military, but also a

political task; that security between East and West can only be maintained if it is mutual security; that the US does have genuine national interests that are not the same necessarily as those of the military-industrial complex; and that the world is always changing and developing and no eternal status quo can ever be preserved. In other words ... we've got to learn to live together.

There has even been talk of examining ways of restructuring conventional forces so that they fulfil a non-aggressive defence role (much as the Alternative Defence Commission here in Britain has been pressing for).

Alongside "New Thinking", we are witnessing the emergence of "Glasnost" (an opening-up of culture, media, information, education) and "Perestroika" (an attempt to restructure completely Soviet society and the Soviet economy - a "revolution without shots", claims Mikhail Gorbachev.

What are we in the west to make of these dramatic changes and how should we react to them? The first thing to do is to understand that the changes are, in fact, real and not cosmetic as some die-hard cold-warriors would have us believe.

Perestroika is taking place for very real historical reasons. Firstly, because Gorbachev represents the coming to power of a new generation of post Stalinist Communists ... the first generation of post Stalinists! Secondly, the country is facing an absolute economic and social crisis and unless it frees itself from its old Stalinist ways, it could face disaster. There is a classic revolutionary contradiction between the way the country could/should be run and the way it is run.

Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme is thus nothing to do with what the Mail on Sunday thinks it is. It isn't the defeat of Socialism and the beginning of a brave new world of Thatcherism and market forces, of Reaganomics and privatisation. It is the opposite... it is a last-ditch attempt to save socialism., to strengthen it, to bring it up to date, to resolve the contradictions.

And how should we in the peace movement respond? I think we all have to re-examine our position. Many of us have allowed ourselves to become frozen into out-of-date orthodoxies. Uncritical repetition of Soviet positions is probably not helpful and, indeed, has little to do with the spirit of "perestroika". But also, the "they're-both-as-bad-as-each-other" view of East-West relations might be rather dated now. Gorbachev's Soviet Union is not the same as Brezhnev's and it's about time we woke up to that.

And, lastly, we have to ask where does the Soviet New Thinking leave our unilateralism? Is CND to be pushed to the sidelines now? Will it all be sorted out for us through negotiation by the superpowers? What place does our demand for British independent nuclear disarmament have in the much wider sweep of the international situation that is unfolding now so rapidly?

I'd say we could do with a little bit of "new thinking" here at home.



WE'VE STARTED SOMETHING

More than a thousand delegates to the 30th Annual CND conference were overlooked by, at the back of the stage at the Hackney Empire, a huge picture of Gorbachev and Reagan shaking hands about the CND claim "We've started something".

The INF negotiations dominated the discussions at this conference. Between the sometimes conflicting demands that we celebrate and take much of the credit for the summit agreement and that we are being unduly pleased about, there was a mass of detailed discussion about the implications for future campaigning.

Through the so-called "Strategic Resolution", proposed in order to give the campaign a framework of priorities for the coming year, conference voted that "our major priority should be to link the demand for independent nuclear disarmament by Britain to

- a) the prospects for progress towards a nuclear-free Europe opened up by the INF negotiations
- b) the developing public debate about the need for radical changes in British foreign policy and
- c) (by amendment) the closure of all US bases (including communications and conventional bases) and opposition to NATO membership.

This should be done through a primary focus on

- 1) Resistance to the manufacture and deployment of new nuclear weapons in Britain, e.g. Trident, Air and Sea Launched Missile
- 2) Public press and parliamentary education on "The Soviet Threat"; the irrationalities of the British "independent deterrent"; the danger of nuclear war-fighting strategies (e.g. first use); the dangerous fragility of so-called deterrence and
- 3) (by amendment) the social economic and employment impact of high levels of defence spending in Britain.

The resolution went on to list a number of secondary foci, e.g. Star Wars, the Eurobomb, Test Ban treaty, etc.

In other resolutions, conference decided to work for an end to the Iran/Iraq war and to oppose foreign military intervention in the Gulf; to reaffirm its support for non-violent direct action; to pursue with more effort the decentralisation of resources in CND; to reaffirm and widen the basic case approach to campaigning with more support material and advertising; and to continue to campaign against nuclear power as well as nuclear weapons while recognising that it is a secondary issue for CND.

All those resolutions were taken on the Sunday after a day of workshops on the Saturday in which the issues were discussed. I personally found that to be a good arrangement, although Saturday was also the day for annual and treasurer's reports as well as election hustings. Hurting between four workshops between 11.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. was exhausting.

The elections gave us Bruce Kent as Chair (unopposed, and I think it's fair to say that everyone in the movement is delighted), and Elena Lieven, Paul Johns, Marjorie Thompson and Rebecca Johnson as Vice-Chairs (four most impressive people with a range of experience from Westminster to Greenham Common).

The twenty people elected for Council included someone called Pete Strauss, of whom some of you may have heard.

That election for National Council brought to a head an issue which was bound to arise at this year's conference and is very unpleasant. Readers of *Sanity* will know from Bea Campbell's article in November's issue that there is a crisis at Greenham - not this time a crisis of resources or support, but a deep split between the campers at Yellow Gate and the women at the other four gates. Yellow Gate, it is claimed, has been taken over by women from a group called "Wages for Housework" from the King's Cross Women's Centre, which has a long reputation for disrupting a variety of other women's groups. The leader of this group is Wilmette Brown, a black woman who has been a central figure in CND's Anti-Racist Working Group. Any opposition to the views of Wilmette, or any of the other women at Yellow Gate, is condemned by these women as racist. It is clear, however, that there are many patently non-racist women at Greenham and elsewhere who feel intimidated and frightened by what they are confronted with. Certainly, the tactics employed at conference by Wilmette's supporters did nothing to refute the accusations made in *Sanity*. Conference overwhelmingly opposed their election for Council and their efforts to disrupt the proceedings.

Despite that bit of unpleasantness, it was a good conference. One of the workshops I went to looked at the 30 years of CND through the eyes of some of the old-timers - Sheila Oakes, Pat Arrowsmith, John Cox and others. They know that there are ups and downs in the movement, but they are united in the opinion that CND won't now fade away, as it almost did in the sixties. We have established a bed-rock of informed opinion and an organised

structure that will enable us to go on, even through the thin times, until we get there.

In Bruce Kent's words at the end of conference, paraphrasing John Wesley in a letter to the anti-slavery campaigner, Wilberforce:

"Be not weary of well-doing. One day we will look back on the age of nuclear threat and our children will ask themselves: how did such barbarism ever seem normal? That day is not with us yet. We are bringing it nearer".

ANN KESTENBAUM.

CONFERENCE '87 - SOVIET VIEWPOINT

Alexei Pankin, a research worker from the US/Canada Institute in Moscow, made history at Conference; he was the first Soviet speaker ever to be invited.

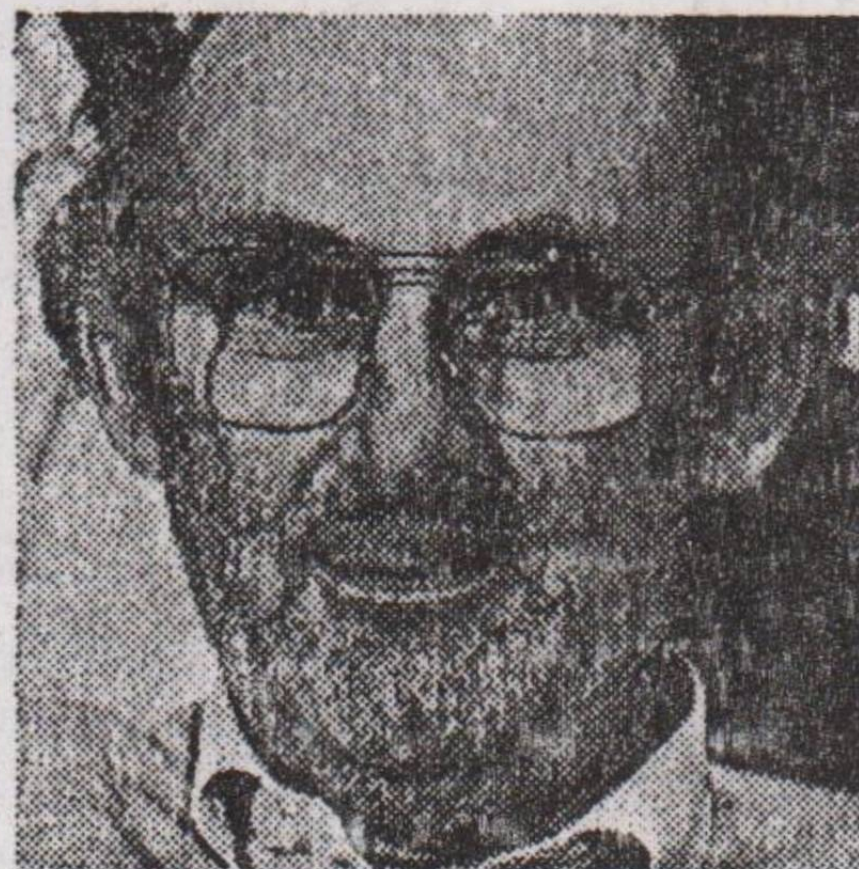
This was a non-plenary session on "After the Summit". In spite of a bewildering array of 30 choices of workshop on at the same time, the pit of Hackney Empire was well filled. Dan Plesch and Elena Lieven also spoke with Bruce Kent in the chair.

Alexei began on a note of caution, pointing out that Reagan has made some of his most virulent anti-Soviet speeches during the past month. Economic co-operation between the two superpowers is at zero level; and NATO talk of substituting air and sea launched cruise for ground-launched INF missiles could halt further progress.

From the Soviet point of view, there were no military complications. "War - whether nuclear or conventional - is now unthinkable", he declared. "ALL weapons are unusable". However, substitution could halt the disarmament process and hinder the "new thinkers" in the USSR. The argument that the Soviet Union must defend itself through strength still has popular appeal. (Sounds familiar, doesn't it?) The image of the West as The Enemy is still being plugged by some of the press, especially by "Red Star", the paper of the armed forces.

Ignorance on nuclear issues is widespread in the USSR, he said. However, important changes were going on in the Soviet Peace Movement. In the past, effort had largely been directed outwards towards foreign countries. Now the emphasis was changing towards a more internal orientation. New informal organisations were springing up. Examples he gave were Educators for Peace, Rock Musicians for Peace and Inventors for Peace (concerned with the conversion of armaments industries to peaceful products). Twentieth Century for Peace, the organ of the Soviet Peace Committee, had become a forum for real discussion including criticism of the defence system.

JOS WOOD.



PAUL JOHNS SPEAKS

After two years in the job, Paul Johns has stood down as Chair of national CND. The NCND Bulletin interviewed him.

Bul: You've been to so many local groups: what sort of sense do you get about where the movement is at, at the moment? Everyone seems to be repeating the idea that the movement is going through a period of decline. Is that what you've found?

PJ: No, I wouldn't use the word "decline"; I would use the phrase "collective tiredness". The INF agreement is to a considerable extent, our achievement. We've helped to create the situation in which the deal will be signed. But we've done it at a cost. Hours and hours and hours of time; lots and lots of money; lots of effort. And I think we are now suffering from a sense of collective tiredness. That's the first point. The other point is, I think we're faced with a measure of uncertainty because, while on the face of it, the INF agreement looks good, it is but the first step towards the removing of a huge mountain... the international nuclear establishment. An important part of that mountain appears to be insurmountable at the moment and that's the Thatcher element in it. That's the bit that's nearest to us because Mrs. Thatcher is our political problem. The immediate prospect of changing policy on defence in this country doesn't look very bright.

Bul: So you think there is a tiredness and a lack of political confidence as well?

PJ: Yes, and we've got to acknowledge that the ground is changing under our feet. While this is good in many respects, it creates for us a problem...the problem of apparently having served our purpose. I think the positive things to say, though, are that, if the ground is shifting under our feet, it is shifting under our opponents' feet as well. There's no doubt that the disarmament process that could begin with INF and could lead to strategic arms reduction, the banning of chemical weapons and the start of conventional disarmament...all this does raise real problems for the NATO establishment. The rationale of their existence is to maintain a posture of up-front military, particularly nuclear, confrontation with the Soviet Union.

Bul: What are your predictions then? Where do you think CND will be in, say three years' time? Do you think we'll still exist?

PJ: Oh, I'm sure we will, I'm sure we will. Like any other campaigning organisation, we have our peaks and our troughs and the peaks in terms of

membership and public attention are always when things are going wrong, like Chernobyl, like the bombing of Libya. But I believe that each peak is a little higher than the last one and each trough is a little higher, too. So I'm quite sure that, in much the same form as we are now, we will still be around in two or three years' time. By then, we could be in a situation where the disarmament agenda has moved forward and the superpowers may well have concluded an agreement for 50% cuts in strategic weapons - that's big disarmament!. If that happens, then the political justification for Britain keeping a bomb of its own will be manifestly thinner and thinner and Mrs. Thatcher going on with Trident, will make less and less sense to more and more people. While immediately, Thatcher seems immovable - and I can't see her changing her mind voluntarily, I think that we can, by continued resistance to nuclear weapons in Britain and to Britain's bomb in particular, erode the credibility of keeping Britain's bomb. Come the next election, as I say, the case for it will look wafer thin.

Bul: The last trough lasted a long time, though, didn't it? If we're entering the beginning of a trough, it might be that we have to wait 5 or 10 years before people pick themselves up again. Do you think that's possible?

PJ: Possible. But, while I think we can learn lessons from history, I don't think that history repeats itself. One reason we went into a trough after the signing of the Partial Test Ban Treaty was that everyone thought "Gosh - we've done a great thing." So many people have said to me in the last few months - We mustn't make that mistake again and I think we're on our guard against that.

HAVE LIST OF LAPSED MEMBERS, WILL TRAVEL

Somewhere, out there, are lapsed members just waiting to be reminded to rejoin... Armed with a list of Sherwood lapsed members, a group of us set off to find out what had become of them. Sunday afternoon proved to be a good time to call, with the majority of people at home and we were able to pounce on unsuspecting victims - suddenly they were to find themselves not "unwanted" as they had thought, not "out of sight, out of mind"!

Only one person seemed to have had advance warning of our impending visit and had taken drastic avoiding measures. "He's joined the army" said the woman at the door! Surely, it's not that bad...

No one else had to take recourse to such tactics and of those we visited a quarter rejoined straightaway, whilst some already had done so or have done so since.

Only 1 or 2 did not wish to rejoin (one being a member of National CND) and for the others we were able to give the membership team updated information on removals, changes of address, etc. for which they are very grateful.

So why not have a go yourself? Peggy Westaway will provide the list of lapsed members, or contact me at the office, if you would like a team of people to come out to your area and help rejuvenate your lapsed members (and hope we don't drive too many into the army in the process!).

CATH WAKEMAN.

LETS DOUBLE OUR MEMBERS GET A FRIEND TO JOIN!

COME ON
MAG, YOU
ALWAYS MEANT
TO....



after Steve Bell

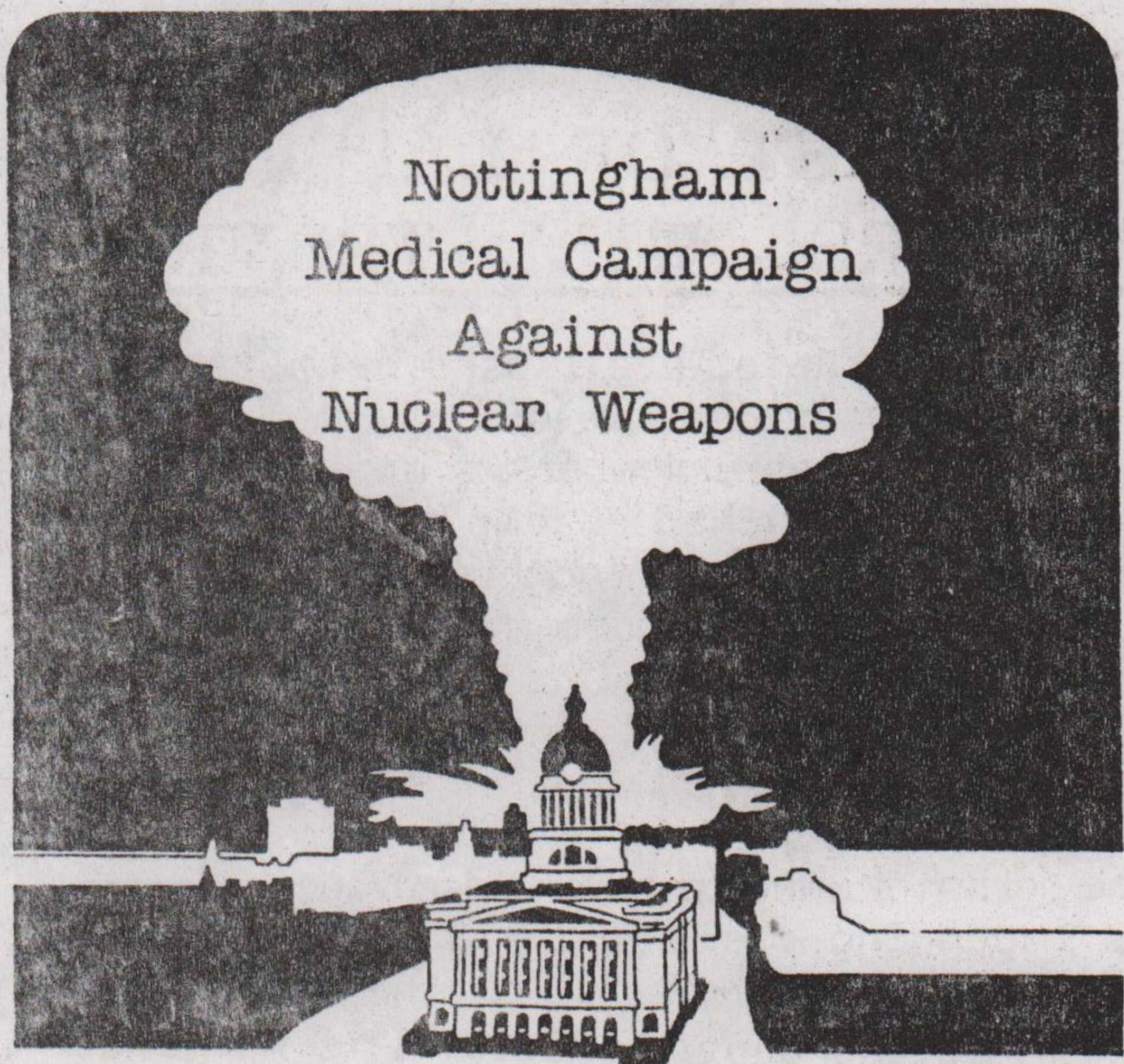
NAME :

ADDRESS :

SUBSCRIPTION: ADULT £3.75
 HOUSEHOLD £4.50
 UNWAGED £1.50

MEMBERS NAME :
ADDRESS:

AND ENTER OUR PRIZE DRAW TO WIN £10.00



CAMPAIGNING AND THE MEDIA - M.C.A.N.W. DAY MEETING

I am sure that one of the government's first reactions to a pressure group whose aims they don't support, is to sit tight and to wait for the group to "burn out". To maintain momentum, a campaign should be achieving something. We should all claim victory for the INF agreement for a start and we should have campaigning targets, both locally and nationally, that are achievable each year.

The position in M.C.A.N.W. nationally is much better in terms of membership as it increased slightly last year, as it did locally. However, we have not been as active as in the previous year.

One way that Nottingham M.C.A.N.W. tries to keep its momentum is by having a full day meeting with a report on the last year, workshops and a discussion on campaigning strategies for the next year. This year's meeting was in November. We usually invite a staff member from central office in London to tell us about the national campaign and also, so that the office can get a better idea of what is happening at local level. The national M.C.A.N.W. press officer came this year to the meeting and also led a workshop on using the media. We also invited a reporter from Central TV who spoke about TV coverage of peace events and led a workshop where four members were shown, with the use of video, how to be interviewed on TV.

In the final session we highlighted the following aims for 1987/88.

1. Increase Membership

(a) Medical Students.

This is an area that we have neglected over the years. Many approaches to medical students are being considered, including: Day or half day meeting for students, M.C.A.N.W. lecture at a medical society, etc.

(b) Membership Forms.

Better use of these, including giving each member one and asking them to try to recruit a colleague or friend.

(c) Monthly Meeting.

Have a speaker at every second monthly meeting and advertise the meetings better.

(d) Use of questionnaire.

The questionnaire has four questions on nuclear weapons that members may ask people at work, etc. Many M.C.A.N.W. members do not feel confident enough or are "socially embarrassed" to bring up the issue of nuclear weapons at work. The questionnaire is seen as a way of getting over this problem and an easier way to introduce the subject over coffee.

2. Even Before The Bomb Drops.

This is the name of the new national campaign for the year which will look at and publicise the development and disarmament issue. We will be organising a number of local events to launch the campaign including a meeting in February with an eminent speaker to discuss the issue. This meeting will be held in the Q.M.C. and aimed at health care professionals, especially non-members.

3. I.P.P.N.W.

The local campaign aims to send a member to the next international meeting of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, to be held in Montreal in 1988.

4. Civil Defence.

The civil defence sub-group will publicise and comment on the new D.H.S.S. guidelines when they appear next year.

5. Arm Chair Campaigning or How to Campaign Without Really Trying.

A sub-group will put together this pack which will be sent to all new members. It will include a mug, badge, specimen letters, name and telephone number of local M.P., leaflets on current campaigns, etc. The aim of the pack will be to stimulate the less active members to do things that will spread the campaign's message without having to go to meetings.

6. Twinning.

We have already twinned with a number of medical peace groups in other countries and we will continue this process of dialogue into the future.

7. Participate in the annual peace festival.

This programme will, we hope, help to maintain the campaign's momentum.

The creation of sub-groups are of particular importance as people generally find it easier to work in small groups and also, when they report back to the monthly meeting on what they have done during the month, it creates the feeling that things are really moving.

NICK ARMSTRONG.

200 CLUB WINNERS

OCTOBER:

£50 - Rob Holland/ Celia Lacey
£10 - Simon Chuda
£5 - W.F.Mullan

NOVEMBER:

£50 - Jo Lawson
£10 - Rob Raynham
£5 - John Hodgson.

BANGS FOR BUCKS

MAXIMISE THE IMPACT OF YOUR CHRISTMAS SPENDING!

LIGHT UP YOUR CHRISTMAS WITH THERMONUCLEAR DECORATIONS

- Flashing, mushroom-shaped tree lights £4.20
- Angels in protective clothing £4.50
- Fall out glitter spray £3.40
- Santa in flash resistant goggles £2.95
- Rudolph with radioactive nose

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TAKE IT OUT ON UNFRIENDLY NEIGHBOURS, MEMBERS OF UNPALATABLE POLITICAL OR CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS & INEFFICIENT MILKMEN

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WINDS

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comfort of your own

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I HAVEN'T A CLUE

FOR FOREIGN POLICY PERSONNEL

YES/NO MR. PRESIDENT

USE YOUR WIT AND YOUR WITS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE U.S. PRESIDENT, DEPENDING UPON:-

- THE WEATHER
- WHAT WAS FOR BREAKFAST
- WHAT'S ON THE CUE CARD
- THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT HE SAID YESTERDAY

CHOOSE FROM:

- The USSR has superiority in nuclear arms
- We shall remain a step ahead of the Soviets
- I believe in Armageddon
- the Russians cannot be trusted
- We can do a deal with Gorbachev

A MARVELLOUS EDUCATIONAL GAME FOR THE YOUNG COMPUTER WIZARD

HACK INTO THE DEFENCE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND REPROGRAM IT TO LAUNCH

THWACKER

THE ENTIRE STRATEGIC ARSENAL ON SIGHTING A FLOCK OF GEESE, A SNOOKER PROGRAMME, SENATE RATIFICATION OF INF

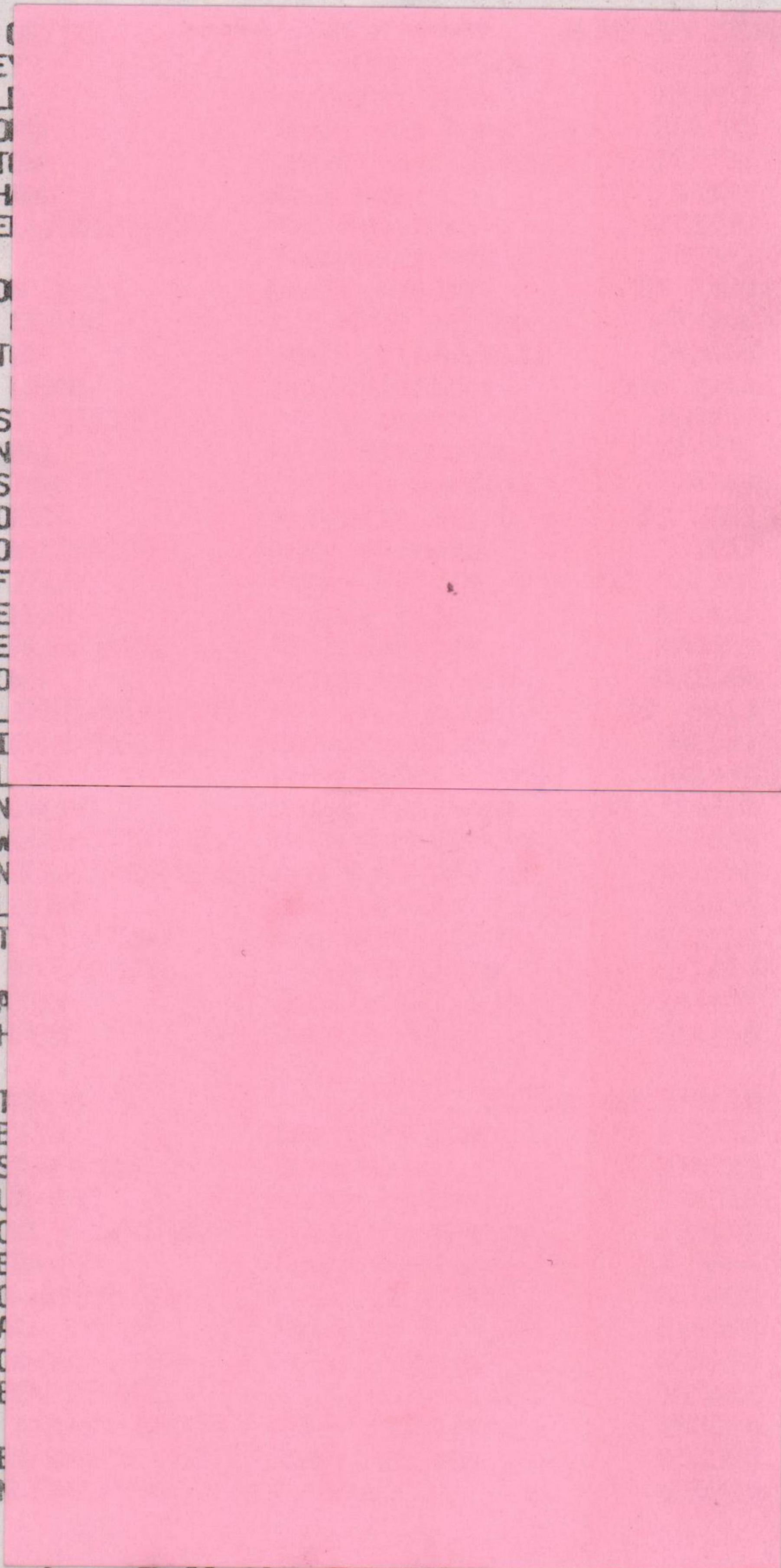


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There will, as usual, be no January Bulletin.
 The deadline for the February issue will be Thursday, January 28th.

THANK YOU

Wollaton CND would like to thank everyone who contributed to and helped at their Jumble Sale in November, which raised £84 after expenses paid.

SAT DEC 19th

FF.P.G. AND S.C.A.N.W. PRESENT A

YULE GROOVE DISCO



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 £1.75 WAGED • £1.00 UNWAGED •



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