

Diary Dates

- Sat 26 Sept Nottingham Clarion Choir tenth anniversary "big do", 3.00 - 11.30pm, at the Vine, Bobbers Mill Rd, Radford, Nottm. See page 15 for more details.
- Fri 9th Oct Autumn Concert of classical music in aid of Amnesty International at University Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare St, 7.30pm. Tickets £4.50/£3.50 on the door.
- Tue 13 Oct **Nottingham CND Public Meeting** - talk and video showing by George Farebrother of the World Court Project UK at International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 7pm. See page 3 for more details.
- Sat 17 Oct Real World Coalition Greater Nottingham Conference at Mansfield Road Baptist Church, 10.30am. For further information ring 0115 9114878.
- Tue 20 Oct Nottingham Trent University Open Programme Lecture "Putting People Before Profit" - Barry Coates of WDM. 7pm at Arkwright Lecture Theatre, Nottingham Trent University, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.
- Sun 1 Nov **Nottingham CND AGM** at International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham. 2pm.
- Tue 12 Nov Nottingham Trent University Open Programme Lecture "Will Democracy Save the Planet?" - Local Agenda 21 panel. 7pm at Bonnington Lecture Theatre, Nottingham Trent University, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.
- Tue 26 Nov Nottingham Trent University Open Programme Lecture "Human Rights for Minority Groups: the Kurdish case" - Sirat Erbil. 7pm at Bonnington Lecture Theatre, Nottingham Trent University, Shakespeare St, Nottm

Don't forget the ...

Nottingham CND AGM

A lot has happened over the past year - nuclear testing by India and Pakistan, a resurgence of action against Trident, sabre rattling in the Middle East, an "ethical foreign policy", etc. Come and see what Nottingham CND has been involved in, discuss the current problems, and contribute to the continued campaigning of CND in the coming year.

Sunday 1st November, 2pm
I.C.C., 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham.



Nottingham CND Bulletin September 1998



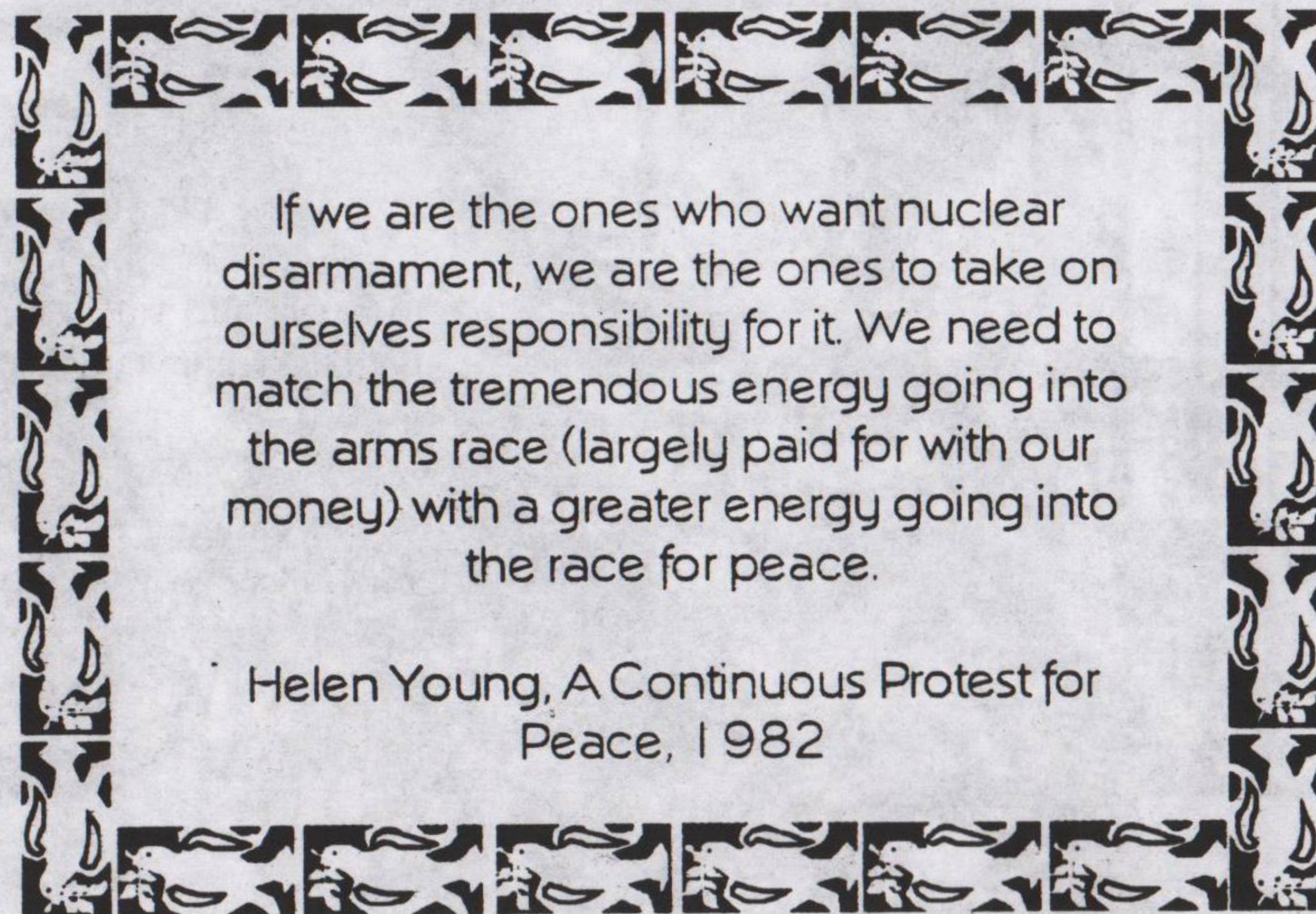
High Speed Leafletting

Welcome to the September issue of Nottingham CND Bulletin. Thanks to everyone who has sent and written articles to fill it. Faslane is a big feature of this bulletin with a report on Peacewalk 98 from Brussels to Faslane, a report on the anti-Trident demonstration at Faslane, and an article borrowed from the Guardian about Trident Ploughshares 2000 non violent direct action at Faslane.

Since the last bulletin, the government has published its Strategic Defence Review – which makes disappointing reading for CND supporters. See pages 4 and 5 of the bulletin and write a letter to your MP if you are able.

Finally, there are several events for you to go to. The Clarion Choir, who regularly sing at our Hiroshima Day event are celebrating their tenth anniversary with a "big do" – see page 15 for details. We hope to see you at the public meeting which Nottingham CND is putting on, looking at how the World Court Project is moving forward in its efforts to make governments comply with the World Court ruling of 1996 that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is illegal in all conceivable circumstances. And, of course, in November it is time for our AGM, looking back at the year's events, and forward to what we might achieve in 1999.

Mark Ramsey – Editor



If we are the ones who want nuclear disarmament, we are the ones to take on ourselves responsibility for it. We need to match the tremendous energy going into the arms race (largely paid for with our money) with a greater energy going into the race for peace.

Helen Young, A Continuous Protest for Peace, 1982

The Bulletin is produced using Serif PagePlus 5.0 by Nottingham CND, Box 33, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HL. Telephone 9588586 (there is usually someone available to answer the phone on Tuesday afternoons; answerphone at all other times).

The next issue of the Bulletin is due in Dec 1998. Articles (on PC computer disk if possible please) or other material to be considered for inclusion should be sent to Nottingham CND at the above address or e-mailed to the [redacted] Nov 2nd 1998.

Nottingham CND News

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make the Green Festival a success. It was a worthwhile day and we definitely made our presence felt with the brightly coloured banner made by Jeremy. The bric-a-brac stall and our usual stall managed to raise quite a lot of money as well as giving out leaflets and collecting signatures. It is an event like this that makes us feel our work is worthwhile and we can still be seen to be active. For the future please note we have organised a public meeting on 13th October which I hope you will attend. The stall will be going out, between 11am and 2pm at St. Peters Gate, on the following dates (depending on the weather):

September 26th

October 10th & 24th

White Poppy selling (dates to be de-

cided, probably Oct 31 & Nov 7)

November 14th & 28th

December 5th & 19th

If you can help on any of these dates, including the white poppy sale dates, please ring us on 0115 9588586.

The AGM this year is on November 1st; any resolution will be most welcome. The closing date for resolutions is October 29th - please send them to Box 33, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Remember this is the time when any problems or suggestions can be raised and a new committee formed. Nottingham CND is only as good as its members and will only be taken seriously if we are seen to aware and active. Please note any emergency resolutions can be brought to the AGM.

Diane Lunzer – Secretary

Nottingham CND Public Meeting

All local and national members and friends are invited to a talk and video showing by George Farebrother on Tuesday October 16th at the International Community Centre, 61b, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 7pm sharp.

Nottingham CND has invited George Farebrother of World Court Project UK to speak about **Roundtables** or **Citizens' Forums**. The aims of setting these up are:

- To inform people of the present situation, in law, of nuclear weapons in general and Trident in particular, in the context of recent progress towards nuclear weapons elimination.
- To encourage open and informed discussion of these issues – and to inform the Government of the results of such discussions.

George will describe how Citizens' Forums have been successfully established in various cities and will doubtless urge Nottingham and the East Midlands to join in. He has prepared leaflets explaining the Forums principle, and also a well-researched, 23 page colour information package: 'Nuclear Weapons Elimination' for use by participants in a forum.

As George stresses – "This isn't just a talking shop. The reports from the forums will go back to government. Regular meetings have now started with Tony Lloyd at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The minister has constantly stated that the Government is serious about achieving a nuclear-free world."

The talk by George promises to be a worthwhile and informative session which could well lead to interesting developments. Please try to come.

CND response to the Strategic Defence Review

After fourteen months Britain now has a nuclear weapons policy, it does not, however, have a nuclear disarmament policy that will make a difference. The announced cut in Trident warheads numbers of 50% is welcome but as usual the devil is in the detail. It may be 50% of the amount of nuclear weapons Britain intended to have a week ago but it is still three times more nuclear killing power than Britain had at the height of the Cold War.

Trident will still be three times more powerful, have twice the range and be four times more accurate than its predecessor, Polaris.

The Strategic Defence Review has failed to explain what role British nuclear weapons now have in Labour's 21st century Armed Forces and in what scenario Britain would actually consider using them?

What use will a British nuclear weapon be in a conflict of the sort going on in Kosovo, Bosnia, or Algeria? What use will a British nuclear weapon be in a crisis of the sort we saw in Montserrat or as a result of Hurricane Andrew or El Nino?

As former Chief of the Defence Staff, Lord Carver once said "Trident - what the bloody hell is it for?" There is no role for nuclear weapons in the world. There is no role for nuclear weapons in new Labour's vision of British Armed Forces capable of dealing with the potential threats of the 21st century.

Britain can no longer stand to one side and ignore its moral and legal obligations to work towards the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons. The world has changed and the Defence Review should not be explaining the reasons for retaining nuclear weapons, but explaining ways of abolishing nuclear weapons.

Britain should abandon nuclear weapons as a key component of its defence and foreign policy.

The Review has totally failed to respond to ever-increasing nuclear proliferation problems highlighted by the recent Asian nuclear crisis by continuing to place nuclear weapons at the heart of British defence and foreign policy.

The rhetoric on nuclear disarmament contained in the Review will mean very little unless it is followed up by some serious political action on the international nuclear disarmament stage.

The government is out of step with public opinion.

Opinion polls show that British public demand for nuclear disarmament is higher than ever. Furthermore, scrapping Trident would free up some £500 million per annum which could be better spent elsewhere - cutting hospital waiting lists or scrapping tuition fees.

If this Labour Government are serious about achieving a nuclear weapons free world they have to force the pace. They cannot be allowed to sit and display the meagre disarmament gestures of the previous Government as evidence of their commitment to nuclear disarmament.

There is ample potential for radical change in British nuclear weapons policy even

within the constraints of Labour's pre-election promises.

CND is calling upon this Labour Government to do more to meet its pre-election promises.

If Labour are truly serious about one day achieving a world free of nuclear weapons as a first step they should:

- Take Trident off 24-hour patrol;
- Remove all the nuclear warheads and place them in storage ashore;
- Call a halt to all plans to replace Trident;
- Declare, as promised before the General Election, a policy of "no first use" of nuclear weapons;
- Negotiate a non-discriminatory Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty;
- Agree to begin discussions on how to achieve global abolition under the auspices of an Ad-Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament at the Conference on Disarmament.

Rather than publishing a "Plan of Action" to reduce the world's nuclear arsenals down to zero, new Labour have published a "Plan of Action" to retain Britain's nuclear weapons come what may.

What you can do

On October 19th and 20th there will be a two day defence discussion/debate. Please write to:

- Your MP
- The Foreign Office - Rt Hon Robin Cook MP, Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AL.
- The Prime Minister - Rt Hon Tony Blair MP, Prime minister, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA.

Urge them to attend the Parliamentary Labour CND Briefing on the Strategic Defence Review on October 19th at 1pm.

Express your regret at the lack of any real initiative that has been taken in the Strategic Defence Review White Paper towards its stated aim of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Welcome the declarations of the defence stock of plutonium and highly enriched uranium as a long awaited transparency measure.

Seek an assurance that at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva the government will now agree to the South African proposal to: "... establish an Ad-Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament to deliberate upon practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons as well as to identify if and when one or more such steps should be the subject of negotiations in the Conference." And that this will be done as a matter of urgency.

Seek clarification on what the British government proposes to do now in order to kick start the seriously deadlocked international nuclear disarmament process.

Ask what happened to the manifesto pledge to "work for a negotiated, multilateral, no-first use agreement amongst the nuclear weapons states and strengthened security assurance to non-nuclear weapon states in the form of an international legally-binding treaty".

Propaganda for war

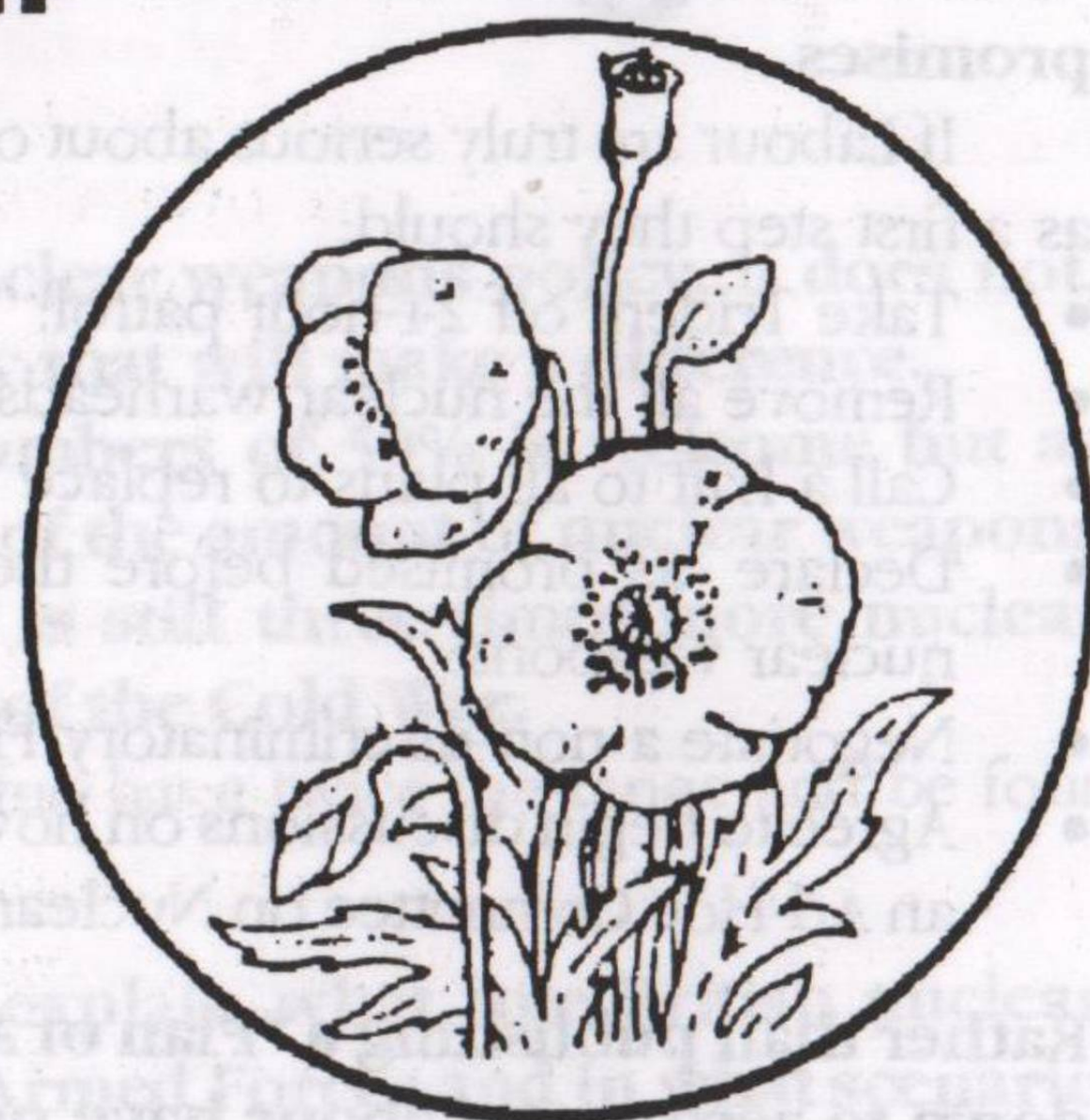
How Remembrance Day has recently been revived

For most young people Remembrance Day, if it crosses their horizon, is an incomprehensible event – something to do with red poppies and war. Until recently Remembrance Day has been, year by year, slowly fading from sight and public consciousness. Its original power and significance long gone and were it not for the British Legion it would have been consigned to history a long time ago.

For the BL however this is a major fund raising event and so, understandably, they will do all they can to keep it alive and 'productive'. In 1996 they revived the observance of two minutes 'national' silence to a bemused nation which did not respond with sufficient enthusiasm!

After criticism of unpatriotic behaviour especially of the BBC who decided against announcing it, in 1997 it was taken up with Orwellian enthusiasm. Loudspeakers in supermarkets, railway stations, airports (to puzzled travellers) and companies up and down the country asked people to stop and shut up for two minutes. Social pressure of this kind easily hides indifference which makes it easy for radio and television news and the press to announce that a two minutes silence was almost universally observed (with no supporting evidence of course).

The broadcasting event of 1997 – two minutes silence on all networks – was only overshadowed by an almost cancerous eruption of red poppies on our television screens. The spouted on the news not just in the studios but in politicians' lapels even if they were being interviewed on the other side of the world. No live event was without a screenful of red poppies. I did



not check but it would not have surprised me if the Teletubbies had worn red poppies as well.

Does all this matter? It matters if a seriously distorted view of history is being propagated side by side with a dubious system of values. It matters if, especially as now the British Legion are more actively targeting young people, they are being implicitly 'taught' that war is not only a justifiable but a proper and noble means of dealing with conflict.

We are sometimes criticised for 'bringing politics into a solemn, national ceremony'. But this is a criticism which inadvertently reveals the highly political (and incidentally commercial) nature of the present day remembrance. It is precisely its politics and sentiment which the White Poppy challenges. A wish for peace is about change and so inescapably a political issue – no more so than the lip service that mainstream remembrance supporters pay to the horrors of war while doing little to help with its elimination and all the while supporting the murderous status quo.

Taken from White Poppy News 1997

Simpson exposes price of arms stock

Labour MP Alan Simpson said yesterday that Britain could save over a billion pounds a year by scrapping its nuclear weapons programme.

He was speaking at the launch of a Parliamentary Labour CND publication - *British Nuclear Weapons; Too High a Price to Pay* - in which it appealed to the government for a radical rethink when the strategic defence review was published.

Mr Simpson said that now was the time for a "reverse nuclear proliferation," following the end of the cold war and before even more countries acquired weapons. He said that, since nuclear weapons cost Britain between £1 billion and £1.5 billion a year, tremendous gains could be made if this was converted into civilian spending. There would also be vast environmental gains from scrapping the weapons as nuclear waste was still piling up and space for storing it could run out by the Year 2000. A millennium dump was needed so that the nuclear waste could be stored safely.

Parliamentary Labour CND estimates that there will be over 6,000 tons of radioactive and toxic waste by the time that

Trident is due to retire. It says that, while the Labour government has taken the lead in arms control and disarmament issues in the last year, it had yet to take up opportunities over nuclear weapons.

"Nuclear disarmament has to be much further up the government agenda, particularly in the light of the ever increasing nuclear crisis in southern Asia and the current deadlock in the international nuclear disarmament process."

It proposed four concrete steps to show that Britain is serious about its nuclear obligations:

- Trident should be taken off 24 hour deterrence patrols;
- A policy of no-first use of nuclear weapons should be announced;
- Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty Talks should be rapidly agreed with the talks ensuring strict restraint on all types of fissile material including that of the nuclear-weapons states;
- Discussion of a global abolition of nuclear weapons treaty should begin at the UN conference on disarmament in Geneva.

Taken from the Morning Star, July 3 1998

US 'prepared for nuclear strikes on terror groups'

Nuclear strikes against terrorist groups armed with weapons of mass destruction are part of official doctrine, it was claimed yesterday.

"Non state actors" are included in a list of likely targets for nuclear strikes in a Joint Chiefs of Staff "Doctrine for joint Theatre Nuclear Operation", according to the British American Security Information Council (Basic), an independent research group.

The document states that "neither the law of armed conflict nor any other customary or conventional international law prohibits the use of nuclear weapons in armed conflicts".

Dan Plesch, director of Basic, said last night: "For the US to consider formally using nuclear weapons against non-state actors only serves to make the 'unthinkable' act of nuclear war more 'thinkable'".

Taken from the Guardian Aug 24 1998

Passing Through by Jeremy Jago

It was a sunny July 21st in Derby where Peacewalk 98 had paused on its way from Belgium to Scotland. The walk, organised by the group 'For Mother Earth', was routed to link nuclear sites and had participants from around the world. A small Nottm CND contingent (Diane and Jeremy) took the coach and met members including Jenny Maxwell of West Midlands CND at the stall in the town centre. Signatures were gained on the petition about India-Pakistan tests, and distribution of leaflets was helped by the wind. Walkers were there from Africa, India, Finland, France, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Germany. Several had joined recently: one was hitching around Europe, saw the Peacewalk and decided to join it. The response from passers-by at the stall was quite positive.

Later, we all travelled the few miles to the Rolls Royce works at Raynesway, Derby, outside whose front gates the walkers were camped. The works handles nuclear fuel elements for military submarine engines, and its lorries have long been an observation target of Nukewatch. The banner was again unfurled, explaining the purpose of the camp to passing car and truck drivers, many of whom gave horn blasts and gestures (both friendly) on the way past. Internal police staff viewed the proceedings impassively, secure in the knowledge that at least their tea urn boiled faster than ours.

The camp had settled there the day before, its next destination being Buxton. A walker from France, Serge, was a seasoned campaigner in several European countries: he very kindly invited UK members to his guest house when we are next passing. Rachel of Manchester CND gave interviews to local radio. Leafletting of

Rolls Royce workers began as they left the gates. The staff of the adjoining British Oxygen depot were very friendly and helpful, supplying drinking water for the camp. In early evening most of us left the camp for the city centre, to attend the public meeting at United Reform Church on Nuclear Transport in Derby.

At the hall Diane sprang into action, organising and stocking the tea room. Jenny opened by explaining how submarine reactor cores travel by road from storage at Aldermaston to Derby for processing, thence to Barrow-in-Furness and Devonport Rosyth for refuelling. The 'Special Nuclear Material Vehicles' look like furniture vans. They are a potential terrorist theft target, but the main danger is of fire in the event of accident, risking spread of radioactive material. The risks are surrounded by secrecy. Local authorities are not told of movements. Chief Constables are told, and if anything nasty happens may tell the fire brigade ... if they wish!

Juliet followed, explaining the work of Nukewatch, the network monitoring and researching the movements of nuclear materials. Sitting in a lay-by for hours in the early morning, day after day, she sights a convoy about every three months - distinctive by its sequence of police vehicles - rangerover - blue numbered lorries - rangerover - police. Containers have been followed to Derby and their unloading patterns observed, which Juliet described. Rachel reported the gaps in our knowledge. The uranium, for example, is reportedly a syrupy mess during much of its transport cycle - so must be fabricated - but where? Nukewatch argues that the secrecy aimed at protection from terrorism also denies the public the knowledge of

Passing Through (continued)



Members of Peacewalk 98 at Derby CND stall

hazards it might choose to prevent.

Krista from Holland spoke about the organisation 'For Mother Earth' which promotes alternatives to nuclear technologies. She has found organising walks an inspiring experience. In Byelorussia, an ex-Soviet state which sent its nuclear weapons back to Russia, she found an underground military village in a wooded area and later walked to see old missile silos, around which she found unemployed young people of many nationalities, all eager to talk about the end of the cold war.

Studying the non-proliferation treaty negotiations and meeting Pakistanis, Krista could see, ironically, their belief in their 'right' to test weapons if western deployment continues. She recalled entering a high security unit in Belgium and questioning staff. (Later note: Krista came to world attention at the end of the Peacewalk when she, along with other organisers, made an intrepid dive at Faslane, breaching security in the process of learning about military submarine instal-

lations. They are currently imprisoned awaiting trial. Incidentally, Jenny of West Midlands CND points out the extraordinary helpfulness, with one exception, of the police at Faslane. Many said to protestors "We're right behind you," though this kindness didn't extend to not nicking some of them. A member Sylvia said she found prison "all very pleasant" and her best stay so far.)

Krista described the current nuclear work at Derby as complicity in the means of genocide. The Ploughshares actions, she said, illustrate the disarmament ethic as pursued by ordinary people, non-violently. She told in detail the story of Hiroshima victim Sadako Sasake and her link with the paper crane peace emblem. The Dutch and Finnish walkers were adept crane folders.

The meeting concluded with each attendee introducing her or himself to the group and offering thoughts. A song from For Mother Earth members led into a circle dance involving everybody, ending a moving meeting and a worthwhile day.

Diary of a visit to Faslane

Friday 14th August

We set off to Faslane to join a mass protest against the Trident nuclear weapons. We had packed our camping equipment and were looking forward to meeting lots of like-minded people. As the permanent peace camp looked waterlogged we tried the site where we had camped two years before but we were stopped by the MoD police who told us it

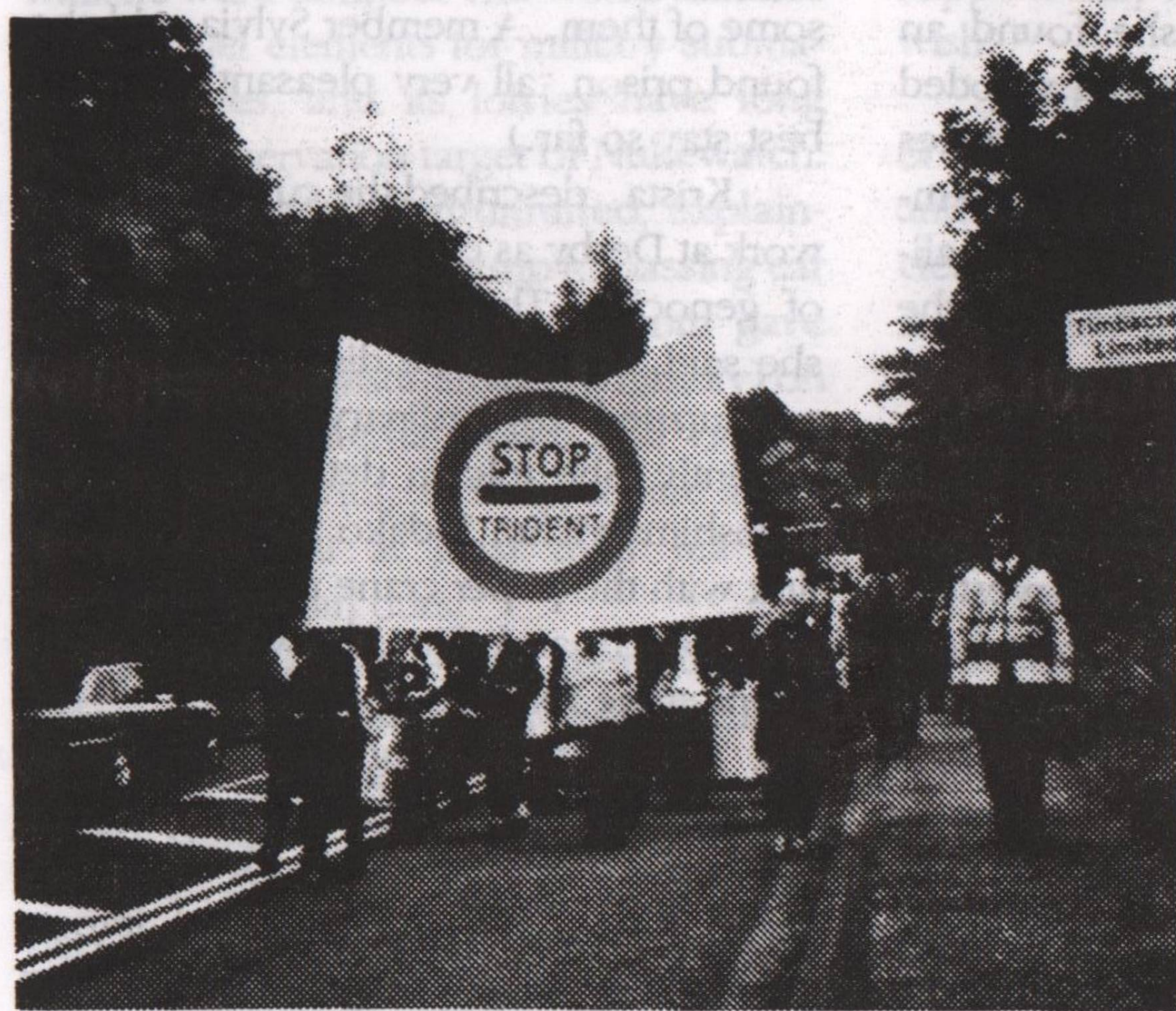
Saturday 15 August

A damp grey morning as Diane fixed breakfast for us. No sign of life on the loch, naval or civilian. After breakfast we set off for Helensburgh, stopping at the store in Garelohead en route for batteries for Diane's camera. The lady running the combined café and florist was keen to talk to us. She said a group of Trident Ploughshares 2000 people had stopped for tea the day before and it was interesting to

was now private Ministry of Defence land. After lunch we tried there again and were told it was ok by the local police but then the MoD police came along and ordered us off – and we were treated to the sight of the MoD police and Strathclyde police arguing amongst themselves. In the end we camped on some common land at Garelohead two miles up the road.

hear what they had to say; there developed quite a discussion in the café, she said. She also said that they only get the MoD angle in the village. We enjoyed our stint in Helensburgh, helping the local CND on their stall. They had cards calling for the cancellation of Trident addressed to the new Scottish Parliament which they were asking people to sign. The stall was quite well supported, they aim to have it

out about once a month they said. It was cold and windy on the pitch overlooking the loch but the rain held off. At lunchtime we drove back to the Peace Camp where a colourful crowd was assembling for the march to the base. I don't think it was as well supported as two years ago but it must be remembered that this was the culmination of over a week's sustained anti-Trident activity around the base. We were sorry to see the Scottish Nationalist party absent this year, the only Scottish mainstream political party



The anti Trident Demo

Diary of a visit to Faslane (continued)

at present with a completely anti Trident policy. Banners proclaimed groups from all over the country from Exeter to Govan, with many children scampering around holding small "Stop Trident" placards. There was a massive police presence of course, but quite friendly. At the rally at the North Gate of the base several speakers addressed their remarks to the police, reminding them that it is the goings on inside the base which is breaking the law, not the demonstrators. While the demonstration went on at the North Gate several arrests of NVDA (non violent direct action) people trying to breach the perimeter

Sunday 16th August

Rain stopped play! We had been hoping to stay an extra day but instead we packed up in the morning and headed

fences were made. A couple of bands and drums and whistles enlivened the occasion and on the fences nearby hung long banners covered in hundreds and hundreds of signatures from around the country – not of those of us who were able to be there but of those left behind who we represented. It does one's morale good to be in touch with others active like ourselves and it also has an impact on the local population. And make no doubt about it – those holding at present the reins of power take more notice of our demonstrations than they will ever admit.

back to the sunshine of Nottingham after what had proved an interesting, lively and definitely a memorable trip.

Thanks to Diane Lunzer and Marguerite Oldham, aided by their dogs Jake and Jean, for this report.



A dogs eye view of the police presence

Trident Ploughshares at Faslane

The decoys went first, near midnight, cutting fences and setting off alarms at Faslane naval base, home for Britain's four Trident nuclear submarines and their US-leased bombs. Then Krista, Katri and Rick, the three swimmers, set off from the other side of a calm Gareloch. Two Navy patrol boats passed within feet of them, one even catching the activists in their spotlights but not stopping. Carrying hammers and a five-litre can of sump oil and glue, the swimmers took 75 minutes to reach the six-foot high floating barrier that completely surrounds the Trident submarines. The authorities say that they spotted the swimmers at the barrier; the activists say they slipped through it with ease at its hinge points, and, barely pausing, swam nine tenths of the way from there to the Trident submarine which was moored against the dockyard.

Rick held back as the two women struck out for the sub. "We had three options," says Christa, "either to climb aboard, reach the conning tower and smash the radio equipment, get into one of the nuclear missile vents or damage its propellers." Rick says that if he had been wearing scuba gear he would have easily - and delightfully - thumped the sub's nose for 15 minutes. "I could have swum underwater and reached it but I decided that would not be honest".

They say they were only spotted 50 yards from the submarine's superstructure, or probably within 30 feet of its underwater bulk. "A woman ran to the alarm and picked up what looked like a machine-gun. More lights came on and a loudhailer started screaming," says Rick. "Within a few minutes about 50 people were running, singly and in groups, across the dockside."

The three were quickly hauled out of the water by men in a boat who even congratulated Rick for getting closer to Trident than anyone has. Three days later Krista and Katri, having been charged with malicious mischief and released on bail, repeated the action, swimming back, breaching the defences again and getting just as close.

Just when everyone thought the peace activists of the eighties had gone home and that the nuclear threat had abated with the end of the Cold War, a new generation of opposition is mounting. More sophisticated, more international and more determined than ever to damage instruments of mass destruction, they have learned from the veterans who marched and snipped their way into bases for years, and are using direct action and national and international courts to make their point that nuclear weapons are immoral, illegal and the greatest threat to the planet.

"The arms race is still going on. Other countries now have the bomb. Britain is escalating its nuclear capacity with Trident and the US is spending trillions of dollars developing micro-bombs and 'Star Wars' systems," says Angie Zelter of the Trident Ploughshares 2000 group, which has been camped at the base and launching actions against it for the last 10 days. Last year she and others broke into a British Aerospace arms factory and caused £1.5 million worth of damage by smashing the nose of a Hawk jet bound for Indonesia. They were acquitted by a Liverpool jury after pleading that they were stopping the greater crime of genocide.

"The fear went out of the arms race and there was a vacuum in the peace movement," Angie says. "Now it is joining

Trident Ploughshares at Faslane (continued)

with the environment movement and others. Many new people are joining us."

Camped on ground bought by a former Greenham Common woman from the Ministry of Defence, the 120 protesters come from 12 countries and include veterans of 80 as well as 16-year-olds. There are Edinburgh matrons, Quakers, people in wheelchairs, plummy East Anglians, mild-mannered Christian priests, Buddhists, European activists, former road protesters, community workers and locals.

Ninety-seven of them have signed a pledge not to carry weapons or engage in any physical or verbal violence, not to hide their identities, or run away from authorities, or engage in totally secret actions. Determined to get into the base and damage what they can, they talk of responsibility and citizenry facing up to "state violence" and an increasing non-accountability. "We are confronting a very violent system but they know we're not going to be violent," says Rick.

The fitter of them walked hundreds of miles from Brussels to get to the quiet Scottish backwater 50 miles from Glasgow. The local community, after fears of untidiness, noise and pollution, have been mostly appeased, possibly by the campers' puritanical abjuration of all alcohol or drugs on site.

"We see ourselves as fully and openly accountable," says Zelter, now detained in prison after breaking in to the base for a second time last week. The MoD and police have been given videos and lists of all their names, their intentions and the way they operate. But the authorities never quite expected the events of the last week: the protesters have thrown themselves against the base like demented fleas trying to get up the nose of a giant.

For the Christians in the group, it is a

David and Goliath act, with small acts of good trying to overcome what they see as the massive evil of nuclear weapons. For others, especially the young Europeans, it is a fairy-tale. Many refer to Tolkien, calling the nuclear base Mordor and themselves Hobbits trying to bring down the evil empire.

So far there have been more than 110 arrests of Hobbits, mostly for minor offences. Three Swedish priests have each been arrested three times. A classical musician was carted off for playing Bach and Gibbons in the road; two elderly women broke in to plant wild flowers; one group was arrested after walking up to the gates and saying they were weapons inspectors; another got short shrift for saying they were citizens' war crimes investigators. There have been mass arrests and vigils.

They have made Faslane and the neighbouring armament depot at Coulport, where the nuclear bombs are stored, look vulnerable. The perimeter wire has been cut dozens of times and the fearsome razor wire climbed using old carpets. Ten people from the long-standing Faslane peace camp down the road claim they broke in last week and played football for more than 45 minutes before being stopped. All say that the police and MoD have been unfailingly careful and polite, even if, they claim, they are offering to pay activists to spy on each other.

The last thing anyone fears is court. Indeed, what the Ploughshare peaceniks seek is a high-profile case, ideally in front of a jury, to test the validity of international law, which is still inconclusive when it comes to nuclear weapons. "Most people would try to evade the law. We say that we're within it and the Government is without," says Zelter. They claim the sup-

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Trident Ploughshares at Faslane (continued)

continued from page 13

port of most living Nobel peace laureates and many judges, bishops, churches and local groups.

They would like to test Britain against the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons, requested by the UN General Assembly. It recently declared nuclear arms to be "the ultimate evil ... destabilising humanitarian law" and added that "atomic warfare and humanitarian law appear to be mutually exclusive ... the existence of the one

automatically implies the non-existence of the other". But it is only a legal opinion and not a ruling.

"We say we are upholding international law. Britain only uses it to further its own ends. It uses these laws against Saddam Hussein or others, but when they are applied against it, it goes blank," says Zelter. Trial dates have been mostly set for November but the protesters say actions will be continued from now until 2000, unless Britain relinquishes its bombs.

Taken from the Guardian Aug 26 1998

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)

On Monday June 15th members of Nottingham and Derby Campaign Against Arms Trade gathered outside British Aerospace's gun factory on Queen's Drive in Nottingham. The protestors called on BAe to stop selling weapons to Turkey and Indonesia, countries with appalling records on human rights.

BAe has for many years supplied guns to the military regime in Indonesia, which is still illegally occupying East Timor, as well as Hawk aircraft and other weaponry. Recently this factory won a contract to supply arms to Turkey, seen by many as an 'incentive' for the UK as president of the EU to support Turkey's bid for membership.

Protestors draped banners from lampposts and the fences, posing the

question "Labour's ethical foreign policy... Hmmm..." The protest was enlivened by members of the Kurdistan community about twenty of whom sang and danced in front of the base. A short blockade caused cars to be diverted to other entrances as the Kurds asked the factory workers to stop helping the Turkish authorities to kill their people.

The protest was a visible witness by the busy main road, and was seen by all the workers leaving early to go home and watch the England world cup match against Tunisia.

If you want to know more about CAAT protests in Nottingham, contact Christine Curran [redacted] to Roger Morbey of Derby for that report.

Red Rambles 1998

Red Rambles are monthly guided walks, 5 - 8 miles in length, in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire for Socialists, Libertarians and Anarchists. There are walks on Sundays 20 Sept, 11 Oct, 22 November and 27 December. Phone 01773 827513 for more details.

The Circle Cafe 118 Mansfield Road

Visit for a cheap cuppa and pure vegetarian food.
Run by volunteers with all profits going to local activist groups.

Open Mon - Fri 10.30am - 5pm

A Peace Tent at Greenbelt

August Bank Holiday weekend saw the presence of a "Peace Tent" (marquee, actually) at the Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival which took place in Northamptonshire over August Bank Holiday weekend. Greenbelt attracts around 10,000 people - young and not so young - with a mixture of seminars, arts, stalls, music, discussion, and much more. The Network of Christian Peace Organisations, having successfully lobbied for an enhanced presence at this year's festival, invited Greenbelters to traverse their Peace Tunnel, a visual display highlighting different peace-linked issues such as landmines and the arms trade, pacifism, violence in the home and in society, non violent direct action, nuclear weapons and the threat to the environment.

A full programme of seminars and workshops in the Peace Tent helped festival-goers to consider their role in today's violent society and what they could do to promote change. Greenbelters were challenged to take seriously the call to be peacemakers within the context of their faith; debated the imperative of Christian pacifism with a pacifist Quaker academic and a national daily newspaper columnist of a different view; explored the church's

role in, and complicity with, racist violence; heard about Christian involvement in Trident Ploughshares 2000 actions at Faslane; actively participated in exercises from the Alternatives to Violence Project used by prisoners to become less aggressive; and explored the role of contemplation and prayer in the world and our sense of obligation to make the world a better place. An opportunity to write prayers for Ireland and daily worship to feed the spirit, a bookshop to feed the mind, and coffee and cakes to feed the body, all added up to an enriching experience, both for people like us who were involved in planning the whole event, and for those who visited the Peace Tent and helped us build a special space for peacemaking at Greenbelt.

We are members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a Christian pacifist organisation. Other groups involved in the Network of Christian Peace Organisations include Christian CND, Christian CAAT Network, Pax Christi and other denominational peace groups. For more information about any of these, or any of the above, please phone us. Mark and Sally Ramsey. [redacted]

Nottingham Clarion Choir

Nottingham Clarion Choir, a broadly 'left wing' choir who have often supported Nottm CND and sung at our Hiroshima Day event, are ten years old this year and celebrating with a "big do" at the Vine, Bobbers Mill Road, Radford, Nottingham on Sat 26th September 3.00 - 11.30pm.

There will be a 2 hour workshop, a 2 - 2½ hour social period, and then "The Cajun Bearcats" cajun band, a world disco, invited guests and general musical may-

hem in which invited choirs will be asked to sing a song. There will be a licensed bar and food (including vegan) throughout the day. Child care will be available until 6.30pm; accompanied children will be welcome in the evening.

The cost is £5 for the day, £3 concessions, children free. Please phone 0115 9606615 as soon as possible to book tickets.