

March 1983

SHROPSHIRE

PEACE NEWS ²⁰⁴⁵⁷

No. 2.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHROPSHIRE PEACE ALLIANCE

Alliance Report

28 people attended and seven of the Shropshire groups were represented. A short report of each groups plans and activities was heard.

Shrewsbury links with the Labour Party were being developed, and neighbourhood groups established. A "Women for Life on Earth" group has been formed and a Non-violent training day organised on Saturday March 12th.

Contact :- Shrewsbury 64157
Mike Pentz C.N.D. vice-chairman is speaking at Shrewsbury Tech on Friday 18th March at 8.00p.m.

Oswestry the group joined a motorcade on the first anniversary of the Welsh Nuclear Free Zone. The group is preparing for the canvass. Alan Tucker described in his report of the C.N.D. national council the progress made by the various specialist groups.

Bridgnorth Approaches had been made to the prospective Parliamentary candidates. Video films were being organised and shown in the villages to increase and stimulate membership in the rural areas.

Market Drayton 120 people attended a showing of the War Game and regular monthly meetings had been held, and a display placed in the local library.

New a showing of the Bomb has established the group which has met every two weeks. Plans include meeting prospective Parliamentary candidates, a carnival float, and interest had been expressed in attending the Youth Festival in London on May 7th (how about a Shropshire coach interested contact Charles Hobday Bettisfield 243)

Telford consists of three groups now Wellington, Broseley and Shifnal. A questionnaire had been circulated to the C/E ministers prior to the discussion at the National Synod - a Christian C.N.D. may be formed as a result.

Easter activities are being planned - a display, posters, leaflets, and a model cruise constructed. A meeting of Trade Unionists is planned for March 21st.
Contact : Peter Templeton Telford 503020

The following issues were discussed at the remaining part of the agenda :-
Trident cards - printed postcards were distributed to each representative.

Capenhurst coach from Shrewsbury to the March 6th Peace Chain was organised.

October demonstration each representative was encouraged to assess the support for booking a train and report back to Allen Day Bayston Hill 2435

Medical Campaign Harry Bury outlined the progress made since Dr. Lynne Jones visit. Seven doctors had met to pursue the campaign through the Community Health Council - any health worker wishing to join contact: Dr. Harry Bury 2 Swan Hill Shrewsbury.

Upper Heyford a blockade has been planned between May 31st and June 3rd. West Midlands day of action is June 1st and weekends were organised to train representatives for direct action.

Contact :- Birmingham 6909 or
Allan Day Bayston Hill 2435

Coaches to Greenham Seven coaches have been booked for details phone :-
Telford L. Otter Wellington 54728
Bridgnorth P. Muscatt Highley 861 082
Shrewsbury J. Day Shrews. 2435
Oswestry M. Clarke Osw. 50527

Contributions on the Freeze Campaign Elections, and the Police and Criminal (Evidence) Bill were discussed. The next meeting is to be held at College Hill House, Wednesday April 20th at 7.45p

Freeze Campaign

The purpose of the freeze is to stop the nuclear arms race as a preliminary to agreement between states on substantial reductions in nuclear weapons. It is a first step towards general disarmament. Peace and development groups in the U.K. are campaigning for a freeze on the research into and development, production, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons by all nuclear weapon states. In particular we believe that Britain, as well as the two super-powers, should halt its nuclear weapon programme.

continued

The campaign's aims:-

1. Underground nuclear tests should be suspended.
2. Freeze the testing, production and deployment of all missiles and aircraft.
3. The number of land and submarine based launch tubes for nuclear missiles should be frozen.
4. No changes to existing missiles or bomber loads.
5. A halt to the production of fissionable weapon grade material.
6. Production of nuclear warheads should be halted.
7. A ban on research and development of new weapons systems.

Could this be part of our campaign in Shropshire on a county wide declaration signed by prominent public figures? It could have a wide appeal and offer an opportunity to work with many Church, development/aid groups.

Anyone interested in helping to develop this idea contact:

Mike Gilmore Dorrington 603

A letter a week

Ten persons who speak make more noise than 10,000 who are silent, said Napoleon. Ten persons who write letters are doing more for peace than 10,000 well-meaning sympathisers who sign heavily as they see the endless preparations for war.

If you imagine the writing letters is a pussy-footing way of tackling the supporters of the War Movement, then you haven't caught up with the world of pressure groups. Each and every one of you has the chance to strike a personal blow for the Peace Movement, and a chance to do it again and again and again. A chance to challenge your M.P., every Government minister, every newspaper or magazine, the B.B.C., I.T.V., the Church - every organisation in the land. Half an hour a week. Try it. The Government are stepping up their propaganda. We must step up ours. And after the first half a dozen letters, you will be an active letter-writing campaigner in addition to your other activities in the Peace Movement.

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Members interested in information sheets (ideas on organising, useful addresses, copies of letters) which could be useful to letter-writers should write to the address below. A donation of 50p (12½p stamps) would help.

An S.A.E. need not be sent.

Bill Westall 10 Kingswood Rd., Shrewsbury.

Urgent Action

The Government has introduced a new Police And Criminal Evidence Bill which they hope to rush through Parliament before Summer 1983. This Bill gives the Police sweeping new powers which will be used arbitrarily and unjustly, and result in wrongful conviction of innocent people. Public relations will worsen as a result. As far as C.N.D. is concerned the sections allowing road blocks to be set up anywhere for one week without a warrant could be used to disrupt a demonstration and in addition new powers of arrest, detention and seizure of records suggest an ominous future for campaign organisations. We must act quickly to stop the Bill becoming law. Write to your M.P. at the House of Commons London S.W.1. Also write to any Peer at the House of Lords to oppose it. Writing letters to the press, radio and television and raising the issue through local groups of political parties, trade unions, local authorities, public meetings and private discussions will increase public awareness.

The National Council of Civil Liberties has information which can be obtained from:-

NCCL, 21 Tabard Street,
London SE1/4LA.
Tel. 01 - 403 3888

MARCH

10th Broseley - Duke of York 8.00p.m.

12th Shrewsbury - Nonviolent
Direct Action Training day
Berrington.

12th Shrewsbury - Ceilidh 8.00p.m.
RAOB club, Ellesmere Rd.
Entrance £1.20

* 16th Wellington - Buisness mtg. 7.30p.m.
130 Watling Street.

18th Shrewsbury 'No Cruise' 8.00p.m.
Mike Pentz, Shrews. Tech.

* 21st Telford - Trade Union mtg. 7.45p.m.
Foresters Arms, Union St.
Hadley.

* 22nd Telford Chain Reaction - 7.30p.m.
20 Calcott Stirchley.

26th Shifnal Street Theatre 10.30a.m.

30th Bridgnorth - Q.E.D. 8.00p.m.
Armagedan, - Ditton Priors
Village Hall.

31st Womens Blockade of Greenham
mixed blockade of Burghfield.

APRIL

1st Human chain Aldermaston, Greenham,
Burghfield (Coaches from Telford,
Bridgnorth Shrewsbury and Oswestry)

2nd Demonstration in Glasgow.

14th TANG buisness mtg. Dawley 7.30p.m.
Info Centre.

20th Shropshire Peace Alliance 7.45p.m.
College Hill Hse. Shrews.

20th & Telford W.E.A. course 7.30p.m.

27th Defence V Public spending.
Dawley Info. Centre.