

January 1981

Chain Reaction

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No. 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD CAMPAIGN FOR FREEDOM FROM THE NUCLEAR THREAT.

Sponsored Bikers

The New Year is starting with many new events in the Telford campaign against the Nuclear Threat. One of the most unusual of these is a sponsored motorcycle ride across France. This will raise money for the Campaign and - with the aid of leaflets in French - make contact with people in France who oppose nuclear weapons. Dave and Karen Fox are combining the sponsored trip with their honeymoon. They will ride 2000 miles staying in campsites, starting on St. Valentines Day from their wedding reception in High Erroll. The couple have received some discount on equipment from Telford Motorcycles for the expedition. We hope everyone will support this event and we must thank Karen and Dave for offering this novel way of raising funds and making contacts abroad. Get sponsorship forms from the contact points or at the Thursday night meetings.

Colourful Message

Since the last 'Chain Reaction' the Campaign has caused quite a stir amongst Christmas shoppers at the Town Centre and Wellington. More than 30 people helped over the three days to remind people to put the Christmas peace message into practice. Colourful peace banners in many languages attracted passersby who were handed leaflets. The group is convinced that this is only the first step in developing dramatic public performance to bring the demand for peace out from our private hopes and onto the streets in exciting events.

The biggest task

70 people came to Dawley Christian Centre on the 17th of January to see a CND film 'All against the Bomb' and hear a talk from Jack Shepherd of the West Midlands CND. His realistic and inspiring talk led to a good discussion and reminded us that, while the struggle for peace is a big task - the biggest task, together we can unite to form a flood of opinion which no government can resist. Every week each family in Britain pays more than £8 to government arms expenditure. Many thousands of people are working full time in preparation for war, either in the Army or in firms making weapons. We must match their effort in our opposition. We stand as David against the Goliath of the war machine!



1000 000 000
Signatures

Yes, a thousand million or a fifth of the world's population. That is the aim of the biggest petition ever, organised by the World Disarmament Campaign. The petition will be presented to the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in 1982 to demonstrate the world-wide force of opinion.

The petition was publicly launched on 1st January 1981. In this country it will be collected by house-to-house visiting of the entire country. This will make sure that everyone has the opportunity to sign. If anyone would like to help by collecting signatures, drop a postcard to the World Disarmament Campaign, 21 Little Russell Street, London WC1.

It's an enormous task, but disarmament is an enormous problem.

DIARY OF EVENTS.

- Every Thursday at 7.30pm, Workshop/meeting at 126 Withywood Dr, Malinslee.
- February 14th, Dave and Karen leave on sponsored motorcycle ride.
- March 5th & 7th, 'the War Game' at Madeley Court and Oakengates Town Hall.
- February 7th, Christian Council debate. 2.30pm Malinslee House.
- February 21st, Jumble Sale at Dawley Christian Centre. Jumble to Paul Wolfe or The Rectory, Malinslee.
- March 11th and 12th, Peace Caravan in Telford organised by the Quakers - details later.
- April 18th-20th CND Midland Festival and Rally.
- Disco and discussion to be arranged soon as separate events.
- April/May, campaign to make disarmament an issue in County Council elections.

BEAT THE CLOCK!

How many times have you seen Wonder Woman or the Bionic Man rescue someone strapped to a bomb at the last minute and hurling it away to explode safely? Well, the Earth is strapped to a huge pile of nuclear weapons and scientists in America have estimated that the clock is set at 4 minutes to Nuclear Midnight (last year it was 7 minutes to 12). The trouble is that this bomb could never be exploded safely no matter how far it was thrown and there are no superheroes around. The pile of weapons has to be dismantled and it takes thousands of people all over the world to do it. The minutes are ticking away. Next year it could be 1 minute to midnight. The time to act is now - we have only 4 minutes to save the Earth!

Peace Caravan

The evening of March 11th. will bring a visit to Telford from the Quaker Peace Action Caravan. This is literally a caravan housing a whole range of display and information aids which are used as a catalyst for local peace group activities. For this meeting the group will concentrate on the use of basic information packs especially suitable for newly formed groups. The group stress that they are not preaching a religious line, but are another vehicle in the drive for peace. Venue to be announced.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Paul Wolfe, Ivy House, Chapel St.,
Dawley. Phone 501218.
Peter Templeton, 125 Withywood Dr.,
Malinslee, Phone 503020.
Tony Edwards, 5 Cherrington, St-
rchley. Phone 590086.

Now MEETING
EVERY THURSDAY!

