

March '83

Chain Reaction

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No. 28

APRIL 83.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUPS.

Note the times given in the last Chain Reaction are now changed, the coaches will run an hour earlier.

Easter Message

Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies it remains only a single grain; but if it dies it yields a rich harvest". Thus, St. John sums up the mystery of Good Friday and Easter, the truth of Jesus dying and rising, moving through costly sacrifice to new life.

To those who commit themselves to Jesus' way, to the patient out-working of love, Easter may bring to birth the conviction that love may defeat hatred, goodness, evil.

The way of Jesus proclaims God's single human family and causes us to examine the contrasting styles of life and opportunities of fulfilment that exist within that family.

Most of all, Jesus' way demonstrates that love comes to us to call and beckon but never to cajole or brow-beat.


The only power with which Jesus was armed was that of humble, serving love. And that love is the only weapon at God's disposal now. He will let it be used through the lives of his children. Easter gives us the hope and the confidence we need to be agents of that love in renewing the life of mankind.

R.H.

Christian C.N.D.

An exploratory meeting to discuss the formation of a local Christian C.N.D. group will be held on Tuesday 3rd May at 7.30 p.m. at New Street Methodist Church, Wellington; It has been suggested that such a group might help to extend the local involvement of the Churches in the peace movement. If such a group were to be formed it would have limited aims along these lines and would not attempt to provide an alternative to TANG etc.


Horticultural. C.N.D. Graffiti.

In an attempt to get the CND issue into peoples minds, some members of TANG decided that it would be helpful to have a large  symbol in a place where a lot of people would see it.

Three of us went down to the large town centre island where there is a big grass mound with flag poles on it. In the pouring rain and wind, we scattered grass fertilizer around in the shape of the symbol. The fertilizer is the sort that changes the colour of the grass within a couple of days.

As we were leaving, a police car pulled up and told us that a T.D.C. landscape gardener had reported what we were doing. We were taken in for questioning and it looks as though T.D.C. will prosecute if the grass changes colour.

The police didn't seem very concerned about what we had done, but they were a bit annoyed that we had created some paper work for them.

Making big  symbols will not stop the bomb, but if there are lots of them in prominent places, at least it keeps it in people's minds. Maybe we should do something more permanent next time.

Trade Unions and C.N.D.

The first meeting in Telford was attended by a small number of Trade Unionists but an interesting discussion developed and plans made for future action.

We agreed to pursue our activities on two levels through the district committee's of Trade Unions, and a personal approach to Trade Unionists to develop communications at local factory floor level.

Suggestions included an approach to the Trades Council. A letter to employers to show films in factories at lunch times. Distribute leaflets at factory gates to the workforce.

We agreed to plan for a second meeting in May - for details contact:-

Peter Templeton Telford 503020

Warren Hawksley helps C.N.D.

Wrekin M.P. Warren Hawksley is, as our readers will know, a vehement supporter of nuclear weapons. So great is his nuclear enthusiasm that, when the Rev. Roger Hill recently asked him to table a Parliamentary question about whether nuclear arms are stored at C.O.D. Donnington Mr. Hawksley exploded and said rather more than was wise Warren declined to ask the Parliamentary question on the grounds that the matter was an official secret. Furthermore he told the Shropshire Star:

"As far as I can see, he" (the Rev. Hill) "is trying to use Donnington for his own personal views in opposing nuclear weapons. I believe that in doing so he is endangering quite a lot of jobs..... I don't believe we should risk any of the thousands of jobs the depot gives us."

Mr. Hawksley really ought to have consulted the depot authorities before saying anything. The official line up till now has been that there are no nuclear weapons jobs at the C.O.D. Donnington. When, in 1981, a heavily guarded nuclear convoy was spotted travelling through Newport, a Donnington garrison spokesman said the depot did store radioactive materials, but only for use in training. "We are just one of most units that have sources of these insignificant yields. They hardly show up but it is enough for a soldier to be trained in the equipment he would take to war" he explained. (Telford Journal 24/4/81)

However it is understandable that Mr. Hawksley assumed that the nuclear facility at Donnington was just an ordinary official top secret, rather than the sort of official top secret that need to be protected by official lies. More than two years ago KING was told about a security clampdown at the base when part of a warhead was mislaid. More recently we have received reports about radioactive materials from naval missiles at Donnington, and the presence of American military personnel in the base's high security nuclear section. Donnington was listed as the site of a presumed nuclear stockpile in Duncan Campbell's book 'War Plan U.K.'

Trade Unionists at Donnington say they have been threatened with long jail sentences under the Official Secrets Act if they give information about the nuclear arms there.

There will be a picket of C.O.D. Donnington on April 8th to protest against the bases nuclear involvement. Meet outside the main gate (opposite Wrekin Drive on the Wellington Road) at 11.30 a.m.

Broseley C.N.D.

A dozen members of Broseley CMD recently attended the annual meeting of the Broseley Parish Council. This is the one meeting a year at which the public are entitled to request topics for discussion and to speak. At a previous council meeting it had been decided to ask one of our members to put forward his/her views on emergency planning and also to invite one of the Shirehall Emergency Planning team to speak. However, the latter refused, and at the next council meeting the invitation to us (which the Clerk of the Council had neglected to send) was rescinded.

Our next step as residents of Broseley, was to write to the council requesting that emergency planning be placed on the agenda. Broseley Labour Party also placed the same request.

The result was that Mr. Alec West, chairman of the Broseley Emergency Planning Committee (a group of 5 Parish Councillors) spent 15 minutes explaining the work of his committee, leaving as little time for our questions as possible (no statements from us were allowed). Using information from the County Warbook, he assured us that there were no targets in Shropshire and the nearest possible one was Birmingham. We would only be exposed to danger from radiation as long as we stayed in our homes for two weeks we would be perfectly safe. His committee would organise supplies of pure water, food and medical treatment. Refugees too would be fed and sheltered (by billeting).

When we replied with conflicting information from government sources such as Square Leg, Protect and Survive, the Police Manual, etc and with pertinent question, we were heavily criticised for our lack of public spirit and for being (unlike them) unwilling to help the people of Broseley. Attending that meeting, so marked by blindness, ignorance and prejudice was one of the most chilling experiences I have ever had, It was taken completely for granted by the Parish Council that a nuclear war would occur in the next few years, and as one old dear put it: "We coped in the last war and we'll cope with the next." Several BCND members have now decided to stand as candidates in May elections.

March 26th	Medical arguments against the Bomb. New St. Methodist Church Wellington.	7.30p.m.
April 8th	Donnington Picket.	11.30a.m.
April 13th	Preliminary mtg. for direct action at Upper Heyford on June 1st.	7.30p.m.
April 18th	Wellington business meeting, 130 Watling Street,	7.30p.m.