

# Chain Reaction

20625

No 31

JULY '83 NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUPS

## Peace Canvass

Broseley CND made a start on the Peace Canvass during April and plan to resume now the election is over. Its most useful function would seem to be the opportunity to talk to people individually. The overriding impression received by canvassers was of genuine concern about nuclear weapons coupled with ignorance and confusion. People are being bombarded with information and propaganda but many of them either turn off because it is too horrific to contemplate or just end up perplexed by all the contradictory points of view.

We encountered very little hostility and most people were prepared to talk about the issues. Many commented that our visit had made them think. Others we managed to reassure about our intentions and the consequences of renouncing nuclear defence.

Of the small sample completed, there was a large majority against Cruise and Trident, about 35% wanting to get rid of American bases and 25% for unilateral disarmament. More than half saw it as an important issue in the general election. However, there were many 'don't knows' for every question and many answers which completely contradicted each other, registering the respondents' confusion.

## T.A.N.G. local contacts

- David Smith 23 Telford Road, Dawley.
- Laurens Otter, College Farm House, Mill Lane WELLINGTON. 54728.
- Barbara Lamplugh 35 Simpsons Lane, BROSELEY. 88 2225.
- Peter Nias 48 Victoria Road, MADELEY. 587532
- Carey Robinson, SHIFNAL. 461120.
- Maria Wakeley, DAWLEY. 594842.

Telford Women's Peace Group,  
20, Iris Crescent,  
Wrockwardine Wood.

(58193)

Wrockwardine

## Wellington Anti-Nuclear Group.

WANG meets at 130 Watling St., chaired/hosted by Mary Brickett, next meeting on 20th July, at 7.30 P.M..

WANG intends when TANG next hires ND films to show it/them in Leegomery or thereabouts, & in the Donnington-Trench-Wrockwardine Wood area, anyone with suggestions for suitable halls please notify secretary.

We will be holding a barbecue/social to raise money (cf letter from TANG attached to this Chain Reaction) on the 3rd of September.

We intend in the Autumn to launch a mass canvass of the area (though members do not like the word, but as yet have not found an alternative,) & preparing for this, as for the film shows a pilot canvass in Leegomery in the Summer.

Those willing to help plan the canvass (pilot or main), or to volunteer for doing it, please contact Laura Horton (tel.) 3601

Enquiries to secretary - Laurens Otter (tel.) 54728

## Chester Spur-March for Life

(see Broseley Gp. for Oswestry Spur)

WANG will be hosting the Chester Spur of the March for Life on July 25th. The spur march - expected hard core about 70 people - will combine lunch with demonstrating at the Civil Defence & RAF base at Shawbury. Jonathan Cattell (093.924.628) is arranging place & availability of food.

The March will then come on to sleep in an hall in Wellington.

WANG, besides wanting volunteers to help at Shawbury will want people to help provide food in the evening, to help clean the hall after the marchers leave; also as there may be foot-weary marchers or luggage wants transport available from Shawbury to Wellington.

Cherie & Joe Spiteri (tel.) 52433 are co-ordinating this generally, though food in Wellington for the evening of the 25th is being organized by Charlotte Walsh, (Gt. Bolas 378).



# Bound over

"CND symbol 'could have caused battle'" was the headline in the Shropshire Star after the court case concerning the symbol made by members of TANG who sprinkled fertiliser on a T.D.C. grass mound. Despite initially claiming that we had caused Criminal Damage to the mound, the police as prosecution, decided that they would drop the charge allowing us to simply be bound over.

The Star headline was based on the speech made in court by the prosecution who said that making a ☸ symbol could have caused people of a different point of view to "take the law into their own hands". We, they assumed, would fight back leading to a serious breach of the peace which could have been called the "battle of the Carrefour mound".

As we had not been found guilty of damage, the logical explanation is that the symbol itself was the thing that was likely to cause a breach of the peace. So now it seems that anyone who even wears a CND symbol or displays one in their window or on their car can be arrested for behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace!

Anyway, after telling us how extremely fortunate we were to be living in a democracy, the magistrates bound us over for two years for the sum of £200.

## Defending Freedom?

The El Salvador Committee for Human Rights is organising a mass lobby of the American Embassy on the 5th July, opposing the continuation of American military aid to El Salvador.

The International Security and Development Cooperation Act makes this aid conditional on six monthly reports showing that the Salvadorean government is making progress in the fields of human rights and social reform.

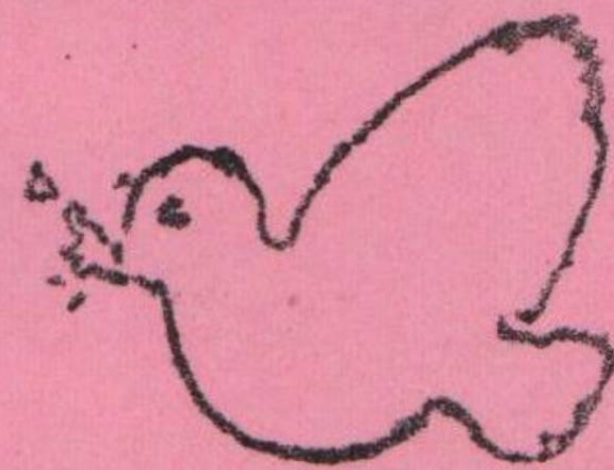
Despite many reports from El Salvador that the situation is worsening with abductions and disappearances continuing at an alarming level, the Reagan administration looks certain to approve the continued aid.

The lobby will be between 11a.m. and 2p.m. If you cannot join the lobby, write to the Ambassador, His Excellency the Honorable John J. Louis Jr., U.S. Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London W1 and/or phone the Embassy (01 499 9000) on the 5th between 10a.m. and 5p.m. expressing your concern. If phoning, ask to speak to one of the following Embassy officials- John Lopez, Katherine Hart, Harvey Clew, Robert Johns, Barbara Bowie.

# JUMP FOR PEACE

Dave Hopkins writes that he has done his sponsored parachute jump and raised about £85 for Greenpeace. He says that the experience was memorable, vivid, physically demanding, exhilarating, etc and that jumping backwards from the outside step of an air-plane travelling 70m.p.h. at 2000 feet is the perfect cure for constipation. He says that the whole thing was relatively painless and he hopes to be back on his feet very soon.

**CO-OPERATION  
NOT COMPETITION**



## Letter - feminist gibberish

I'm prompted to right this after reading some gibberish in the latest issue of Chain Reaction. It seems that there is some suggestion that being a warmonger is synonymous with being male and that nuclear disarmament is a woman's role. I see no sense in taking a moral issue such as disarmament, and making it a feminist issue. I have encountered entrenched attitudes from men and women and Mrs Thatcher, assuming she is human, would appear to be a woman. Let's not attach any exclusion clauses to disarmament - men / women / whites / blacks / etc only - these prejudices can only harm our cause.

Dave Hopkins.

## Dates

Tues 5th July SPECIAL T.A.N.G. meeting to discuss The Way Ahead (see article). Dawley Information Centre - 7.30.

Friday 8th July TANG jumble sale, Fletcher Memorial Centre - 6.30.

Tues 12th July TANG business meeting, Dawley Information Centre - 7.30.

Sat 16th July TANG Bar-B-Que, 15 Fellows Close, Little Dawley from 4.30 p.m. £1.50 waged, 75p unwaged, 50p children.

Wed 20th July Shropshire Peace Alliance Lakeroom, Morris Hall, Bellstone, Shrewsbury. 7.30p.m. S.P.A. co-ordinator- Paul 501218.


Wed 20th July W.A.N.G. meeting, 130 Watling Street, Wellington - 7.30.

Thur 21st July Broseley CND meeting, Duke of York 8.00.

Thur 26th July Chain Reaction production meeting, Dawley Information Centre - 7.30.



# TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUP



Dear

The group has been in existence for nearly three years, during which time we have attempted to focus attention on the futility of the arms race.

During the week prior to the election, we distributed nearly 30,000 leaflets throughout Telford with the help of other peace groups in Shropshire. The leaflet which we produced locally cost us ninety-six pounds.

We need your help! If every reader of Chain Reaction supports the campaign by contributing at least one pound, we will be able to clear this particular debt and also assist those members of the group who were arrested at Upper Heyford in June.

We obviously need to continue the campaign in the post election period and to do this, we must raise financial contributions from our friends and supporters. Please send your donation to our Treasurer:

Peter Templeton, 125, Withywood Drive, Malinslee, Telford,  
or contact one of the following with your donation:

Paul Wolfe, Ivy House, Chapel Street, Dawley.

Maria Wakeley, 15, Fellows Close, Little Dawley.

Barbara Lamplugh, 35, Simpsons Lane, Broseley.

David Smith, 23, Telford Road, Dawley.

Laurens Otter, College Farm House, Mill Lane, Wellington.



## AFTER THE ELECTION - WHICH WAY AHEAD?

In just three years the peace movement has managed to put the issue of nuclear disarmament firmly on the lips and minds of people in everyday life. While the general election may have been a setback for practical disarmament, it should be seen in the wider context of changes in society.

Never before have so many been elected by so few. The two thirds of people in the UK who did not vote for the government must have some reservations about present life in Britain. The growth of so many social movements in the 70's and 80's indicates this dissatisfaction. For example, movements for peace, women, blacks, ecology, devolution and local democracy. These movements will not go away simply because of one election: their roots are embedded in society and will continue to grow.

### What Defence Policy?

But why did people not vote for disarmament? Of course, many did especially with a clear majority of Wrekin voters (namely Labour & SDP) voting against Trident. However, Labour party canvassers in the Wrekin found on the doorstep that, of all the issues, Labour's defence policy caused the most uncertainty amongst their own supporters, let alone other people. The deep national and local concern and active protest on Cruise and Trident was largely ignored by all parties. Instead, the image of 'one-sided disarmament' caused voting splits.

### Discussion

At national level it seems that 'defence' has been made to equal 'nuclear weapons' alone. So what do we in our local groups and as individuals now do to counteract this nuclear menace? The rest of this article puts forward some broad ideas for discussion, especially for the special TANG meeting on July 5th Tuesday at Dawley Information Centre at 7.30pm. Although we do not expect a definitive blueprint for the next few years to come out of it, it is necessary to review where we are and what we should now do.

### People

Bruce Kent of CND said after the CND rally following the election that "our basic task is still to inform all sorts of people". It was obvious now, he said, that "some things are more possible, immediate priorities than others". These could be Cruise, Trident and the Nuclear Freeze he thought. Polaris was not worth taking on as it would sink anyway.

### Initial Tasks

Whether or not one adopts these priorities, our initial tasks locally may include:

a) to attempt to undo the harm done to the peace movement on the 'defence of the realm' issue. This may involve campaigning very much on the more immediate weapons of Cruise and Trident for the moment. At the same time, we would need to investigate the non-nuclear defence situation with a view to establishing a practical alternative defence which, in the longer term, would not turn people off 'on the doorstep'.

b) to concentrate on informing 'all sorts of people' but especially younger people who may be despairingly searching for ways that they can turn for a more hopeful future.

c) to investigate the problem of jobs related to military spending. If, for example, we are trying to persuade people of the wisdom of non-nuclear defence, it will probably be difficult to also campaign to reduce arms spending in general. However, the subject needs consideration as arms spending is increasingly using scarce resources which are also needed elsewhere.

### Actions for TANG

To carry out these suggested aims, we should perhaps concentrate on:

i) make substantial efforts to increase Chain Reaction circulation, including through articles in the Wrekin Report and elsewhere, especially amongst young people.

ii) to form more local groups, whether formal or informal. Such groups could specialise in certain aspects if so desired.

iii) TANG should be maintained and enhanced to provide links between groups, production of Chain Reaction and co-ordination of area-wide events.

iv) TANG to design and carry out (with the help of others) <sup>a series of</sup> specific plans, over a limited time scale, which should result in the achievement of the agreed aims.

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This is a discussion article for a TANG meeting on Tuesday July 5th at Dawley Information Centre at 7.30pm. Ideas and comments both before and after that meeting will be welcome to any of the contacts below. In any case, guidelines decided upon will obviously not exclude subsequent thoughts that people may have.

**David Smith 23 TELFORD ROAD,  
DAWLEY.**

*General agreement*

*20 attended!*