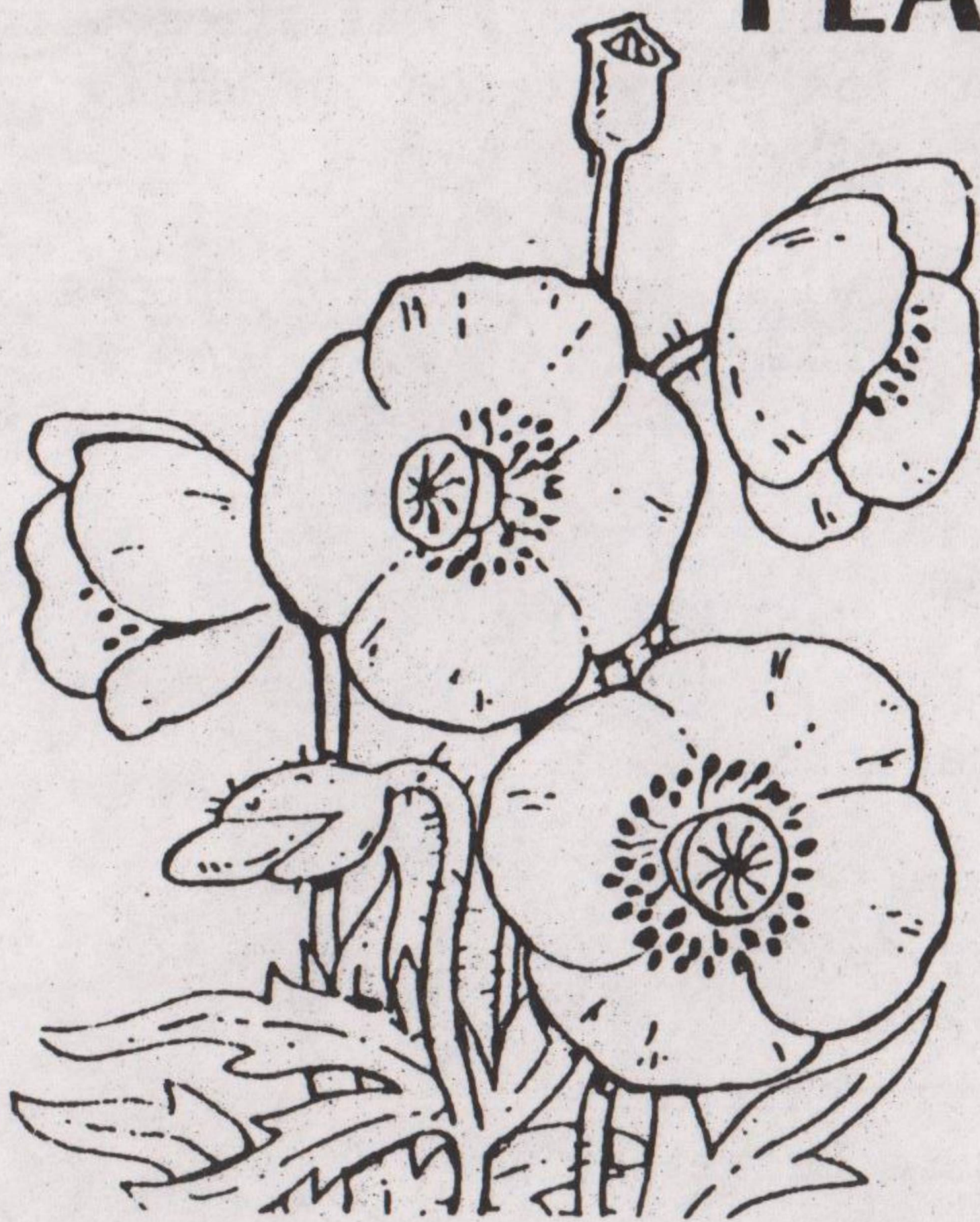




NOV. 88

NO. 91

**White
Poppies
for
PEACE**



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FOR ALL THOSE

- who have died or are dying in wars
- who have died or are dying because resources that could have fed or housed them have gone to war preparations instead.
- who will die until we learn to live in peace.

WHEN SHALL WE EVER LEARN ?

WHITE POPPIES

The Peace Pledge Union has again produced white poppies to wear on remembrance day on their own or with a red poppy (Red for remembering the past, white for hope for the future). Barbara has some for sale, buy them at the AGM or phone her on Telford 598452.

TANG'S 1988 A.G.M.

The 1988 A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday 9th November in Meeting Point House in Telford Town Centre.

All subscribers to CHAIN REACTION are welcome. Please come and air your views whether you are satisfied with TANG as it is or opposed to the current way of doing things, or hold any position in between.

The literature stall will be open for books, leaflets, badges, Christmas cards etc. at 7.30 p.m., coffee and tea will be available then. The business meeting will start at 8.00 p.m..

A G E N D A

1. Chair's opening remarks.
2. Reports:
 - Secretary's
 - Treasurer's
 - Publicity Secretary's
 - Literature Secretary's
3. Peter Nias will introduce a discussion on the proposals to change TANG's name and future role. (Any concrete motion on change of role or name will be taken at this point).
4. Elections.
5. Any special extra business occasioned by 3.
6. A.O.B. and adjournment.

PRISONERS FOR PEACE

Chain Reaction readers may remember from our April edition a call for action following the imprisonment of Ivan Toms, who refused to serve in the South African Defence Force.

We have since recieved news that a second South African Conscientious Objector has been imprisoned for refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force. He recieved the maximum sentence of six years.

David Bruce sees clear parallels between the South African situation and the persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany - his mother came to South Africa in 1939 as a Jewish refugee, and 12 members of his family were killed in the holocaust. "Being aware of how European Jews - and in fact the entire people of Eastern Europe - suffered during the period of the holocaust, I feel I have no choice but to set myself against those who choose the path of increasing racial intolerance and racial hatred."

Support for David Bruce : c/o Box 537, 2100 Kengray, Johannesburg, South Africa. Further information available from The Committee on South African War Resistance, BM Box 2190 London WC1.

Information from A Pinch of Salt.
(Christians interested in
Anarchism)



KATYA KOMISARUK SUPPORT GROUP, LONDON

Katya Komisaruk got five years for hammering a NAVSTAR computer system in the States. As well as a couple of support group in the States, there is now one based in London. They have just brought out their first newsletter. Katya called her action "The White Rose" after a group of young Germans who were executed for their resistance to Nazism.

For a copy of the newsletter, and how to join the support group send three second class stamps to: White Rose Support Group, c/o Milan Rai, YCND, 22/24 Underwood Street LONDON N1

Nuclear Royalty

We have frequently had occasion to admire the heroic way Australians & New Zealanders have resisted nuclear weapons in their part of the South Pacific. Indeed this has recently been manifest in the way that the Ark Royal has been prevented from entering harbour, because the navy was not prepared to give guarantees that it was not breaking Australian law by carrying nuclear weapons into Australian ports.

It is therefore with some sorrow that we see the Australian government repeal that ban, on what is almost certainly a nuclear ship, simply because that ship also happened to carry a member of the British royal family.

For those who believe in constitutional niceties, the position is, or ought to be, that the Queen in Australia is first & foremost Queen of Australia; that there she & her family have as a first duty the job of upholding Australian law; for one of that family to be a party to an underhand breach of that law performed by agents of the U.K. government, ought to be considered a despicable break with democratic practice.

In fact this is by no means the first time that royalty has been used to whitewash "The Bomb"; (for instance at the height of campaigns in the East Midlands in the late Fifties to prevent the establishment of rocket bases, there was a highly publicised Royal trip;) which confirmed the suspicions of many that the Monarchy exists primarily to provide a nice face for the unpleasant actions of Government.

Laurens Otter



NFZ AGM

Recently Simon Taylor and myself went to Glasgow to the Nuclear Free Zone (NFZ) Local Authorities A.G.M.. The movement has up to 170 member authorities in this country. The co-ordination of the movement is carried out in Manchester and information and advice is given to local authorities on a range of issues including government civil defence regulations, publicity and the law, transportation of nuclear materials, nuclear dumping, international links, arms conversion and alternatives to nuclear power.

The movement though is limited in its powers because ultimately responsibility in the case of all these issues is firmly in the hands of central government. The role of the NFZ movement has been to oppose the expansion of the nuclear industry and attempt to unite the opposition to the politicians pursuing these policies. The movement is non party political in theory but in practice representatives of the Conservative Party are conspicuous by their absence. Most of the other political parties are represented however.

The encouraging point is the growth of the NFZ movement , not only in this country, but world-wide. Although limited in its powers it can provide a vehicle which gives one expression to the need for change away from the seemingly inevitable nuclear future to a different course , involving conversion, conservation of energy and the ending of the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

Cllr. Paul Wolfe



TANG and OTHER GROUPS

As a CND group, TANG is against nuclear weapons: that does not mean however that we support the existence of other forms of war-making. Apart from the fact that in a nuclear age any war or the pressures of the arms' trade can make world-destroying war likely, we see nuclear war as the supreme symbol of violence rather than as a unique evil in itself. TANG has therefore supported the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, protested against the Falklands' War, concerned itself with the Gulf War, the Afghan War, the various Israeli-Palestinian or Israeli-Lebanese conflicts, with Latin-American matters; & we have hosted the Peace Film Van & meetings on the Peace Tax.

As an anti-nuclear group (a former FoE group) TANG is against nuclear power & nuclear dumping: that does not mean however that we ignore the evils of other pollution, purely that we see nuclear waste as the supreme example of the poisoning of our planet & we question the good faith of those who claim to oppose acid rain, & use this as an argument for supporting nuclear power. Thus we campaigned on the Donnington Fires, & circulated with our news-sheet a directory of ways of recycling.

In common with other CND groups, TANG, - seeing that large amounts of uranium come from Namibia, that the mining operations are extremely exploitative, seeing that testing is done in the Pacific, causing incalculable disease there, & remembering the nature of the bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki, - has made direct links between nuclear weapons & Third World issues; (in this aligning ourselves with the colonial freedom movement, with Anti-Apartheid, & with War on Want.) But it is not only the direct links that so align us, the same moral premises that make us anti-nuclear, dictate that we oppose the treatment the rich white countries mete out to the poor black ones, the Bomb is again a symbol, this time of world relationships.

/continued

TANG and Other Groups- continued

Equally TANG (like other CND groups) opposes the growth of secrecy, the increase in covert police powers, the muzzling of the Media, the centralization of state power, the diversion of vast economic resources from open welfare schemes to secret defence ones, that characterised the creation of nuclear weapons. That does not mean however that we say that everything in our social & political life was perfect before this weaponry was created, or would necessarily be so if it were, without other change, abolished. Since if there had not been other evils the bombs could not have been made in the first place, & unilateral disarmament would only be complete, if it ensured that the Bomb could not be remade. This accounts for our involvement in feminist issues, for concern with educational matters, for our support for NCCL, for our opposition to the new anti-gay legislation, & for our participation (with the Trades' Council & others) in the May Day Committee.

Fundamentally, TANG, like all other CND groups, is a broad coalition of anti-militarists & social radicals, who agree on one basic demand, and agree that that demand cannot be won, or even intelligently advocated in isolation. There is broad agreement, that there is the wider context outlined above, but there is no necessary agreement as to the detailed changes needed.

Laurens Otter



LETTER PAGE

I have read with interest the views of readers of Chain Reaction concerning TANG's future.

Firstly TANG's success over the past eight years has been to raise the issue of disarmament at a local level and that has been as a response to international and national political decisions. Its most successful activity has been the regular and consistent production of Chain Reaction. (Its influence is difficult to assess- but it has raised the level of debate and influenced many to take individual and collective action on a wide range of issues). This should continue if at all possible.

Secondly, though we may find that there is general agreement on a wide range of issues mentioned by many in recent articles, we will, by broadening the campaign, dilute our strength into many and various issues. The single mindedness of the group will be dissipated into a variety of campaigns.

Thirdly, though the peak of the campaign may be passed we have a responsibility to continue to attempt to focus attention on the horrific potential and wastefulness of nuclear weapons. This, in my view, can only be done if a peace group exists.

In my view an organisation already exists for linking with the broader issues including the environment, and justice and peace . That is the 'One World' newsletter , which needs to extend its influence beyond the religious community.

Paul Wolfe



MAKE YOUR MARK FOR PEACE

TANG took a minibus to the Upper Heyford demonstration on Saturday October 15th.

The main group went to gates 8-10 , while the younger contingent took advantage of the minibus shuttle service around the base to go to the 'Youth Gate' . They reportedly had a good time there and found the day worthwhile. (They also caught the shuttle back to arrive at the rendezvous on time . I hope that this will put an end to the bad reputation about deadlines that they used to have!)

Mark attended the service at the 'Christian Gate' and found that worthwhile.

The rest of us carried the banner, planted bulbs, looked unsuccessfully for relatives, renewed old acquaintances, and talked to strangers.

Later that day I found myself wondering why I had gone. It was the first demonstration I had been to since the heady days of Greenham in 1983-5. Since then I had told myself that I did things locally , leave demonstrations to the more gregarious who actually enjoy them. My day lacked purpose, (my fault for doing no preparation beforehand?, and a comment on the state of frenetic activity that usually characterises my life ?) . The whole demonstration seemed to lack direction , was this a result of dissipation of effort into three sites with many gates at each? I listened to the midnight news on radio four, there was a mention of the three demonstrations with a concentration on Faslane .

How do we 'make our mark for peace' ? For me I think it has to be something more individual but I don't know what. It needs large demonstrations ,or a lot of imagination, to get publicity, which, I suppose ,is a concomitant of 'making one's mark'. (The thing that has caught my imagination most this year was a report I heard , again on Radio 4, of an 'ultra' distance run from Hiroshima to Nagasaki , this seems to have received very little publicity.)

So what do we do for either our own peace of mind or for publicity? Have you got any ideas? Come to the A.G.M. or another meeting and inject renewed enthusiasm into us!

Tot Dawes.

IRAN, IRAQ ARMS BRIEFING

The Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) is in the process of updating its briefing on Iran and Iraq.

Following the ceasefire in July there are fears that British arms manufacturers may be preparing to encourage the Iranian and Iraqi governments to restock their arsenals. The secrecy which surrounds British arms exports means that we cannot know what is being sold, just as we have never, known what has gone to the belligerents during the war.

The revised briefing will include a summary of what informed opinion believes will happen to the arms industry in the aftermath of the war.

Available from Campaign Against the Arms Trade, 11, Goodwin St, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ.



DIARY

- Weds. 2nd Nov. TANG business meeting .
7.30 pm. 16 Linley Drive, Stirchley Park.
All very welcome.
- Weds. 9th Nov. TANG A.G.M. See Agenda elsewhere in
7.30pm for 8pm. this issue.
- Sun. 13th Nov. Rememberence Day.
- Weds. 16th Nov. Chain Reaction meeting.
7.30 pm. 6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay.
- Fri. 18th Nov. CND Annual Conference, Salford University.
- Sun 20th Nov. TANG delegates will attend.

***** SAT 3rd DEC Phoenix Christmas Market *****
*** 11am - 4pm Phoenix Centre, Dawley ***
*** We hope to have a stall, selling leaflets, badges etc. ***
***** Raffle prizes and other gifts gratefully received*****

Coming in the New Year:

The New Year Social , Hill Top Garage , Dawley Rd, Wellington
More details next issue.

CHAIN REACTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles, letters etc. are always welcome. These may be typed to fit into our page directly, typed roughly, or hand written legibly. Please send or give to any of the following:

| | | |
|----------------|---|-------------|
| Mark Stokes, | 7 Burton Close, Dawley. | Tel: 501263 |
| Tot Dawes, | 6 Myford Cottages , Horsehay. | Tel: 507040 |
| Laurens Otter, | College Farm House, Mill Lane, Wellington. | Tel: 641852 |

Deadline for next issue: 16th October

Extra help with editing, typing etc. always appreciated.

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Wellington, Telford, Shropshire.

ONE WORLD