

Forest Fields Peace Group

FEBRUARY 1983

What a fantastic response to our demonstration! On a bitterly, cold snowy day, we collected approximately 200 people to march round Forest Fields, from all over the City and County. We listened to Les Parsons, Deirdre Duffy, Peoples Democratic Front, Alan Simpson Paul Johns, then followed the Washout Marching Band. Our public meeting the next Tuesday attracted five new members to swell our group to well over 80. It's nine months until cruise arrives.



LETTERS

We have received a letter from John Birdsall, N.U.J. Member, stating his opinion on writing to the Evening Post. Anyone who would like to read it, come along to the next meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING 9th FEB AT
18 people present.

1) DEMONSTRATION.

Final details were sorted out.

2) REPORT FROM CO-ORDINATING GROUP.

a) £100 in NCND account. They would like any resources such as slide projectors, tape recorders etc.

b) Reprints of the Greenham Common photos are available from the office.

c) Rally and Die-in planned for March 19th

d) May Day demonstration will be Trade Unions against the bomb.

3) LEAFLETTING IN STRELLEY.

This was sorted out.

4) LISTERGATE STALL 26th FEB (SATURDAY)

A rota was arranged to run the CND stall from 10.30am - 4.00pm
More help is needed - please turn up on the day if you have some time.

5) FUTURE ACTION.

i) Meetings debates with invited speakers.

ii) Direct action - this would involve pickets of firms involved with nuclear arms and of firms involved with work at Greenham Common.

iii) Local radio discussion.

We agreed to have a follow up meeting soon after the demonstration to involve people in the planning of future activities
This will be at The Green Community Centre 15th Feb 7.30pm

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING.

WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH AT 20 PREMIER ROAD AT 8.00pm
Please try to attend.

AGENDA

- 1) Matters arising.
- 2) Finance
- 3) NCND Co-ordinating news plus non-violent direct action.
- 4) Direct action locally (see minutes)
- 5 A.O.B.
- 6) Date of next meeting.

MINUTES OF DIRECT ACTION MEETING TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

Five new members attended the meeting which was a follow up to the successful demonstration on Saturday 12th February.

There was a discussion about the demonstration and what lessons could be learnt for future, similar activities. It was felt that at our next demo, stewards should play a more co-ordinated, active part. The procession on the 12th often became too bunched up and subsequently looked less impressive. Equally, there should have been more space between different banner-bearers so that each banner could have been easily read.

It was generally felt that mass leafletting was still the most effective way of publicising our activities locally, but that greater emphasis should be placed on fly-posting in future. It was also noted by new members that the area which was leafletted should be extended and the suggestion that we should seek the help of Basford and Raleigh Street CND was approved.

An idea that emerged from the meeting which might help organising future events was that we should establish street reps whose job it is to contact members of the group with news and plans. This might help encourage more members to take an active part in events. Hopefully this could be organised at the next monthly meeting.

There was then discussion on what events and activities should be organised for the forthcoming months, the conclusions being:

1. To prepare and rehearse for the peace canvass. It was appreciated that a lot of work and practice would have to be undertaken before we would be ready. It was left undecided what tone of questioning would be most appropriate, although many thought that since the purpose of the exercise was to engage as many people as possible in debate about nuclear arms, it would be foolish to try and present an image that we were conducting an objective study of public opinion.

It was then agreed to hold an early meeting to discuss the five questions proposed in this month's edition of "Sanity" and to begin rehearsing our replies to likely reaction when we start door to door canvassing. This meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd March at the Crescent Family Centre beginning at 7.30 p.m.

To make this venture successful we need as many people as possible.

The core of the canvass is a short questionnaire:

- (i) Do you think that American Cruise missiles should be based in Britain?
- (ii) Should our Government spend £10,000 million on new Trident nuclear subs?
- (iii) Do you think that Britain should get rid of American nuclear bases?
- (iv) Do you think that this country needs nuclear weapons for its defence?
- (v) If there was a general election tomorrow would nuclear disarmament be an important issue for you?

Several other ideas were put forward as activities the Group could be doing, including picketting and 'occupations', some of which had already been put forward by Nottingham CND. It was also stressed to retain a level of secrecy about the nature of these ideas lest details of plans were leaked - that's why they're not mentioned specifically here. However, it was agreed to liaise more closely with the Nottingham NVDA Group. The next meeting of this Group is Friday 25 February at the Fact Shop. Everyone

is welcome to the meeting.

Finally, it is hoped that we will be able to forge stronger links with local schools and attempt would be made to gain permission to either talk to pupils at assembly or put on an information display, or both.

Please remember to come to the next meeting of the Direct Action Group on March 3rd. Don't just hope that others will stop Cruise - we need you.

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

- i) Saturday 26th Feb 10.30-4.00 help with Listergate stall
- ii) Sunday 27th Feb Activists Workshop 10.30-4.00
at Queens Walk Community Centre Meadows
- iii) Thursday 3rd March 7.30 Direct Action Group meeting
at the Crescent Family Centre, Waterloo Promenade
- iv) Forest Fields Peace Group monthly meeting
at 20 Premier Road Wed 9th March 8.00pm
- v) Sunday 13th March 10.30am rehearsal for Die in on the Forest.
- vi) Saturday 19th March Die-in/Rally
Assemble 10.30am On the Forest.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

If any members haven't yet paid their £1 membership yet please do so as soon as possible. We are an active and campaigning group but this does cost money. Any financial donations would be appreciated.