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 Sheffield - Nic Fleming, 5 Clifford Rd, Sheffield S11. Tel: 0742 554298
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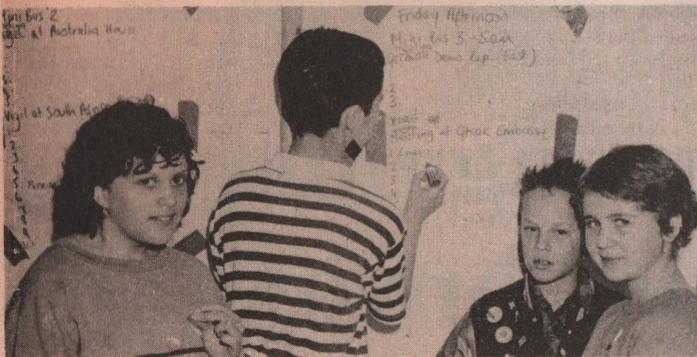
EIRE

Co. Galway - Conor Haughton, 28 Buchgrove, Organmore, Co. Galway

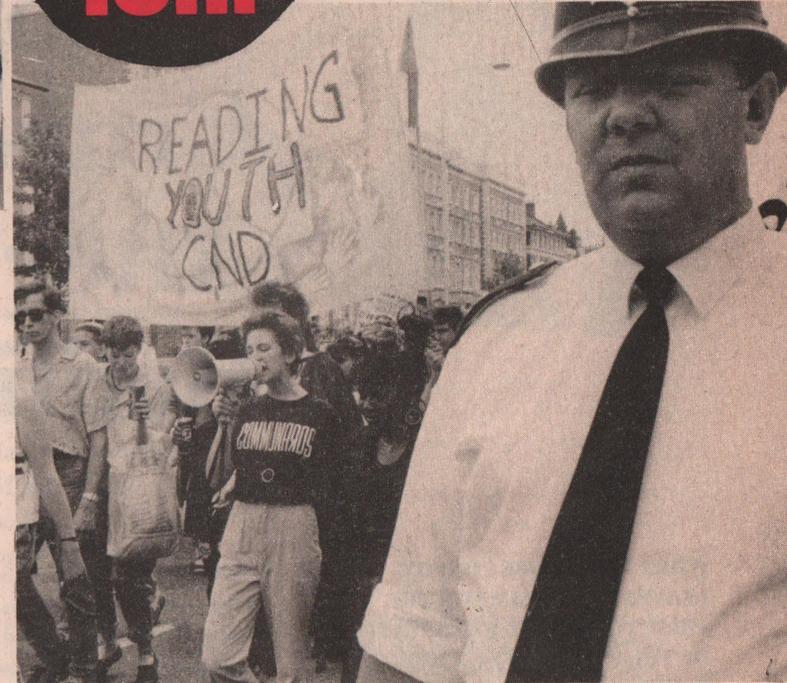
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SIGN OF THE TIMES



YOUTH PEACE WEEK



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 Taking action with Julie Brown

Sign of the Times would like to thank
 Claire McMaster (Editor), CND
 Publications, Julie Brown, Mary Van
 Den Bulck, Jesse Cleverly, Laurie
 Gibson, Gary Kent, 19 Management,
 Yuri Prasad, Clare Shaphard, Broccoli
 Spears.

Actions against Cruise Convoys After INF Ratification

WHEN THE CRUISE CONVOY LEAVES GREENHAM FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER RATIFICATION OF THE INF TREATY (CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JULY) THERE WILL BE A CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST IT.

1. The Sunday during the dispersal
 On the Sunday during dispersal there will be actions and demonstrations to 'Reclaim Salisbury Plain'. These will be of various kinds so as to involve the widest number of people possible. Groups are asked to come to the Amesbury Car Park between 12 and 1pm, just off the A303, totally self sufficient. Cruisewatchers will provide information as to the whereabouts of the

Convoy so that anyone wishing to trespass on the plain will have a focus. Groups not wishing to trespass are asked to bring picnic things, instruments, kites etc so that we can show the MOD and the USAF that we are reclaiming the Plain for the enjoyment of the public rather than the army's war preparations. People could also bring banners and cameras so that we can demonstrate and record the events to take them home. *There will be a march to Westdown camp, at the heart of the Plain starting at 2pm.*

2. On the night of the Convoy's return to Greenham
 People who want to come out to witness and demonstrate against the genocide

convoy as it travels back to Greenham, usually between midnight and 2am, should make sure they are linked to a local telephone tree. Calls will go out down this. Again people are asked to come with banners and dressed in bright clothing. The demonstrations against Cruise are totally non-violent and action is only taken when those involved are certain that there is no danger to themselves or to the police/soldiers. Men are asked to stay away from Greenham. There are 40 miles of open road to use for action/witness so there is no need to encroach on the women's space.

TAKE TO THE STREETS



Around the world today hundreds of things will happen which will affect people for many years afterwards. Around the UK today hundreds of things will happen which will affect people for many years afterwards, such as Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill. The last six months have seen a powerful fightback against some of the many injustices dealt to people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, by governments both at home and abroad.

A series of coincidences have made the recent months some of the most difficult for politically progressive activists around the country. We saw the health workers saying 'enough is enough', going out on strike and forcing the TUC to take the National Health Service seriously and call a 'save the NHS' demo. The demo was powerful, it had popular support and eventually forced the government to make some concessions. The Education Reform Bill caused thousands of students from all over the country to take action such as strikes, sit-ins, walk-outs etc. Again a demo with the co-operation of the TUC. The Anti-Apartheid movement held a demo at the end of 1987 which called for effective sanctions against South

Africa, boycotts of the products of apartheid and the release of political prisoners like Walter Sisulu and Nelson Mandela. All this, not to mention Aldermaston.

QUESTION: What is this guy going on about, this is for YCND members, isn't it?

ANSWER: Look deeper into the issues above and you will see my reasoning. The NHS is suffering from an uncaring government which will not provide it with adequate resources. The people who cannot afford private health care will suffer. The government is spending £10 billion on Trident and is planning more to spend more to escalate the arms race further after INF. The Education Reform Bill will take schools

and colleges out of local councils' control. It is my belief that eventually education will not be funded by the government at all. The government wants to spend more on the arms race after INF. South Africa is one of the most repressive regimes in the world today. It conducts raids and occupies much of southern Africa. Namibia is illegally occupied by South Africa. Uranium is mined by South Africa and used either itself or exported to other nuclear states.

The links are not always direct or clear. There will be many demos to come; if you see a connection (or even if you don't) GO get your banner and GO get involved.

● Yuri Prasad (Personal capacity)

ALDERMASTON 1988

Aldermaston is one of those events which make you feel as though you are 90% corpse, while at the same time 100% hero(ine). We struck off at some time of day which (by the bags under our eyes) most of us had never seen before. Never had so many pairs of socks been gathered in one place – the first day was a real marrow of a march with the one-day marchers cleverly concealing themselves within the ranks of the full-time masochists. In addition to the full four days there were those of us who belonged to a further sub-race known as the stewards. Anyway, the first day was acknowledged by one and all to be the worst disgusting experience in the history of the leek.

The first night was spent in Southall – twelve miles from Hyde Park. The sounds of the wounded and dying, the constant flow of medical supplies, the authoritarian bark of the stewards – it was a time of horror and yet a time of spiritual fulfillment when lines of Shakespeare seemed so poignant that... (that's enough of that – Ed).

Assembly point, 0600 hours – 1,000 people, 10,000 blisters and 2,000 dirty socks. At this point the lovely, sympathetic and wonderful members of the Thames Valley police joined us for *the longest day*; 18 miles of blister-squelching hell. The mini-buses were full of those who felt the next step would be their last. But were they veterans, the people who we had been so foolishly concerned about? No, it was not, it was the 'youth of today' (I mention no names, Shona). However about three miles from the end there was an optional bus service to Sonning Common – this was where I found most cause for concern about the sanity of the marchers. People had to be forced to travel on the buses – pain was their game and they couldn't get enough!

Good old Sonning Common was the lucky location for night two. A marquee the size of Richard Branson's ego/bank balance was provided where we collapsed in bad-tempered heaps.

Assembly, 0700 hours. Near revolution, it appeared that the mob needed victims not blisters, and the



megaphone-wielding stewards had to hunt in packs. However, as the sun came up over a county of fine real-estate, the mood improved. The sun bore down and we compared sun-tans to our hearts content, for there were only ten miles to march and by the standards of the day before this was nothing. A few amazingly



witty candidates for assassination were heard to say, 'is that all, couldn't you have made it further?'

The end of the day saw Reading, where the megaphones were used to tell people about the strangely predictable slump in property prices after the holocaust. We stopped and fell over at

the pre-arranged spot and everyone adopted fixed smiles and tried to pretend they couldn't feel their feet.

Assembly, 0730 hours – off to Aldermaston. Ten to twelve miles later the saints came marching in to where they were greeted by songs, cheers and suspicious looks (from those *behind* the fence!) and a call to 'embrace the base' and tell the wonderfully hard-working scientists that the circus was in town.

One of our least cherished 'supporters' was also there, looking a little fatigued after her no doubt gruelling car journey. I refer, of course, to Lady Olga Maitland. She had brought a friend of hers who was wearing the winning design from the 1988 naff headwear competition – a baseball hat with YUPPIE on the front, kind of him to make sure we knew. The good lady and cronies were also very helpful in pointing out something none of the 30,000 of us had realized – nuclear weapons are a really jolly good idea after all. What else would land-owning MPs spend their pocket money on anyway! Unfortunately the good lady had somewhat miscalculated and decided to retire to a somewhat more sympathetic environment (afternoon tea at the manor perhaps!).

We embraced the base and made a lot of noise and so on. The best place to be, however, had to be the youth gate where we rocked and rolled to Mighty Mighty and Pop Icons, who proved themselves to be totally wicked and right-on by knocking out the hard tunes despite the rain of neutrons from behind the wire (which by now was completely covered in doves and messages of peace).

As the sunny day came to an end, various marchers and protesters began to leave and soon there were only a few of us to keep the doves and police company.

The last word is – Aldermaston was brilliant and many of us vegetable types hope to be there next time around. And if you weren't there, then your feet are still baby-soft, unlike mine which I use for sanding down large pieces of wood.

Dedicated to all Aldermaston stewards from the one dressed in red, gold & green.

REACHING OUT

INSIDE THE

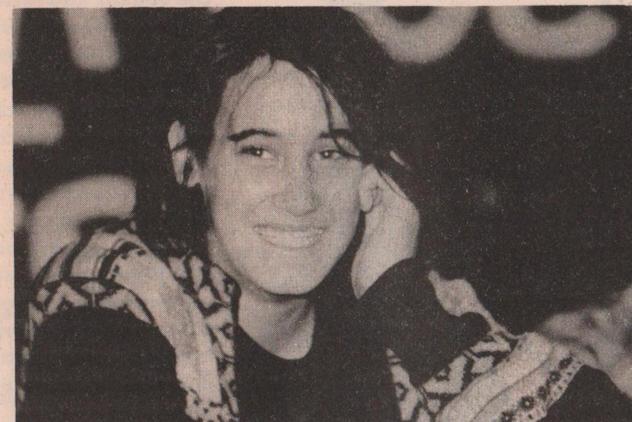
EVERY TWO MONTHS a meeting takes place in Underwood Street which is made up of young people from all over Britain. Who are these people? What happens there? To find out the answers to these questions we went behind the closed doors of National Committee to find out more... more...

National Committee is the decision-making body of Youth CND. In other words, NC decides what we do, when we do it and so on. NC gains its direction from national conference. For those of you who haven't yet been there, YCND conference is unlike anything else you have experienced. We've revolutionised

conferences by scrapping boring resolutions and card votes, and replacing them with exciting workshops, plenary sessions, education workshops, plus the chance to talk to people, swap campaigning ideas and boogie on down to the latest sounds at our well-known parties.

However, to return to the original subject, at conference certain ideas are discussed in order to gain a general direction for the ensuing year. Obviously it's impossible to thrash out minute details in a situation where over 200 people are talking at once – which is where National Committee steps in.

National Committee is



If every member of youth CND explained the issues to one friend clearly enough so that the person was convinced and eager to help work for disarmament, then YCND would double its membership.

There is a certain amount that people can understand from reading leaflets that they come across, seeing the odd programme on TV or watching some YCND street theatre. All these things are extremely important, but there is one way in particular that is almost guaranteed – in the end to gain us support from a large number of people we need to be confident and clear about what we believe so that the people around us will want to know more.

As I see it, this does not mean having regular rows or intense arguments with people, as that only makes us worn out and fed up. Rather than that it makes sense to talk with people about what we know, to make sure we listen well to their current position and work out why they think those things. To respectfully offer an alternative way of looking at the situation, plus any pieces of information we think appropriate.

If we harangue people it only makes them feel scared or irritable, so they think less calmly and like us less. We know that the peace movement is the place to be – let's show that clearly to the people we know.

● Clare Shephard

made up of six people directly elected from conference and one representative from each region. Regional reps are elected at a regional AGM where five affiliated groups should be present in order for that person to have a vote on NC. People who want to stand at conference have to submit a written and verbal hustings.

How do you make your voice heard if you're not on NC?

The role of a regional rep is becoming increasingly a varied one! They should ring round each group before every meeting and ask if there is anything they wish to have discussed, and vice versa. Regional reps should also help develop groups in their region. A lot of time and work is involved, so don't so stand if you're not prepared to put in a little of both!

Why should you stand?

If you have lots of bright ideas, if you feel strongly about the way our campaign is run, then you're ideal for the job. No-one on National Committee is superhuman. At some point we'll all be doing exams, we all have homework, worries about finances and the usual problems facing a young person. However money is something you needn't worry about as your travel expenses down to London are paid. The only proviso is that if you're coming by train you have a young person's rail-card.

If you don't know who the regional rep is in your area, then turn to the groups contact page. If you have no joy from him or her then contact the office and we'll try and sort something out!

Youth CND is a democratic campaign – we need your contribution. Watch out for news of nomination deadlines if you're thinking of standing for National Committee at conference.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

BRUCE KENT'S WALK FOR ONE WORLD

As part of CND's 'One World' fundraising activities, from 9 July to 4 September Bruce Kent will be walking the thousand miles from Warsaw to Brussels to raise money for our own campaign against nuclear weapons, as well as for projects to help the child victims of the wars happening now in Mozambique and Nicaragua.

Bruce will set out from Warsaw on 11 July, commemorate Nagasaki Day in Nuremburg on 9 August, and arrive in Brussels

on 31 August, where he will visit the NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

Taking place, as it does, in the year of the Third United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, the Walk has three aims:

1. To underline the fact that the INF agreement is a very small start towards a Europe free of nuclear weapons.
2. To demand the end of the two military alliances – the Warsaw Pact and NATO – identified with Warsaw and Brussels, the places where the walk starts and ends.
3. To raise money for CND and for two other organisations – War on Want and the United Nations Association – whose work in Nicaragua and Mozambique would not need such urgent funding but for the gross waste of money on the arms race.

In Europe, people expressing an interest in the aims of the Walk

will contact their own United Nations Associations, which exist in all the countries Bruce will be passing through.

In this country, the money will be raised in two ways:

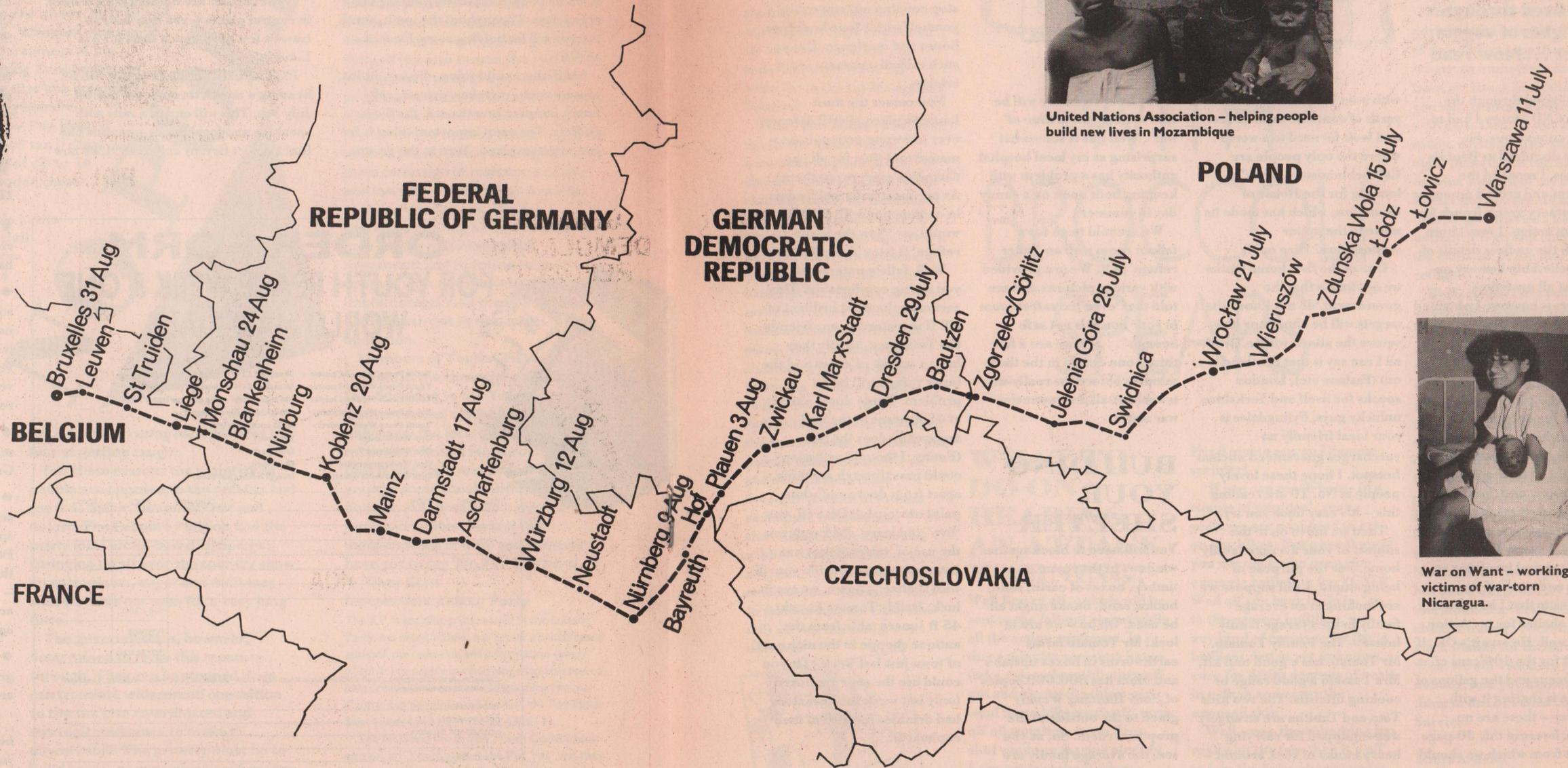
- * Through straight sponsorship – a sponsor form is enclosed with this newsletter. If you need more copies, then please contact Tony Myers at CND, 22-24 Underwood Street, London N1 7JG (01-250 4010).
- * If, on the other hand, you find it difficult to collect sponsorship, then you can 'buy' a mile of the Walk, and, if you'd like one, get a certificate to prove it! See the sponsor form for details.

Together, we really can make it 'One World'.

● David Rumsey



United Nations Association – helping people build new lives in Mozambique



War on Want – working with victims of war-torn Nicaragua.

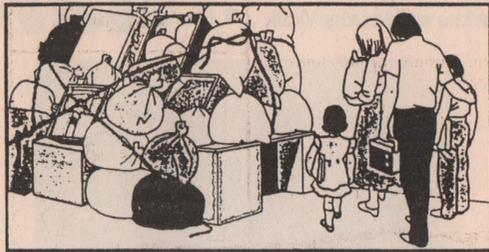
The man Broc has been down in the deep dark CND basement, he has fought with the ghost of Ye Olde Duffel Coat, the now savage packs of woolly hats and the vicious rainbow socks. However, fellow comrades in arms (the ones you link etc. etc.), our luscious feathery-topped veg-on-the-spot was not daunted and came upon what he thought was the answer to the world's problems. He was there, he saw the pain, lived through the nights of veggie horror... Now read on...

As I slipped through the door of CND I knew I had to remain anonymous. So, cleverly disguised as Bruce's elevenses, I reached the basement and gritted my super tasty feathery green fronds for some hot action. I won't bore you with the endless details of my unbelievable bravery on behalf of all my fellow YCNDers - however I obtained the object of my desires, a copy of that Home Office bible *Protect and Survive*.

Although no longer in print, *Protect and Survive* still remains the only detailed advice dished out to date by the caring government which we should all be thankful we have. *Protect and Survive* is full of handy hints for the DIY expert keen on thermonuclear survival. I was so keen on the idea of survival involving an eggbox and a roll of sticky-back plastic that I have built a fall-out shelter for my Action Man as well. He says it's OK, if it wasn't for the 400 cans of baked beans and the gallons of water he is sharing it with.

Anyway - there are no worries, because this 30-page booklet from which we should all draw so much hope is all we need. ('Stand under the bomb

PROTECT AND SURVIVE



with it on your head, and 14 yards of concrete on all sides and look forward to a world where the only people are Cabinet ministers. They're looking for the House of Commons, which has made its move to the upper stratosphere. Nice one!

One of the first home truths we are told is that the government 'do not know what targets will be chosen or how severe the attack will be.' Well, all I can say is that Scotland is out (Faslane etc), London speaks for itself and Yorkshire, unlucky guys, Fylingdales is your local friendly no surcharges guaranteed nuclear hotspot. I hope these lovely people at No. 10 are reading this - it's easy once you try.

Then we move on to the subject of your average family home. For the purpose of being stupid, I will suppose we are looking at an average family in the average family house - The Family Tomato. Mr Tomato has a good tool kit, Mrs Tomato a good range of cooking utensils. The two kids Tom and Tabitha are strangely well-equipped for carrying heavy hunks of rock around - so it appears when the nuclear warning goes, all will be well.

'Your local authority will be able to help you in time of war'. Well this is somewhat surprising as my local hospital authority has a problem with keeping beds open on a sunny day in summer.

We are told to go for a fall-out room with an 'inner refuge' in it. We are provided with various pictures and are told that 'even the safest room in your house is not safe enough'... There are a few things one can do in the three minutes before the really-no-trouble-at-all thermonuclear war starts.

BUILDING YOUR SHELTER

You will need to block up the windows in the room... timber, boxes of earth, sand, books, sand, books might all be used. Oh ho - we are in luck! Mr Tomato farms earthworms in boxes upstairs and Mum has 800,000 copies of *Body Building Weekly* glued to the outside of the proposed room. So, as you see, the average family are already halfway there. Simple - eh?

Bungalows are not much protection - 'Arrange to shelter with someone nearby'. Again we are in luck. Strangely, the Tomatoes' neighbours are a happy band (despite unemployment etc) and are not at all bothered by living beside Mr Tomato's obscene two cars etc. So no problem there, Home Owner Mrs Brown-in-the-bungalow-round-the-corner, the Tomatoes have room for all.

Unfortunately, the inhabitants of the caravan site on the outskirts of town will not be so lucky... as 'they provide little protection'. But do not lose hope, chaps, 'the local authority will be able to advise you what to do'. Run a three-minute mile to the nearest friendly neighbour with enough room for all the family perhaps. Or possibly stop copping out and equip yourself with a four-bedroom house and mortgage. But no, such radical comment is not cricket.

Now comes the most fantastic piece of civil defence ever known to petit pois or mange tout (just for all you *Guardian* readers out there). As our most maternal leader, in conjunction with HMSO, would say 'Now the inner refuge' (Listen With Mother).

Well, fellow watercress, are you sitting comfortably? This section is the most brilliant of all! If we return to our friends the Tomatoes, luckily they have a surfeit of doors and the inner refuge will be no problem. Three doors nailed at 45 degrees to the wall apparently does the job. (Funny, I thought radiation could pass through anything - apart from doors and white paint obviously!) Oh well, you 'live' and learn. *P&S* suggests the use of 'tables if they are large enough to provide you all with shelter'. (Again, we are in luck: Daddy Tomato bought a 45 ft square table from the antique shoppe in the nice part of town just last week.) Or you could use the stair cupboard (only last week the Tomatoes had drinkies for 200 in their cupboard).

PLANNING YOUR SURVIVAL KIT

Next we are told to 'plan your survival kit'. Amazingly enough, a £22.50 dole cheque doesn't quite cover all the items on the list.

We are unlikely to be able to use mains water - well, would mains water be able to survive a 100 foot blast, plus fallout, passing over the reservoir? So, if you have four people in your family, you'll need 14 gallons of water. Food: if you lived on four cans of beans for the lovely 14 day holiday, you could be storing 224 cans under your stairs!

The next revelation is, even though the polarity of the atmosphere is even more confused than Nancy's astrologer (I hope you are all up on current affairs!), the radio will work - add 28 batteries to the list Mr and Mrs Tomato!

There now follows a list of all the things which will be accompanying you in the shelter: cutlery, plates, warm clothing (funny no mention of the ensuing nuclear winter!), bedding, sleeping bags. Next a portable stove (an essential item in everyday life), torch batteries (ha, ha, ha), candles, matches, tables and chairs, toilet articles, a bucket and plastic bags, changes of clothing, a full first-aid kit including vaseline (another well-known cure for radiation). Boxes of dry sand, tissues or cloths, notebook and pencils (consequences is so good for passing those tiresome periods of intense radiation), brushes and shovels, cleaning materials, rubber or plastic gloves, toys, magazines, clock (mechanical) and calendar (you don't want to miss badminton class after all!) As you can see, it's nothing!

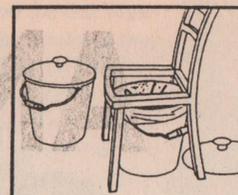


Sanitation

You will need special sanitation arrangements because there will be no water to waste in lavatories.

Keep these items in the Fall-out Room:

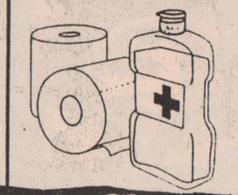
Containers such as polythene buckets, fitted with covers and - if possible - improvised seats.



Polythene bag linings for emptying the containers.



Strong disinfectant and toilet paper.



WITH BROCCOLI SPEARS

WHAT TO DO ON HEARING AN ATTACK WARNING!

Well first of all, us kids will be sent to the fall-out room, while all the action continues. In three minutes someone has to (take a deep breath!): turn off gas and electricity (blast can send those bills soaring!), turn off oil supplies, damp fires, shut windows (having already been whitewashed), close curtains. Well we are in luck -

Mrs Tomato was an Olympic sprinter!

'If you can reach home in a couple of minutes', yeah, yeah, we are supposed to get on our bikes. But what about if you are out in the open, for example leafleting for YCND? Well all you have to do is, 'go to the nearest building, use any kind of cover, or lie flat (a brilliant, but as yet unknown, cure for 4000 degrees of heat) in a ditch and cover the exposed skin'.

Well, once the aubergine has really hit the fan, then it's off to join the baked beans under the stairs, keeping the radio

tuned for government advice. Maggie will be giving hour-long broadcasts of news, views and chat from her bunker one mile below Hampstead Heath.

If, by some freak of nature you need to go to the loo in the next 48 hours, do not stay outside the shelter longer than necessary. However 'later on' (when the radioactivity is only 4,000 times the acceptable level) if you go out you should, apparently, wear wellies. 'Avoid bringing dust into the house' (and I thought fallout was dangerous).

Now we come to a brief paragraph marked 'casualties' (so unlikely, after all) which is given less space than the paragraph marked 'sanitation'. (The government are so keen on moral and physical hygiene.) This one has to be seen to be believed (see below).

The last piece of concrete advice is 'On hearing the all clear'. This means there is no longer an immediate danger from air attack and fallout and you may resume normal activities. Dad: 'It was strange today, darling. After vomiting eight times in the night, I put on what was left of my suit, and when I got to work no-one had turned up. Must be a bank holiday; I'll go and check on the calendar in the inner refuge.'

Well, chaps, I bet you all feel better after hearing about the wonderful message of hope contained in *Protect and Survive*. One last thing, if you were wondering how we are going to get a warning in order to begin construction of our shelters, it's easy. If this country were ever attacked, then we would all be told in a public information campaign. Posters reading something like this: 'perhaps we didn't tell you about Libya or the Montebello cruise agreement, but there will probably be a thermonuclear destruction in about ten days'. Nice one, guys, thanks for the advice. Well, we ain't suckers to nobody, and you know the thing to do is Protest and Survive.

Yours in peas,
Broccoli Spears

BANNER: n. Cloth flag on pole used as standard of king, knight etc. But when you see banners being borne aloft at a demonstration, they are imbued with a life and hope that everyone can appreciate



The banners affirm the hope and protest of the people who have painstakingly made them. Those now used by the peace movement have a long and radical pedigree. Banner-carrying demonstrations grew up with the trade union movement from the 1830s. These silken, painted and highly finished works of art were an obvious source of inspiration for the British women's suffrage movement. That movement has left behind a legacy of marching banners, some painted, some embroidered and appliquéd, identifying local groups, individuals, trades and a whole series celebrating great women.

Suffrage banners were the coming together of radical strength and the decades of skill developed in the making of altarcloths, drawing-room drapery and smoking caps. Femininity was demonstrated as a source of strength not of weakness. It is this strength that the manufacture of a banner gives to a group of women that adds so much to its objective and subjective value.

The iconography of women's

peace banners combines for the most part suffrage symbolism, traditional peace motifs and feminist political symbols. The banner stitched by Thalia and Jan Campbell and Jan Higgs to celebrate Women for Life on Earth includes doves, trees and linking hands, and is executed in the suffragette colours of purple, green and white.

A banner can be made either with two side poles or a top pole. A top pole, threaded through the top of the banner, has to hang from a vertical pole by ropes. The loose ends of the ropes can be held by two other people to add stability but there is a limit to the size of banner that can be made this way.

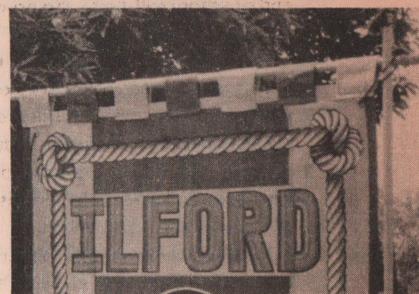
For a larger banner two side poles are better. The poles form a casing down each side of the banner. An additional top pole helps it hang better. A large area, however, creates quite a lot of wind resistance, and strategic holes in the fabric of the banner, allowing the air to pass through it, make marching with it easier.

Almost any fabric can be used, but some thought ought to be

given to the colour fastness and durability. The design can be painted free-hand in fabric paint, which any handicraft shop can supply, or applied with a stencil. For a double-sided painted banner, it is best to sew two pieces of fabric together.

Appliquéd banners are heavy, so back or interline the banner itself with sturdy cotton, heavy curtain lining or an old sheet. This will stop the banner 'bagging out' or flopping. Appliquéd shapes can be stuck with water soluble glue before sewing. This makes it easier to sew them into position.

Given the inspiration, a banner can grow and evolve almost on its own. A small group of East London women who saw a patchwork banner from Derbyshire at Greenham in 1983 were inspired to make their own. The result was a 10ft by 4ft banner which has found itself in places as diverse as Barrow and Hyde Park, Bradwell and Burford. It has appeared on TV in glorious colour as part of a march to support Dr Wendy Savage's reinstatement to the London Hospital. It has fourteen



different designs stitched around a batiked word, Peace, on one side. And on the other, appliquéd in blue onto an earth-brown ground, is the name of Wanstead and Woodford CND, the women's local group. The new banner was taken in triumph to Greenham for the June 1984 Common Women's Day.

As a final activity, each person was asked to contribute their name on small pieces of blue fabric which make a ribbon of colour at the lower edge of the back. Not everyone named themselves: two named their daughters as well, one her mother and sons and some included tiny fabric pictures of landscapes or texts which they felt important. To help others understand the banner, a Book of Meanings was collated, explaining its making and symbolism.

The banner spent last summer touring with other banners and quilts, some from Chile and South Africa, as part of the exhibition called 'Flying Colours', which raised funds for the hospice movement. And it was the centrepiece of an exhibition marking International Women's Day this year at Sisterwrite bookshop in Islington. A coloured photograph of it forms the basis of an all-purpose card printed by Leeds Postcards, which is sold to fund the Women's Peace Group that was formed around the banner. This group increasingly focuses on wealth as a peace issue that must be urgently addressed in a world in which war is being waged by government policies and industrial processes which lack an environmentally sound perspective.

Yes, folks, it's that time again! This year YCND conference will be held in Birmingham – so watch out West Midlands! We hope it will be even bigger and better than last year's, with more exciting workshops, discussion sessions and hustings for National Committee. Competition will be hot as there are only six places to be voted for! Nor forgetting the infamous party/getting to know each other drinking social. Although the dates have not been finalised it will be in October, probably the first weekend of school half-term. (So no-one has the excuse they can't make conference as they have to go to school on Monday!)

Conference is one of the few chances you will get to have a direct impact on our campaigns and direction for the coming year. If you're thinking of setting up a group – or yours is flagging – this is an ideal opportunity to meet other YCNDers and gain help and advice! It's an essential date for any active member – so put it in your file/diary.

For more info on nomination deadlines, accommodation deadlines, suggestions for workshops etc, look out for details in *Protest and Sanity* and look out for our conference leaflet which will be on the streets soon.

Remember YCND is *your* campaign, now is the time to make your voice heard! For more details contact Claire at YCND, 22-24 Underwood St, London N1 7JG. Tel: 01-250 4010.

PRESS GANG

Join the Bruce Kent 'PRESS GANG' and help to reach 15 million people four times a year!

Dear YCND Supporter,

There is nothing more important than trying to bring about a peaceful non-nuclear world, but things like work, studies and all the other things that make up everyday life mean that many people have only a little time to give. Now here is a way to help which will take only four evenings a year.

Writing to the local press can be so effective. They nearly always publish letters written to them, the local press reaches all the households in your area, and most people actually read the letters column. To boost letter-writing I am asking you to join my PRESS GANG! This is how it works. You promise me that you will write four letters a year to your local papers. In return we will send you some Handy Hints on letter-writing so you know how to do it and quarterly we will send you information on some topic on which we would like you to write.

This way we calculate that we can reach 15 million people four times per year. We will not write your letter for you because it is important that the letters are in your own words but we will provide you with all the information, facts and figures that you will need.

Please don't feel shy. Anybody can write to the press. Many of you who are or have been in full-time education have probably done more writing in those studies than many older people anyway. Also there is nothing

that editors like more than letters from younger people.

Please help me then by filling in and sending off the slip below so you can join my PRESS GANG.

Best Wishes
Bruce Kent
CND Chair

YES, PLEASE. I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE BRUCE KENT PRESS GANG AND I WILL DO MY BEST TO WRITE FOUR LETTERS A YEAR TO THE LOCAL PRESS.

Name _____

Age _____

Address _____

SEND TO Bruce Kent (LETTER WRITING) 22-24 Underwood St, London N1 7JG

FESTIVAL FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE SCOTLAND

SATURDAY
AUGUST 6th 12 noon
till 8pm

MEADOWBANK
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DEACON BLUE
ALL ABOUT EVE
D.J. WENDY MAY

All artists subject to confirmation

For more info, ticket prices, etc contact Patrick or Tony at CND on 01-250 4010.

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MORE BIG NAME ACTS TO FOLLOW.



Taking Action...

Two months ago, Friends of the Earth launched a youth section – Earth Action. Its co-ordinator is Julie Brown, CND member, former local groups assistant, vegetarian, regular all-round party-goer. *Sign of the Times* ventured behind the green doors of the FoE building to find out more . . .

SOTT: Have you always lived in London?

JB: No, I've lived in around thirteen different places. My father was in the army, so I moved back and forth between Germany and England and Wales and places like that – I haven't really lived anywhere longer than three years.

SOTT: When did you become interested in environmental issues?

JB: In a concrete way after I left university, which is strange as most people begin there. It was all bubbling under there, but I wasn't quite sure which direction to take. I knew there were things I didn't want to do, so I came to London, read a bit and became interested in green issues. I thought it made a lot of sense, and that's where it all started. I volunteered for Friends of the Earth, worked for a while in reception, became assistant local groups organiser and then went on to help found Earth Action.

SOTT: Do you think it's important to have a youth section?

JB: I think it's crucial for any organisation, it's imperative to reach young people. They are the decision-makers of tomorrow, they are the future. If you don't get them involved and don't get the message over and don't get them instigating the whole thing, the campaign will fade away and just be carried on by old hippies (she replied, laughing . . .).

SOTT: What progress has Earth Action made so far?

JB: We launched two weeks ago, and since then we have seven definite Earth Action groups, around 25-30 which are in the process of forming, plus 200 enquiries about us in general.

SOTT: Will there be an age limit?

JB: At the moment it's 14-23 which will be

quite flexible but more or less what we've decided on.

SOTT: How will you work as an organisation?

JB: Obviously it's early days yet, we won't be thinking of concrete structures until much later on when we have a better idea of numbers involved. At the moment we are acting as an information unit and a source of ideas and actions. Groups will be autonomous, requiring to work on a licence fee agreement system. We will organise days of action and provide the necessary information. We would hope that they will take us up on the idea, but if they want to organise something different themselves then that's up to them as long as it's in the spirit of Friends of the Earth.

SOTT: Is there one particular issue which is more applicable to young people than others?

JB: I think it's important to promote the whole package – everything is linked, you can't concentrate on one thing and ignore something else. The two main issues Earth Action are concentrating on are tropical rain forest destruction and pollution in all its aspects. TFR is a mega-issue. The rainforests are being destroyed at an alarming rate and we must do something to stop them disappearing forever. After all, when they are gone we will have lost over half the earth's wild species, including the plants that might have provided the cure for cancer or AIDS. And, of course, people live in the forests too and they are being driven from their homes.

SOTT: What can young people do on a personal level?

JB: The first step is influencing and encouraging others on the high street who buy tropical hardwood to stop and think about where it comes from. The next step is to bring in the whole issue. FoE's campaign concentrates on this country's use of tropical hardwood and our contribution to its production. April 23rd we held a Day of Action – groups stood outside timber retailers to draw the attention of the public to them, because that's half the problem, isn't it! Most young people don't buy tropical hardwood, most people don't.

We want to go one step further and influence those who buy it, import it, the traders – all the steps up, starting from the bottom. The international rainforest campaign starts from the top thus creating a pyramid.

SOTT: Do you think issues like this should be discussed in schools?

JB: With the new GCSEs we have lots of queries on environmental issues – acid rain, pollution, nuclear power. If the national curriculum comes in, there may be possibilities with the cross curricula areas.

SOTT: Do you find any bias?

JB: We do, although I think EA members have got to realise that we can only achieve so much within our financial budget. We can't counteract the CEEB in terms of material – it would be silly of us to try. It can be disheartening when you see the glossy literature they distribute, but I don't think it's fooling anyone. People will say, 'Hang on a minute, why are they trying to convince us so hard when FoE have just produced a straightforward leaflet?'

SOTT: On the issue of nuclear power do you think it's important to liaise with other groups such as CND?

JB: I think it's important for all pressure groups to work together. With Earth Action we have a chance to forge those links early on before we get too established. We've been working with YCND, Amnesty, UNA Youth and various organisations like that. I'm trying to put out the feelers now so the links are already there.

On the European front, we are the contacts for European Youth Forest Action, which is a network of groups primarily concerned with acid rain, but getting into the issues of nuclear power and TRF. We've been told by them that we're the only youth environment organisation campaigning on all the issues at the moment – which is quite impressive!

SOTT: If there was a general election tomorrow, which way would you advise your members to vote?

JB: I wouldn't, as Earth Action, as we're an apolitical organisation. In the last election FoE produced a green agenda which analysed environmental policies

of all the political parties. The Tories and the Labour Party are as bad as each other – the only party which is taking things on board is the Green Party. If we came out in support of the Green Party it would make us less effective in our campaigning. All the parties need a lot of prodding when it comes to green issues.

SOTT: Are you prepared to tell us your personal politics?

JB: Green socialism!

SOTT: How does your relationship work with FoE?

JB: We will try and link in with them as much as possible, we hope to complement each other. They will carry on with the lobbying/campaigning side of things. We will be out on the streets taking action. We would hope that FoE groups will join in with our events. For example, in June we held a Day of Action on acid rain and on the 19th FoE held their forest alert. At the moment we all work together as a team.

SOTT: What do you see as a future for Earth Action?

JB: It depends, I see it growing and growing and getting more people involved – I see it as a vehicle for expanding the whole of the environmental movement. It's important to make young people aware that it's possible for them to change things. Being concerned is not always enough, we want people to make their voices heard. On lots of green issues especially TRF we are the last generation who can prevent a catastrophe. I think EA has the correct formula; it's the take-up that's important now.

SOTT: What would you say to those interested in green issues?

JB: It's very simple: *get involved!*

If you're interested in finding out more about Earth Action and their activities write to Earth Action, 22-24 Underwood St, London N1 7JG. Tel: 01-490 1555.

We plan to hold a joint action with Earth Action in October on the issue of nuclear power. Watch this space to find out more . . .

LONDON

Brent – Loraine Sweeney, 1 Cornwall Gdns, London NW10. Tel: 01-451 2531

Camden – Ziggy Melamed, 5 Dalmeny Rd, N7. Tel: 01-607 7134

Enfield – Danielle Harvey, 33 Burlington Rd, Enfield, Middx. EN2. Tel: 01-363 6755

Finchley and Barnet – C. Howarth, 3 Clifford Rd, New Barnet, EN5. Tel: 01-440 5079

Greenwich and Lewisham – Clare Cochrane, 69, Tranquil Vale, SE3 0BP. Tel: 01-318 2962

Golders Green and Hendon – Tom Albu, 24 Willifield Way, NW11. Tel: 01-458 2283

Goldsmiths College – Rebecca Vincenzi, 33 Granville Pk, SE17

Hackney – Justin Leighton, 5 Thomas House, Morningside Estate, Morningside Lane, E8. Tel: 01-537 0391

Hammersmith and Chiswick – Jessica White, 32 Alexandra Rd, W4 1AX

Harrow – Caroline Sergeant, 27 Nower Hill, Pinner, Middx. HA5 5QR. Tel: 01-868 5783

Hornsey – Libby Hazell, 11 Berkeley Rd, N8. Tel: 01-346 0650

Ilford – Gary Isaacs, 15 Starhouse Lane, Barkingside IG6 1PU. Tel: 01-551 1757

Islington North – Shona Pollock, 12 Gladsmuir Rd, London N19 3JX. Tel: 01-272 1023

Islington South – Duncan Millar, 16, Compton Tce, N1 2UN.

Newham – Anna Saunders, 97 Claremont Rd, E7. Tel: 01-555 2074

Peckham – Matthew Kettle, 24 Wingfield St, SE15. Tel: 01-732 7406

Putney – Jason O'Brien, Flat 14, 42 Carlton Dr, SW15. Tel: 01-789 3268

Richmond College – E. Villiers, 9 Halford Rd, Richmond upon Thames, TW10. Tel: 01-948 3662

Southfields – Claire Pritchard, 91 Valley Walk, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 3TQ

Southwark – Lucas Thorpe, 27 Grove Hill Rd, SE5. Tel: 01-274 9255

Streatham – Linda Grineau, 56 Fernthorpe Rd, SW16. Tel: 01-769 5725

Wanstead and Woodford – Rachel Smith, 41 Malford Grove, E18 2DY. Tel: 01-989 0767

SOUTH EAST

Brighton – Clare Shephard, 38 Riley Rd, BN2 4AH. Tel: 0273 693208

Canterbury – Mary Laven, 31 St Augustine's Rd, Canterbury CT1. Tel: 0227 60372

Cheshington – Margaret Atkinson, 14 Sanger Ave, KT9 1EX

East Grinstead – Doreen Foley, 6 Geldyne Walk, Herontyne, RH19

Forest Row – Andrew Smart, 3 Gilham View, Forest Row, E. Sussex RH18 5AA

Margate – The Secretary, 7 Bridge Rd, Westbrook, CT9

Orpington – Amelia Johnson, Timbers, 6 Homewood Cottages, Orpington

Redhill & Reigate – Anthony Abel, 83 Shirley Ave, RH1

Sevenoaks – Dave Palmer, 98 Dynes Rd, Kemsing, TN15. Tel: 09592-3779

Sidcup – Claire Hedderman, 332 Burnt Oak, DA15 8LW

Sutton – Cathy Bryan, 49 Pine Walk, Woodmansterne, SM7 3QA

Tunbridge Wells – Julie Aeson, 2 Goldmid Rd, Tonbridge

Walton on Thames – Kevin Hamilton, 38 Trenchard Cl, KT12. Tel: 0932 221708

Youth Battle Anti-Nuclear Group – Ian Howells, Mole End, Forewood Lane, Crowhurst TN33

SOUTH

Abingdon – Daniel Tarsish, H Social, Radley College, Abingdon OX14

Christchurch – Jayne Butters, 2 Irvine Way, Someford, Christchurch BH23 3BE

Eastleigh – T. Crossland, 69 Hiltngbury Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO5. Tel: 0703 265857

Fareham – Amanda Fuller, 34 The Downsway, Portchester, PO16 8PA

Oxford – Jemima Bailey, 34 The Hill, Garsington, Oxon OX9 9DG

Reading – Yuri Prasad, 36 Hazal Dr. Tel: 661162

Salisbury – Terence O'Keffe, 'Fonbadet', Orstock, SP5. Tel: 0722 332083

Wimborne – Susie Mumford, The Little House, Smugglers Lane, Colehill, Dorset. Tel: 0202 884949

SOUTH WEST

Barnstaple – Sarah Kelly, Church Cottage, Walkleigh, Barton, Uمبرleigh EX37

Credition – John Eden, 2 Hillside Cottages, Zeal Monachorum, EX17. Tel: 03633 606

Helston – Jessica Hines, Tregarne Farm House, Manaccan, Helston, Cornwall. Tel: 280674

St Austell – Sarah Drew, 19 Hallane Rd, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL25 3EL

Totnes – Taty Denny, 9 Antrim Tce, T09

WEST

Bath – Sandra Stevens, 4 Farm Cottages, Moscombe, BA2. Tel: 0761 32546

Bristol – Hannah Durrant, 49 Sefton Pk Rd, Ashley Down. Tel: 0272 424562

Somerset – Molly Cooper, 5 Sommer Hill, Frome, Somerset BA11 1LT

Chippenham – Ian Mills, 1 Chestnut Rd. Tel: 02496 54624

Malmesbury – The White House, Tetbury Hill, SN16

Marlborough – Esther Bradbury, The Lime Oake, SN8. Tel: 0672 63480

Minehead – Sharon Veale, 19 Tregonwell Rd, Somerset TA24 5DU

Nether Stowey – Lisa Dedamess, 10

...Earth Action Style!