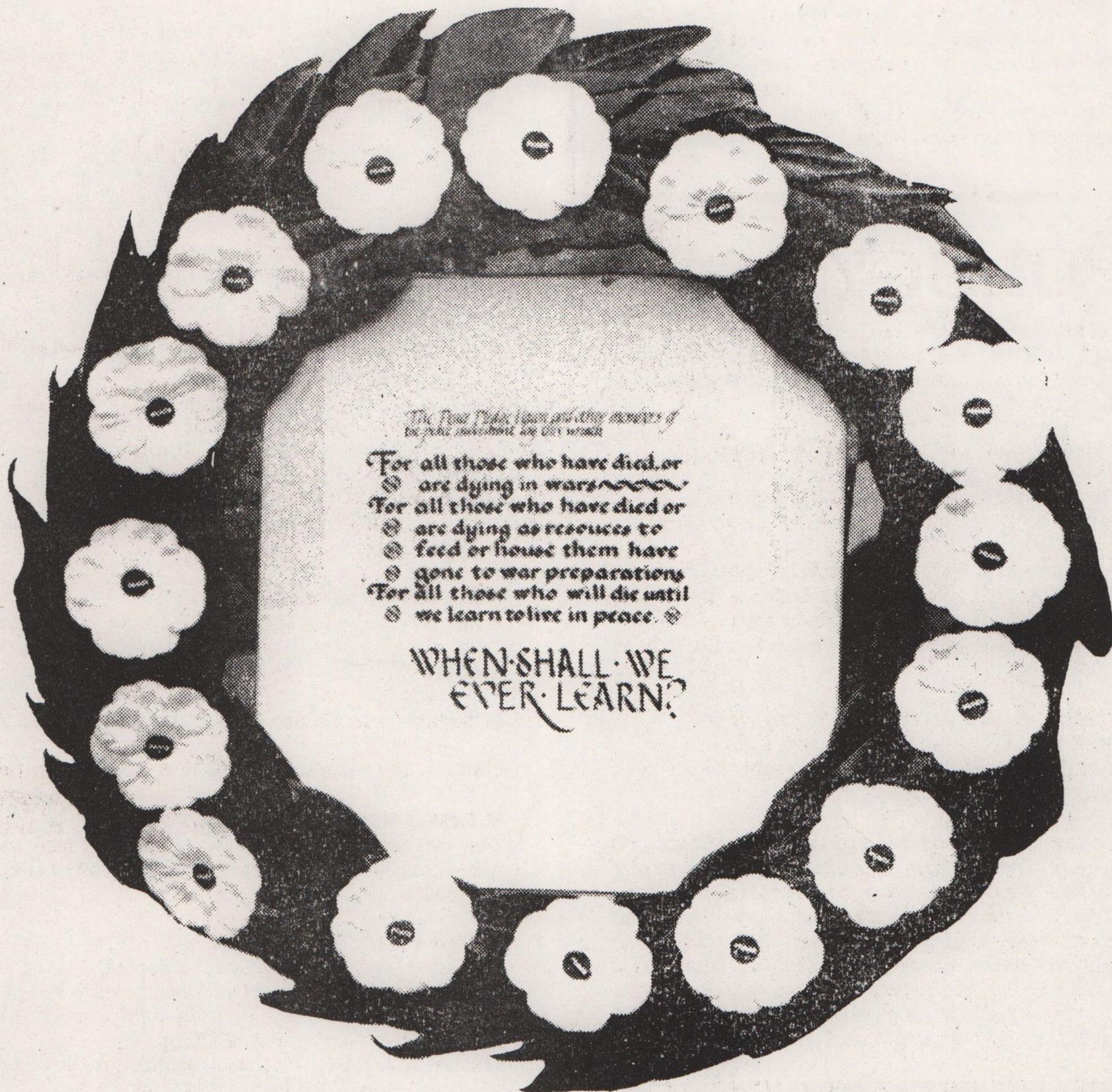


NOTTINGHAM CND November Bulletin



*The Four Minute Man and other members of
the public subscription for the war*

For all those who have died or
 are dying in wars
 For all those who have died or
 are dying as resources to
 feed or house them have
 gone to war preparations
 For all those who will die until
 we learn to live in peace.

WHEN SHALL WE
EVER LEARN?

WHITE POPPIES FOR PEACE

EDITORIAL

The sacking of workers at G.C.H.Q. raised some interesting issues for the peace movement. Naturally we stick up for the underdog and feel for the workers being denied the elementary right to join a union. On the other hand, G.C.H.Q. should not exist! It's a spy base - listening in through high technology equipment - solely designed to facilitate war-making. There - trade unionists and non-trade unionists alike were, during the Falklands War, directly involved in pursuing a bloody, needless and, it would seem, virtually a nuclear war. The G.C.H.Q. trade unionists are correct - their union card did not affect their "loyalty" in any way - they worked overtime willingly in Thatcher's war. It is, of course, ironic that the G.C.H.Q.'s staunchest defenders - the electricians' union - is - within the trade union movement, the most gung-ho for the bomb.

APOLOGY

In the last issue of the Bulletin, a proof-reading error allowed Pete Strauss's article I COUNTED THEM ALL IN, AND I COUNTED THEM ALL OUT AGAIN, to read as follows:-

"I shouted out at the top of my voice

"What about the warheads?" and began dancing in a ring".

Discerning readers will have spotted that this was an unlikely activity for Pete to indulge in, being known as he is, for a very hard-headed and down-to-earth political approach. The text should have read-

"I shouted out at the top of my voice
"What about the warheads?" and a group of Quaker ladies over to my right began dancing in a ring".

We have been advised by solicitors acting on Pete's behalf that the misprint has severely damaged his reputation and credibility in local radical circles and so we print here an unreserved and unqualified apology: we are now convinced that Pete has never danced in a ring or acted in a manner likely to be interpreted as dancing in a ring or taken part in any other activity lacking in credibility and general cool-headedness.

Hucknall CND Present a
ROCK 'N' ROLL EVENING
with:
RICKY AND THE RAVERS
at:
THE PLOUGH & HARROW
HIGH ST., HUCKNALL
NOVEMBER 26th. 7.30

DIARY

November

- 5th North/South Exhibition & Events
Albert Hall, Nottingham 10 - 5pm.
- 12th White Poppies at Listergate stall 11-2pm.
- 13th Radcliffe-on-Trent Peace Group meet
opposite church to lay white wreath of
poppies 10.15 am.
- 15th December bulletin deadline.
Items to 33 Castlegate or 'phone 620459.
- 18/20th CND Annual Conference, Salford University
- 19th Leafletting etc. at Listergate 11 - 2 pm.
- 21st Deadline for stall license applications
to City Secretary's office, Council Ho.
- 23rd NCND Executive Meeting WEA Shakespeare
St. Nott'm 7.30 pm.
- 26th Rock 'n' Roll Evening - organised by
Hucknall CND (see ad.)
- 26th C.A.A.T. Day School St. Barnabas Centre
33a Canal Street, Oxford 10.30 - 5.00pm.

December

- 10th. NCND Christmas Market, Congregational
Centre, Castle Gate 10.30 - 4.00 pm.

CHRISTMAS AT LISTERGATE

NCND has licenses for three Saturdays in December
Come along and help sell all our Christmas
goodies!

December 3rd ... December 10th ... December 24th.

Contact Cath Wakeman on 620459 if you can help.

NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP MEETINGS



(As yet not a comprehensive list - please can
other groups send details of regular meetings to
the bulletin team.):

Forest Fields Peace Group

Thursday Nov.17th, 7.30pm. - Forest Fields Neigh-
bourhood Centre, Wiverton Road (every 3rd. Thurs)

Radcliffe-on-Trent Peace Group

Monday Nov.14th, 7.45pm. - Radcliffe-on-Trent
Library, New Road (every 2nd. Monday)

Sherwood/Mapperley Park

Monday Nov.7th., 8.00pm. - 20 Waldeck Road,
Carrington (variable date and venue)

West Bridgford.

Tuesday Nov. 1st., 7.30 - West Bridgford Library,
(side entrance) (every 1st. Tuesday)

VISITING THE NEW OFFICE

Best days and times at present, until we are
sorted out, are:

MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY 11 - 2.00 pm.

WHITE POPPIES IN NOVEMBER

"White poppies symbolise the extension of the concept of Remembrance to include all of the dead and those who suffer in all wars on all sides, as well as the living victims of war and abhorrence at the expenditure on arms and military activity."

This year NCND will once again be distributing white poppies. The white poppies of the Co-op, Women's Guild and the Peace Pledge Union are now worn by most of the peace movement, some of us wear them on their own, some wear them with the red poppy of the British Legion. As with all symbolic acts, the meaning is in the mind of the beholder and the wearer.

This year I've been meditating on why I'm wearing my poppy and it's for my family. This autumn, my mother talked to me for the first time about parts of "her war". About my grandfather: he was reported as killed in action, my grandmother's hair went white overnight. But he wasn't killed - he was cut off "behind enemy lines" and lived rough for 7 months. He never told his family how he survived. He was shot by a White Russian sniper in Italy, 2 days after WWII ended, and survived.

Of 10 friends who went to war together, only 2 survived. My mother remembers the photo well - strange to see a picture of 10 young men, 8 dead. My father himself died quite young, unfulfilled. As a small boy he used to tell me some war stories when he was alone with me. To me as a boy they seemed exciting and I remember none. The pain and the sadness behind the stories must have been difficult for him.

My mother talked of friends she'd lost - of making munitions herself (no pacifist, she!) But over the years, as much as anything, having seen what wars do, she wants no more - not yet a CNDer, but, when she was in Nottingham, she wore the badge for a day or two.

I'll wear my white poppy with pride, for my family and for Peace.

ROSS BRADSHAW.

LEST WE FORGET

Lest we forget the countless
children burned alive in napalm's fire

Lest we forget the dead civilians
lying tangled in the wire

And the faces of the women, raped
and shattered to the core

It's not only men in uniform who
pay the price of war.

Lest we forget.

Judy Small.

The AGM was held this year in the upstairs room of the Yorker pub on Mansfield Road. The venue had been chosen in order to create a more relaxed and friendly atmosphere than might be usually expected at the WEA and, importantly, to allow people to stop and mingle together afterwards over a drink and a snack. Nonetheless, the venue did attract some criticism and a motion was put asking that from now on, AGMs don't take place on licensed premises again. The argument behind this proposal was that, by meeting in a pub, it was impossible for members who might be alcoholics or have a drink problem, to attend. After some discussion, an amendment was passed which, instead, called on the officers to take care in the future where meetings were held, by considering the views of members but also trying to find a cheerful environment.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hard Work.

On the formal business-side of the meeting, reports of last year's activities were presented by outgoing officers (which are available, along with Treasurer's Report, in the NCND office) and all retiring officers were thanked for the hard work they had put in over what has been quite a difficult year for the campaign. Special thanks were extended to Geoff Young who retired as Bulletin Co-Ordinator after several years of devoted involvement with that illustrious magazine.

New Office.

There was some discussion about the circumstances of the move to the NCND office and a motion was put which criticised the officers for "dismissing the members' vote" by choosing to move to 33 Castle Gate rather than to the Rainbow Centre. Again, a compromise amendment was found which expressed the majority feeling of the meeting ... that the officers had done well to move so quickly and efficiently in securing the premises on Castle Gate, but perhaps should have been a little more careful with their processes of consultation ... in short, the critical motion was voted not to be voted on. (Got that?)

There was a little bit of pointed questioning of the Bulletin's role over the last year and it was said that recent issues had failed to give enough prominence to local campaigning events and issues. The criticism was accepted in part and it was agreed that the Bulletin had become a little bit more of a magazine and less of a bulletin over the last twelve months.

Radcliffe-on-Trent Peace Group proposed that NCND should mark Armistice Day again this year and in the future with white poppies and the discussion brought out a great deal of enthusiasm for this.

New Officers.

New officers for 1989 were duly appointed, as were delegates to CND National Conference.

The new officers are: Jane Goldsmith
 Cath Wakeman (Bulletin)
 Kate Marsden (Treasurer)
 Jeremy Jago
 Pete Strauss

Delegates to Conference are: Jane Goldsmith
 Ross Bradshaw
 Kate Marsden
 Pete Strauss
 Ann Kestenbaum.

Rob Holland presented the financial report for the year (available in the NCND office). It was noted that, since the last PARIS IN THE SPRING raffle, there had been no major fund-raising initiative for NCND and, since it was this raffle and the 200 Club which were accounting for an increasing proportion of our income, the new officers were encouraged to launch some sort of money-spinner next year.

Overall, the meeting was well-attended (over 35 people there) and the atmosphere was warm and relaxed. After the meeting broke up, we mingled amongst Sherwood CND's delicious snacks and seemed to win an endless stream of marvellous prizes from Bulwell's amazingly well-stocked raffle.

NEWS FROM PEACE NEWS

The Nottingham-based Peace News - currently "resting" - is now due to be relaunched in the spring as a fortnightly newspaper, with a quarterly insert of longer pieces. The paper will be advertising for new workers - further details from Peace News, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.



Advertisement

Thurs 10th Nov

BROKEN DREAMS

In the year of the (white) bi-centennial of Australia the land rights of the Aboriginal people have had scant publicity. There is an alternative view of Australian life... the film 'A JOURNEY OF THE SPIRIT' will be shown, made to show that Aboriginal view. **Speaker: RIKKI SHIELDS** — Aboriginal activist, photographer and maker of the film.

All lectures start at 7.30 and are at the Auditorium, County Library, Angel Row, Nottingham. & Tickets are £1.50 (75p unwaged) for each lecture — available from Victoria Centre Box Office, the County Library and Mushroom Bookshop. Enquiries to (0602) 582506.

Nottinghamshire County Council



NORTH SOUTH: ONE WORLD

mushroom
 R. O. O. K. S. H. O. P

A BETTER READ FOR A BETTER WORLD

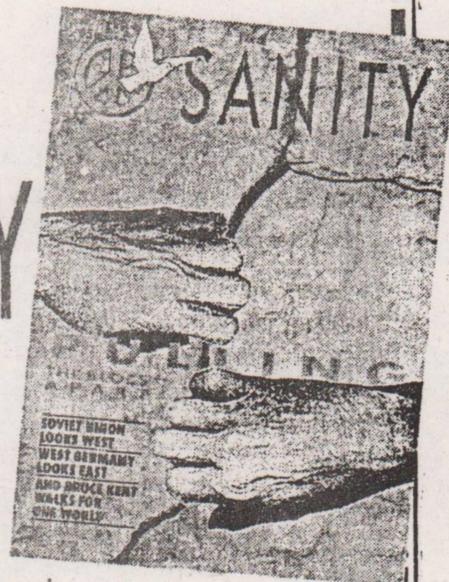
The peace movement today is about much more than simply opposing the bomb. It's a whole new politics of alliances with independence and human rights movements, aid and development organisations, women's groups, the greens, the anti-racist movement and the unions.

Analysis, imagination, outrage, perseverance, courage and humour: they're all part of the peace movement, and they're all in SANITY. Be informed and get involved - read SANITY.



SANITY

For a Nuclear-Free World



Yes, send me SANITY every month.
 Subscription rates

ONLY £4 TO NCND MEMBERS!

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

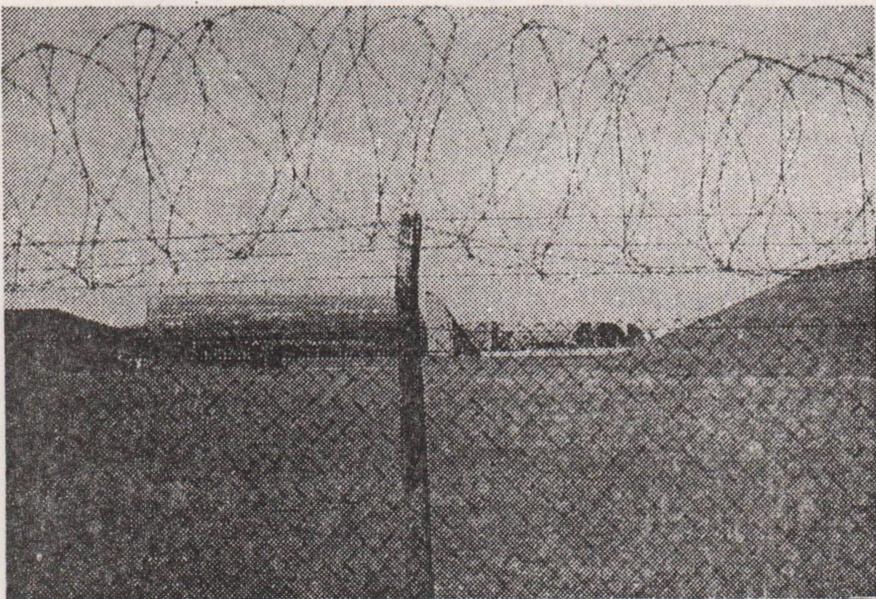
Name

Address

..... Postcode

I enclose £

Please return completed form to:
 Nottingham CND,
 33 Castlegate,
 Nottingham,
 NG1 7AR.



UPPER HEYFORD NO NEW NUKES DEMONSTRATION

The national demonstration this Autumn took the "masses" away from the empty London streets and dispersed them around three different locations - Faslane, Upper Heyford and Portsmouth Docks - all of which are directly involved with the new generation of nuclear weapons.

Nottingham CND were at Upper Heyford, the U.S.A.F. base where air-launched cruise missiles will be deployed in 1989/90. Cruise missiles may have been negotiated away with a grand splurge of publicity, but the public know very little about the new missiles. The demonstration at Upper Heyford did little to rectify that, as national publicity for the event was poor and our own Nottingham coverage was virtually nil.

Nottingham's day-out in Oxfordshire, however, was not without some sense of achievement. The demonstrations were publicised as non-violent direct actions and about thirty Nottingham members came prepared for NVDA. At the appointed time of two o'clock, twenty people scrambled under the wire and into the base, scattering to occupy the top of a bunker, climb a water tank and generally give the M.O.D. police the run-around. To the sounds of much cheering and whooping from onlookers everyone was rounded up and taken away in the police vans to be "escorted" off the base.

Back together again, a curious game of Cat and Mouse began: Nottingham chops the wire, the police search for the cutters. I am still baffled as to how the said instruments weren't found, as most of us were searched. I felt triumphant and apologetic at the same time as a policewoman advanced upon my "lump" with a look of "gotcha" on her face, only to find a genuine pregnant woman and not someone harbouring assorted hardware up her jumper!(I wonder how many women activists have used this method of concealment in the past?)

The day finished with four NCND members climbing and occupying a hangar at the front of the base, to the delight of the crowd who gathered to cheer them on. Three of the four were charged with offences under the byelaws and will appear in court on Nov.11th.

News of what else was happening around the rest of the base was vague. National CND put the number of protesters at two thousand at Upper Heyford and reports were coming in on the day of ten thousand at Portsmouth.

So was National CND right to decentralise? I think so, because although many people will be missing "The Big One", dwindling numbers on the streets is hardly empowering and, if October 15th did little else, it gave us all varying degrees of personal satisfaction. More importantly, it showed the men of the military machine (who, incidentally, were not a little miffed with us) that we know we were deceived, that I.N.F. did little other than shuffle the numbers. They may tell us that Cruise Missiles are finished, we have to tell them loud and clear that our opposition is not.

Jill Robson

CONSUMER REPORT

(This article is a garbled collection of comments gathered on the coach!)

A mild and misty morning in Maid Marion Way, two minibuses and a coach wait to load up. The minibuses fill with NVDA'ers, but only 20 people get on the coach.

Arriving at Upper Heyford, we find roads blocked off, scores of police with extra vans, motorbikes and some boss horses, but very little else. Is it the wrong day? However, more people keep arriving and we cheer up with cups of tea and wedges of flapjack from a stall at the peace camp. Said peace camp is small, friendly and long established in a leafy lane beside the fence. The place filled up to about a thousand demonstrators and the atmosphere was very optimistic and cheerful with the usual balloon and badge and information stalls and some old familiar banners. There were a good many local groups there which is very encouraging when compared to the attitude of almost all local people around Molesworth base.

We thought at first that it was a rather over-policed event and were not keen on the plain clothes man who slowly video-ed the crowd at the main gate, (he said) for training purposes. He was later videoing the NVDA lot being removed from on top of the bunkers.

At one point, hordes of police scurried about erecting barriers along the pavement and clearing away people from in front of the main gate, then two minutes later piling the barriers back up again. More training obviously. Some Nottingham CND people would have preferred a more organised day with more of a group feeling, with the Nottingham banners, but people did various things. Some walked right around the base and did a good P.R. job with the Americans and the MOD police. (The peace camp wants to keep on good terms with everybody.) Others decorated the fence and some planted daffodil bulbs in a CND symbol, while the NVDA-ers covertly prised up the fence. A certain child was photographed planting bulbs by three different local papers.

There was no mass media attention to the day at all that we know of, but we enjoyed the day anyway as a boost to our morale and it made some of us more keen to get back into campaigning activity. Are the mass of NCND members relaxing in the aftermath of the INF talks?

PAULINE WAREHAM.

THE FIELD NOTES OF SGT. JOSEPH R. GUELL

The CND Bulletin has been given a number of documents relating to the "Exercise Eastern Shield" - an exercise held between 3rd and 15th September 1988. The troops involved were NATO American troops based at RAF Alconbury UK; the exercise seeming to cover the area round RAF Mildenhall to RAF Upper Heyford to RAF Lakenheath. All of these bases are well-known to CND as American nuclear bases - that they are under American control is shown by the authorisation stamps of the "10th Combat Support Group" United States Air Force Chief, Base Administration. The exercise, under field conditions, is based on an armed attack by "Spetsnaz". The NATO theory is that "Spetsnaz" - effectively a Russian 5th Column - will have infiltrated the local communities and, in the lead-up to war, will be carrying out acts of sabotage against NATO bases.

Amongst the documents we received were the field notes of a Sgt. Joseph R. Guell - security clearance "secret", incidentally. These notes indicate that the Russians would have very little to fear. The "scenarios" quaintly describe "recon. activities", "detection", "Ivan coming over to our side". The state of preparedness was laughable, as the following quotes signify.

"... the squad leaders had a look of confusion. If a sniper was located nearby, there would have been mass casualty." (sic)

"When asked about range cards, 3 out of 4 had no clue of what was being asked."

"Security forces in Charlie Section were giving up post positions, by just walking right up and in without low crawling along hedges for concealment."

"Communication breakdown."

"Personnel are getting up, leaving key positions."

"Poor noise discipline."

Leaving aside that the above critic was none too careful with his own notes - kept, you guessed it, in a camouflaged Filofax - the notes were worrying. It is uncomfortable to read about "hostile forces" and "the individual is or could have been terminated", "search and clear" - we are not at war with "Ivan". Similarly, it is still difficult to accept that these people DO believe (for they must) that their "suspected encounter with enemy forces" will one day be real (for otherwise why do they bother?) Still - it does bring the defence issue home.

NATO COMES TO NOTTINGHAM

As we go to press, the city of Nottingham is being paid a visit by some of NATO's and the MOD's top brass. The reason for this dubious honour is a dry-run for NATO's 40th. birthday celebrations next year. The good people of our town and Chester have been chosen as guinea pigs for NATO's effort to sparkle up their image. In our case, they are holding a public meeting at County Hall and the guest speakers are David Summerhayes (Disarmament

Advisor to the Foreign Office); Bram Triestram (NATO Information Officer); and Rear Admiral James Weatherall (Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff).

Under the general heading **NATO 40 YEARS OF PEACE**, their leaflets and posters ask the following tricky questions:

How does NATO go about keeping the peace?
(Search me.)

What does the UK contribute? (Too much.)

Do we need an independent nuclear deterrent?
(Do we need a hole in the head?)

Why is it important to keep American forces
in Europe? (Profits.)

NCND officers have been concentrating their efforts on trying to persuade local radio stations to balance any appearance by the NATO "experts" with peace movement speakers like Air Vice Marshall Alistair Mackie or Dan Plesch.

A full report of the outcome to these efforts and of the meeting itself will appear in the December Bulletin.

NCND PICKETS RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Early last month, advertisements began appearing in local newspapers announcing a major recruitment drive for engineers to work at Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston. These ads failed to give any detailed information about the purposes or products of AWE Aldermaston, but chose instead to dwell on the beautiful and picturesque countryside in that particular corner of our Green and Pleasant Land.

The "jobs Show" was to take place at the Strathdon Thistle Hotel on Derby Road, on October 5th. At extremely short notice, NCND organised a lunch-time picket, issued press releases to all local media and printed several hundred leaflets whose text was aimed at passers-by as much as to potential recruits.

Only a dozen or so budding nuclear-war technicians came to the hotel during the picket and one or two of those looked distinctly sheepish and ashamed as they passed through. All potential applicants were handed, by the pickets, detailed briefing sheets about Aldermaston's appalling safety record, which includes findings by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund showing four times as much childhood Leukaemia around Aldermaston as the national average.

The leaflets concentrated on the contrast between using skills for life and skills for death building and designing more weapons of mass destruction rather than researching ways of feeding the world's starving people; of finding a cure for Aids and of developing renewable energy sources. Perhaps, because of the current concern about global security and environmental issues, the leaflets were read with much interest by passers-by and not a single one was seen to be thrown away.

The Nottingham Evening Post sent a reporter to cover the picket and printed a small story the following day.

GLASNOST IN ARMENIA

We were seated at lunch in the Armenia Hotel in Erivan, the capital of the Soviet republic of Armenia, when people suddenly rushed to the windows. Across the central square opposite marched a band of two to three hundred students - headed by a large banner calling for Nagorno Karabakh to be re-united with Armenia. Others were carrying placards and shouting slogans. They were obviously enjoying themselves hugely. It was all rather reminiscent of CND demos in the 80's - except that there was scarcely a policeman in sight!

Call for a strike

We were on an Intourist tour to the Transcaucasian republics of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in mid-September. There had been a call for a national one-day strike. Schools were closed and many factories shut. We spent that afternoon in the square outside the Opera House where there had been continuous demonstrations for the past few days. There were crowds of people there; many students and schoolchildren and a lot of older people too. There were small meetings going on in the shade of the trees; people were looking at an exhibition of photographs of recent events; others, in the full heat of the afternoon sun, were maintaining their stand in front of the Opera House with banners and posters. Mingling unobtrusively with the crowds were a few - very few - policemen. They were unarmed - although Soviet police are usually armed as are nearly all continental police. No-one objected to our taking photographs. We were seeing Glasnost in operation.

The largest demo we saw was the one that held us up on the way to the airport. It was a Sunday afternoon and thousands of people were making for the national memorial to the 1.5 million Armenians massacred by the Turks in 1915. That morning, we had watched the beginning of the procession pass by. Police behaviour was again exemplary and their numbers tiny in comparison with the numbers that turn out to police a CND demo. Again we took many photos.

Armenian Demands

The present troubles are over an Armenian and Christian enclave, Nagorno Karabakh (N.K.), in the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan, which is mainly Moslem. Violence broke out last February and many Armenians were killed: people we spoke to told us the number of dead was far higher than the official figure of 30. Armenia, with the support of the local Communist Party, is demanding that N.K. becomes part of Armenia. The Soviet Constitution states that boundary changes between republics can only take place with the agreement of both parties. Nagorno Karabakh has important

industries and, not surprisingly, Azerbaijan is refusing to give it up.

There is no doubt that Armenia has prospered since it became part of the USSR in 1920. It is now one of the most highly industrialised and wealthy of the Soviet republics. Over 90% of the population is Armenian, so there is no question of "Russification" as in Latvia. Erivan, the capital, has grown from a market town of 28,000 to a city of over a million with a metro and impressive public buildings.

Another example of glasnost

Our guide in Baku (Azerbaijan) gave us her personal view of the situation. A well-organised group in N.K. were stirring things up and threatening people who did not join in the protests. She claimed that they had funds to pay people to go on strike. Incidentally there are two million Armenians in the USA, so perhaps this claim is not completely fantastic (c.f. Northern Ireland?). The fact that our guide voiced her opinions was another example of glasnost. The willingness of our guides to discuss the current situation was in marked contrast to the attitude of the people we met on our last visit to the USSR.

Of the changes we noticed, the most striking was the huge increase in the number of private cars everywhere. Lack of parking space and traffic congestion could be major problems before long. I also noticed a marked improvement in clothing but found shops, depressingly, much as they were on my first visit back in '53. Perestroika is obviously badly needed here. (Since returning, I have read Martin Walker's "The Waking Giant - the Soviet Union Under Gorbachev" and strongly recommend it to anyone interested in understanding what is going on. It is available at the Central Library - Level 1.)

Living memory of the War

There seemed to be fewer peace posters about than previously; only in Baku did we see any number. This is doubtless a reflection of the new emphasis in policy. Calls for glasnost and perestroika now have pride of place on the hoardings. We also saw "green" posters in Moscow. The centrality of peace to every Soviet Citizen is best seen in the maintenance of the living memory of 1941-45. Every city has its war memorial with an eternal flame to the memory of those who died, beside which there always seem to be fresh flowers laid by ordinary citizens. This illustrates a fundamental difference in attitudes to peace between our two peoples. In the USSR there is scarcely a family that did not lose someone, so flowers are brought all through the year; in Britain, with our much lower casualty rate, we only honour the dead once a year with artificial poppies - red or white ..

It is becoming more and more difficult for the militarists to present the Soviet Union as an evil repressive state hell bent on overrunning the West. The myth of the Soviet threat, the mainspring of the arms race, is disintegrating. Shouldn't CND be doing more to demolish it for good?

Jos Wood.

NEIGHBOURHOOD UPDATE: WEST BRIDGFORD

The caretaker of the local library brought a wistful smile to the faces of a couple of veterans of the West Bridgford Neighbourhood Group: he was concerned that the room available for the group's monthly meetings would be too small. There was no need to panic - a cupboard would have met their needs. However, the group is far from dead.

A commitment has been made to supply a regular NCND Bulletin collating team and bulletins are distributed locally each month without fail. Fund-raising continues; the group's two Peace Festival stalls raised a total of £116 which was donated in full to the festival fund and a social is being planned to replenish dwindling resources (and just for the heck of it). The distribution in June of 3,000 Jaws leaflets has resulted in 10 people asking for further information. All are being visited.

The Fed-up, the flagging and the forgetful

Indeed, knocking on doors is perhaps the secret of the group's success. The fed-up, the flagging and the forgetful can expect a call with final membership renewal notices and it is a source of pride that numbers remain steady at around 140.

The few who continue to meet, and those who give support, believe it essential to keep "group-feeling" alive. Wendy Wain recalls the "disheartening" pre-1983 days:

"It is difficult to achieve a lot, she says. "People would turn up to a meeting, then disappear forever. We were beginning to develop a complex!"

Perhaps the time wasn't right?

"True. We can only follow the fortunes of the peace movement as a whole and it wasn't until 1983 that the media coverage of the cruise missile issue made its full impact. People who felt they should be "doing something" were delighted to find a local point of contact with CND and we attracted many who otherwise might not have found it easy to become involved."

This view is confirmed by one of the group's new members, Caroleanne Worrall-Lewin, who signed up at this year's Peace Festival.

"It's good to know that a local group exists", she says; "It's so much simpler to become involved when like-minded people are so accessible."

So the policy of painstakingly maintaining a presence would seem to be the right one now, as then.

Campaigning Teeth

Those heady days saw the work which had been done since 1979 begin to pay off. There was an unprecedented burst of enthusiasm as many "came in from the cold" to cut their campaigning teeth on local activity. Membership soared to well over 200, and a complementary Day Group was set up. All co-operated to run a monthly bookstall, launch a news-sheet, produce a banner, establish a telephone tree, organise marches and generally lose themselves in a fog of fervour. Underlying it all was a sense of friendship. In Wendy's words: "We simply got to know each other. CND was no longer an organisation of strange people from another world, but a group of friends and neighbours, just like ourselves."



This feeling of belonging led many to branch out into formerly undreamed-of pastimes. Some found a talent for NVDA - necessarily a group activity. As one now puts it: "When the police have you by the scruff of the neck, you need to know who's looking out for you."

Secret Longings

Others opted for VDA - they joined the NCND Music Group and, as the fabulous, busking Four Minute Warning, aurally assaulted shoppers in the subways. The only alleged member of the group available for comment looks blank and denies all memory of it - despite the photograph. It wasn't her; she was out of the country. Inexplicably though, she admits to a secret longing to do again what she never did in the first place: for, along with the fervour, went the fun.

And now? Was it worth all the time, energy and occasional frayed nerves? That can be measured only against the results achieved by the peace movement as a whole. Most admit to "confusion" and "mixed feelings". Some longer-term campaigners confess themselves "unsurprised" by the ambiguous outcome of the INF Treaty. Negative thinking, however, has never been a characteristic of CND or of the West Bridgford group. Angela Phelps draws attention to one important achievement. She says:

"The removal of ground-launched missiles is a triumph in that it lessens the need for some of the excessive military-style policing we have seen."

A Lot to be done

She is among those who are concerned, however, that warheads have merely been shifted around - perhaps out of sight and out of the range of effective protest. There is consensus, all the same, that the treaty should be a cause for rejoicing. It may be "only a start"; there is still "a lot to be done". But success should be treasured and built upon. In the words of David Lane, referring to the peace movement in all its aspects: "We forget how strong we are".

But how strong does the neighbourhood group feel?

Wendy Wain: "Well! The small numbers attending meetings mean that it is once again difficult to organise support for various ventures. But we remind ourselves that we now have a core of loyal, long-term members many of whom contribute as individuals to NCND and other peace groups. It is a struggle at the moment, but who knows when the next shot-in-the-arm may come."

Meanwhile, perhaps they should adopt as their motto the words of E. F. Schumacher, author of "Small is Beautiful":

"I certainly never feel discouraged; I can't myself raise the winds that might blow us or this ship into a better world. But I can at least put up a sail so that, when the wind comes, I can catch it."

V. PARKER.

The West Bridgford group meets in the library (side entrance) at 7.30 on the first Tuesday of every month.

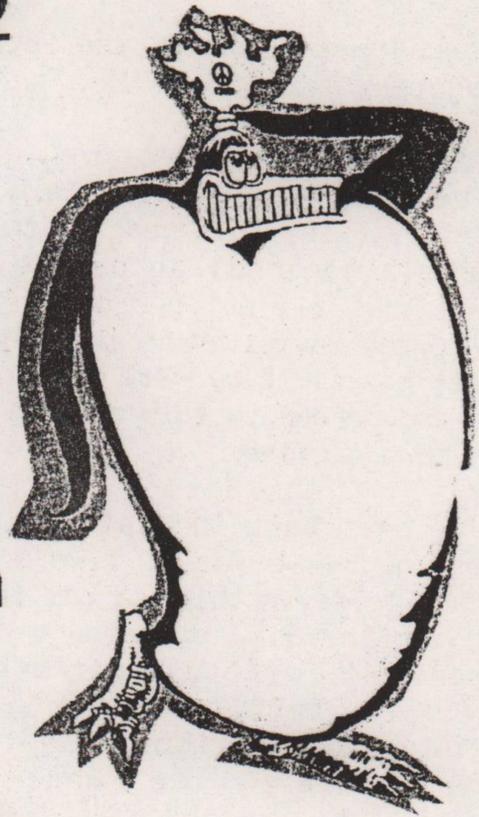
DONT MISS THE NCND CHRISTMAS MARKET

At The Congregational Centre,
Castle Gate, Nottingham, on
SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER
1988 FROM 10.30am TO 4PM

On sale will be a varied selection
of craft items produced by local
crafts people.

Also all the Christmas CND stock
items.

So make a date for your XMAS
shopping and add your support to
a NOTTINGHAM CND fund raising
event.



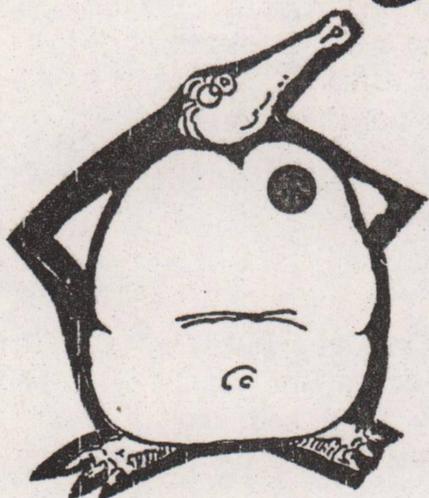
If you haven't already seen the new CND Christmas catalogue, get hold of one now! As well as the old classics - rugs, calendars, Housman's Diary - there are some great new additions - Steve Bell designer noticeboards, Japanese peace bells, new-look T-shirts and socks.



STOCK

We will be selling a large selection of Christmas cards and gifts from the catalogue at the Listergate stall on every Saturday we can possibly arrange- and from the new office - just up the road from Listergate. The large blue stall will be making a reappearance at Listergate over Christmas, so come and support CND and buy your Christmas gifts at the same time.

Hilary Trengrouse



WHAT WAS IT LIKE ?

Looking back on a visit to the Soviet Union by a NCND delegate.

At the last NCND Monthly Meeting, Roger Rawlinson gave an extremely interesting talk and slideshow of his trip earlier this year to the Soviet Union. There were a dozen or so people there and it turned out that all but one or two of that dozen had been to the Soviet Union themselves this year as well. It was as if we were suffering withdrawal symptoms and needed to talk about it. Going to the USSR can be addictive.

Since I've been back in Nottingham many people have asked me "what was it like?" In response, I either want to say nothing or sit them down for an hour and run the risk of being a "USSR bore". At the moment, I'm writing what started out as a report on my visit to Minsk and is quickly turning into a book. Writing this article presents the same problem - the "what was it like" syndrome.

Coals to Newcastle

Going to the Soviet Union as a CND delegate might be thought as Taking Coals to Newcastle. Whichever way you look at it, you certainly don't have a hard time persuading people in the USSR that nuclear weapons are a bad thing. The phrase that continually came to mind was "and these people are supposed to be our enemies." It just seemed so absurd.

Since I've returned, of course, the old pessimism has returned also, gnawing away at that absurdity; just being in this country, subject to the daily battering of the media can shake even the most firmly held convictions at times. It can be difficult to ignore the reasonable sounding arguments that continue to feed the Cold War, especially if you're as susceptible to media and social pressures as I and presumably many others are.

There ARE some things, however, that I can hold onto. I can remember people that I met. I can see their faces. I can remember the looks in their eyes and the warmth of their smiles.



Meetings

We stayed in Minsk for six days. During that time we met members of the Minsk branch of the UUSR-GB Friendship Society, the Byelorussian Peace Committee, the vice-Chairman of the Minsk City Council, the Director of the Railway Union's Palace of Culture, the Chairman of the Railway Committee, members of the Union of Journalists, a member of the Union of Artists and many other people in less formal meetings. The visit was very well organised, especially in view of the fact that it had to be hurriedly re-scheduled because of visa problems which prevented us from leaving on the originally agreed date.

Links

The Byelorussian Friendship Society employs a number of people on a full-time basis to organise delegations to and from all parts of the world to and accompany them and interpret for them as well, if necessary. Creating links with other parts of the world is clearly seen as a higher priority in the USSR than it is in this country, particularly with regard to peace groups. The Byelorussian Peace Committee has links with peace groups in 50 countries and exchanges are constantly being organised. During October, 3 people from Minsk have been the guests of West Midlands CND for 10 days.

Five members of the Peace Committee took part in a march to celebrate the destruction of SS21 missiles. A lorry accompanied the march, carrying debris from the explosions and each of the marchers was given a piece of missile as a souvenir. One member of the Peace Committee, a farmer, actually took part in the destruction process.

Are all these people really mere pawns in a game which they don't understand? Am I to believe that all the efforts to improve relations between the USSR and the rest of the world is a plot?

Desire for Peace

All I can say is that even the scantiest knowledge of the suffering of Soviet people during the 2nd World War and, as a result, the genuine desire for peace displayed by every Soviet person that you meet can lead to only one conclusion: that the efforts being made by the USSR to rid the world of nuclear weapons **have to be genuine** and that any Soviet leader, especially today, who does not make that aim one of his highest priorities might be out of a job.

A Whole World View

They say that astronauts, when looking back at the earth, have a feeling of wholeness and one community. They see the madness of rivalry between nations leading to war and destruction. Maybe I'm naive, but the whole world view I experienced on my visit to the Soviet Union seems to be encapsulated by that view from the sky.

That's what it was like.

Geoffrey Young.

P.S.

I'm still working on the report, but I've sorted out my slides and any CND group who would like me to come and talk about my trip and look at some slides, please contact me on 625820 (between 6 and 7 p.m.)

NEW OFFICE

If you read the article that appeared in the October edition of the Bulletin, you may remember that we were trying to gain the tenancy of 33 Castle Gate, in the city centre. Well, for those of you who missed the news at the Annual General Meeting, Nottingham CND has now left its old premises in Queen's Chambers and has moved into a ground floor office on Castle Gate. It's not quite on the main pedestrian precinct beside M&S or W H Smith, (we could not afford the rent!), but if you are in town doing your shopping, it is only 2 minutes' walk away from both of these. Just walk up Castle Gate from Marks & Spencers towards Maid Marian Way and it's the last building on the left.

Much discussion has already taken place over what NCND needs an office for. Given our limited financial resources, we hope these premises will meet the essential ones.

Inside there are 3 rooms which vary in their condition. The front room is the best and faces onto the street; possibly a main office? Behind is a second smaller room with a damp problem in its outside wall which will require some attention before it could be used as an office space. There is then a large back room which is basically damp and horrible, but still good as a storage space. Obviously not quite your average MOD

office standard, but all the requirements for our campaigning needs.

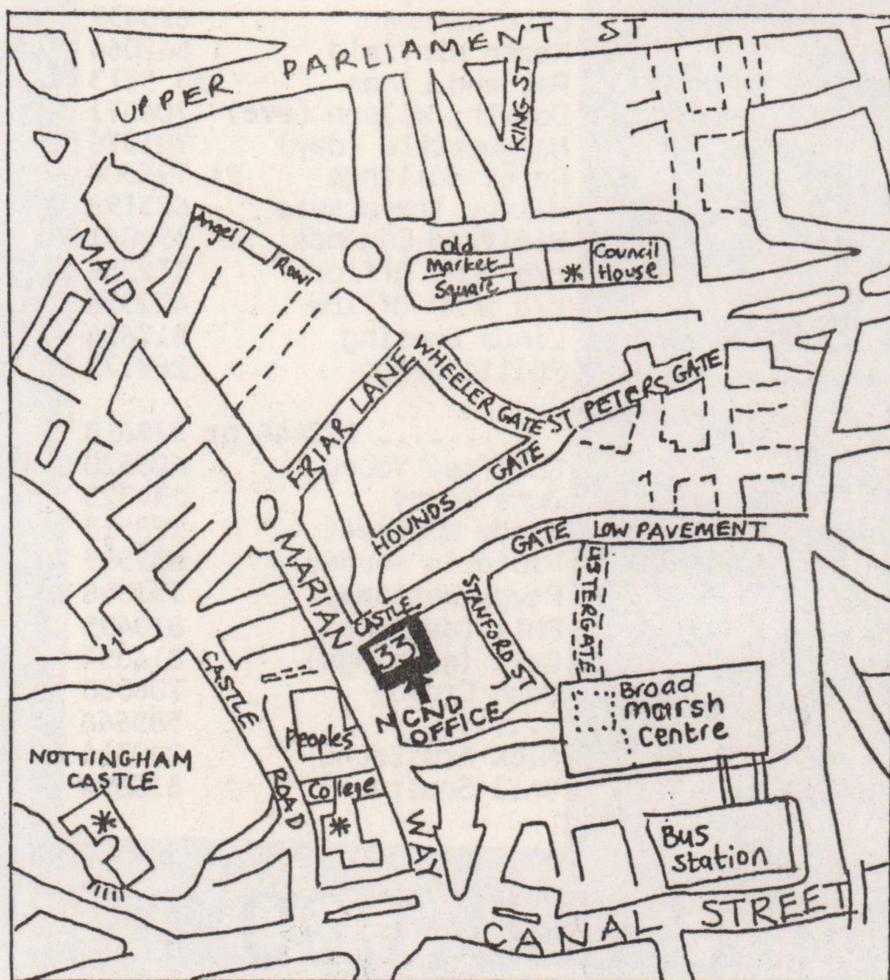
Over the next few months, a small group will be up-grading the rooms starting with the essential front office space.

The choice the Officers' group made to go to these premises was difficult, to say the least. All those involved are fully aware that not everybody feels this is the best move and that we could have taken the option to move into the Rainbow Centre on Mansfield Road. The decision, when it was made, was based purely on what the Officers' Group considered to be the best option for Nottingham CND needs over the next few years.

When the premises on Castle Gate became available, it left us very little time to make a decision, with wider consultation limited to the Executive Committee who backed the Officers' proposal. Generally, the cost of office space in the city centre is very high, but at half the yearly cost of our old office we had to move quickly or miss the opportunity of staying in the city centre. If we had delayed our decision, the Estate Agent would have advertised the property to let which, at such a low city centre rental, would have soon attracted interest. We hope people who feel disappointed will understand the reasons behind our decision.

If you are still not sure where we are, I hope the map will help. Or, better still, have a 2 minute walk up Castle Gate the next time you are in the city centre and see the office for yourself.

JOHN MITCHELL.



STOP PRESS

NEW OFFICE 'PHONE NO.

.. 588586 ..

JOIN NOTTINGHAM CND HERE

adult £3.75 household £4.50 unwaged £1.50 group affiliations £5 to 50

Name

Address

I enclose £ membership plus £ donation

Please make cheques payable to NCND and return to:

Nottingham CND, 33 Castlegate, Nottingham. NG1 7AR. Tel: 588586

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MEDICAL CAMPAIGN
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NALGO WORKPLACE-
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NAT COUNCIL REP
RAINBOW CENTRE
SAFE ENERGY GROUP
TRADES UNION CND

£1,000,000 COVER FOR CAKES!

Pensioners in Pickering, North Yorkshire, are reeling after a county council ruling that their cakes stall for charity must have £1m. insurance cover "in case of a freak accident".

What price insurance for the Peace Festival?

November bulletin credits:

Editorial: Cath Wakeman, Ross Bradshaw, Rod Langford, Helen McHugh, Geoff Young, Pete Strauss.

Typing: Phyllis Wells

Layout: Cath Wakeman, Geoff Young, Rod Langford

Printing: Louise and Eric Jessop, Bill Haines, Rod Langford.

Collation: West Bridgford N.G.

December/ January Bulletin Deadline:
DECEMBER 15TH

CITY C · I · N · E · M · A
LIGHTS

CAPTION COMPETITION

WIN FREE FILM
TICKETS!



"Oi super, there's a bloke out 'ere says he's checked 'em all off but he's got one over."

Well that's what is sounded like over the din in the pub. This entry was overheard so it probably doesn't count as a genuine entry, (but we liked it best and it shows how widely read the NCND bulletin is) so next month we're offering 2 (TWO!) double tickets! Entries please to the NCND office 33 Castlegate by December 15th.

This month's runners up:

Both coincidentally from cats again, this time from Grizzly and Webster with:

"Excuse me officer, we're doing some market research into our latest line in ear trumpets."

and:

"Last one into the bunker gets the booby prize."

Membership forms for cats available from the NCND office.

Here's this months picture!

