

Stall Dates for the Rest of 2007

Please note these are the dates on which we can have a stall outside the Council House in Nottingham.

I have now received an up-to-date petition from CND calling for a Nuclear Weapons Convention which would be concluded by the year 2020 to ensure the elimination of nuclear weapons world wide and the cancelling of the preparations to renew Trident. The stall dates are as follows:

Saturday 14th July

Saturday 18th August

Saturday 15th September

Saturday 27th October

Saturday 17th November

Saturday 8th December

We usually have the stall from 11.30 in the morning and it would be really good if you could help out even if you can only spare half an hour.

Please ring me if you can help, we do get some positive responses and it shows that CND is still active in Nottingham. If you can help please ring me on Nottingham

NOTTINGHAM CND BULLETIN

July - August 2007

Nottingham CND together with the people of Britain are entering a new and, hopefully, different era with the final goodbye to Tony Blair and the instatement of Gordon Brown. Let's hope that our new Prime Minister will finally see sense and see what an obscene waste of money it would be to replace Trident and look to using the money more usefully. There has been a positive move in this direction with a speech made by Margaret Beckett in Washington DC stating that there was a dangerous absence of debate at the highest levels on disarmament and the need to come up with a clear plan. She also said it was important to work on implementing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and major reductions in the huge US and Russian stockpiles. Let's hope she and Gordon Brown put this into practice ... and also say no to Trident replacement.

What we have been up to

Faslane weekend 31st May and 1st April

This was a real uplifting experience with around 50 people from Nottingham going up with one purpose in mind - No to Nuclear Weapons, No to Trident Replacement. It was really good to work together with the Sumac Centre and the Asbo Centre to ensure the event was successful and that we blockaded the base. The weekend was well prepared with accommodation being provided by a church and the food organised by the Sumac Centre. Jane and Diane got really involved in vegan cooking which was interesting and definitely different. Diane even amazed herself by making some vegan cakes which people actually ate and seemed to enjoy!!! Maybe it was that or nothing!!

Around 10 of us were actually in CND but people worked together really well and it showed what we can do when we have a common purpose and use a bit of imagination. We must find different and

more unusual ways to work towards a Nuclear Free World.

Nine people agreed to risk getting arrested and used different materials to lock themselves together. Ian Cohen agreed to be one of the arrestables, which was really good. The base was blocked for over 3 hours - quite an achievement. The weather was really fantastic and we were joined by the Clown Army from Sheffield who managed to distract the attention of the police several times, getting up to various antics which flummoxed the police. One of the most amazing and comical was that they managed to find a police van which had been left open so they took out a load of cones and paraded down the road with them with the police not batting an eye lid and then they used them to shut off a minor road. What was really funny was when a police car drew up to them the policeman got out of the car removed a couple of cones drove through and then replaced them!!

May Day

This year it was held on May 6th in the Brewhouse Yard and was organised by the Refugee Forum. The weather was very good and there was a good march which was seen by a lot of passers by. Then there were speeches and music to mark the occasion. We had a stall and there were plenty of helpers which was really good.

Green Festival

Surely this will go down in history as being the wettest and coldest Green Festival we have had. Amazingly, we in Nottingham CND seem fairly tough and came out in force to weather it. It was also really good to see Maureen come down from Whitby to help. The gazebo came up trumps and we had our usual tombola which always goes down well plus loads of books. If there are any avid readers around we have plenty of reading material!! We also helped by providing a fishing umbrella for Marguerite and her New Worker Stall so she wouldn't get too wet. We were pleasantly surprised to see how many people came to the festival under those conditions and thanks to everyone who made it worthwhile.

Future Events:

Footprints for Peace Weekend – July 14th and 15th

Footprints for Peace is a group of people from Australia. They are on an Interfaith peace walk which started in Dublin and aims to be in London on August 6th to mark the anniversary of Hiroshima Day. Their aim is to highlight the need for a nuclear free future and the link between the uranium mined in Australia and our nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons. They have already stopped at several nuclear facilities like Faslane, Sellafield and Fylingdales and they will later be stopping at Aldermaston. They are going through as many towns and cities as possible, highlighting the need for a nuclear free world.

Footprints for Peace will be coming to Nottingham on Saturday 14th July. The peace walkers are planning to arrive outside St Peters Church at approximately 4.00pm where they will be met by Canon Andrew Deuchar, who will say a few words and welcome them to Nottingham. It is also hoped that we can get speakers from other faiths and organisations. This will be followed by a vigil. I hope as many people from Nottingham CND will be able to be there.

We are also aiming to join them at 2.30pm on their walk from Ripley so we can walk the last few miles with them. We feel the best place would be Phoenix Park and Ride, which is on the end of the tram line - but do ring me to check.

The peace walkers are stopping at The Friends' Meeting House and they would really appreciate it if we could help with the preparation of food, and provide them with shower facilities. If you can
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Nottingham CND has a stall that day and we hope to distribute leaflets explaining the reasons behind the peace walk. We do need helpers - so please ring.

Sunday 15th July Activities in Derby

The Footprints for Peace Walkers will be holding a vigil outside Rolls Royce on Raynesway in Derby at 4.00pm. It hoped that as many people from different faith groups and other organisations in Derby will join them. The reason they wanted to go there is the nuclear reactors used to power the Trident submarines that carry Britain's Nuclear Weapons are made there. We are highlighting why the peace walkers want to go to Raynesway by distributing leaflets outside St. Peters Church in Derby from 2.00pm. Any help would be really appreciated. Please ring if you would like to go with us or just turn up.

If anybody has time to spare and would like to join them they will be moving onto Loughborough on Monday morning.

Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day August 6th and August 9th

This year Hiroshima Day falls on a Monday so we have decided to have a vigil outside the Council House from 12.30 to 1.00pm.

We will not be using the Arboretum this year as we thought it was unlikely that many people would turn up. We have decided instead to hold our commemorative event at the revamped Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone Street on Thursday August 9th from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. If you would like to contribute with a reading, singing, reading a poem or playing an instrument please don't be shy. Hopefully the sun will shine and we will get a good attendance. Please tell as many people as you know and do please come down yourself.

If you want to co
answerphone.

I have an

Diane Lunzer

Legal Challenge to the renewal of Trident

The NGO Peace Rights based in Birmingham has asked a number of lawyers from Blackstone Chambers and Matrix Chambers to investigate the legality of the renewal of Trident. The lawyers come to a number of conclusions.

One is that upgrading or renewing Trident based on some possible but unknown future threat is incompatible with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

A second conclusion is that unilateral action that pre-empts any possibility of disarmament is inconsistent with the UK's international law obligations.

And a third conclusion is that the government is under a duty to consult on the contents of the White Paper on the renewal of Trident. Peace Rights has started judicial review proceedings in the High Court.

You can look up Peace Rights at www.peacerights.org where the legal cases are set out. Or you can contact them at Eight Hylton Street Birmingham B18 6HJ.

Green Festival 2007 - report by Jeremy Jago

I was going to call this report 'A Paucity of Yurts' but thought better of it. It would have suggested a miserable, ill-attended washout - which May 27th's Green Festival wasn't. The yurts were there, all right: it's just that they were outnumbered by the mainstream products from Yeoman's, Black's and so on. A special award for defying the downpour is due for Women's Environmental Network, within whose tent a particular normality prevailed - calm, cheerful and amazingly dry. Horticultural stalls offered potted plants looking ultra-healthy. Some stalls, such as those concentrating on books, stayed away and those dispensing leaflets had a hard time, but in general the atmosphere was cheerful defiance. In fact the surprising thing was how many people actually did come. An

outdoor event which is rained-out doesn't offer many conclusions for next year - except, I think, this one: the attendance, both from stallholders and visitors, seemed to have thinned down to the determined stalwarts - but there were a lot more of them than anyone expected. Anyone who came will confirm the site was filled with people the whole time. Which is the more surprising considering the organisers' classic moan - the inability to afford enough publicity. Undoubtedly the fact that the Festival occurred as part of Nottm Green Weeks was a big factor, with equal acknowledgment for the publicity by that programme's devoted team.

This account must sound pretty smug so far - I don't mean it to. It was no fun for anyone drying out tents, gazebos, banners, clothes, stalls, shoes ... and stock. As an organiser I develop a sort of pessimistic optimism - if there are no thefts, car accidents, bone fractures or animal bites, this becomes a 'success'. One friend I was talking to commented I must have been on a course of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. I share this very dubious honour purely for its surrealistic value. Nottingham CND was again prominent - both through its stall and assorted members in other important roles elsewhere.

The event's coordinator, John Truscott, was afterwards phoned by several people who assumed the event must have been cancelled. A perfectly reasonable guess. But we're not reasonable.

Nottingham Stop the War Coalition Demonstration, Manchester, Sunday 24th June - report by Don Lane

On this day Gordon Brown became the leader of the NEW Labour Party at a ceremony in Manchester and the demonstration was to remind Gordon Brown that though Tony Blair is departing, The Nottingham Stop The War Coalition is not. At least not until the following demands are met

1. Withdraw all troops from Iraq
2. End the occupation of Afghanistan
3. Say no to any attack against Iran
4. Pull out of the reckless Star Wars Project
5. Support justice for the Palestinian people

The official dept time was 09:30 from the Salutation Inn, and we actually left soon after that just after being joined by members of the Leicester Stop the War. Coalition. In total the number on the coach was approximately 35. We arrived in Manchester at approx. 12:30 in dry weather and following John and the Big White NSTW banner, went to the Assembly point at Albert Square.

Unfortunately I believed we missed the reading out of the names of British Soldiers killed in Iraq. The march was just starting and thousands of anti-war protesters did a circular route marching past the Labour conference venue at the Bridgewater Hall. The leaders of the Stop the War Coalition and Military Families Against War handed in a letter addressed to Gordon Brown, to a Labour Party official calling for a radical change of policy and an immediate withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Many groups were represented on the march, CND, NHS staff, Remploy workers, Palestinian Groups to name but a few. As we approached Albert Square unfortunately the rain started and continued through out the fine speeches made by among others, Moazzam Begg, Lindsey German, Rose Gentle and a representative of the PCS union. Many thanks to Mark, John and others for organising the Nottingham coach.