



## Thanks to the Trident Whistleblower

William McNeilly, the nuclear submariner who recently went AWOL before revealing shocking security dangers relating to Trident submarines, remains in military custody. McNeilly published a dossier online detailing security lapses and describing Trident as a 'disaster waiting to happen'. He then handed himself into military custody. At the present time it is unclear what will happen to him, although it is believed that the MoD will not try him under the Official Secrets Act. A second man, Euan Bryson, a former Royal Navy communications and information technology specialist, has since spoken out to say that he too witnessed important security lapses.



Yorkshire CND solidarity demo in Leeds

These whistleblowers deserve credit for their bravery in bringing the dangers to light, risking career and liberty. Faslane nuclear weapons base has a history of chilling blunders, and only 6 months ago, a Freedom of Information request by the Herald newspaper highlighted the MoD's own report of a sharp rise in the number of safety issues, including 316 "nuclear safety events", 2044 fire alarm incidents and 71 fires.

***Eric Schlosser's brilliant but truly alarming book, Command & Control is a good corroboration of McNeilly's concerns. It outlines the near-misses and ongoing risks associated with the nuclear weapons programme over the decades***

Adam Stacey, from Leeds CND, who was on the demo in solidarity with William McNeilly organised by Yorkshire CND said *"Right from the start of the nuclear weapons programme there have been a series of near-misses and lucky escapes. But our luck can't hold out forever. The only real way to keep us all safe, is to decommission Trident altogether"*

**Sign the petition - [www.change.org/p/david-cameron-pardon-the-trident-whistleblower](http://www.change.org/p/david-cameron-pardon-the-trident-whistleblower)**

## Post Election Blues

Looking at the minutes from several local CND groups in the region recently, we're guessing that most of you are feeling a bit depressed after the election. It's not easy to feel that possible victory on the Trident campaign slipping through our fingers. We all got a bit over-excited here in the Yorkshire CND office about the prospect of a Labour government reliant on the SNP as a way of kicking Trident into touch.

But there are some positives to be gleaned.

Trident did become an election issue – it was discussed on TV, in national and local newspapers across the country, and addressed by candidates at hustings. This hasn't happened in a general election for many years. Here in Yorkshire we know

of at least 12 hustings where a question was directly asked about Trident ( please let us know of any we might yet be unaware of). So although the rise and rise of the SNP helped hugely, the efforts of CND supporters to get this issue raised should not be underestimated.

The SNP landslide victory in Scotland will also stand us in good stead in the next year leading up to the maingate decision. Opposition to Trident was a central plank of their manifesto and the vast majority of the country supported them in this. Locating a new generation of nuclear submarines in Scotland now looks even more politically untenable than it did before – and where else can it go?

*continued over....*

And finally, many Labour candidates in the election expressed their opposition to Trident Replacement. Not all of them were elected, but some were. In fact, those Labour MPs who opposed Trident Replacement actually did well in the election, many increasing their majorities – surely a message to the Labour leadership there. In Leeds for example, new MP Richard Burgon was elected with an expressly anti-Trident message. We did however, lose some MPs who have been very supportive of Yorkshire CND in the past, for example David Ward in Bradford.

Now we feel that the most important thing is to campaign for a free vote, making the case that nuclear weapons are a matter of conscience. We can also press for a delay to the decision on Trident.

But whatever happens, in the next few months we must keep up the pressure – we owe it to the future generation to try our best to get rid of Trident, regardless of the election result.

## MPs boycott debate on Trident

One of the first things the SNP 56 achieved in parliament was to force a debate on Trident safety issues (resulting from the concerns raised by William McNeilly - front page).

Shockingly, there was almost no other MPs in the chamber to debate with! Trident is not only the biggest single item public spending decision this parliament is scheduled to make, but it poses a huge risk to our safety. Surely this should be something MPs care about one way or the other!



## Waving goodbye to nuclear weapons

The Global Wave was a simple public action in places around the world over 24 hours just before the NPT Review Conference in New York (see over page) People gathered to take part in the Global Wave in Rotherham, pictured, Calder Valley (pictured), and Leeds, the report from which is below.



*Leeds CND waved goodbye to nuclear weapons in our part of the international global wave to mark the beginning of the NPT. Our very own Dave Webb is in New York where the wave was sent on its way at 1.20PM local time. From there it has crossed the Atlantic and made it to the UK and is now heading the long way round back to New York.*



*A group of us braved the harsh summer weather without sun cream and heroically stood outside the beautiful Art Gallery while nice people stopped to take photos of our oversized hands and (banner sized) banners. There was a refreshing amount of interest in the demo, with people approaching us for leaflets and only one person confronting us as 'hippy dreamers'.*

Adam Stacey

For more information go to [www.globalwave2015.org/](http://www.globalwave2015.org/)

## CAAB Independence from America demo - 4th July

As usual there is a fantastic line up of speakers, music and food at the upcoming



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases demo at Menwith Hill. Music will include a set from Les Vegas and the International

Playboys of Rythma It will be on Saturday 4th July from 4-9pm, and there will be transport organised from Bradford. Get in touch if you'd like to book a place.

And check out CAAB's facebook page for more updates

## End Austerity NOW

CND are helping to build for the END AUSTERITY demo in London

on the 20th June with a NHS NOT TRIDENT bloc. There's transport being organised by unions and People's Assemblies from various places in Yorkshire. If you can't find details local to you, get in touch for help.

We have NHS not Trident placards to borrow and T-shirts for sale in the office. Carry or wear yours with pride – remember – Trident is the biggest public spending decision this next parliament will make, so we should be shouting loud about the link between nukes and austerity.



# 2015 NPT (No Progress There) Review Conference - New York

By Prof. Dave Webb – Chair of CND / Co-convenor of Yorkshire CND

As the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference finally ground to a halt last month in New York, the final dismal statement was a rejection of disarmament by the nuclear weapon states. The US, UK, France, Russia and China are committed under Article 6 to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament” and yet their only achievement since the last review in 2010 is to agree on a ‘glossary of key nuclear terms’! Meanwhile the US plans to spend \$1 trillion for new nuclear bomb factories and delivery systems while the others (including the UK) plan to “modernise” their arsenals. The non nuclear weapon states are understandably frustrated and angered by the lack of progress in the implementation of NPT obligations.

CND and Christian CND had delegations in New York, joining in the many civil society events including the “Peace and Planet” Conference, workshops, marches and petitions.

The rally on April 26th filled Union Square and included 1000 Japanese activists and 80 Hibakusha. Among the speakers were Jean Lambert MEP, Dan Ellsberg and Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima. A highlight was the launching of the Global Peace Wave by Karipbek Kuyokov, a second generation Kazakh nuclear weapon test victim. The Global Peace Wave travelled westward, by time zone and included over 100 actions in 20 countries – including the UK (see pg2 for Yorkshire’s contribution). It arrived back at the UN 24 hours later for the opening of the NPT Review Conference. There was also a march led by about eight Hibakusha in wheel chairs, and a presentation of nearly 8 million petition signatures.

On the the first day of the actual Review conference, I spoke on the plans to upgrade Trident at the IALANA meeting on “Nuclear weapons in Europe” and we held our CND side meeting “Scrapping Trident: Assessing the Global Impact”, distributing our briefing “Trident: On its Way Out?”. At that time we were fairly up-beat about the result of the election, and

it was clear how important people felt the scrapping of Trident would be to global nuclear disarmament. The world sees the UK as the most probable place for a historical change (and still does – despite the election result!). Also that day Jenny Clegg represented CND at a packed meeting organised by the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. The next day I joined speakers from France and Russia on a panel on the “modernization” of nuclear weapons states arsenals and weapons complexes organised by The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA).

We also had some private meetings with ambassadorial delegates from the US, France and the UK. They talked of living ‘in the real world’, of possible future threats and a ‘responsibility’ to ensure they can respond. The French Ambassador insisted they were making steps towards disarmament. He was at pains to emphasise that nuclear weapons systems are secure and the technology is 100% risk free, saying that there was no real opposition from the population and nuclear weapons

are seen as a symbol of French independence. The UK delegation refused to admit that there was any work under way on developing a new warhead at Aldermaston (despite evidence to the contrary). Baroness Anelay presented the UK’s statement to the NPT – with the wellworn phrase that the UK will “retain a credible and effective minimum nuclear deterrent for as long as the global security situation makes that necessary” – which is of course incompatible with NPT obligations. The UK boast was that it will reduce nuclear warhead stockpile to 180 by mid 2020s – but this could still kill millions and trigger a “nuclear winter”.

Although the presentations by the nuclear weapon states were predictably uninspiring there were good points made by others. Ambassador Minty of South Africa outlined why reductions in nuclear weapons are merely to get rid of redundant weapons and are not the same as disarmament. He and Austria’s ambassador challenged the nuclear weapon states point blank,

saying that if they are unwilling to rule out the use of nuclear weapons, they should be clear about what circumstances they envisage actually using them. He also discussed how the nuclear states can’t have it both ways – either states need nuclear weapons for their security or they don’t. What makes the P5 countries so different that it is imperative that they remain the only ones that possess nuclear weapons while all others do without?

Many states also expressed concern about the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and there were strong calls for a legally binding instrument prohibiting them. In response the nuclear weapon states say this is nothing new – in fact the humanitarian and devastating effects are at the centre of deterrence theory.

As the NPT review operates by consensus, it was always unlikely that the outcome would reflect the views of the majority of states. It will instead centre around the lowest common denominator, with vague formulations that allow nuclear-armed states to stall for another five years. But then little or no progress is the norm at these 5 yearly review conferences.

Talking with global peace campaigners there was agreement that we need to strengthen alliances with interlocking campaigns in our own countries (anti-austerity, environmental, trade union and human rights groups, etc) and build strong links with international groups to maintain solidarity and a global perspective.

It is up to us to ensure that pressure for nuclear disarmament builds to a point where it can no longer be resisted. In the year of the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings we need to continue to build a united and widespread opposition – using all the resources and energy we can muster. The process to achieve a treaty banning nuclear weapons might not mean much unless one or two nuclear states sign up. We are still the most likely country to achieve a breakthrough – it’s a huge responsibility but not one we can afford to ignore.

**The world still sees the UK as the most likely to change nuclear policy, even after the election**

**Little or no progress is the norm at the NPT Review**

## Burghfield Lockdown



Once again, some of us from Yorkshire CND found ourselves locked to each other and barrels of concrete in the very small hours of the morning at Burghfield nuclear

weapons factory. We were part of the Burghfield Lockdown, a mass action that successfully closed almost all three gates at the base on 1st March. Yet again, we were incredibly lucky with the weather, and also lucky (or just very determined) that the police, despite their best efforts, couldn't stop us from getting our lock-ons in place and completely blockading construction gate. We were ably helped by blockaders from Spain, Finland, France and Sweden, and it was great to hear peace songs in so many languages.

We stayed there from 4.50am until 3pm (the longest blockade your Yorkshire CND workers have ever taken part in!). The blockade marked the beginning of a month of action to raise awareness of Trident in the lead up to the election.

Watch the video and see [www.ActionAWE.org](http://www.ActionAWE.org) for more information.

## We are Many - the Film



Remember those amazing demos against the Iraq War, the feeling of a movement against war sweeping the country - like we were part of something massive? This is the film.

See here for trailer <http://wearemany.com/the-film/>  
Yorkshire CND wants to make the most of the (hopefully) receptive audiences by leafleting showings wherever possible. Check <http://wearemany.com/cinemas/> to see if it's on near you. If you can leaflet a showing, get in touch, we'll send you some.

## Fundraiser's Column

### Day of Dance - it were a reet grand knees up!

This season's Day of Dance went brilliantly - a fitting send off for our Denise (see opposite). It was really well attended, and lots of positive feedback from the daytime workshops. The 309s, the swing band in the evening, went down a storm and the room was packed with folk jiving, practising moves learned in classes earlier and doing the Charleston Shuffle.



There was also plenty of fun to be had in the busy Ceilidh, which had a great family feel to it this year, while upstairs, a different vibe created by Honeydrum topped off the whole evening.

Final figures aren't in for how much money was raised for Yorkshire CND, but it's looking good.

The next Day of Dance is 17th October, so put the date in your diaries now.

### Congratulations and Goodbye to Denise

Our membership and fundraiser, Denise Craghill was elected as a Green Councillor in York last month. Fantastic news in general, but not for Yorkshire CND, as this means that she wants to focus on this, and no longer work for us.

We want to thank her wholeheartedly for all her efforts over the years, for the brilliant Days of Dance, the Peace Fair and all the other things she's done to keep us going. As many readers will know, she has been with us for longer than any of us composing this story can remember!

We wish her every success at making York a better, greener place to live, and hope that she will stay involved in CND (we're aiming to get a new peace/CND group off the ground there soon).

We're seeking someone to fill Denise's role, so do check out the job ad which will be on the website soon.

## Global Day of Action against Military Spending (GDAMS)

Yorkshire CND organised a demonstration at the offices of JACOBS Engineering in Leeds to mark the Global Day of Action on Military Spending [www.demilitarize.org](http://www.demilitarize.org) (GDAMS). Some of us entered the building and engaged the workers on the issue of JACOBS involvement in the consortium which is undertaking construction at the Atomic Weapons Establishments in Berkshire.

Others tied long banners (reading "Trident is Terrorism", "Jacobs: Engineer us a better future not a nuclear apocalypse", and "Global Day of Action on Military Spending. Public money for public services not private profit"), to the outside of the building.



The action was in solidarity with the peaceful blockade of Faslane happening simultaneously, and there was also a protest party at the MoD in London organised by national CND.



Jacobs Engineering is part of the AWE Management Ltd consortium, with Lockheed Martin and Serco. The consortium has a 25 year contract, currently worth around £1 billion per year, which was supposed to run until 2025. However, in March it was discovered that the government was considering scrapping the contract due to spiralling costs and poor performance. Project Pegasus, the £634m project which will manufacture enriched uranium components for the UK's nuclear warheads, is now 'in limbo' after a catalogue of failings in the planning and construction stages. Jacobs Engineering were accused of lacking 'the calibre or credentials to run major projects'

## 70th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings

This year will be the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. 6th August, 8.14am - an atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima killing up to 180,000 people. The first time a nuclear weapon had ever been used, it had been dropped from a US B-29 bomber named after the pilot's mother, "The Enola Gay". The bomb destroyed 13 square kilometres of the city. Just 3 days later, a second atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki, killing between 50,000 and 100,000 people.

Every year in August commemoration events have been held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to remember the

devastation and suffering that came from just two bombs – of a relatively small size compared with those around today. Over the years, these commemorations have grown to a huge scale and have involved a large number of international delegates. This year will be no exception and CND will be represented. In addition, people around the world also organise commemoration events in their own communities and there will be services and events around Britain. It is extremely important that we do not forget the inhuman consequences of these weapons of mass destruction.

The survivors of these bombings (known as Hibakusha) have

campaigning fervently for a nuclear weapon free world and the small number who remain are still doing so. Their statements make moving reading and can be used at local ceremonies. Why not invite local councillors, mayors, etc to a service or memorial event at your local church, mosque, war memorial? You could join in the international 3 day fast. Contact us for other suggestions on what you can do.

Events we know of in Yorkshire so far include Leeds, Bradford, Calder Valley, Keighley, but there will certainly be more. Please contact us or check the website nearer the time for details

*Dave Webb*

## Upcoming Events

**13th June** - CND and Sheffield Creative Action for Peace stall at Sharrow Festival

**20th June** - End Austerity demo in London - NHS not Trident bloc - see inside

**30th June - Chemical weapons: just history?**  
Leeds Olof Palme Memorial Peace Lecture by Prof. Alastair Hay. 7pm. Leeds Civic Hall.

**4th July** - Campaign for Accountability of American Bases annual independence from America demonstration at **Menwith Hill**. See inside for info.

**6th July - Block the Factory! Mass action against Elbit Systems** in Lichfield.

*Last summer's assault on Gaza was carried out using drones manufactured by Israeli arms company Elbit Systems. In response, activists occupied and closed Elbit's factory in Shenstone, costing them over £100,000. On 6th July, to mark the first anniversary of the assault on Gaza, groups and campaigners from across the UK are going back to Elbit's factory to demand that the UK stops arming Israel. Join us for a day of creative action in solidarity with Palestine!*

*Find out more about the action at [www.blockthefactory.org](http://www.blockthefactory.org), and find the event on facebook. Leeds BDS will be coordinating with Leeds CND/ Yorkshire CND to organise transport there. Get in touch to book a place.*

**30th July-3rd August**- Peace News Summer Camp (see below for more info)

**6th - 9th August** - Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day commemorations (see inside)

**12th September** - Stop the Arms Fair - mass action at the huge global DSEi arms fair in London. We may organise transport - get in touch if interested.

**Every Tuesday** - demonstration at the main gate of Menwith Hill, from 6pm - 7.30pm

### Another New Group!

Bradford & District CND/Peace Group has had an initial meeting, and will be organising a more widely publicised meeting, setting up a facebook group and doing events soon. If you are interested in being involved, get in touch with the contacts opposite or the CND office.

## FESTIVAL HELP!!!

We're still looking for volunteers to come to Willowman Festival (18-21 June) and Galtres Parklands (28-31 August).

So if you want to come to a festival for free, know a bit about Trident, or can serve tea or help with craft activities, get in touch soon

## Peace News Summer Camp

Some of us from Yorkshire CND are going to Peace News Summer Camp where a central theme is Climate Not Trident – Strategies for the Radical Climate and Radical Peace Movements. It's always really inspiring and very friendly, and this year's site is great, near Shrewsbury. If you want to chat about it to make your mind up, get in touch. [www.peacenewscamp.info](http://www.peacenewscamp.info)

## Local CND & Peace Groups/

**NEW! Rotherham CND** - [jon.smith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jon.smith@blueyonder.co.uk)

**NEW! Bradford & District** - [cartins@gmail.com](mailto:cartins@gmail.com) or Maren on 07857 737756

**NEW! Upper Calder** - new group, next mtg 24th June 7.30pm Hebden Bridge contact [kathypitt725@hotmail.com](mailto:kathypitt725@hotmail.com) or 07980 291478

**Huddersfield Peace Group** c/o Charlie Fairbank, [fairbankcharles@gmail.com](mailto:fairbankcharles@gmail.com), Tel: 01484-846183

**Leeds CND** - contact Adam 07503 749944 [facebook.com/groups/966628673353518/](https://facebook.com/groups/966628673353518/)

**Middlesbrough / Teeside CND** - [hussainsam03@gmail.com](mailto:hussainsam03@gmail.com)

**Hull CND** - Angela Needham, 07737 249461, [angela\\_needham@homeopathy-soh.org](mailto:angela_needham@homeopathy-soh.org)

**Keighley Peace Justice & Environment Network** - contact Sylvia on 01535 596808 [robinandsylvia@aol.com](mailto:robinandsylvia@aol.com)

**Grassington & District Peace Group** - Richard Hargreaves, [strand@hawkswick.net](mailto:strand@hawkswick.net)

**Sheffield CND** - [crippskath@gmail.com](mailto:crippskath@gmail.com) 0114 2680726 <http://www.sheffieldcnd.org.uk>

**Are you subscribed to our email announcements list? A fortnightly email keeping you up to date between newsletters - [cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)**

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