



28th January 2015
7pm - 9pm
Oxford Place
Methodist Centre,
Leeds, LS1 3AX

ReThink Trident is an attempt to get Trident onto the election agenda, and this meeting in Leeds is one of a number being held across the country. The panel is yet to be confirmed as Action for Peace goes to press but will feature some high profile speakers from different backgrounds including trade unionists, faith leaders, MPs, celebrities.

Following the panel discussion, there will be an opportunity for everyone to

talk about how to take things forward practically in Yorkshire, to meet your local CND group/ contact, and to contribute ideas for the best strategy to move Trident up the political agenda before the election.

To find out who is on the panel, look at our website closer to the time, or call us on 01274 730795.

The meeting will be preceded by the Yorkshire CND AGM in the same venue (see back page), with

refreshments provided in between.

For more information about the Rethink Trident Campaign, to see a list of current supporters, and to sign the Rethink Trident Statement yourself, go to the CND website at cnduk.org.

If you need help with transport to the venue, would like directions, or would like some leaflets to distribute to other people, please get in touch.

We need *you* to join the CND General Election Campaign!

Next year will be a crucial one for us with lots of work leading up to, during and following the general election – we still have a lot to do. In the Scottish referendum the strength of public opinion ensured that both sides were in favour of scrapping Trident and the subject figured high on the agenda. We have to do the same in the rest of Britain. We must apply pressure on all parliamentary candidates to show how they stand and why. A growing number of candidates are agreeing with us and we are developing some exciting ideas and a wide range of activities.

We've had an amazingly busy and productive year, thanks to all who have contributed - from knitters, street campaigners and demonstrators to political lobbyists and blockaders - you have ensured that the "Scrap Trident" message has been broadcast widely. But we need to do more! Next May could be a turning point in world history – if we can get politicians to see sense and stop wasting £100 billion or more on a new nuclear weapons system we can start a "nuclear disarmament chain reaction" and ensure the threat of nuclear annihilation is finally lifted from us all.

What you can do:

- We need help coordinating lobbying of candidates in all areas in Yorkshire. Please get in touch if you can spare some time.
- It would be very valuable if you can personally write to all the candidates in your seat and ask their views on the issue, then let the office know their response. See <http://act.cnduk.org/lobby/78> for CND's online lobbying tool
- You could attend any hustings or election events that are happening in your area and raise the issue of Trident.
- Or take part in local radio phone-ins, or write to your local paper.

Please think about how you can help and get in touch! I am sure that together we can do it!

Dave Webb

MASS DEMO in LONDON
to **WRAP UP TRIDENT**

SATURDAY 24 JANUARY 2015, 1.00 PM

**WRAP UP
TRIDENT**



JOIN the **PEACE SCARF** round Parliament and the Ministry of Defence, followed by a **RALLY** with speakers and music in Parliament Square.

TRANSPORT FROM BRADFORD/LEEDS, SHEFFIELD AND THE DALES CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS OR TO BOOK A PLACE

New Leeds CND launched

After many years of lying dormant, an all new Leeds CND has sprung back into life. An initial meeting attended by around 12 very keen people was held in the city centre recently. And even before this, a showing of the film *Flashes of Hope* (about the hibakusha Hiroshima bomb survivors) was jointly organised with WMD Awareness and People and Planet. The new group was initiated by a new student at Leeds Uni, and also has members at Leeds Beckett Uni, as well as non-student residents of Leeds. The Facebook group already has 34 members and is growing fast.

Lots of ideas were discussed at the meeting, including targeted lobbying of MPs, a coalition against Trident, awareness raising and street stalls.

A group from Leeds Beckett will be leafleting this week in the university in response to a student survey, which asks 'what are the main election issues.'

The next meeting of the group is planned for the 9th December, venue to be confirmed. Either contact Adam on 07503 749944 or see www.facebook.com/groups/966628673353518/ to join the Leeds CND Facebook group. Details also on Yorkshire CND web.

Update on Yorkshire CND's activities.



Yorkshire CND demo at Fylingdales, 11th October

In addition to our three big successful fundraising events (see over page), we've managed to pack in a lot of campaigning activities this Autumn.

The 26th September was the first United Nations International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. We hurriedly created a special leaflet, and got out on the streets to mark it.

The following month saw Yorkshire CND at RAF Fylingdales, up on the North York Moors, as part of the annual Keep Space for Peace Week. This US base is part of their Missile Defence System, one of two in Yorkshire, the other being Menwith Hill near Harrogate. For more information about missile defence look at the Yorkshire CND website. This year's demo was blessed with brilliant sunshine and enough wind to fly our peace kites beautifully. We were gratified to be joined by some of the local peace activists who have protested for many years against Fylingdales.

What does the No vote mean for Trident?

So the Scottish Independence vote has been decided, Scotland will be staying with the UK. Yet, the Trident question remains an unanswered one and the referendum brought the debates surrounding nuclear weapons to the fore again. Many Scottish MPs are still seeking to lobby parliament to discuss Trident in a fair and constructive way. Neil Findlay, the Scottish Labour leadership candidate, says he would lobby Ed Miliband not to renew Britain's nuclear deterrent if Labour wins the general election but accepts defence should remain reserved to Westminster.

The Scottish National Party also remains committed to probing the British government's obsession with Trident. And membership of Scottish CND is on the rise.

Mobeen Hussain

Back in the city, we have started a programme of talks, films and discussions in Bradford and Leeds. We did slideshow/film presentations about CND through the decades and our current campaigning at Bradford college and at Bradford University. We held a talk entitled 'Capitalism, Imperialism and the Struggle against Nuclear Weapons' and 'Kick Arms off campus!' with guest speakers Prof Paul Blackledge and Sam Robinson of Campaign Against Arms Trade speaking to around 30 interested participants.

We supported Leeds CND and WMD Awareness in their first film showing, and had a lively stall at Summat New, a networking events for NGOs and community groups in Leeds for which we produced another special leaflet.

We've got more events planned (see backpage - and our website or Facebook for updates) as we gear up for our campaign to make Trident an election issue.

An informal slideshow & discussion

The CND story

From the sit-downs and marches of the 60's, through Greenham Common in the 80's right up to the present day campaign to stop the next generation of nuclear weapons.

Tuesday 18th November 2014 4pm
E92 Richmond Bldg - Bradford University

The Big Poppy Debate

Between 17 July and 11 November 2014, the Tower of London hosted the Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red installation which marked 100 years since the start of Britain's involvement in the First World War. The artist Paul Cummins laid 888,246 ceramic poppies across the Tower's famous moat with each poppy representing a British military fatality during the war. The Tower's website states that the 'the scale of the installation was intended to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary and create a powerful visual commemoration'. But where were the commemorations for the 306 soldiers who were executed for desertion and the remembrance of conscientious objectors who faced public humiliation for hoping for peace?

Yet again, the media has criticised those who refuse to wear the red poppy, including accusations that 'pacifism has become fashionable' but is this really a bad thing? Wearing the red poppy acknowledges the heroes of First World War without remembering why they died, what for and how they saw their role. Jonathan Jones



Maya and Cherry from Bradford Uni's Peace Studies standing against the tide of red

recently wrote in the Guardian that 'The first world war was not noble. War is not noble.... The moat of the Tower should be filled with barbed wire and bones. That would mean something.'

Armistice day commemoration through the red poppy has been hijacked to conjure a kind of patriotism for country and war, a booster for nationalism rather than remembering the dead and the devastation caused by both world wars. Recently, British Muslim women have been urged

by the Daily Mail and certain Muslim groups to remember the First World War by wearing a 'poppy hijab'; wear it to prove you're proud to be British. This appropriation, like that of the red poppy, serves a different narrative of remembrance.

In essence, the red poppy, used to portray the message that we remember our dead and respect them enough to try to avoid war, has been hijacked. A new message is propagated by politicians and the rightwing media, one that propels nationalism and patriotism into a kind of imperialism that says our dead were right, our dead are worth more than your dead then and now. In order to remember the dead soldiers of the past you need to support the government's current wars. The white poppy offers an alternative remembrance; that we remember the devastation of war, and we respect the dead enough to say never again. More people are choosing to wear the white poppy. Yorkshire CND sold out of white poppies this year and we'll be selling even more next year.

Mobeen Hussain

Grand deception or Gross Ineptitude?

The UK Government has signed a £37 million contract for Trident missile launchers – more than a year ahead of a Parliamentary vote on whether or not to replace the nuclear weapons system.

The deal will see US firm General Dynamics build 12 Trident missile launch tubes for a 'successor' submarine which is yet to be authorised by Parliament. Worse still, the UK Government has consistently said that it is reducing the number of missiles on the nuclear-armed submarines from 12 to eight, prompting accusations that the Government has misled Parliament, the public and even the UN.

CND's General Secretary Kate Hudson said: 'We now have a £37m contract which the Government didn't tell us about, placed without Parliamentary authorisation, for nuclear-missile tubes the Government told us wouldn't exist.

'The preliminary vote on Trident replacement in 2007 was the biggest backbench rebellion on a defence issue since 1924: this is by no means a done deal, and for the Government to act as if it's signed and sealed is an affront to democracy.'

It's not rocket science...

The Govt just spent **£37 million** on **12** launch tubes to fire **8** Trident nuclear missiles from submarines which haven't been built and which Parliament hasn't authorised.

Scrap Trident. Save £100bn. Spend it on people.

Our new website is here! -

www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Our new website is almost finished, and just in time for Christmas you can buy CND merchandise, make a donation or join CND all online, as well as the usual events updates, news and info. Check it out!

Prisoners for Peace Day

Since the 1950s, War Resisters' International has promoted an annual Prisoners for Peace Day on the 1st of December to remember those wrongfully behind bars. It aims to highlight the plight of those who face imprisonment for nonviolent actions whether they are conscientious objectors or direct action activists.

The importance of writing to prisoners cannot be underestimated; it reminds a prisoner that they are not alone, and have not been forgotten. It demonstrates respect for their actions and makes their struggle more tangible. Although you'll be receiving Action for Peace shortly after the December 1st day, it's never too late to send a letter.

WRI provides the following guidelines when writing:

Send your card in an envelope;

Include a return name and address on the envelope;

Be chatty and creative;

Let the prisoners know what you are doing to stop war and war preparations;

Don't write anything that might get the prisoner into trouble;

Think about the sort of thing you'd like to receive if you were in prison;

Try not to begin your correspondence with "You are so brave, I could never do what you have done";

Remember that the prisoner may not be able to reply;



Potential Nuclear Resisters to write to:

Gregory Boertje-Obed (08052-016)- (Aug 2013 — Sep 2017) USP Leavenworth, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA

Megan Rice (88101-020) (Aug 2013 — Nov 2015)

MDC Brooklyn P.O. BOX 329002,

BROOKLYN, NY 11232

Michael Walli (92108-020) (Aug 2013 — Oct 2017)

FCI Mckean, FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, P.O. BOX 8000 BRADFORD, PA 16701

(Transform Now Plowshares action group convicted of sabotage and depredation of government property at Y-12 nuclear weapons complex, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 7/28/2012.)

For more information about Prisoners for Peace Day, War Resisters International and Nuclear Resisters:

The Nuclear Resister <http://www.nukeresister.org/>

War Resisters' International http://wri-irg.org/campaigns/prisoners_for_peace

Anarchist Black Cross Federation <http://www.abcf.net/prisoner-contact-list/>

Mobeen Hussain

The NPT Explained

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1970 is a binding international treaty that aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and has an ultimate goal of global nuclear disarmament. The treaty establishes that those states without nuclear weapons agree not to acquire them while those with nuclear weapons (at the time the treaty came into force – the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France) agree to disarm. Three states, Israel, India and Pakistan did not sign the NPT. They stayed outside the treaty framework and have developed nuclear weapons. North Korea signed the treaty but withdrew from it in 2003.

The treaty does not give Britain the right to possess nuclear weapons or to develop new systems – indeed, it is legally bound to pursue nuclear disarmament “in good faith” and “at an early date”. Replacing Trident is a form of vertical proliferation (improving a current system) and also encourages horizontal proliferation (as other states may decide to obtain a “nuclear deterrent”). It is therefore certainly in contravention of the spirit of the Treaty.

The progress of the Treaty is evaluated every five years at an international Review Conference and the next one will be held in New York in April/May next year. There is mounting criticism from the non nuclear weapons signatories of the Treaty – they say that they are fulfilling their part of the bargain but the nuclear weapons states are not. Continued frustration and anger with the nuclear weapons states may well lead to a break down and full scale abandonment – and as this could be disastrous.

A decision to replace Trident with the latest US version will commit the UK to owning nuclear weapons until at least 2050 which would mean 80 years of non-compliance with its disarmament obligation.

Plans are being developed for international activities at the NPT in New York and around the world, including: An international peace, justice and environmental conference in New York – April 24 & 25;

A major international rally, march to the United Nations and peace festival in New York – April 26;

A ‘global wave’ of demonstrations, protest actions and events to take place in major cities around the world;

The presentation of millions of signatures on petitions calling for nuclear weapons abolition.

A small CND party will be in New York and will organise meetings and participate in activities there but there will also be events in Yorkshire that you could participate in.

A Facebook page for the international activities has been set up at <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceAndPlanet> - please like/share and keep in touch.

Perhaps you can organise something in your communities to highlight the happenings in New York and join the demonstration of global opposition to nuclear weapons and Trident replacement?

Dave Webb

To see an excellent animated introduction to the NPT by Rebecca Sharkey see, <http://www.wmdawareness.org/>

Fundraiser's Column

Thanks to everyone who continue to support us with your membership fees and donations. You'll have read in this newsletter about the renewed interest in CND in the run-up to the 2016 decision about Trident, and we at Yorkshire CND are really trying to step up our campaigning, hence the need for more funds. Perhaps you could encourage a friend, neighbour or

family member to consider joining? We will have an online membership facility very soon when we launch the new website that Matt, one of our staff, has been working hard on. In the meantime, do get in touch and we'll send you a form. Donations via paypal can already be made online - but please drop us a line with your details so we can say thanks!

We've had a very busy and successful fundraising Autumn. The Day of Dance in October was wonderful with several new dance workshops available this time. But we could definitely cope with more participants so spread the word for next time. We also held the annual Peace & Crafts Fair at Saltaire. All the stall spaces were

booked up, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We haven't totalled the monies raised yet, but we'll let you know. We were also delighted that Rob Newman, political comedian, agreed to do a benefit show for us and a local asylum seekers charity, performing his 'New Theory of Evolution' to a packed Bradford Playhouse. It was an excellent evening, raising awareness about Yorkshire CND as well as £850 for each group. Many thanks to Rob - we hope he'll come again soon!

We still have several Housman's Peace Diaries 2015 for sale in the office, at the bargain price of £7.50 (£1.45 off the cover price). Ideal Christmas presents for your peace activist friends.

denise@yorkshirecnd.org.uk



French Regency costumes at the Day of Dance

Should We Stay or Should We Go?

As Action for Peace is going to press, we've still yet to hear whether the Government has decided whether to go to the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons on 5th & 6th December. So far the UK government has boycotted significant discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons which have involved the overwhelming majority of states in the previous two major conferences over the past 18 months.

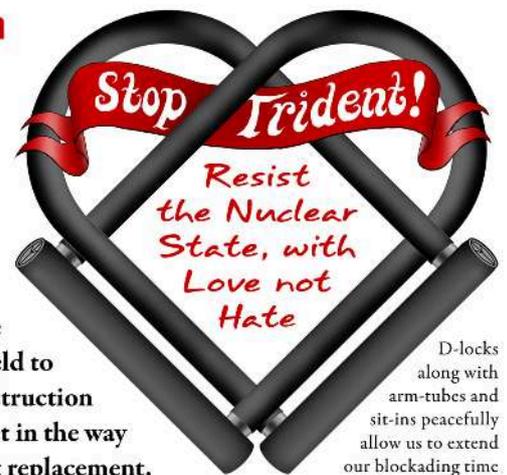
Over 150 countries are expected to attend the third conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons - which will highlight the unique destructive power of nuclear weapons, including resulting famine and the impossibility of emergency medical responses.

Now the US has agreed to attend the Vienna conference, leaving the UK looking damagingly isolated if it once again refuses to go. A cross-party coalition and the Labour front-bench has urged the Government to participate, and CND has also been calling for the government to attend.

Burghfield Lockdown

**Mon 2nd March
2015 starting
7am at AWE
Burghfield
Berkshire UK**

You are invited to a mass nonviolent blockade of the two gates at AWE Burghfield to peacefully disrupt the construction of nuclear weapons, and get in the way of preparations for Trident replacement.



D-locks along with arm-tubes and sit-ins peacefully allow us to extend our blockading time.

AWE Burghfield works alongside AWE Aldermaston (they are only 7 miles apart) to build and maintain the nuclear warheads that are deployed on Trident submarines. Our Lockdown will demand that plans to replace Trident are scrapped, and will call for a global ban on nuclear weapons. Action AWE will host a convergence centre in Reading and can offer support before the action with forming affinity groups and non-violent direct action training. A briefing pack will be available on-line soon.

Billions of pounds are already being spent upgrading AWE Burghfield, pre-empting Parliament's 'decision' on Trident replacement in 2016.

Burghfield Lockdown is the beginning of a month of action at the Atomic Weapons Establishments called Act, Speak, Vote -> Disarm! It is our intention to put nuclear disarmament high up on the agenda for the May 2015 general election.

For more information please visit www.actionawe.org/pledge

Email: info@actionawe.org
or mobilise@actionawe.org
Or ring Angie: 01547 520 929

For more information see:

www.actionawe.org/burghfieldlockdown



Upcoming Events

Yorkshire CND Annual General Meeting

**6pm (before the ReThink Trident meeting),
Wednesday 28th January, 2015, Methodist Centre,
Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX**

Nominations for positions of Co-Convenors,
Treasurer, Coordinating Committee members, and
any resolutions to be received by the 14th January.

The agenda will only cover the basic business,
Finance Report, Worker's Report, Chair's
Report, elections and resolutions. There will be
a chance for further discussion at the ReThink
Trident meeting immediately following.

7th December - Film showing requested by CAAB
members of Citizen Four - about Edward Snowden.
Leeds Hyde Park Picture House on at 2 pm. [https://
citizenfourfilm.com/](https://citizenfourfilm.com/)

9th December – next meeting of Leeds CND. Venue
and exact time to be confirmed. Contact the office or
check out the Leeds CND facebook group.

Friday 19 December - 7.00pm candlelight vigil to
Celebrate and Commemorate the children of Gaza.
The Square Hebden Bridge. Please bring a candle.
chrisdrake79@gmail.com

21st January - Sheffield CND AGM - crippskath@gmail.com
for details.

Saturday 24th January - Wrap up Trident, mass demo
in London, see front page, and contact office to book a
place on the transport (£10-£20).

Wednesday 28th January - Rethink Trident and
Yorkshire CND AGM (see front & box)

February 4th - Bradford. Talk on anti-nuclear action
and protest movements with Angie Zelter and Graeme
Chesters. Please check with the office for further details
nearer the time

February 6th - Leeds- Blockading training to build for
the Burghfield Lockdown (see inside) with Angie Zelter
and Andrew Day from Action AWE.

March 2nd - Big blockade at Burghfield (see inside &
contact us to get involved). Training provided.

Petition against Trident

One of our supporters, Martin Whillock has
started a petition online, and we encourage
everyone to sign it. This is what he says:

"I have started the petition "Trident nuclear
weapons", asking the government and all political
parties to undertake a thorough and objective
review. Please will you add your name ?

This campaign means a lot to me and the
more support we can get behind it, the better
chance we have of succeeding. You can
read more and sign the petition here:

[https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/
trident-nuclear-weapons](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/trident-nuclear-weapons)

Local CND & Peace Groups/ Contacts

Huddersfield Peace Group c/o Charlie Fairbank,
fairbankcharles@gmail.com, Tel: 01484-846183

Leeds Beckett Uni- new contact soon

**Bradford and Bradford Student
CND** - clarkamy32@gmail.com

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

Hull CND - Angela Needham 07737 249461,
angela_needham@homeopathy-soh.org

Keighley area - contact Sylvia on 01535 596808
robinandsylvia@aol.com

NEW !! Leeds CND - contact Adam 07503 749944
facebook.com/groups/966628673353518/

Grassington & District Peace Group - Richard
Hargreaves, strand@hawkswick.net

Sheffield CND - crippskath@gmail.com 0114
2680726 <http://www.sheffieldcnd.org.uk>

Fund Education Not War, Sheffield Uni Group -
contact Elva e.lynchbathgate@hotmail.co.uk

Upper Calder - contact Cath 07980 291478 -
new group starting in the New Year.

Are you subscribed to our email announcements list?
A fortnightly email keeping you up to date between
newsletters - cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

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us save on postage and paper - please
contact the office

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