CND is planning a massive anti-trident demonstration in London on 27th of February 2016. With the vote in parliament on Trident renewal expected early in 2016, this may well be our last chance to show the strength of our opposition. The demo is being supported by the Stop the War Coalition, Muslim Association of Britain and the People’s Assembly, with more organisations pledging support all the time.

There needs to be tens of thousands on the streets, and as Yorkshire is the biggest county, we feel a responsibility to send coaches from every major city in our region. It is also important that we get everyone out from the smaller towns and villages, so if you are thinking of driving let us know and we can help to fill your car.

Please, book a ticket on a coach, even better, book several and persuade your friends to come, or best of all, organise a coach or a minibus from your area (we can help you). Even if you can’t come, you can donate to our Coaches for Peace appeal (see inside) to subsidise transport for unwaged people, so that someone else can be there in your place. Look out for our crowd-funder coming soon. Tickets will be available to buy online, by phone or in person from the office on a sliding scale £5-25.

If you would like a CND speaker to help build for the demo, at your party meeting, union branch, community group, do get in touch.

We have to ensure that we have done everything we possibly can by the vote, there can be no room for regret afterwards, we must make the most of the historic opportunity we have before us now.

Continued over......
To London to London.....

Yorkshire CND has acquired a fantastic mock Trident missile that we will be using both as a prop on the demo, and also for pre-demo publicity. It is around 14 foot long, has an electric winch meaning it can rise up and down and is towed on a car trailer. It can come and visit your town or village anytime from the end of January onwards and provide a wonderful photo opportunity for your local group. (Picture a laughing Cameron/Osborne sitting astride it with cowboy hat a la Dr Strangelove!) CAN YOU HELP - DO YOU HAVE A TOW BAR ON YOUR CAR AND COULD DO DRIVE OUR MISSILE? Or could you store it at your house?

Bradford’s Singing Coach

The journey to these demos in London is always the worst bit. We’ve had an idea to make the journey an event in itself by organising a singing coach. We’ve arranged for some local musicians to be aboard and lead us in singing traditional peace & leftwing songs (and maybe some good old fireside rabble rousers). The cost will be just the same as the other coaches. If you are a musician, a choir, a singer, or just want to join in and have fun on the journey, get in touch.

Bruce Gagnon visits UK

Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space was in the UK recently, and spoke at several events around the country. His talk at Bradford University, jointly arranged by Yorkshire CND and Lisa Cumming from Peace Studies department, was entitled, ‘Militarism and Austerity - an Alternative Approach’. Then it was off to Menwith Hill to join in the weekly demo there organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases. The following day he spoke at Leeds University as part of the Festival of Politics & Applied Global Ethics. A talk in Parliament in London the next day was followed by a meeting at SOAS university. Zipping back up to Yorkshire, he attended the extremely windy demo at Fylingdales, where he reminded us that we are not alone in this effort to expose the global nature of the US space domination program that has set up these installations in many out-of-the-way places. “We need one another to help shine a light on these bases that all put together enable the Pentagon to wage fierce endless war on people who have usually done nothing more than live on top of vital resources that the greedy corporations want to control.”

Although our focus has very much been on Trident in the last couple of years, it is important not to forget about the two US bases in Yorkshire that are on the US military frontline. Do try and make it to a Menwith Hill weekly demo over winter - every Tuesday 6-7.30pm

See inside for more on Bruce’s European visit

Trident - Even more expensive than we ever imagined!

The projected costs of Trident have drastically increased over last few months, from the initial cost put forward by the Trident Commission of £100 billion to a staggering £183 billion. In a written parliamentary response this November to Crispin Blunt, a Conservative MP, a new estimate was put forward of £167 billion factoring in estimated inflation numbers and the increased price of the submarines from 20 to 25 billion pounds.

This figure increased again only weeks later when the Strategic Defence & Security Review was released (22nd Nov), with the four submarines now set to cost £31 billion with an additional £10 billion contingency.

The amount of spending on Trident has thus reached astronomically absurd sums. The initial £100 billion was already a ridiculous sum to spend on a cold war relic that the UK would not even be able to use, and the use of which would be classified as a war crime. Seeing an almost doubling of the price in just a few months time is reason to believe we have yet to see the final figure for the cost of Trident.

We need you to come join us in London to show your disapproval of the outrageous spending on Trident. 183 billion pounds could create over 3,6 million jobs, employ 274 000 nurses, build 2,7 million affordable homes or cover tuition fees for over 7,2 million students.

What do you want to spend 183 billion pounds on? Voice your opinion with us on the 27th of February 2016 in London
Solidarity visit to Faslane

At the end of October, Yorkshire CND took a large minibus of people to stay the weekend at Faslane Peace Camp, now in its 33rd year. We felt that we wanted to show our solidarity with the peace campers, whose continued presence is a visible sign of the resistance to the monstrous base across the road – and it's not easy living alongside the base, with its daily reminder of the violence that weapons of mass destruction represent. We were a truly international group, with students at Bradford University who hailed from Colombia, Kenya, Japan, Belgium, the US and Cambodia. The peace campers were grateful for our visit, and everyone learned a lot, both about life on the camp and about nuclear weapons, thanks to workshops we held while there. We may repeat this trip next year – please get in touch if you are interested.

New group at York University

A group of students have got together to start a new CND society at the University of York. Yorkshire CND went over to meet them and help with leaflets, funds and ideas about how to develop the group. They were accepted by the University as a society and are now organising their first meeting as Action for Peace goes to press, with guest speaker Rachael Maskell, the local anti-Trident MP for York Central. If anyone is reading this in York, and would like to be in touch with or express support for the student group, especially for such as joint organising of transport down the London for February 27th, then contact joshfoskett@gmail.com or hvgp500@york.ac.uk. Like their Facebook page – https://www.facebook.com/UoYCND

And in Leeds........

The CND group has had a boost after the hugely successful meeting on Trident in the city organised by Left Unity and the Green Party, at which Kate Hudson and Dave Webb spoke. There was a lot of energy for the campaign to stop Trident renewal, and this has provided a fillip to the local Leeds CND group. After their last meeting, with around 12 or so people, many activities are being organised including coordinated lobbying of all local MPs, a screening of Threads or Dr Strangelove, and coaches to the Feb 27th demo. Their next meeting is on 15th December at 7pm, location to be confirmed. Contact Ava Stacey adam.stacey@ntlworld.com or look at their Facebook/LeedsCND

Demo at Jacobs Engineering during Tory Party Conference

Members of Yorkshire CND joined with friends from Manchester to protest at Jacobs Engineering. Regular readers will remember we did an action at a Jacobs office in Leeds, protesting their involvement in AWE Aldermaston. On this occasion, we visited their new office in Manchester during the Tory Party conference to let their staff know that their employer was involved in the manufacture of immoral and illegal weapons of mass destruction. The police were too busy to attend our demo, so we left voluntarily to join the Quaker anti Trident vigil only after we felt our point was made.
The big debate on Trident within the Labour movement

In spite of the fact that the leaders of two of the largest unions ensured that Trident was not debated at the Labour Party Conference this year, the grassroots of both the Labour Party and the unions are ensuring that this is not the end of the matter.

Across the country, local Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs), Trades Councils, and Trade Union branches are putting in resolutions and holding debates about Trident, inviting speakers from CND, and unsurprisingly, the vote is almost always going against Trident replacement.

In the last few weeks, Yorkshire CND speakers have been to Harrogate & Knaresborough CLP (voted against Trident by large majority), Sheffield Trades Council, and Leeds TUC. In addition to speaking at Hull Uni Politics Society and Bradford Uni Peace Society and Amnesty Society, we will also be speaking at Halifax CLP, Sheffield & Hallam CLP, Huddersfield Trades Council, Leeds Unite Teaching Hospitals Branch, Leeds Unite Community branch and Haltemprice & Howden CLP.

Could we come to your CLP or union branch? You could propose a debate or put in a resolution opposing Trident replacement, and let us know what happens, whether or not we are invited to speak. Hopefully, a vote against Trident could then be put forward from the branch to the National Policy Forum.

Another thing you could do is to join Labour CND - if you are a member of Labour Party and also a member of CND, you can automatically be a member.

Clearly, as long time Vice Chair and now Vice-President of CND, Jeremy Corbyn’s anti-Trident views are firmly entrenched. And from our experience, so are those of most of the grassroots of the Labour movement. What needs to happen now, is that the Labour MPs to the right of the party need to start acting in accordance with what their supporters and their leader think on the issue. Don’t leave it too late - now is the time to get in touch with your MP, and your local Labour Party or Union. It’s particularly important if you have a Labour MP who is currently pro-Trident or fence-sitting.

No MUOS

The M.U.O.S. (Mobile User Objective System) is a US military telecommunication system that will be used to coordinate and command all USA military systems around the world, especially drones. One of the five satellites that make up this system is located in Niscemi, Sicily. Yorkshire CND’s Convenor, Dave Webb visited Niscemi recently with Bruce Gagnon (pictured). While they were there a local anti-Muos activist spent 36 hours sitting atop one of the satellite dishes hammering on it, and causing huge damage.

Resistance continues there and at other US bases around the world. For more info see http://nomuos.org/en or space4peace.org

Keep Space for Peace demonstration at Menwith Hill

Always at the beginning of October, Keeps Space for Peace week is an international week of protest to stop the militarisation of space. It’s important to us here in Yorkshire because of the two US spy/satellite/missile defence bases at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales (see page 2 for article on Fylingdales). This year, Yorkshire CND joined our friends at the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases at a demo at Menwith Hill (pictured).
Fundraiser’s Column

Working at Yorkshire CND has definitely put the "FUN" into fundraising since I started the job in August. Whilst my previous campaigning and fundraising exploits have been for the RSPB, Climate Change and the Environment, I am becoming more knowledgeable about the Nuclear Weapons and Arms industry, having recently been to demos at Menwith Hill and DSEI Arms fair, attended meetings and had a fascinating weekend at Faslane Peace camp.

We are facing a huge fundraising challenge next year, as we attempt to get several coaches to London on the 27th February for the Scrap Trident demonstration - so it is all "hands on deck"!

We have enjoyed two major events this year, which are regularly reported on, the vibrant "Day of Dance", in October, attended by hundreds - the next one is on 14th May 2016, so please put this in your diaries. If any members would like to get involved to make this event to make it even better and also to add appeal to a younger audience, then please get in touch. The other event is the Peace and Craft Fair on 28th November, over 80 crafters and campaigners, singers and storytellers supporting Yorkshire CND. Great events to raise the profile of campaigns.

2 more events to put in your diaries are:

John Hegley Poetry evening on 16th December at Hebden Bridge Trades Club from 7.30pm Tickets www.tradesclub.com

Burns Supper Night with Phoenix Ceidlih Band on Friday 22nd January at Kirkgate Community Centre in Shipley from 7.30pm-11.15pm, with free Neeps, Haggis and Tatties supper, and a Faslane Peace Camp and CND exhibition. Tickets are available from YCND office or pay online - £8 or £6 for concessions.

We are also in the middle of creating a video to use as part of a crowdfunding project and the Scrap Trident campaign - again any technical or creative help with this would be gratefully received.

I have also included an Annual Appeal letter for our Coaches for Peace trip to the London demo with this newsletter - again we appeal for your support.

I would also like to thank all members who have renewed their membership diligently, I am in the process of overhauling and updating the membership database, if I get something wrong then please let me know and I can correct it. Hopefully it will be 100% accurate by the time the next Action for Peace goes out.

Michelle Atkinson

Syria

As Action for Peace goes to press, there are clamours for the UK to take military action in the form of bombing against Daesh in Syria.

It is our opinion that bombing is never an adequate solution, and breaks the fundamental principle of “first, do no harm”. Not only will innocent people be killed, but it may contribute to the radicalisation of more people in the region. It is clear to everyone, that the bombing of Iraq vastly increased the problems in the Middle East, helping to spawn the very movement against which we are now fighting.

Daesh needs to be tackled, but before we resort to knee-jerk bombing and yet again causing more problems, there are some simple things the UK could do: pressure Saudi Arabia to cut off supplies to Daesh, pressure Turkey to stop targeting Kurdish opposition to Daesh, and put all our resources into negotiating a democratic transition in Syria such as the one Russia proposed months ago. If we go ahead and bomb, without first attempting the above, we are laying the UK bare to accusations of hypocrisy, war-mongering and imperial hubris, never mind making this country more of a target for Daesh fundamentalists.

More info about demonstrations and how to lobby your MP from stopwar.org.uk
Upcoming Events

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

**4th December** - York University CND, meeting with Rachael Maskell MP. 6.30pm Rm D/L/002

**9th December** - “Is failing to proceed with Nuclear Disarmament threatening our Human Rights?” - open meeting organised by the Peace Society and Amnesty Society, Bradford University 2.30-3.30pm

**16th December** - Yorkshire CND benefit gig and Christmas social with John Hegley. Doors 7.30pm, Tickets from www.tradesclub.com 01422 845265

**4th January** - deadline for nominations and resolutions for Yorkshire CND AGM

**8th January** - Sheffield Hallam CLP meeting on Trident

**14th January** - Yorkshire CND Annual General Meeting, with guest speaker Richard Burgon. See front page for details.

**22nd January** - Halifax CLP meeting

**22nd January** - Yorkshire CND fundraiser. Burns Supper Night with Phoenix Ceidlih Band Kirkgate Community Centre in Shipley 7.30pm-11.15pm, with free Neeps, Haggis & Tatties supper £8 /£6

**22 & 23 January 2016** CND national are organising a constituency lobby. Use their lobby tool to make an appointment with your MP http://act.cnduk.org/lobby/constituencylobby

**6th February** - day of action against Trident. #StopTrident Thunderclap Sign up as an individual or an organisation to our Thunderclap. If you are organising a public meeting, petition, stunt or stall let CND national or us know and we/they will list your event on the web site

**27th February** - big demo in London against Trident - see front page and inside

**14th May** - the next Day of Dance - put it in your diaries now, with more details to follow

Cycle for Peace 2016
Wheel Stop Trident are organising a relay cycle ride from AWE Burghfield, near Reading, to Faslane nuclear base in Scotland, following the route that the convoy takes across the UK when it transports the weapons through our neighbourhoods.

The ride will take place in March 2016 to mark the anniversary of the first CND march at Easter 1958, as well as of the first Wheel Stop Trident ride last year. We hope that this will be before the decision to retain Trident will be made, so will contribute to the public pressure to scrap Trident. If you’d like to help Yorkshire CND organise our section of the relay cycle get in touch now.

Local CND & Peace Groups/

**NEW! York University CND group** - contact joshfoskett@gmail.com

**NEW! Rotherham CND** - jon.smith@blueyonder.co.uk

**NEW! Bradford & District** - cartins@gmail.com

**Calder Valley** - next meeting 9th Dec contact kathypitt725@hotmail.com or 07980 291478

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

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

**Middlesbrough / Teesside CND** - hussainsam03@gmail.com

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

**Keighley Peace Justice & Environment Network** - contact Sylvia on 01535 596808 robinandsylvia@aol.com

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

**Sheffield CND** - 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