



**LANCASTER DISTRICT CND  
NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2012**

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**Peace in the 21st Century?**

# **BRUCE KENT**

Former Chair of CND

Will be the guest at an

## **Open Meeting**

Friends' Meeting House, Lancaster

Thursday, February 9th

6.30 - 8pm

**Admission Free**

**Light Refreshments Available**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## March 8th.

International Women's Day Stall, Market Square, 2 - 4 pm. This year's theme is young women. If you are concerned that Louise Mensch may be the face of the new feminism, maybe this is the event for you!

## March 30th.

Area CND AGM in Kendal. 11 am start.

While in Kendal, we shall be visiting the 'Rock Solid' exhibition at Kendal Museum, an arts-based event looking at the geological heritage of the Lake District

and current plans to dump nuclear waste in Cumbria. Marianne Birkby of *Radiation Free Lakeland* has been co-ordinating this event, which runs until May 19th and should be well worth a look.

## April 18th.

Lancaster District CND Business meeting. 7.30 pm. 13 East Road. Date provisional. Please check before setting out. Updates may be available on the web site - but we are still experiencing 'technical difficulties' with this, so at the risk of appearing stone age, we suggest that you phone!

## Editorial Reflections

**This week** the national press has carried a story about a group of US marines recorded on film while urinating on the bodies of dead Afghans, an action disgusting in itself and also in breach of a Geneva Convention forbidding the desecration of corpses. Robert Fisk, writing in *The Independent*, made this trenchant comment on the official response:

*Armies are horrible creatures and soldiers do wicked things but when we accept all these lies about "bad apples" and the exceptionalism of crime in war – "there may have been some excesses" is the usual dictator-speak – we are accepting war and going along with the dishonesty of it and we are making it more possible and easier and the killings and rapes more excusable and more frequent.*

*And how should armies react? With one word: guilty.*

**Margaret Thatcher** has been in the news again recently, mainly as represented by Meryl Streep, but also through recently revealed Downing Street papers which appear to show that two-thirds of her first cabinet opposed buying the US Trident missile system and that even the

chiefs of staff were not unanimously in favour of the move. The UK Cabinet only found out about the deal when news of it leaked out in the US.

But let it not be thought that Thatcher was the only Prime Minister to sew up massively expensive and controversial 'defence' deals without consultation. Cabinet Secretary Robert Armstrong reminded her that Macmillan and Wilson ordered Polaris and Chevaline with a similar lack of joint decision making and consultation.

One wonders whether the present Tory cabinet includes some opponents of a new generation of nuclear weapons who will act accordingly - and effectively. One can but hope.

**The CND stall** at the Green Xmas fair has been a regular diary item for a number of years now. There was a time when we sold bric-a-brac, but we decided to change tack and focus on campaigning. Ironically, and probably because of the cake and fudge making skills of some of our members, we are now making more money from the stall than we did when making money was our main aim. This year's profit was the largest ever, with over £170 raised. The 'bean in a jar' activity was a very successful and interactive campaigning tool, and we hope to use the idea again in the future.