



LANCASTER DISTRICT CND NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER, 2013

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Joan and Dick Allwright, Joint Secretaries, guest edited this issue.

PUBLIC MEETING

“NATO, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND WORLD STABILITY”

Talk and discussion led by

RAE STREET

(Rochdale and Littleborough Peace Group)

Come and join our discussion and help us set our campaigning priorities.

Wednesday, September 25, 7.30-8.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
Lancaster.
Refreshments at 8.30.

Followed at 8.45-9.30 by the

LANCASTER DISTRICT CND AGM

Annual Reports, Election of officers and committee, Campaigning priorities for 2013-14.

For more about Rae Street see page 2.

For more on current campaigning issues see pages 3-4.

Very sorry but we have cancelled the promised stall in Lancaster's Market Square to mark the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21 because we don't have enough volunteers.

MORE ABOUT RAE STREET, GUEST SPEAKER FOR OUR AGM.

Rae has been involved in anti-nuclear, anti-militarism and peace campaigning for more than three decades. She is a long time activist in CND UK and has always been very involved in international campaigning, which is what has prompted her deep concern about NATO. But she also finds time to take an active part in peace activities in her home town of Rochdale and around Manchester.



She was a founder member of CADU (the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium) in 1999, established a national office in Manchester, and has been its Coordinator ever since. From the beginning she and CADU have supported the International Coalition for a Ban on Uranium Weapons.

Rae notes: NATO is a military alliance whose policies still include nuclear weapons and their first use. It also pursues a policy, driven by the USA, of 'nuclear weapons sharing'. Effectively, all NATO member states become nuclear weapon states by default. The USA/NATO still have nuclear weapons in 6 countries across Europe, from Belgium to Turkey. NATO will be there whenever there is a conflict that 'western' states see some advantage in getting involved in, even though often in recent times that has caused more suffering than they were there to prevent. It is high time NATO's role became the subject of public debate, and that hard scrutiny was given to whether NATO is a solution to conflict or a threat in itself.

(For much more on Rae Street go to <http://lipsticksocialist.wordpress.com>)

Rae is also involved in the 2013 Peace History Conference – see below.

PEACE HISTORY CONFERENCE 2013, MANCHESTER.

The Peace and Anti-War Movement on the eve of the First World War – lessons for today.

Friday, September 20 (3pm to 9pm) & Saturday, September 21 (9:30am to 5pm)
at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS.

The two-day programme starts with a guided peace walk through Manchester on the Friday afternoon, and a film in the evening: 'Benjamin Britten – Peace and Conflict' marking the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth. The Saturday will be introduced by war reporter and former independent MP, Martin Bell, and features talks on peace activist and suffragist, Isabella Ford, the centenary of the Northern Friends Peace Board, and the View of Two Communities on the eve of WWI in Germany and England. A Q&A panel discussion (with Kate Hudson) on the lessons for today completes the programme.

Tickets: £20 standard entry or £5 for full-time students, unemployed or retired people.

Registration: please email gmdcnd@gn.apc.org or phone 0161 273 8283.

GUEST EDITOR NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER

We're always looking for people to guest edit this Newsletter. Right now we need someone to edit our November 2013 issue. Why not come to our AGM on September 25th and find out more?

WHAT ISSUES DO *YOU* THINK CND SHOULD FOCUS ON?

In recent years there has been impassioned debate among CND members over the issue of the breadth of CND's campaigning activities. Some believe CND will function best as a single-issue campaign, focussing on getting rid of the UK's nuclear weapons, while others believe we should operate as a broad-based peace group, ranging much more widely in our campaigning.

Against this background, groups around the country have submitted resolutions to CNDUK's AGM in Liverpool in October, including one that specifically calls for CNDUK to become a single-issue campaign. Other resolutions display the wide range of issues that will be put before the AGM for debate and decision. These decisions are very important because any resolutions that are passed by the people at the AGM will be used to guide CNDUK's campaigning priorities for the next twelve months.

We have summarised the issues below. How important do *you* think each of them should be in CNDUK's campaigning?

ISSUE	CRUCIAL	IMPORTANT	MARGINAL	IRRELEVANT
Campaigning to stop the renewal of UK's Trident, given the importance of government decisions to be taken within the next 18 months.				
Campaigning against nuclear proliferation, with an emphasis on calling for a less confrontational approach to North Korea and Iran.				
Campaigning against Missile Defence, given developing US policy in relation to NATO, and the UK's involvement (at Fylingdales and Menwith Hill).				
Supporting Nukewatch UK in its efforts to trace all movement of nuclear weaponry around the UK, given the risks involved.				
Campaigning on technological developments in weaponry (eg drone warfare), state surveillance, and government failure to uphold the rule of law.				
Campaigning for a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Middle East, in the context of developments in Syria and the dangers they bring for the region.				
Concentrating all CNDUK's efforts, finance and other resources on the abolition of British nuclear weapons.				

If this has set you thinking, why not bring your thoughts to our Lancaster District AGM on September 25 and help us set our local campaigning priorities for the next twelve months? Our discussions will also help guide our Area Representative, Joan West of East Lancashire CND, on how she will vote in Liverpool.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

If you would be happy to receive the electronic version instead of this paper one, please contact Graham Bartram (g.bartram@lancaster.ac.uk).

THE 'REAL ALTERNATIVE' TO TRIDENT.

On 15 July 2013, CNDUK launched a new report in anticipation of the government's review of alternatives to full replacement of the UK's Trident nuclear weapon system, which was published a day later on 16 July. Here is the executive summary from CNDUK's new report:

The Real Alternative: What the government's Trident Alternatives Review isn't telling you.

Post-nuclear security for the 21st century.

- The question of whether or not to replace the Trident nuclear weapon system is of great security and economic importance. Therefore, ahead of the parliamentary vote in 2016, the full range of options must be explored.
- The decision must be taken on the basis of what will most contribute to the security of the British people, with a clear understanding of the security challenges of the 21st century.
- Omission of the 'non-replacement' option – the scrapping of Trident and the cancelling of its replacement – from both the Strategic Defence and Security Review (2010) and the Trident Alternatives Review (2013) is an 'abdication of responsibility' by the British Government.
- Non-replacement is a credible option, which offers serious strategic and economic benefits, including:
 - improved national security – through budgetary flexibility in the Ministry of Defence and a more effective response to emerging security challenges in the 21st century;
 - improved global security – through a strengthening of the non-proliferation regime, deterring of nuclear proliferation and de-escalation of international tensions;
 - vast economic savings – of more than £100 billion over the lifetime of a successor nuclear weapons system, releasing resources for effective security spending, as well as a range of public spending priorities;
 - adherence to legal obligations including responsibilities as a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);
 - moral and diplomatic leadership in global multilateral disarmament initiatives such as a global nuclear abolition treaty and the UN's proposed Weapons of Mass Destruction- Free Zone in the Middle East.

The full report is available at: <http://bit.ly/157Pw2C>

On launching the new report Kate Hudson, CND's General Secretary, said:

'The decision on whether or not to replace Trident should be made on national security grounds. The reality is it doesn't address current or foreseeable security concerns: in fact it exacerbates nuclear proliferation and contributes to global insecurity. Whether it is this government or the next that realises it, it's clear that it is time to scrap Trident.'

OUR WEBSITE: CAN YOU HELP?

We are still looking for someone to take over the day-to-day management of our redesigned website (<http://www.lancaster-district-cnd.org>). Contact the secretaries for more information.