

MAIDENHEAD AND COOKHAM CND

July 2010

Dear members

Welcome to our July Newsletter. We have very little local news for you, but there is quite a lot happening elsewhere. West Midlands CND produce an excellent newsletter for the Region and I am reproducing below some of the news from this.

Local News

Some of our members have been leafleting - distributing information on Trident It is sad that the Liberal Democrats' manifesto commitment not to replace Trident with a like for like system seems to have disappeared. Perhaps that was almost too good to be true!

Thanks to your membership subscriptions and donations we have been able to send donations again to the **Campaign Against the Arms Trade** and the **World Court Project**.

Southern Region Annual General Meeting

This year, the Southern Region AGM was held in Maidenhead on 6th March and, we think, was successful in being relaxed and informal. People came from Oxford and Southampton and our speaker was **Di McDonald of the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp (aign)** Di enacted the reality of actually living at the camp and coping with the cold, heat, wet, boredom, etc and produced some of the items which are necessary in the camp - basics such as wire cutters, string, toothpaste, kettle. She explained that there can be lots of "hanging about" waiting for things to happen. There is an absolute "right to camp" which is integral to the women's protest.

AWPC are non-co-operative when arrested as a group. They are becoming more and more involved in legal processes and have discovered that the MOD police generally have little experience of law in relation to camp protest. Di then invited questions/contributions from the meeting. Among the points raised/discussed were leakages from AWE, the planning of new facilities and the ownership of AWE.

When asked if it was dispiriting to protest for so many years and seem to have no return, Di said that when good things happen, they tend to happen suddenly - for example the breaking down of the Berlin Wall. Visitors are welcome in the camp, which takes place on the 2nd weekend of every month. Donations are also always welcome for replacing camp items. Di finished by saying that camp life can be fun too!

Then followed the Business part of the meeting, with reports from the various groups. Oxford and Southampton have been very busy as usual! Anna has been re elected as "Communications Hub" and Minutes Secretary.

Generally, we think people enjoyed the food and discussions. Our Group received a letter from Michael Waugh, Southern Region Contact and Council Representative, thanking us for our hospitality.

Musical Tea: Lea Barn, 22nd August at 4 pm.

Enjoy afternoon tea with background music from a Palm Court Trio - piano and strings. From 4 pm. No charge, but a minimum donation of £7 would be appreciated. All donations will go to CND for our work against nuclear weapons, both locally and nationally. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Deborah Behrman- 01628 484230 to book your place. All welcome. Bring your friends!



Library Exhibition

This will take place in Maidenhead Library from Monday 15th November till Saturday 28th November.



**We really would appreciate some ideas for this. Something different.
Any creative ideas out there?**

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE

There has been very little coverage in the mainstream media of the month-long Review Conference, which finished in New York at the end of May. The last two Review Conferences were severely hampered by the intransigence of the Bush administration. In fact the last Conference in 2005 failed to adopt any consensus declaration. This year a final declaration was not only adopted but laid out action plans for all three of the treaty's "**pillars**" - non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful nuclear energy. There was also a consensus statement acknowledging the "**catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons**" and demanding that all states "**at all times**" comply with "**applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.**" This provision strongly implies the unlawfulness of use of nuclear weapons in any circumstance, in accordance with the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

The following were among the priorities adopted.

- The Treaty should be universal (India, Israel and Pakistan should join and North Korea rejoin).
- A Nuclear Weapons Convention, with the aid of achieving a nuclear weapons free world by 2025 should be initiated.
- Security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons should be given.
- The “inalienable right” of NPT non-nuclear-weapon states to pursue the peaceful use of nuclear energy should be reaffirmed.
- The P5 should commit to speedy arms reductions, and report on progress by 2014.
- There should be a conference in 2012 to work towards establishing a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East.

The last of these was possibly the greatest achievement of the Conference and its success was due in no small part to the diplomacy and hard work of the Egyptian delegates. The Israeli government rejected the resolution, calling it “*deeply flawed and hypocritical*”. It said that due to the “*distorted nature*” of the resolution, it would not take part in its implementation.

A footnote to this: “Three German-built Israeli submarines equipped with nuclear cruise missiles are to be deployed in the Gulf near the Iranian coastline. Israel fears that ballistic missiles developed by Iran, Syria and Hezbollah could hit military sites in Israel.” Sunday Times 30.5

AFTER THE ELECTION



Although there was little in the Queen’s speech to cheer us, Foreign Secretary, William Hague, has since made two statements which we should welcome. Following the lead of President Obama, he has announced that the UK’s overall stockpile of nuclear warheads will not exceed 225, with up to 160 warheads operationally available, and that the “*circumstances of use*” of UK nuclear weapons will be reviewed.

The new Defence Secretary, Liam Fox, is strongly in favour of nuclear weapons but William Hague is thought to be supportive of movement towards non-proliferation. There appear to be similar numbers of MPs opposing Trident renewal as in the Labour government, but some Labour MPs might be more willing to join those ranks, now they are in opposition.

Points of particular interest in the Queen's speech

- The renewal of Trident is to be scrutinised to ensure value for money.
- The Lib Dems will continue to make the case for alternatives
- The Review is to be of security and defence, not just defence, as in the past, and the Treasury is to be involved.

The **Nuclear Information Service** has filmed a video blog about the new government's position on nuclear weapons issues. It is on the NIS website at <http://bit.ly/bALzmx> This web address looks silly, but is correct!



Diary Dates

August	No Meeting
August 22 nd	Musical Tea in Lea Barn, Cookham Dean
September 13th	Meeting: Salters, School Lane, Cookham
October 4th	Meeting: Papagano, Islet Road, Maidenhead
October 9/10	CND Conference: Mary Ward House, Tavistock Place, London
November 1st	Meeting: Halldore Corner, High Road, Cookham
November 15/28	CND Exhibition in Maidenhead Library
December 6th	Meeting: Papagano, High Road, Cookham
January 10th	Meeting: Salters, School Lane, Cookham

Please call one of the numbers below for confirmation of meeting venues as these may change.

Contact Telephone Numbers

Hilary	01628 522331
Joyce	01628 622060
Anna	01628 635339

National CND	0207 700 2393
Email	enquiries@cnduk.org
Website	www.cnduk.org

Maidenhead and Cookham CND website: www.cookham.com

Then click on Clubs and Societies/Pressure Groups

.All present and future national activities are on National CND's website.

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nuclear-free world.

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