



HEDDWCH

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PINBALL POLITICS?

It's back to the nuclear arms race and it's the warmongers who always get the replay.

In place of international diplomacy, we have game-playing, taunting, bullying, sanctions, abrupt policy switches. As Trump threatens war with Iran, the Pentagon reviews US policy, considering whether a nuclear war might actually be winnable. Nuclear war is no arcade game, no fake. It threatens the future of our world, the real one.

THE PENTAGON DOES A FLIP

'Mutually Assured Destruction' had an appropriate acronym, MAD. This belief, that neither side would press the button because neither side could survive a nuclear conflict, underpinned the notion of deterrence throughout the Cold War. Brian Jones tells of a change of attitude that should scare us all.

The Pentagon now believes that using nuclear weapons could “create conditions for decisive results and the restoration of strategic stability”, according to a new nuclear doctrine adopted by the US joint chiefs of staff in June. It goes on: “Specifically, the use of a nuclear weapon will fundamentally change the scope of a battle and create conditions that affect how commanders will prevail in conflict.” This marks a shift in US military thinking towards the idea of fighting and winning a nuclear war – a highly dangerous mindset.

The new nuclear doctrine was publicly available on the Pentagon website for a week before access was restricted.

It follows the Trump administration’s withdrawal from two nuclear agreements: the 2015 joint comprehensive programme of action with Iran, and the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Russia. The administration is also sceptical about a third: the New Start accord

that limits US and Russian strategic nuclear weapons and delivery systems, which is due to expire in 2021.

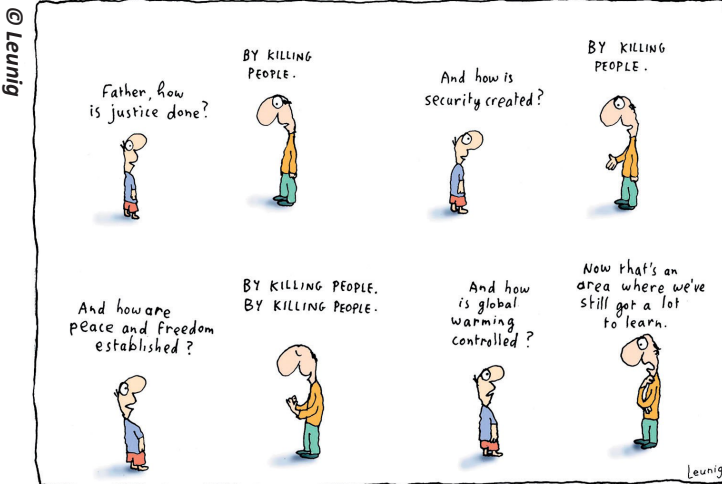
GLOBAL BAN: CAMPAIGN UPDATE

At the time of going to press, 71 countries have signed the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and 24 of those have also ratified the treaty. The Treaty will come into force once 50 countries have ratified it; the most likely countries to ratify in the next few months are Bolivia, Chad, Comoros, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala and Ireland. ICAN, the International Campaign Against Nuclear weapons, continues to lobby governments to sign and ratify the treaty, concentrating its efforts on Africa and Central and South America.

Here in Wales, we are continuing to try to persuade more Welsh MEPs, MPs and AMs to sign ICAN's Parliamentarian Pledge in support

of the treaty: so far 1 MEP, 5 MPs and 8 AMs have signed up. And we're hoping that a Welsh city will soon sign ICAN's Cities Appeal, alongside Paris, Washington DC, and a long list of other cities calling for the Treaty to be universally adopted.

For information on the Treaty, please see www.cndcymru.org or contact Brian Jones.



DIVEST FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD

Turn off the nuclear money supply, says CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans MEP...

Today, more than ever, we need governments with the right priorities. We have a climate crisis. Huge resources are needed – and not yet found – to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet in the next ten years the nuclear weapons states will spend about a trillion dollars on maintaining and modernising their nuclear weapons, as well as deploying them. That’s a million million. Imagine what that amount of money could do if used for peace and sustainability. That’s exactly what many people are thinking.



A wake-up call worldwide

That’s why the campaign to cut nuclear weapons spending and reinvest it in peace, climate protection and sustainable development is growing rapidly. “Move the Nuclear Weapons Money” is a global campaign with a local focus too. In June, the US city of Charlottesville, Virginia, stopped all investment from its operating budget in weapons and fossil fuel companies. The decision came after months of lobbying by local groups.

Divest from nuclear

A lot of work has been done on “impact investment”, investing in economic enterprises which support sustainable development so that investors get good returns. This is important in persuading investors that they will not lose out financially. Over 300 banks around the world invest over \$500 billion in nuclear weapons

companies. We have to demonstrate that positive peace has a real economic value.

The Norwegian government recognised this in 2006 when its pension fund divested from nuclear weapons companies. It is the largest government fund in the world. Only New Zealand, Switzerland and Lichtenstein followed suit. In 2015 and 2016 Norway included climate change and sustainable development criteria and Ireland

has divested from thermal coal. More countries must respond and stop allowing vast profits to be made on the destruction of the planet.

So how can we change things?

We can count money!

In United Nations Disarmament Week, 24 - 30 October, over seven days and seven nights, the Move the Nuclear Weapons

Money campaign will count out \$1 trillion in one million fake million dollar notes. This will take place in New York City, outside the UN, where world governments will be meeting. The New York event will be live-streamed.

But they also want us to arrange satellite counts in schools, colleges, parliaments or anywhere relevant. Artists are designing the banknotes so they will carry a strong message. We could make our own Welsh notes, designed by Youth Strike 4 Climate.

For Wales and the world

The National Assembly for Wales has declared a climate crisis. We have a commitment to the planet expressed through the Well-being of Future Generations Act. In 1982 Wales declared itself nuclear-free.

I believe all this places a duty on us as a nation to ensure that action is taken to improve human lives and the environment, in Wales and globally.

THE TRUE PRICE OF URANIUM

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017), negotiated by the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), highlights the ways in which the extraction, processing and storage of radioactive materials often bears down most heavily on indigenous peoples living in marginal or remote areas.

The testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific and the use of DU (depleted uranium) armaments on Iraq's battlefields has also left a deadly legacy for local populations. A huge concrete dome in the Marshall Islands already appears to be leaking plutonium-239.

Who are the main producers?

Some of the worst injustices are perpetrated during the mining and milling of uranium. Australia (2017 figures) has about 30 percent of the world's known uranium resources, and is followed by Kazakhstan, Canada, Russia, Namibia, South Africa, China, Niger and Brazil, each with 5-14 percent. Over half of uranium mining companies are state-owned, and the 10 biggest companies control 85 percent of the global market.

Mining, health and safety

In recent years in situ leaching of uranium ore by sulphuric acid or carbonates has become more common than opencast and underground mining. Workers risk exposure to radioactivity. Residue ('tailings') may be responsible for radioactive gas such as radon, wind-blown dust and contaminated water supplies. The tragic results may include cancers and birth defects in local populations. The Ranger mine, in Australia's



© Jessie Boylan

Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, Arabunna Elder and campaigner from South Australia

Kakadu National Park, has had over 200 accidents in its years of operation, and in 2013 spilled a toxic leak of 1,000,000 litres. In 2014 the Rössing Uranium Mine in Namibia also had a disastrous spill from a leach tank.

Indigenous rights

International mining operations regularly contravene Article 29 of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007). Breaches may include failure to honour land rights, environmental degradation, corporate exploitation of resources without appropriate

permissions, racial discrimination, the endangering of public health and reproductive rights. Indigenous people often lack power and influence. They are often poverty stricken and desperate for the jobs that industry provides. But not at any cost.

***“Uranium mining has already poisoned and will continue to poison the springs and waters of my Grand Canyon home.”
Havasupai Councilwoman
Carletta Tilousi, USA***

◀ **People power**

Resistance by Australia’s Aboriginal communities, such as the Mirarr and the Tjiwari, has been staunch. In India, where uranium is needed for the country’s nuclear weapons programme, the Khasi people of Meghalaya have challenged the government’s plans. In Canada, Saskatchewan has

some of the world’s most valuable ore, but to many of the First Peoples the rape of their land and environment is an unacceptable trade off. In 2006 the USA’s Navajo nation, many of whose former miners had suffered from cancer, organised an Indigenous World Uranium Summit, calling for a global ban. Today the agenda of Donald Trump and the mining lobby is challenged head on by indigenous peoples such as the Havasupai. (Trump & co. are not invincible though. In June 2019 the US Supreme Court did uphold a mining ban at the country’s largest known uranium deposit at Coles Hill, Virginia). Also in June 2019 Canada’s Anishinabek announced opposition to Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and the nuclear industry.

Exploitation

Two common factors may identify indigenous protests. The first is the resentment felt towards the exploiters, the settlers, the extractors, the power of the central state, the imperialists and capitalists. The second is even more fundamental. Many indigenous peoples have an entirely different concept of the natural world, of the spiritual world, of property

“We, as Anishinabek, have the responsibility to act as stewards of our lands and waters.”

**Anishinabek Nation
Grand Council Chief
Glen Hare, Canada**

and guardianship of the land, of past, present and future. To the men of science and business this may seem to be mere folklore or romantic fable. But they should think again. Indigenous understanding of the environment is often sophisticated and has been honed, tried and tested over thousands of years. It was not the First Peoples of Canada or the Australian Aborigines who trashed the planet.

Lessons for Wales

We in Wales can learn from the world’s indigenous protestors, from their methods and their alternative visions of the planet and its resources. We all have much in common. And let’s ask our nuclear engineering trade unions to live up to their traditions of solidarity and internationalism when it comes to the health problems and working conditions forced upon indigenous uranium miners and their families. We should not be creating more nuclear weapons and radioactive waste on the backs of the poor and dispossessed.

Philip Steele



Intercontinental Cry

Indigenous land rights and mining in the USA’s Black Hills have been bitterly opposed since the 1870s.

SAUDI ARMS EXPORTS UNLAWFUL

The licensing of arms exports to Saudi Arabia is unlawful, says the Court of Appeal. What has this to do with Wales? Robot Idris joins up the dots.

The news that the Court of Appeal has ruled that our export of arms to Saudi Arabia is illegal is to be welcomed.

The judges said it was “illogical and therefore unlawful” that the Secretary for International Trade had authorised weapons export licences, without an assessment of whether Saudi Arabia had breached International Humanitarian Law.

There have been many reports claiming that such violations have occurred during the bombing raids on Yemen by the Saudi Armed Forces. That is why the Campaign Against Arms Trade – CAAT – brought the case before the court.

What's the background?

It comes as no surprise that the bellicose Westminster Government is fighting to reverse the verdict with an appeal – a parting gift from May to her successor. But both contenders are cut from the same cloth. Boris Johnson? When he was a Foreign Minister in 2016 he supported the sale of weapons in the teeth of evidence that civilian targets were being bombed. And Jeremy Hunt? He tried to overturn Germany's decision not to sell weapons to the Saudis.

But the absolute cynicism of successive UK Governments – Tory and Labour – in selling weapons to Saudi Arabia has been evident for decades. In 1985 Thatcher and Britain's leading arms firm, BAE Systems, began the contracts known as 'Al Yamamah', which have handed the

company a profit of at least £43 billion. It became apparent that there had been bribery on an industrial scale, and eventually the Serious Fraud Office conducted an investigation – but following pressure from the Saudis, Blair brought a stop to the investigation. Protecting the interests of the



© Ahmed Jahaf

arms trade and the military industrial complex is the priority of our government in London, not saving lives. Our state provides more Saudi weapons than any other country except for the USA and also trains their armed forces and maintains their aircraft.

The Yemen war is the plight destroying that country, killing its people without hesitation, regardless of whether the slaughtered are soldiers or not. Horror is so common that it is a way of life for both sides of the massacre. Yet the bloody ►

fingerprints of the post-imperial British cover those innocent bodies. It is the innocent who are killed when schools, hospitals and weddings are attacked.

What is the Welsh connection?

Wales is used for many purposes of war, and there is an explicit link with events in Yemen. The “Storm Shadow” and “Paveway IV” missiles have been fired at Yemen. These were tested at Aberporth with the Typhoon aircraft in 2010 and 2015. Llanbedr Airfield near Harlech is to be developed to test drones. The development is supported by £500,000 of taxpayers’ money given by Gwynedd County Council. Llanbedr is part of the “Snowdonia Enterprise Zone” alongside Trawsfynydd, where the development of a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) is being backed, which, as research from University of Sussex shows, is primarily intended to keep nuclear skills in Britain for the Trident submarines.

This area off the coast of West Wales is the first to be designated for the purpose of war preparation and remote killing. Our Government in Cardiff is content for this to happen, and few politicians are heard voicing a different view. Once again, there has been little public debate about this – which is characteristic of the manner in which Wales has been militarised over the last century.

Saudi Arabian pilots were trained at RAF Valley on Anglesey, where a number of humanitarian organisations held a vigil of protest last year. RAF Valley has also been granted the freedom of Anglesey by the County Council.

The Welsh Government promotes the munitions and war industry, welcoming massive armaments and military companies such as BAE, Raytheon and QinetiQ. We cannot simply accept the

fact that so much of our country is used for the preparation of war, that our poorest people are targeted for recruitment into the army, and that so many of our jobs depend on the vicious machine that teaches the killing of people, in the most ruthless of ways.

The dependence on the arms trade and war industry is immoral, and keeps us dependent on Westminster. Westminster’s policy is to spend on weapons and militarism. Westminster’s policy is austerity that squeezes our communities and County Councils, and leaves us prey to any promise of ‘jobs’.

We must ask why so much of our land, and now our seas and airspace, are under the dead hand of the Ministry of Defence. Epynt should be just as important to us as Tryweryn.

It is about time Wales woke up to the fact that military activity here leads to widespread killing in foreign wars – and that very often it is the innocent that are killed. We raise our voices against such barbaric cruelty.

As the Yemeni humanitarian correspondent Hisham al-Omeisy states: ‘It is the smallest coffin that is the heaviest.’

heddwch>action:

Write to your MP to protest against unlawful and immoral arms sales to the Saudis.



RAF Valley on Anglesey, a training base for Saudi Arabian pilots

VETERANS FOR PEACE: 'never again'...

War is not the solution to the problems we face in the 21st century, writes CND Cymru Member Steve Heaney, who is active with Conwy County Peace Group – and Veterans for Peace.

Now active in Wales

Veterans for Peace (VFP) was founded in the United States of America in 1985 and has over 100 chapters in the USA and a growing number of international chapters. Veterans for Peace UK was founded in London in 2011 by Ben Griffin. Wales currently has 10 members – equally divided between north and south.

Who are we?

Veterans For Peace UK is a voluntary and politically independent ex-services organisation of men and women who have served in conflicts from WWII through to Afghanistan. We are not a pacifist organisation; we accept the inherent right of self-defence in response to an armed attack. We work to influence the foreign and defence policy of the UK, for the larger purpose of world peace.

What does VFP do?

Our programme has three main aims: a) to work towards increasing public awareness of the cost of war; b) to restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations; c) to work to end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.

Our activities are centred upon two annual events, namely Remembrance Day and Armed Forces Day (AFD). VFP organises its own parade to follow after the official Remembrance, our members marching behind a "Never Again" banner. We are concerned about the creeping militarisation of British society, and AFD is one manifestation of this. In 2018 AFD was held in Llandudno. Along with other peace activists VFP-Wales members were present on the promenade and main field. We distributed leaflets and spoke to young people who had visited various military stands. We also challenged personnel about the purpose and effects of the weaponry they were displaying and allowing children to handle.

The film War School

Veterans for Peace have also been involved in the 2018 film War School. There have been several showings across Wales and VFP-Wales members have attended to take part in the discussion. If any groups or individuals want to arrange their own screening of War School (85 mins running time, English



Veterans for Peace engage at Armed Forces Day in Llandudno

language) go to <https://www.war.school> where a screening can be booked. Local VFP members will be happy to attend and take part in a discussion of the issues raised by the film; the director Mic Dixon usually attends the screening too.

heddwch>action:

- Veterans for Peace urge all veterans who share their vision to join them: see information at www.VFPUK.org.
- They are keen to challenge the military's presence in public spaces and if any readers know of military recruiting activities in their area please contact Steve Heaney at wales@vfpuk.org
- They are also running a Neutral Country campaign, more details at <https://neutralcountry.uk/>

NOT GOING UNDERGROUND!

Across Wales 80 councils have responded to CND Cymru's letter and voted to opt out of hosting a "GDF", Geological Disposal Facility, otherwise known as an underground high-level nuclear waste store.

In July 2019 it was reported that the creation of more than one GDF in the UK was under consideration, and that some 10 percent of the total disposal (by volume) would derive from nuclear new-builds.

Following six English 3-hour long consultation meetings, involving a total of 131 people, both Welsh consultations on GDF, originally planned for Swansea and Llandudno, were turned

into online webinars at very short notice. 69 people logged in, a total of seven pre-submitted questions were allowed (with no opportunity to follow up on the answers provided, and both sessions lasted less than 1½ hours).

In CND Cymru's submission to the Welsh Government consultation, we argued that this showed the depth of opposition to burying nuclear waste anywhere in Wales - or anywhere else for that matter!

Nuclear waste should be stored onsite, where it can be safely and easily monitored - and we should stop producing more of it!

Brian Jones

CLIMATE EMERGENCY & NUCLEAR WEAPONS

While there are nine nuclear armed states on the planet (USA, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea), none are paragons of rational behaviour.

It might be useful to remember:

- Many anti-nuclear activists across Wales support Extinction Rebellion and its non-violent aims.
- A nuclear war and the resulting 'nuclear winter' would make the climate emergency debate irrelevant.
- Climate catastrophe would make war and nuclear accidents inevitable.
- Nuclear weapon production and everyday deployment add to carbon emissions.
- The acknowledged carbon footprint of conventional and nuclear war make these issues an inevitable item on the Climate Catastrophe agenda.

Instead of hypothesising over the extent of climate change in the aftermath of a nuclear war, why not ban nuclear weapons entirely?

If you are a beautiful Extinction Rebel comrade, please remember all this and introduce it into discussions and campaigning. We are on the same path; we are more than likely the same people!

Jill Gough



©Nick Jewitt

All together now... Matthew Misiak of Extinction Rebellion North Wales addresses a joint rally in Bangor, June 2019

AROUND WALES...O FÔN I FYNWY...AROUND WALES

• *The new Mussolini?*

On 3 June 2019, the eve of Donald Trump's state visit, a rally was held by Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace & Justice Group at the city's Clock Tower. Bangor Street Choir welcomed a large crowd, and speakers included Linda Rogers (BYMPJ and CND Cymru), Siân Gwenllïan AM (Plaid Cymru), Matthew Misiak (Extinction Rebellion North Wales) and Ben Gregory (Cymru-Nicaragua).

The audience was varied too, in age and in activism: Trump's bizarre presidency has viciously attacked so many different communities worldwide. We heard of his nuclear warmongering, his scant regard for treaties and international law, his denial of the climate crisis, his shameful treatment of migrants, his wanton destabilisation of Latin America and the Middle East, the contempt he shows towards the



Nick Jewitt

Wales says no to Trump, June 2019

Palestinians, his mendacity and lack of respect for women.

Welsh media coverage included Ben Gregory and Selwyn Jones being interviewed on S4C, and Linda Rogers on Radio Wales. It was made very clear that CND Cymru and a whole spectrum of activist groups needed to join hands and work together in opposition.

• *Burghfield Eight back in court*

The legal shenanigans following the blockade of Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Burghfield in October 2018 became protracted. The final hearings did not take place until 8-9 July 2019. Of the eight in court, four are members of CND Cymru. Brian Jones, Jan Jones and Marie Walsh were charged with obstruction of the highway and found to have no case to answer (as was one other defendant, Jed Picksley). Awel Irene was one of the four people charged with aggravated trespass. She, and the other three, were given conditional discharges for two years but were ordered to pay court costs of £795 each.

An appeal for donations towards the costs of all four defendants can be found at <https://chuffed.org/project/nuclear-weapons-protectors>

• *Singing for refugees in Bangor*

If you want to stop the movement of desperate refugees around the world. then tell your government not to drop bombs on civilians,

not to support the arms trade, not to support tyrants, not to destabilise whole regions of the world. Pontio in Bangor was sold out on 23 June 2019 for a grand choral festival organised by Hilary Wilson. Canu am Noddfa featured Bangor Community and Street Choirs, Côr Rygbi Bangor, Côr Dros y Bont, Boncathod, Threnody and AMaSing. £2,160 was raised for local refugee charities Pobl i Bobl and Croeso Menai.

• *NFLA in Swansea*

The autumn seminar of the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities' Welsh Forum welcomes all concerned individuals and groups, NGOs, councillors and council officers. It will be held this year in Swansea at the Civic Centre, 10.30 am to 1.30pm on Friday 6 September 2019. The theme of the day will be 'mitigating the climate emergency, just transition and dealing responsibly with the nuclear legacy'. Speakers will be confirmed shortly. To register in advance, email Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary: S.morris4@manchester.gov.uk

AROUND WALES...O FÔN I FYNWY...AROUND WALES

CND CYMRU AGM,
NEWTOWN 2019



At the Annual General Meeting on 1st June, Jill Evans MEP was re-elected as Chair, and the Vice Chairs were all re-elected. Awel Irene and Bethan Siân were elected onto the executive committee.

Michael Freeman presented the Treasurer’s Report, and confirmed details of our current membership: CND Cymru has 459 paid-up members (allowing for 2 per household and group). In addition there are 261 CND UK members living in Wales who also receive Heddwch which is sent to 726 addresses including all MPs, AMs, MEPs and Council leaders. E-mail messages are sent to about 485 members.

- If you don’t receive e-mails, but wish to, please add your address to the e-mail list, using the web page. <https://www.cndcymru.org/take-part/join-email-list>
We send out only about 6 messages a year and you can easily remove your address from the list.

Following the business of the AGM, Bethan Siân gave a very interesting and amusing presentation about peace movement activities at the former US Navy submarine listening base at Brawdy. By recording the stories of some individual participants, she has captured some of the flavour of the protests which otherwise would be lost.

FINANCES

The financial situation of CND Cymru has been stable over the past 5 years. The average income and expenditure is as follows:

INCOME

Membership fees and donations	£ 7,500
Contribution from CND UK	£15,000
Profit from sales	£ 400
Total	£22,900

Expenditure

Editing Heddwch (Philip Steele)	£ 3,000
Postage and packing Heddwch	£ 6,000
Campaigning (Brian Jones)	£ 6,000
Expenses	£ 1,000
Social Media (Jill Gough)	£ 5,000
Website	£ 100
Eisteddfod Stall	£ 880
Other expenses	£ 500
Total	£22,480

PEMBROKESHIRE PEACE GROUP
HIROSHIMA DAY
EVENT

at the Picton Centre,
Haverfordwest, SA61 1UG
6/8/19 6p.m. to dusk

Free event, with hot food,
campaign stalls, live music.

At dusk candle boat
ceremony.

Candle boat recovery by **PADDLEWEST**



'Jonny Brush' 1947-2019

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Irish-born Jon Clarke, Bethesda, known to many as Jonny Brush. Jonny was a meticulous signwriter, a mural painter and a scenic artist for Theatr Gwynedd and S4C. He was famous as a designer of splendid campaign banners that have adorned many marches, meetings and street protests over the years. They became a highlight of Glastonbury festivals. A good-humoured, anarchistic rebel to the end, Jonny actively



Martin Morley's painting of Jonny Brush with the Dyffryn Ogwen banner in 1982

sought for peace and a better world. Our sympathies go out to Julie and Peri, to family and friends. May he rest in peace.

THE HIROSHIMA TILES

When it comes to moving house, it's surprising what you find in the cellar. For 30 years, in four cardboard boxes, we had been storing the raku tiles that Meri Wells, the potter from Aberhosan, near Machynlleth, had created.

Only two of the 40 tiles had cracked and the biggest surprise Meri and I had was how well the glaze had lasted. The complete work creates a jig-saw 8 foot by 5. It shows the body of a woman having being vapourised by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. When we set-up the jigsaw in Meri's garden it immediately struck a poignant memory for Meri as it was her good friend Meinir Wyn, Cwm Llinau, who had modelled for her when creating the design. Meinir was a true friend and a committed

activist for CND Cymru and all peace issues. She died far too young. One of the reasons for reviving this is that we'd like to fill in many details lost in time. Do you remember seeing it, being involved in setting it up or might you have photos of the installation? It is an important part of the history and the persistence of CND Cymru. Meri remembers that it was displayed outside the CND Cymru tent at the National Eisteddfod in Porthmadog in 1985. That August it would have been 40 years since the bombing of Hiroshima. Who knows? Now that it has been found the feeling is that it could be



Ceramic tiles to commemorate Hiroshima, Meri Wells.

installed in a public space in Wales, either indoors or out. This piece would be a gift from Meri Wells and so the cost of setting it into a suitable frame would be very reasonable. It could be placed upright at an angle or flat.

Please let us know what you think of this possible project and any memories you might have. medijames22@gmail.com

Medi James

CHERNOBYL

TV mini-series, 5 episodes. HBO-Sky UK production. *Directed by Johan Renck.* English language.

Congratulations to the makers of Chernobyl, for creating a drama that neither sentimentalises nor sensationalises an event that lends itself to both.

Instead, we are presented with a truthful narrative that asks questions about truth and the terrible implications of lying – particularly when the lies are in the context of nuclear power.

Chernobyl reveals the contradictions in the decaying Stalinist system (then undergoing glasnost and perestroika under the leadership of Gorbachev) that would rather uphold the appearance of a functional state than save its citizens. This drama also reveals the layers of interaction, cause and effect that make

the scenario of failure possible anywhere: the lies about safety that come from overriding political interest; the culture of secrecy dominating the nuclear power industry; the dominance of the needs of that industry over the needs of the local population and indeed the well-being of the world. We are witness to human sacrifice on a grand scale, as in the case of the miners, firefighters and “liquidators”, drafted in to stem the further impacts of the explosion.

The power of the imagery, the bodies in living decomposition, the burial under layers of lead of those killed, the naked bodies of miners tunneling in the toxic heat, these have created a public reaction that is timely. Our government continues to press for the building of new nuclear power stations, despite the

international movement towards renewable technologies. Like the Soviet leadership before them, they would rather continue the lie of nuclear power as being safe.

As the drama points out: every lie we tell incurs a debt to the truth and that debt has to be paid. In this case, the debt was Chernobyl.

Linda Rogers



Disarming the Nuclear Argument: The Truth about Nuclear Weapons

Timmon Milne Wallis

Luath Press paperback

ISBN 978 1912 147861 £10.99

This book is an excellent resource for anyone opposed to nuclear weapons, whether new to the issue or a long-term campaigner.

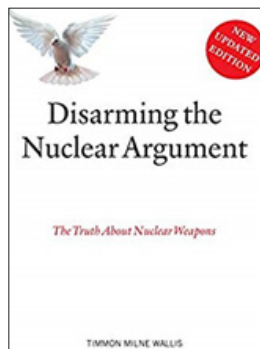
It starts with four chapters on the basics (e.g. What are Nuclear Weapons? What is Radiation?), followed by a chapter on every aspect of the arguments put forward for "us" having nuclear weapons (e.g.

Have Nuclear Weapons 'Kept the Peace' Since 1945?, Are Nuclear Weapons Safe?, 'But You Can't Uninvent the Bomb', 'Can Nuclear Weapons be Morally Acceptable?', and so on). Despite not being meant to be read from cover to cover, but to be referred to as required, the writing is always clear, straightforward and fully referenced. I can do no better than quote Bruce

Kent's opinion: "The author has done all of us who are working for a peaceful and nuclear weapons-free world a great service with this book. I have

not before come across such a comprehensive and easy-to-read critique of current nuclear weaponry and of the arguments used by the nuclear weapon lobby."

Brian Jones



CND CYMRU

CND Cymru campaigns alongside organisations in Wales and internationally, for peace, environmental and social justice and to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction.

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HEDDWCH

is the magazine of
**Wales' Campaign for
Nuclear Disarmament**
(CND Cymru)

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The content of
HEDDWCH does not
necessarily reflect the
opinion or policies
of CND Cymru. We
welcome debate and
discussion.

Please send
any comments,
contributions, or
dates of events to the
editor.

The next edition
of **HEDDWCH** will
be published in
November 2019.

Mwnici Coch/Red Monkey



- This is just one of the hand-printed poster designs being prepared by **Mwnici Coch/Red Monkey**. More can be seen on the *Mwnici Coch/Red Monkey* Facebook page. If you would like copies of this poster for placards, they are available in both English and Welsh. Should you or your group need a special design for posters or placards, please contact *Mwnici Coch/Red Monkey* via messenger.