

HEDDWCH



Number 87 > July 2024 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament



Last year the UK spent £6.37 billion (£12,000 a minute) on renewing and maintaining nuclear weapons. The nine nuclear nations together wasted \$91.4 billion (\$2,898 per second). If the aim is to prevent war, it is not working. There are currently 112 wars, genocides and armed conflicts igniting our world. Who benefits? Cut the money, cut the weapons, stop the wars and save the lives.



AND DEATH SHALL HAVE NO DOMINION

Dylan Thomas 1943



Beyond the ballot box

It is election season across Europe and North America. The electoral rise of far-right parties across Europe suggests a wider international malaise. In the USA the politics of both Republicans and Democrats have drifted into a moral vacuum, in which double standards and, sadly, old age and Trumpian mendacity diminish credibility. We can do better than this, and we owe that to past and future generations.

Much of the debate before the Westminster General Election on 4 July was framed within a narrow, blinkered

remit, partly imposed by the mainstream media and partly by the risk-averse major parties themselves. The issues facing Wales were often sidelined, and the most pressing global issues were largely excluded from discussion. The war on Gaza was presented by the media only in terms of a voter turnout 'problem' affecting Moslem-majority constituencies. In reality this key humanitarian issue has since October 2023 gripped all communities across Wales, large and small, involving people of all faiths and none. The Ukraine war was discussed not in terms of seeking diplomatic solutions, but calling instead for escalation and a more militant NATO. The problems faced by asylum seekers and refugees were all too often misrepresented and weaponised into divisive dog-whistle rhetoric.

Many of our members will have had at least sectors of policy they can support in manifestos of more progressive parties, many

will have calculated tactical options. An agenda for more radical, visionary changes is necessary to stop the atrophy of the body politic. A diversity of voices must be heard *within* political parties, *across* political divides and in *wider* public discourse. That is where CND Cymru can come in. It aims to act as a lively forum for progressive dialogue between a wide variety of individuals, political parties, trade unions and other organisations. That kind of energising interaction is needed more than ever.



Prospects for Peace conference, Bangor, June 2024

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Bangor students' Gaza camp, May 2024



Credit: Michael Leunig

ELECTION 2024

5 July 2024

The new constituency map of Wales is missing a primary colour this morning: the blue just vanished overnight. That will delight many if not all of our members. Congratulations to a successful Labour, an expansive Plaid Cymru and the LibDems.

Other results across the border will also satisfy many of us: the success of four pro-Palestine candidates, the quadrupling of Green Party MPs, the success of CND Cymru supporter Jeremy Corbyn. However many of us will miss the articulate and pertinent points raised by SNP MPs who have been Westminster's main Opposition.

A word of caution. The Conservatives remain in the Senedd, and the building of support for the far-right populists of Reform UK on 4 July poses an immediate



danger to all progressive parties across Wales and across Europe, and indeed to the Tories themselves.

Keir Starmer is even now unpacking his precious Ming vase and putting it on the mantelpiece at No 10, so I'll let him admire it for a moment, and then ask him to vote for thought. The Labour vote actually went down in Wales, so a broader base is needed and constructive cross-party communication. Tackle Reform UK not by appeasement but by social policy. Secondly, be a real peacemaker in the Middle East: get out your old books on international humanitarian law and study them again. Stop the arming of genocide: the structure of a peace

deal needs working on with urgency. And finally, all that 'defence' spending and those new Cold Wars: why not listen to us and many of your supporters? Engage with the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Durable peace is not won through the barrel of a gun or the button of a bomb.

Finally, a big thanks to those MPs who have been good friends to the peace movements in Wales, but will no longer be sitting in Westminster: a special mention for Beth Winter (Labour, Cwm Cynon), and another for Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru, Arfon).

PHILIP STEELE

NUCLEAR RISKS AND GENOCIDES



Credit: Russian MoD

The chilling question lingering over at least two of today's major conflicts is whether or not nuclear weapons will be used.

Kyiv and Moscow

Russia, a global nuclear weapons power, invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Leading members of the Duma have overtly advocated using tactical nuclear weapons to end that war. Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has also made not-so-veiled threats.

The very real prospect of a disaster befalling any one or more of Ukraine's 15 civil nuclear reactors, also hangs over the region like an atomic sword of Damocles. The long-lived radionuclides released during a nuclear power plant accident enter the water supply, the food chain and human bodies and persist virtually forever. A ceasefire, for so many reasons, is imperative.

Israel and Gaza

Israel, meanwhile, is also a nuclear weapons power although still, absurdly, undeclared. The country is known to have at least 75 nuclear weapons and is suspected of having closer to 200. As with Russia, the question as to whether Israel would use nuclear weapons hovers in the background as it continues its brutal and genocidal attack on the Palestinians of Gaza. Again, a ceasefire is an urgent imperative.

The spectre of a nuclear war in the Middle East arose again last November when Israel's Heritage Minister, Amichai Eliyahu, said dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza was "one of the possibilities." He was suspended indefinitely.

No such penalty befell two leading US politicians who hinted that Israel could triumph quickly in Gaza by

following the US example of when it dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This they argued (a theory disputed by historians) abruptly ended World War II.

Iran and the NPT

Fears of a wider nuclear conflict in the Middle East ramped up after Israel provoked Iran by assassinating personnel at the Iranian consulate in Syria. Iran fired back, then Israel did. Meanwhile, Iran's uranium enrichment programme continues apace, now unfettered by inspections and restrictions after former US president, Donald Trump, took the US out of what is colloquially known as the 'Iran Nuclear Deal'.

That agreement had kept Iran's uranium enrichment activities at below 4 percent, well within the commercial grade limit. But Iran now admits it has enriched uranium up to 65 percent, far above commercial grade but still below the 90 percent needed for weapons grade.

Iran is today's poster child for why the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) doesn't work. Iran is a signatory to the NPT which declares the development of civil nuclear power an "inalienable right" for those parties to the treaty who forswear nuclear weapons development. Exercising this "right" effectively hands over the keys to nuclear weapons

development. Iran exemplifies this blurry line as no one knows whether Iran is actually developing nuclear weapons, or just posturing that it could.

Israel's route to nuclear power

Israel came by its nuclear weapons programme via the non-military route as well, thanks to France, which helped Israel establish a "research" reactor at Dimona in 1958 that by 1966 had secretly begun producing nuclear weapons. But when France stopped supplying uranium after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Israel had to find another source. This brings us to that other still unfolding genocide, the one no one talks about. The one in Africa.

Congo, uranium and conflict

The Democratic Republic of Congo is home to the world's richest uranium deposits — a

fact pointed out in 1939 to then US President Roosevelt by Albert Einstein, as concerns mounted that Nazi Germany might get the bomb.

Since 1996, at least six million people have died in the ongoing conflict in the Congo, the fighting mostly over mineral rights. One of those minerals is uranium. Israel still has a nuclear weapons programme because of it. And the Congo's first democratically-elected prime minister, Patrice Lumumba, is probably dead because of it.

After Lumumba's election in 1960, Katanga Province, home to the giant Shinkolobwe mine from whence 80 percent of the uranium that supplied the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs had come, seceded from the country. Lumumba appealed to the UN for help in quelling the rebellion.

When none came, he turned

to the Soviet Union — and signed his death warrant.

Lumumba was assassinated six months into his term, officially over fears he would lead the country towards communism. But a former MI6 agent later revealed that the British and Americans had eliminated Lumumba in part over fears he would hand over Shinkolobwe's rich uranium supply to the Russians.

In 1968, now lacking French support for its uranium supply, Israel's secret intelligence agency, Mossad, cooked up an elaborate plot involving subterfuge on the high seas that concluded with the smuggling of at least 200 tonnes of uranium yellowcake out of the Congo, a haul that eventually made its way to Dimona. Israel's nuclear weapons programme survived.

A tale of two genocides

Thus the mineral that fuelled one genocide also helped to shore up a nuclear power that is now conducting another. 'War is not the answer' is a well-worn mantra. The prospect that Israel or Russia or any country in possession of nuclear weapons might use them to end a war — or for any reason — is why we must continue to say it

LINDA PENTZ GUNTER

Linda Pentz Gunter from Beyond Nuclear International has in recent years been a staunch supporter of anti-nuclear movements in Wales.



Uranium yellowcake

STUDENTS CALL FOR DIVESTMENT



Credit: Philip Steele

Supporters lend a hand as Bangor students start to set up camp on 8 May

CND Cymru supports the demands that our universities divest from arms companies and other complicit war profiteers. We strongly condemn both the Israeli genocide of Palestinians, the attacks of 7 October and the remaining imprisonment of hostages.

The student encampment/occupation movement began in the USA, but has since become a mainstay of university students in Wales, too, at Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea. They aimed to use non-violent direct action, putting pressure on universities to negotiate with protestors by disrupting the normal rhythm of campus life.

This tactic has worked in the past and it can work now. Our right to protest is possibly more important now than ever before, with the Tories openly hostile to the idea of dissenting voices, and some disquieting rhetoric emerging from some

on the Labour benches. Now is the time to assert our hard-won right to protest, and if any issue should concern us, it is the ongoing genocide being quietly enabled by many political leaders of the 'West'.

- The **Bangor** student encampment was pitched outside Pontio, and intends to stay put through the vacation. Protestors picketed the University's Open Day on 29 June and disrupted presentations. The students had three divestment meetings with the Finance Committee, but talks collapsed on 3 June, when the University failed to meet ethical commitments it had made. The students have identified the university's many direct and indirect investments in companies linked with Israel's actions.

- At **Aberswyth**, students staged a round-the-clock sit-in for a week at the Hugh Owen Library on the Penglais campus, in protest against

the University's investment connections.

- At **Cardiff** the students set up camp outside the university main building on 15 May, and this became a hub for community events, discussions and lectures. The students call for financial disclosure and divestment, but complain that this university too isn't listening. They plan to stay the course through the summer. Elsewhere, the arrest of a protestor on Cardiff's pro-Palestine march of 3 June led to confrontations with the South Wales police.

- In **Swansea**, protestors have made concrete gains. After 28 days of protest on Fulton Lawn, they managed to achieve many concessions: these include a complete divestment from Barclays Bank (worth £5 million); guaranteed protection of academic freedom for faculty and students; reclassification of criteria to advantage Palestinian students fleeing genocide; and a new investment policy, that excludes investment in arms companies, and nuclear weapons.

This shows the power that peace campaigners have when we are united. Solidarity with our student campaigners and with the Palestinian people, whose sufferings we can barely imagine.

DYLAN LEWIS-ROWLANDS

HELL ON EARTH



Credit: Bela Khaled/Anadolu

1 July 2024. It is now 9 months since the Israeli government ordered an attack on Gaza, by air, land and sea, using bombs, tanks, artillery and snipers.

- **Casualties** Between 7 October 2023 and 27 June 2024 at least 37,765 people living there have been killed, 91 percent of them civilians and over 16,000 of them children. An additional 10,000 are missing under the rubble and are believed to have died. Some 86,429 have been wounded, most of them with life-changing injuries. There are over 20,000 orphans. According to Save the Children 20,000 are 'lost, disappeared, detained, buried under rubble or in mass graves'.

- **Displacement** As a result of the constant attacks, over 90 percent of the population have been displaced. As over 60 percent of all Gaza's buildings

and infrastructure have been destroyed, most are living in shelters, tents or temporary shelters,

- **Famine** There continues to be a high risk of famine in Gaza. Ninety-five percent of the population face food insecurity, 50 percent have no food or drink in their homes and 20 percent go without any food by day or night.

- **Sanitation** A side-effect of the fuel shortage in Gaza is that water supply is rarely available and pumps at desalination plants aren't working. The supply of safe water for drinking and cooking is at only 30 percent of pre-onslaught levels. Sewage pumping and solid waste collection is also ineffective, creating countless sanitation problems. On average, Gaza has just one toilet for every 480 people.

- **Health** Because of overcrowding, communicable diseases spread all too easily, with diarrhoea, vomiting, chest infection, hepatitis, chickenpox, headlice and scabies all causing major problems right now. Individuals with long-term health problems receive little care: 1,200 people on dialysis share 41 machines. Ten thousand cancer patients, including children are still awaiting treatment.

- **Hospitals and medication** But how can the injured and the sick receive treatment when 70 percent of the health infrastructure has been destroyed by Israeli strikes? Not one hospital is fully operational anymore, and only 36 percent of ambulances are functional. Additionally, 70 percent of necessary medications, including antibiotics, painkillers, anaesthetics, gauze and sterile dressings are unavailable due to the Israeli blockade.

The situation is disastrous. It is heartbreaking and unforgivable that the inhabitants of Gaza have been suffering for so long. The genocide of the Palestinian people cannot be justified. We must continue to raise our voices, to boycott, donate, march, and demand that our government takes the moral steps to bring this horror to an end.

SIÂN ARFON MINERS

MAPPING MILITARISM



Protest at Aberporth in 2024

It is little spoken about, but Cymru is a highly militarised nation. The MoD owns 23,300 ha of our land, comprising 25 military bases. Sennybridge Training Area (formerly known as Mynydd Epynt) accounts for just over half of this.

At Parc Aberporth, Elbit Systems tests its drones across a 'Danger Area' of some 6,500 km² of Cardigan Bay. This is the only airspace in Europe where drones operate in a segregated flying zone.

Army school visits

Seventy-four percent of state secondary schools in Cymru are visited by the army an average of four times per year, and children as young as 16 are coerced into the military. Recruitment is concentrated in areas of deprivation with high levels of unemployment.

The long arm of AUKUS

Cymru has been selected by the Westminster government as the site for the UK's contribution to the AUKUS alliance's

war fighting capability in space. AUKUS is the new military alliance between Australia, the US and the UK, and each of these countries has committed to Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability (DARC), involving the construction of a multitude of towering satellite dishes. The PARC against DARC campaign has been established to oppose this move in Sir Benfro.

Online mapping

To draw the attention of the public and our elected representatives to the extent of this military presence, in all its forms, is one of *Heddwch ar Waith's* primary aims. We intend to produce an interactive map revealing not just the geographical distribution of militarism, but also its deleterious side effects: its abandonment of veterans; its carbon emissions and the impacts of its noise pollution.

We shall mobilise volunteers for a large-scale exercise in community mapping. This is a grassroots approach

to gathering data from one's surroundings, and contributing this to an opensource, community-owned bank of publicly available information.

We shall be using Open Street Map (OSM), a collaborative project that creates a free, editable map of the world online. The philosophy of OSM contrasts with traditional mapping (much of which was created by the military), in that there is no restriction on access: the map is owned by everyone and is utilised by a global community, free from corporate interference.

Your country needs YOU!

We shall be linking images, articles, models, and audio, to locations throughout Cymru. However, this is not something we can do alone. One of the key stipulations when using OSM, is that the user has a very high level of confidence in what they are plotting, maintaining a standard of accuracy that we can all rely on. We need the help of volunteers who are very familiar with their local military installations and organisations.

>>> **Join this grassroots effort, by contacting *Heddwch ar Waith* via email heddwcharwaith@gmail.com, or social media.**

SAM BANNON

SPACE RADAR CAMPAIGN: OFF TO A FLYING START



Remember 1990? Well, we're back! A packed Solva Memorial Hall, 27 June 2024. Photo credit: DARC

PARC Against DARC's campaign hit the ground running with a digital launch on 29 May, featuring a high quality website www.parcagainstdarc.com, which is ram-packed with calls to action, along with social media pages, a petition and a campaign crowdfunder. The website outlines several key arguments against DARC. We

launched with an incredible level of support from CND Cymru, Stop the War Coalition and Jeremy Corbyn's Peace & Justice project, the local Climate Coalition, Green Party Wales and Unite Community South West Wales. Other organisations including Extinction Rebellion UK and People's Assembly Wales were

soon on board too. Hundreds attended a public meeting in Solva Memorial Hall on 27 June. The meeting began with a powerful video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsNsAIAKITU> which highlighted the connection between the original PARC campaign in 1990 and its 2024 legacy, with an inspirational call for unity. Speakers included Roy Jones and Jim Scott from PARC, Emma Bowen representing the hotel sector, Michael Davies on the effects on wildlife, and Dylan Lewis-Rowlands from CND Cymru. A lively discussion followed with local people all committing to 'make DARC history'.

ROY JONES

LAKENHEATH ALLIANCE: MAKE A STAND FOR PEACE

CND Cymru is a key partner in the **Lakenheath Alliance for Peace**: 43 years ago people walked from Cardiff to Greenham Common to stop US nuclear weapons being placed there. From 13-15 July 2024 scores of people will walk from Norwich to 'RAF' (in practice, USAF) Lakenheath main gate, demanding that US nuclear weapons do not return to the UK.

A camp will then be set up from 15-25 July (and maybe ongoing) with a 24-hour 7-days a week presence at the USAF main gate. Two big days are planned, on 16 and 20 July when we are encouraging as many people

as possible to join us to make our message very clear: 'NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS at RAF LAKENHEATH OR ANYWHERE'.

Aren't there already enough nuclear weapons in the UK, when the majority of UK citizens don't want any? There has been no parliamentary discussion about the placement of US nuclear weapons at Lakenheath. When the US/UK Mutual Defence Agreement comes up for renewal in Westminster we must all stand up to prevent it going through without scrutiny. We must hold Parliament to account to uphold the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Both Labour and



Conservatives are eager to increase nuclear weaponry, not decrease them as demanded in the international treaty to which the UK is signatory.

Make a stand at USAF/RAF Lakenheath and together we can stop the madness of pointless spending on destructive weapons and escalating global tensions. Sign up and find out more at www.lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.

ALI LOCHHEAD

O FÔN I FYNWY MONA TO MONMOUTH



Shockwaves from Gaza

The response of Wales to Israel's Gaza genocide and to the appalling incidents in Rafah and also on the West Bank, has remained constant and intense. **Caernarfon** has held vigils on the Maes every Sunday since the start of the war. On 27 April *Heddwch ar Waith* demonstrators in **Aberystwyth** laid 15,780 white pebbles from the beach along the promenade, one for each of the children killed in Gaza and Israel since 7 October. In **Bangor** on 1 June a public meeting was held to discuss the prospects for peace in Gaza. A march was held in **Wrexham** on 15 June, addressed by CND Cymru Chair Mabon ap Gwynfor. Further marches have taken place in **Cardiff** and **Swansea**. Student encampments have been set up in **Cardiff**, **Swansea** and **Bangor** (see p.6) and a student sit-in took place in **Aberystwyth**.

Solvay Three trial

As the last issue of *Heddwch* went to press in April, the trial of the Solvay Three (Owain Parry, Thomas Bell and Mark Redfern) was proceeding at **Caernarfon** Crown Court. It followed their occupation of the Solvay factory in **Wrexham** in 2021, in order to disrupt military equipment (components of the F-35 jet) being sent to Israel for attacks on Palestinians. Solvay was claiming losses of £60,000. Owain Parry pleaded guilty and was fined £534. The other two pleaded not guilty. Thomas Bell made a passionate speech about Wales as a nation of peace, citing the Welsh Women's Peace Petition of 1923 as an example. The jury found them guilty, but the judge gave all of them minimal fines.

Wales at Glastonbury

CND in all its manifestations has had close ties with this festival since it was set up, and CND Cymru's Brian and Jan Jones have for many years raised campaigning funds by organising the lockups there. This year there was an (additional!) star input when Charlotte Church brought 'lots of love from Wales' to the Radical Roundup session on the Left Field stage, singing for a Free Palestine, dedicated "to all the people and all the mothers and children".

Asylum support

On 1 May, with supporters of Sunak's Rwanda deportation scheme in full cry, asylum seekers were being rounded up for detention. When a local asylum seeker was asked to report to the police in **Bangor**, a group of supporters materialised outside the local police station at short notice. Fortunately, he was not detained. A befriending programme from the action group *Dyma Ni* has been working with refugees and asylum seekers in the region over the past year.



Supporting asylum seekers in Bangor, Mayday 2024. Picture credit: Philip Steele



The C-17 flights are used to transport materials used in maintaining Britain's nuclear weapons.

Nuclear flight concerns

Cardiff City councillor Sue Lent, chair of the Welsh Forum of the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities (NFLA), has added her concerns to those of British CND and Nukewatch, about the potential danger posed to Wales by RAF transport planes carrying nuclear material between England and the USA. The C-17 Globemaster 4-engined aircraft make the round trip about 10 times a year, flying over northern **Cardiff or the Valleys**. Sue Lent has asked First Minister Vaughan Gething to seek a re-routing of flights and a review of emergency planning procedures.

Wylfa mirages

Following the Westminster government's purchase of the **Wylfa** site on **Ynys Môn** from Hitachi at a cost of £160 million, it was announced on 22 May that they were naming it as their third preferred site for a large nuclear power

station. They were already in talks with Kepco, a South Korean developer. PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) hurriedly put out a statement and their spokespersons were duly summoned to record interviews with **Radio Wales**, **Radio Cymru** and other media.

However the pro-nuclear lobby, including former Labour MP and now CEO of the NIA (Nuclear Industries Association) Tom Greatrex, and the then Tory Secretary of State for Wales David TC Davies, could offer the presenters surprisingly little detailed information about timing or costs.

Later that day, all became clear. There was a general election in the offing! A political stunt? Quite possibly. On 2 July *Nation Cymru* reported that Dr Jonathan Dean, a CPRW trustee, had put in a Freedom of Information request for the Wylfa evaluation report. This was withheld on commercial grounds, but the government

did concede that 'final decisions on sites and technologies have not been made.' It seems that in her campaign literature, Virginia Crosbie MP's claim to be 'delivering Wylfa' had been over-egging the pudding. She was voted out on 4 July, but PAWB remains on the alert (as it has done for the last 38 years of governmental shenanigans!).

Fair play?

The decision of **BBC Wales** not to allow the Wales Green Party to participate in the televised election debate on 21 June, but to offer the far-right populist Reform UK Party led by Nigel Farage a platform instead, raises many questions about media balance for democrats from all parties. Farage had failed 7 times to become an MP, whereas the Greens had polled fourth in the last (Senedd) election. The Greens won four and Reform UK won 5 seats on 4 July.

WORDS AND IMAGES TO PACK A PUNCH

We are all familiar with those powerful, often witty images and slogans that have appeared at so many CND Cymru campaigns and protests over the years, and those placards which still spur us on to action. We talk to Jon Plumpton and Jill Gough about the West Wales poster workshop Mwnci Coch.

Red Monkeys get down to business
Image Credit: Mwnci Coch



Who, what and where? Tell us about Mwnci Coch

We are basically radical, campaigning, screenprinting mortals working for peace, political, social and environmental justice! We are two individuals working efficiently to get posters, placards, leaflets, badges and stickers to where and when they are needed. Mwnci Coch evolved from RedKite Print – producing fly posters and other radical tools with mostly low-impact techniques, so that people in Wales could have campaigning material for Wales and printed in Wales.

What do you produce?

Mwnci Coch make mostly hand-created large posters – up to about 50 at a time.

How does screenprinting work?

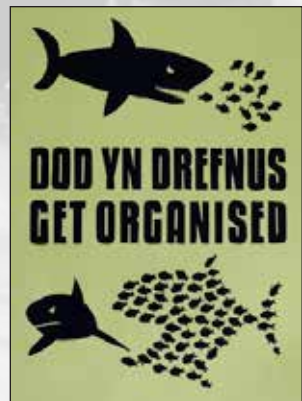
A stencil of the words and/ or image is cut and fixed to a

“net” screen (fixed tightly to a frame) through which paint is pushed onto a sheet of paper. If more than one colour is used, each colour stencil is cut and printed separately. We use hand-cut paper stencils, handmade frames and screens. Different paints and inks are used as appropriate.

Is screenprinting more effective than digital printing?

Techniques are different but can be complementary. For example, digital printing is great for longer runs of up to 1000 x 32 page booklets and leaflets, stickers and badge making. We have just digitally printed a 32-page Red Poets anthology *For Gaza* by Mike Jenkins.

Screenprinting can provide a larger, arresting image – as a poster, a placard or for a wall in a public place or for an event. Mwnci Coch posters are often used for raffles or



auctions while fundraising for campaigns. The paint and paper texture and quality of screenprints can make them more striking.

Mwnci Coch hand sreeprinting complements and dovetails perfectly with our high-speed sister organisation RedKite Print digital printing.



What makes a good poster?

That sounds like the subject for a PhD!

Pick the images that you like and that an observer might find attractive. Mwnci Coch attempts to use words and images that can send a clear message in just a single observation. Placards photographed at a demonstration can provide a newspaper headline otherwise not reported!



How important is the poster in political activism?

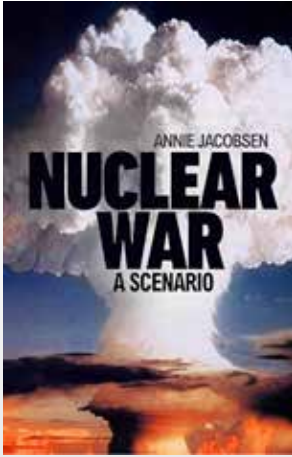
Posters have a fly-posting past—now Mwnci Coch tends to create placards. It is important to us that our work is produced in both languages. Similar placards with a clear message themselves at an event can unite participants who might otherwise not have initially been connected to each other. Workshops to produce placards can themselves be a solidarity/bonding lead-in event to later vigils, protests and demonstrations.

Is that still the case in the age of the internet?

Definitely, if not more so! While the internet and social media have been extraordinary in informing and connecting campaigners, creating and using placards can break down the atomisation also sometimes created by the internet. As with banners (usually only carried by a few), placards carried by many individuals can foster solidarity.

Do you hold workshops for activists?

We do offer workshops for activists, trade unionists and campaigners covering all aspects of screenprinting, including equipment building and using – and printing techniques. One of the Mwnci Coch workshops involves using easily available household items.



NUCLEAR WAR A Scenario

Annie Jacobsen

Torva 2024

£15.89

400pp. Hardback

978-1911709596

English language

Is this the bleakest work of fiction ever written? Quite possibly, but it could very easily be our reality – and within the next two hours! Annie Jacobsen sets out in graphic detail the realistic circumstances in which nuclear strikes by North Korea on the USA with an ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) and an SLBM (Sea-Launched Ballistic Missile) promptly lead to global thermonuclear war.

Utilising publicly available information on the US hair-trigger doctrine on nuclear weapons use, this thoroughly researched scenario describes the very real and terrifying dance with Armageddon, that humanity participates in every single day. Jacobsen's convincing narrative demonstrates in vivid clarity, that thousands of years of human progress can be reduced to ashes, in a nuclear exchange lasting no more than 90 minutes. As soon as the nuclear threshold

is surpassed, deterrence has failed, and the decades long taboo of nuclear weapons use is dispelled. In this situation, the superpower's macabre logic inevitably results in massive retaliation, before a 'decapitation event', removes respective commander-in-chiefs' ability to deploy their ghastly thermonuclear payloads in kind. This calculation makes mutual destruction a certainty and dispels any notion that a 'limited' nuclear conflict could be fought and won.

Jacobsen proceeds to break down, minute by minute, the command-and-control protocols triggered by the detection of an incoming missile by Norad (the US early warning system), as experienced by the US President. In the time it takes to make a cup of coffee, they must select from a document called the Black Book: a menu of retaliation options, each quantified in 'megadeaths': the devastating metric

representing one million casualties. Though morbid, rounding to the nearest million makes sense in the context of nuclear war. An utterly hopeless scenario, in which the casualty rate would be comparable only to the five mass extinction events in the 3.7 billion year history of life on Earth.

Nuclear War A Scenario paints in the most upsetting detail the human consequences of thermonuclear war: the millions who would die slowly of excruciating third degree burns (with no hope of aid); the gastrointestinal bleeding caused by acute radiation syndrome; the long term failure of crops due to nuclear winter; the inability of humanity to procreate due to sterility in men and women (also from radiation sickness); and the rapid degradation of anything resembling organised society. In the words of Albert Einstein, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones".

Nuclear War by Annie Jacobsen is an important reminder of how the flickering light of humanity could so easily be snuffed out, either by sociopathic elites, or worse still, by mistake. It is a warning that every day, we roll the dice with oblivion, and a harbinger of our very plausible fate, should we not take action now, to rid the world of the 12,512 doomsday weapons possessed by a tiny minority of nations.

SAM BANNON

Olwen Leavold 1952-2024

On 4 April 2024, surrounded by her loving family, Olwen Leavold passed away peacefully, aged 72 years. Originally from Dolgellau, Olwen was a much loved daughter, the third of



Olwen (left) in full voice with Côr Cochion Caerdydd

seven sisters born to Dafydd Meirion Humphreys and his wife Mair. She was a loving wife to the late Peter. A socialist and patriot, Olwen was a strongly independent and principled person. As a member of Côr Cochion Caerdydd (Cardiff Reds Choir) she campaigned endlessly for human rights, throughout her life. She will be sorely missed.

DIANA BIANCHI

NOTICE BOARD

Please, we want to hear from you! Send emails, opinions, reports, suggestions, details of events to: phil_steele@btinternet.com with 'H88 ed' in the subject box. Keep it short and Include your postal address!

13-15 July Lakenheath Alliance for Peace Walk From Norwich to Lakenheath

15-25 July Lakenheath Alliance for Peace Camp outside the base. Special visitor days 16 and 20 July.

3-10 August National Eisteddfod of Wales Rhondda Cynon Taf
 Parc Ynysangharad, PONTYPRIDD. Visit CND Cymru at the Peace Tent/Pabell Heddwch. Partners include: CND Cymru, Cymdeithas y Cymod, Academi Heddwch, Palestine Solidarity Campaign Cymru, CADNO-PAWB' Heddwch ar Waith, Stop the War Wales, Cymru-Cuba

6 August Hiroshima Day
 Pabell Heddwch, National Eisteddfod (see above)
 Hiroshima Memorial Event, Waterfront Museum, SWANSEA 14.00

21-28 September Global Week of Action for Peace and Climate Justice
 A new online initiative see <https://climatemilitarism.org/weekofaction/>

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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Under 25? Easy! You can join us for free online and download *Heddwch* from the website.

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HEDDWCH

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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 comment, contribution, letter or dates of events to the editor.

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The Welsh Women's Peace delegation in America 1923