



HEDDOWCH

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Arms are for linking



AND DEATH SHALL HAVE NO DOMINION

Dylan Thomas 1943



Instead of all this...

Let's make human rights great again

As we wander through that no-man's land between the two US presidencies, the ruins of Gaza and Beirut are still smoking; the death toll is still rising; civilians are still being deliberately starved. The principles of international humanitarian law lie buried beneath the rubble.

The moral mess

So it's goodbye to Joe Biden, ever the would-be Cold War warrior. Despite Biden's ineffectual 'red lines', the USA is still funding and arming these genocidal

wars to the bitter end. The Biden-Blinken policies have been incoherent and catastrophic. Kamala Harris offered no policy alternatives for Gaza. The Lebanon ceasefire deal looks very fragile. And as a parting shot, Biden escalated the war in Ukraine, causing Putin to lower the nuclear threshold.

No expectations

Trump has of course chosen high-risk extremists and oddballs for key roles in his administration. A just settlement in Gaza, the West Bank or Lebanon – or anywhere, really – is not on Trump's to-do list. In his book, the *justice* of any outcome seems irrelevant. Israel's illegal settlers are already planning for annexation.

Fewer foreign wars? One would hope so, but then Trump, like most fascists, is a serial liar. As a member of a super rich elite, he manages to persuade the victims of extreme capitalism that the real responsibility for their woes lie not with his coterie of billionaires but with immigrants, women,

foreigners, 'woke' liberals and leftists...

What's to be done?

The best remedy for despair is action. Firstly we must campaign together for international law to be

strengthened. Perpetrators of genocide must stand trial before the International Court of Justice.

Netanyahu's arrest warrant must be implemented. No more expedience – remember Pinochet's release by Jack Straw in 2000?

Secondly, we must resist the spread of Trumpery and lies into our own political dialogue, here in Wales and across Europe. We need robust, broad-based, cross-party, radical opposition to defend our Senedd come the next election.

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After a year of disastrous floods around the world, **COP 29** convened in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November. Climate activists in Wales marked the occasion with banners on Bangor pier. Heather Bolton

IN THE HEADLINES

“We need to stop the madness before it’s too late... the only way to eliminate the nuclear threat is to eliminate nuclear weapons.”

Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN. September 2024

TPNW’s new recruits

On 24 September Indonesia, Sierra Leone and the Solomon Islands ratified the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This key UN Treaty now has 73 states parties and a further 25 signatories. So far Indonesia is the state party with the highest population, at over 284 million. As the AUKUS pact plays out new Cold War manoeuvres in the Indo-Pacific, it is reassuring that now seven Southeast Asian nations stand in opposition to nuclear weapons. The next meeting of States Parties is at the UN in New York, 3-7 March 2025.

Nobel award to Nihon Hidankyo

A timely award! The Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 goes to Nihon Hidankyo, the

Japanese atomic bomb survivors’ (Hibakusha) group. They bear witness to the past and foster remembrance of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and at the same time actively campaign for the abolition of all nuclear weapons.

UN nuclear war study approved

In November the UN General Assembly voted to set up a new panel of scientists to look at all aspects of the impact of a nuclear war. Such a panel has not been convened since 1989, so it is vital and timely that new developments in climate forecasts, technology and radiology are taken into account. The motion was supported by 144 nations. The UK joined Russia and France in opposing, saying that there was nothing new to learn!

Democracy bypassed in MDA renewal

The US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) is the pact which since 1958 has kept us superglued to the USA when it comes to matters

nuclear. The government left little time for MPs to debate the MDA before it came up for renewal on 23 October. Shortly after the Westminster election, the new government submitted amendments which included scrapping the clause which allows for termination of the agreement. The MDA illustrates the lack of independence for Britain’s so-called deterrence, and contravenes the terms of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Diego Garcia

The transfer to Mauritius of sovereignty over the Chagos islands, hotly opposed by the Tories, partly remedies the injustice against the islanders evicted by Britain in 1971. However it leaves in place Diego Garcia, the top secret US-UK naval base. This was notorious for the bombing of Afghanistan and the alleged rendition of prisoners in the Iraq War. US rent for the facility took the form of discounting the cost of Britain’s Trident programme. The island is bound to play an important part in the AUKUS pact.



Channel 4's screening of Britain's Atomic Bomb Scandal tells the shocking story of nuclear testing and its terrible legacy. The truth is still not officially acknowledged. The campaign for justice goes on.

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/britains-atomic-bomb-scandal>

72 YEARS OF BETRAYAL

ALAN OWEN is founder of LABRATS International, the Carmarthen-based campaign for the victims of nuclear testing and their descendants, around the world.

LABRATS continues to fight for truth and justice for all affected communities of nuclear testing. Since I last wrote in *Heddwch*, we have been extremely busy at events, conferences and reunions.

National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV)

In August we attended the NAAV conference in Las Cruces. This included a visit to the White Sands Missile Base: we were scheduled to visit the Trinity test site, but unfortunately, they would not let non-American citizens attend. The conference was a great success, listening to downwinders and indigenous people who have been affected by the testing programme. LABRATS represented the UK and discussed the work that we have been undertaking.

All-Tests Reunion

In September we hosted 116 veterans and their families for a week-long reunion at Weston-Super-Mare. A very special medal ceremony was arranged for the participants. The Mayor of Weston-Super-Mare and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Somerset presented the medals.

www.labrats.international/atr

Political campaigning

LABRATS representatives attended the Labour Party conference and held a fringe event with the *Daily Mirror*. Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham called upon the UK Government to call a special one-year inquiry into the nuked blood scandal and the missing medical records. He informed the government that if an inquiry is not announced before the end of 2024, he will take veterans to New Scotland Yard and report a crime of misconduct in public office.

We have met with the Shadow Veterans' Minister Andrew Bowie MP, and Rebecca Long-Bailey MP kindly hosted a drop-in event

at the Houses of Parliament with 20+ MP's attending from across all parties. We have also met with the Veterans' Minister Al Carns MP, to discuss the evidence of the cover-up and how to end the 72-year scandal.

Operation Hurricane

On the 72nd anniversary of the first British test (Operation Hurricane – 3 October 1952) our founder Alan Owen and Operation Grapple Veteran Brian Unthank raised awareness of the tests, their consequences and how the families and communities are affected. We also launched a fundraiser to pay for the 2025 reunion: we aimed to raise £25,000 and have in fact raised £46,000. We were joined by Captain Terry Hughes, Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Emma Lewell-Buck MP and Sir John Hayes MP. We were represented by 45 of our marchers attending the Cenotaph remembrance parade this November.

ALAN OWEN



TO WHAT END? JUSTICE

On 19 October 2024, Dr Amer Shoaib addressed a rally at the students' encampment in Bangor. He had operated as a surgeon in many war zones. Recently he had been working for Medical Aid for Palestine. He spoke with a quiet and moving precision about the operations he had had to carry out on children in Khan Younis. Not one of the many other war zones in which he had served could compare with the horrors of Gaza.

Crimes against humanity

On 12 November, the UN Human Rights Office announced that of the Gaza fatalities that it had been able to verify itself, nearly **70 percent** were women and children. (Using those famous precision weapons?). For the UN, Volker Türk described the level of the killings as 'unprecedented' and violating 'fundamental

principles of international law'.

Over 45,000 Palestinians are said to have been killed in Gaza. Over 730 have been killed in the Occupied West Bank, more than 3,000 have now been killed in Lebanon, where 1.2 million people have been displaced. Some 90 percent of Gazans (1.9 million) have been forced from their homes, often repeatedly evacuated into the line of fire, or into a wasteland of impassible rubble.

Indiscriminate fury

There have been so many terrible wars in modern times, but this one seems especially cruel in its fury, compounded by enforced starvation and disease, by attacks on hospitals, by the killing and exclusion of the press, aid workers and UN personnel.

Western politicians have been complicit in this genocide,

undermining their own moral high ground by supplying the murderous munitions. The policies of Netanyahu's far-right government have not only denied the hostages and their families any homecoming, but also robbed their own citizens of any hope of a peaceful future.

- A re-balance of power-structures within the UN is long overdue. It should reflect the increasingly multipolar world order while maintaining the liberal principles of its founding charter.
- Israel's so-called 'Generals' Plan' for a Greater Israel – the expulsion or destruction of the Palestinian people and the annexation of the Occupied Territories – would be an almighty breach of International law.
- The rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination must be recognised. Some propose a single-state solution with equal rights for all citizens. Others propose a two-state solution, with two independent nations.

Neither proposal is currently accepted by Israel. Until the outcomes even begin to be addressed, the world, including Israel itself, will remain in danger of annihilation in potentially a nuclear war.



Malak Mattar: *Two Gazan Girls Dreaming of Peace* (2020)





Activists from Wales show solidarity with LAP

LAP

GEARING UP FOR WORLD WAR III

Lakenheath in Suffolk is the largest US air force base in Europe. It has hosted only USAF units and military personnel since 1948. It plays a critical role in supporting both European Command (USEUCOM) and Africa Command (USAFRICOM).

Destructive power

With so many armed conflicts going on, Lakenheath is extremely busy. It sends its fighter planes to bolster the Israelis in their genocidal assaults on Gaza, as well as attacks in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. It engages in joint exercises with Saudi Arabia and Israel and many other countries. It is aiding and abetting grave breaches of international humanitarian law.

It uses fuel at an astronomical rate, not only polluting the environment and adding to the carbon emissions causing climate chaos, but, also damaging local people's

hearing with horrendous levels of pollution.

Return of the bombs

Local protesters managed to help rid the base of nuclear weapons in 2008 with their constant direct actions over several decades. But as an active NATO base the US is now bringing back nuclear bombs. We can see being built the buildings and infrastructure to store and deploy the US nuclear bombs. We are hearing the nuclear threats and counter threats being made by nuclear armed states along with statements that are pushing the world nearer and nearer towards nuclear Armageddon.

LAP takes action

These threats to our survival led to the creation of the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace (LAP) early in 2024. After a very successful first peace walk and camp in July this year LAP has been organising monthly vigils at Lakenheath on the last Saturday of

every month. More than 40 organisations have now joined LAP and the diversity is welcomed, as we need to grow and get stronger.

We are now planning for a major international camp at Lakenheath from Monday 14 April to Friday 25 April 2025, which will include an international peace conference, to which experts and activists from other US nuclear military sites are invited and which local people can also access. We hope to follow this up with a blockade of the base. For this to be a success we need you to come along and support us in any way you can.

DONATE, VISIT, JOIN!

If you have the time you could join one of our working groups that organise, amongst other things, the vigils, camp, trainings and legal support. Please sign up with us at <https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/sign-up/>

A big thank you to CND Cymru for receiving donations on our behalf which they do through our donate button at <https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/donate/> Maybe you can add to our funds this way? Looking forward to seeing you all at the camp in April.

ANGIE ZELTER



LAP holds a vigil and discussion outside the Lakenheath base LAP

SCRAP SPACE WARS RADAR



PARC supporters all! New CND Cymru Vice Chair Beth Winter; Leanne Wood, former leader of Plaid Cymru, and Anthony Slaughter of the Wales Green Party

PARC Against DARC, launched with a packed public meeting in Solva last June, has now levelled heavy criticism at the MoD, saying that their 'public engagement' exercises held in September were an 'utter shambles'

Starmer backs space wars

It won't come as any surprise that Starmer's government has speedily announced their support for the US military's proposed installation of 27 DARC radars in Cawdor Barracks, West Wales. In a combined government and MoD press statement this August, Defence Secretary John Healey and the new Welsh Secretary Jo Stephens both issued supporting statements for DARC radar. The MoD also hired London-based PR firm 'Cascade' to host two 'public engagement'

exercises in Pembrokeshire in September.

MoD's 'sham' PR exercises

PARC Against DARC mobilised locally with demonstrations at these events, putting on its own 'People's Exhibition' and giving out 'NO RADAR' signs for protesters to wear. With their high-pressure questions inside and protests outside, DARC opponents felt they had pretty much taken over the events! It was also apparent that the events had fundamentally failed to adhere to 'National Principles of Public Engagement in Wales.'

Repeatedly, people came out from the PR meetings saying that it was chaos. They were being told completely different things by different 'experts,' but after pushing them on serious issues were repeatedly told 'we can't

answer that.' Several MoD spokespeople repeated the mantra that DARC was still at the 'conception phase,' which begs the question: how do they have so much confidence in a proposal they seem to know very little about?!

One local attendee asked a military official if he'd stand next to one of these radar installations himself, and was told, 'No, I wouldn't... it'd be like putting my head in a microwave.'

Scrap it!

With the MoD facing a level of opposition that's far more than they bargained for, and DARC needing to pass complex planning and EIA phases, PARC Against DARC are confident there are many ways the proposal can be scrapped.

JIM SCOTT

Follow the actions on the PARC website!

Visit the website at www.parcagainstdarc.com where you can sign the petition, email your elected representatives and force them to conduct proper public engagement. With your help, PARC can make sure DARC, just as its equivalent proposal in the 1990s, never sees the light of day.



NO TO DARC

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OUT OF SCOPE, OUT OF MIND?

What isn't going on at Trawsfynydd...

The Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station was 'shut down' in 1991 and defuelling was completed in 1995. Earlier this year Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS/ Magnox), responsible for cleaning up the Trawsfynydd site, published proposals for the remediation of the Spent Fuel Cooling Pond (SFCP) complex. Natural Resources Wales, the Welsh Nuclear regulator, opened a public consultation on the proposals.

Cracks and leaks

Prior to the defuelling of the site, it had long been known that the SFCP had been leaking highly radioactive liquid wastes into the surrounding ground. Many suspect that this was a result of the powerful earthquake, measuring 5.4 on the Richter Scale, that occurred on the nearby Llŷn peninsula in 1984.

In 2015 the International Atomic Energy Authority reported, that due to the failure of cooling pond construction joints and cracks in the pond wall, "there is known

contamination in the land surrounding the pond and in the drains beneath the pond the surrounding land is contaminated to a greater degree". The IAEA concluded that "full remediation of all contamination will not be possible and nor is it beneficial" and added that "a safety and risk assessment is being conducted to identify an appropriate care and maintenance entry state that minimises residual risks as far as is reasonably practicable."

High radionuclide concentrations

My analysis of NRS/ Magnox documents confirms they found very high concentrations of the limited number of radionuclides analysed in samples of the ground outside the SFCPs: the gamma emitter Caesium 137: 3,740,000 Bq/Kg, the beta emitter Strontium 90: 651,000 Bq/Kg, and the alpha emitters Plutonium (total) 4,212 Bq/Kg, and Americium 241: 1,150 Bq/Kg. Three are concentrations similar to those reported for soil samples from around

the Chernobyl disaster site. If the samples had been analysed for the full range of radionuclides found in SFCPs, concentrations of those would have been similarly elevated.

Clearly these levels are highly significant and not to be dismissed (as NRS/ Magnox has done), without further discussion of their implications for public health and site security. NRS/ Magnox documentation has revealed a novel way to escape responsibility for the contaminated ground. Under UK legislation that came into force in 2011, "Contaminated ground is not classed as waste until or unless it is excavated". Because excavation is not planned at Trawsfynydd, the contaminated ground will be declared "Out of Scope" and will not be remediated or sealed as proposed for the rest of the SFCP infrastructure.

Presumably the nuclear industry pushed for such legislation in order to reduce the costs they would incur if they had to deal with the





masses of contaminated soil which would arise if they were forced to “remediate” such material at all of the UK SFCPs.

Groundwater flows

It is confirmed that “groundwater” flows through the site. The major drivers of groundwater flow are gradient and gravity, and the Trawsfynydd site lies between the surrounding high ground and lower ground, including Llyn Trawsfynydd and the catchment of river systems draining downhill into larger rivers and eventually into the Dwryd (Portmeirion) and Glaslyn (Porthmadog) estuaries and Cardigan Bay. Clearly groundwater will flow from the site into Llyn Trawsfynydd, already the most radiologically contaminated of Welsh lakes after 50 years of permitted liquid radioactive discharges from the main site. All SFCPs suffer build-up of radioactive sludges composed of micro and nano fragments of irradiated

nuclear fuel, fuel element cladding and other particles irradiated by long term immersion in the pools. Such fragments are readily transported through soils by groundwater flow. Long term dispersion of leaked particulate radioactivity by groundwater flow is clearly inevitable.

The NRW cite Llyn Trawsfynydd as a significant flood risk factor in the context of climate change/ increased rainfall/ storminess, with the downstream catchments being at primary risk from catastrophic flooding and the Afon Dwryd and its estuary, Porthmadog Bay and Cardigan Bay being secondary impact areas.

Wasteland

In the context of the massive burden of radioactivity already present in Llyn Trawsfynydd sediment, augmented by the high burdens of groundwater radioactivity from the ‘contaminated ground’ which

will NOT be remediated, this projected flood risk is a matter of major significance. Trawsfynydd’s un-remediated “Out of Scope” contaminated ground represents a long-term source of high level liquid and particulate radioactivity which will leach into adjacent water courses, generating elevated doses of man-made radioactivity to local and regional environments and members of the public via contact, inhalation and dietary pathways for the foreseeable future.

Manipulating legislation to declare a substance to be non-radioactive, despite the fact that it is recognised as radioactive, is a convenient “legal fiction”. This does not render the declaration morally correct, or under the Linear No-Threshold (LNT) dose-response model, render the outcome without potential health detriment.

TIM DEERE-JONES



Trawsfynydd



O FÔN I FYNWY MONA TO MONMOUTH



White poppies for peace, Aberystwyth

CND Cymru AGM 2024

Our Annual General Meeting this year took place on 2 November in Haverfordwest, while others joined in from afar on Zoom. There were reports from officers and campaigners and thanks expressed for all the hard work put in by our members across Wales. Jill Gough was commended for her excellent campaigning on Facebook. Beth Winter, formerly Labour MP for Cynon Valley, was elected and welcomed as a new Vice Chair. Presentations were made by Sam Bannon on the campaigns of Heddwch ar Waith, and by PARC campaigners Roy Jones and Jim Scott.

A meeting of minds in Merthyr

‘Building a movement for people, peace and planet, NOT profit’ was the admirable ambition of this get-together at Theatr Soar in **Merthyr Tudful** on 26 October, attended by CND Cymru members. Topics raised included community regeneration based on independence through cooperatives, community energy schemes and other

methods; also the PARC campaign, Palestine and campaigning priorities. It was organised by Cymru Radical Left Alliance. Speakers included former MP for Cynon Valley Beth Winter (ex-Labour), Leanne Wood (formerly leader of Plaid Cymru), Anthony Slaughter (leader of Wales Green Party) and Andrew Draper (National Union of Journalists/IFJ).

Grassroots

The CND Cymru **Swansea** group met up on 21 November at the Elysium gallery to discuss with Angie Zelter the return of US nuclear weapons to the UK, the campaign against space radar installations in Pembrokeshire and the new proposal for SMRs (Small Nuclear Reactors) at Bridgend.

Babcock training at RAF Valley

The militarisation of further education in Wales continues apace with a new agreement between the North Wales college group Llandrillo Menai and the Babcock International Group, to expand an existing apprentice training

programme at RAF Valley on **Ynys Môn**. Their ‘Industrial Vocational Pathways’ include weapons maintenance, avionics maintenance and aeronautical mechanical maintenance.

Glascoed planning challenged

A proposal to build a new munitions assembly building and blast mounds at the BAE Systems site (the former Royal Ordnance Factory) at **Glascoed**, between Usk and Pontypool, has come under fire from protestors because of danger to the public and complicity in the War on Gaza. The work was started without planning permission and there was an unscheduled explosion incident there last April. However, the permission was finally granted at a meeting of Monmouthshire County Council on 5 November, no less.

Direct action works

At the end of October it became clear that Barclays Bank has cut its financial links with the Israeli arms firm Elbit Systems. Welsh suppliers of components for Elbit’s drones programme, such as Solvay (now Syensqo) in **Wrexham**, have long been targeted by Palestine Action. Other protesters have targeted **Aberporth** and another Elbit venture at **RAF Valley**. However Barclays still has interests in other arms companies, such as General Dynamics, BAE Systems and Raytheon.



Gaza and Lebanon war protests

There has been no let up in activities as the terrors of the Gaza War escalate across the Middle East. Actions have taken place in every corner of Wales, from **Llangollen** and **Wrexham** to **Machynlleth** and **Cardigan**, in all the Welsh universities, at the National Eisteddfod in **Pontypridd**, and at the Senedd in **Cardiff**. **Caernarfon** is not the only town where a vigil has been held every week since the war began. There have been fundraisers for humanitarian aid, peaceful protests, political rallies and marches, religious services, films, concerts, poetry readings; On 16 November a very large march and rally took place in **Llandudno**, where Keir Starmer was addressing the Welsh Labour Conference at Venue Cymru.

Theatr Cymru's timely tribute

It is hard to believe that over 20 years have passed since the tragic killing by the IDF of the young American non-violent activist Rachel Corrie, in Gaza. In October Theatr Cymru (in association with Ashtar Theatre of Ramallah, Palestine) toured a Welsh-language version of the 2005 play *My Name is Rachel Corrie*. It was

translated by Menna Elfyn. *Fy enw i yw Rachel Corrie* featured Hannah Daniel as Rachel and was directed by Steffan Donnelly. A moving experience, it was performed in **Caernarfon**, **Cardiff** and **Carmarthen**.



Remembering Rachel Corrie
Theatr Cymru

Big Sing in Cardiff

Wendy Lewis of *Côr Cochion* reports:

In these dangerous times, with the threat looming of widening conflicts, it was a truly life affirming experience to be a part of the Big Sing for Palestine on 16 November. Charlotte Church, *Côr Cochion*, Bristol-Palestine Alliance choir, Bristol Red Notes, and the Songs of Freedom choir came together from Wales and England to raise their voices. Charlotte's

'voice of an angel' filled the beautiful Tabernacl with 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

The guest speaker Nazim Qumsiyeh, a Christian Palestinian from Bethlehem, moved the audience to tears with his poignant, but optimistic talk about the environmental impact of the war on Gaza and his biodiversity projects with children in the midst of war, for which the concert was fundraising.

Côr Cochion, campaigning in Cardiff for peace with justice in the region since their 1994 tour of Palestine and Israel, sang songs from Wales, from South Africa's anti-apartheid era and 'We Shall Overcome' from the campaign for civil rights. The whole audience made the chapel ring to 'Yma o Hyd' and 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau'.

All around the balcony hung banners with the messages 'Vigil for Peace', 'Stop the Bombing', 'Let Gaza Live'.

We hope that message, sent loud and clear from Y Tabernacl, reaches those in power.



The Big Sing, Y Tabernacl
Côr Cochion Caerdydd



EPYNT: THE LAND REMEMBERS

On International Peace Day, a showery 21st of September, some forty people gathered near the **Epynt** Visitor Centre to show their support and desire for peace, and to call on the Ministry of Defence to return the land to the people of Wales.

This year, Cymdeithas y Cymod (the Fellowship of Reconciliation, www.cymdeithasycymod.cymru) decided to use the day to launch a period of raising awareness of the history of Epynt and the fact that the army is still there 84 years later.

The Welsh-speaking community on Epynt before 1940 was a remote rural one. But in the early days of the Second World War, the Ministry of Defence saw Epynt as a very suitable area for military training, including firing live ammunition. People were forced to abandon their homes and the life they were familiar with in order to make the place a war training range. This was a total shock to the residents, most of whom had deep roots in the area. Although many thought it was temporary, they soon realised that this was not so: within six months of first hearing the news, people were leaving their homes forever, in what became known as the Eviction.

Many houses were demolished and streets built for war exercises. Clusters of trees were planted here and there, trees that look



Epynt, September

completely out of place on the hills.

Robat Idris, Chair of Cymdeithas y Cymod, gave a powerful address, explaining that: *"It was most appropriate that we in Cymdeithas y Cymod should go to Epynt on International Peace Day. The Epynt is a large area of land that has belonged to the Welsh since time immemorial. In 1940 over 219 people and children from 54 households were evicted by the Government in order to create a military training range. This mountain land remains in the hands of the Ministry of Defence for that purpose to this very day."*

Some of the story of the Eviction was related by Marika Fusser. Two poems were read aloud (both written on the 80th anniversary of the Eviction) – one by Mererid Hopwood, asking for the land to be returned, and the other by Ifor ap Glyn, reminding us of the names of the farms and smallholdings. There were also songs from Côr Gobaith, a peace choir from the Aberystwyth area.

There will be a series of events by Cymdeithas y Cymod and the Peace in Action network between now and the 30 June 2025, the 85th anniversary of the Eviction.

Adapted from an original article by

CAROL JENKINS



Epynt, September

>>> For details about this campaign, email epynt2025@gmail.com



R-R SUBS OPEN UP IN CARDIFF

Rolls-Royce Submarines are opening new offices in St Mellons, Cardiff, in December 2024, as well as in Glasgow: to meet growth in demand from the Royal Navy, and in light of the recent AUKUS announcement. The offices will be funded by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

It was confirmed that Rolls-Royce Submarines would provide all the nuclear reactor plants that will power new attack submarines as part of the tri-lateral agreement between Australia, the UK and US (AUKUS).

Militarising the economy

DARC, civil nuclear power developments and the growth of small businesses supplying the defence industry throughout Wales, all link and we need to challenge them all. In the words of previous Welsh Secretary David TC



An impression of the proposed SSN AUKUS attack submarine

Davies, 'The UK Government is focussed on doing all we can to drive prosperity and growth and make sure Wales's economy is for the 21st century'. An economy based on building military capacities which will only fuel the certainty of conflict and eventual war.

The MOD stated that this is a time of unprecedented growth. There is never a problem with finding budgets for defence and they applaud the fact that over 100 jobs will be created in each city. But why are these jobs not being created for the development of renewable energies and

socially productive jobs and infrastructures?

Linked to this is the work that Rolls Royce is doing in Welsh schools in developing STEM curriculum and skills. These are in part based on developing military and nuclear technologies and skills for those industries – starting in primary schools!

ALI LOCHHEAD

>>> **Cardiff Council is a declared Nuclear Free Local Authority, so they need to be repeatedly challenged!**

SMRs FOR BRIDGEND?

It was reported on 16 October that Last Energy UK, subsidiary of a US company, is putting £300 million into a proposal for a 6 hectare plot in Bridgend. Until 1977 this was the site of the Llynfi coal-fired power station. It is now being touted as a site for 4 'micro' modular nuclear reactors, to power local businesses.

Planning and licensing permission is in the hands of the Welsh government. It looks like Bridgend is

intended as a guinea pig for a planned roll-out of 80 reactors across Europe, and 10,000 worldwide! Such are the economics of SMRs.

A reality check

The problems of waste, safety, production methods, security and cost remain unresolved. The last report of Westminster's Welsh Affairs Select Committee on Nuclear Power dismissed Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). None are yet in use, despite years of research

and hundreds of millions of pounds being thrown at various models. The first company with a licensed model, Nu-Scale, made eye-watering losses. On 30 October 2024 the US Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation (USNC) filed for bankruptcy. The industry is desperate and the hype is intense – but the chances of this project taking off seem very small.

LINDA ROGERS



REPORTS FROM PONTYPRIDD...

Rhondda Cynon Taf Eisteddfod

This year's National Eisteddfod was pretty different but everyone agreed that it was a huge success.

The Peace Tent was a bit different too. We usually share the tent with different peace movements but this year it was a platform for a larger number of campaigns. As there was limited space on the Maes (field), the tent hosted the Palestine

Solidarity Campaign, the Peace Petition Partnership, PAWB, PARC against DARC and the Quakers as well as CND Cymru and Cymdeithas y Cymod. The Welsh Peace Academy paid for the tent.

A number of very successful events were held there, including a rally in support of Palestine, a meeting to remember Hiroshima, and sessions about the Welsh Women's Petition 1923/24, Nuclear Energy,

Peace Education, and the Pembrokeshire radar.

On Wednesday, people gathered in the Peace Tent for an open conversation led by Cllr. Elin Hywel on how to resist the extreme right.

With a number of high-profile meetings in the Societies' Tent and the Literature Tent, as well as a meeting on the bandstand to remember the victims of all wars, peace was a prominent theme at the festival. Emphasis was placed on peace by the Archdruid, Mererid Hopwood, in her addresses from the main stage.

As the Peace Tent this year was the focus of so many organisations, we are seeing the first step towards building a united front in Wales to work for peace and justice. CND Cymru must be ready to support this collaboration. We could look at the Wrexham Eisteddfod 2025 as an opportunity to grow and develop it.



Young Peace Ambassadors take to the stage at the National Eisteddfod

... AND PITTSBURGH

The North American Festival of Wales

It was a great honour to go to Pittsburgh on behalf of the Peace Petition Partnership and Grandmother's Peace to receive the North American Welsh Heritage Medal 2024.

The Partnership was awarded it for the work of revealing and promoting the history of women in Wales 1923/24 who presented a peace petition to the women of the United States, containing almost 400,000 names

collected door-to-door. Their objective was a world without war.

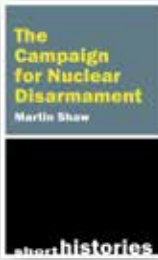
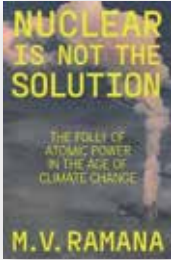
The petition had been kept in the Smithsonian in Washington, along with its oak chest, until 2023 when it returned to Wales as a gift from the Smithsonian to the National Library in Aberystwyth.

The petition was centre stage at this significant festival. For the first time, we heard

about the life of Elined Prys, one of the women who took the petition to the US. It was a great pleasure to meet her granddaughter, Michelle, who shared memories of her grandmother.

Celebrating the centenary of this unique act has rekindled friendship between the women of our two nations and the medal reflects that.

JILL EVANS



To be reviewed in the next issue of Heddwch

NOTICE BOARD Please, we want to hear from you!

Send emails, opinions, reports, suggestions, details of events to phil_steele@btinternet.com with 'H89 ed' in the subject box. Keep it short and Include your address or email contact!

USAF
LAKENHEATH
Norfolk, England
International camp
Monday 14 April to Friday
25 April 2025 L.A.P.
**LAKENHEATH
ALLIANCE FOR PEACE**



[https://
lakenheathallianceforpeace.
org.uk/sign-up/](https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/sign-up/)

- Heddwch or Waith is trying to create the role of Peace Ambassador within as many local authorities throughout Wales as possible. So far, we have been asking our supporters to identify councillors in their respective areas, who would be willing to help us achieve this. From there, we offer them support to submit a motion to council.

Ultimately, we would like to develop an active network of Peace Ambassadors throughout the country, who can integrate peace-building into policy proposals, as well as be a sympathetic ear to the Peace Movement within local government. Do get in touch!

Sam Bannon

heddwcharwaith@gmail.com

- Freedom of Information enquiries have revealed that significant quantities of radioactive waste from scrapped aircraft were dumped at 250+ WW2 airfields. However, it has also been revealed that neither Welsh nor Westminster Government have records of where this occurred. I am researching the disposal of radioactive debris (aircraft luminous dials/switches etc) at Welsh WW2 airfields. If anyone has any relevant information please contact me!

Tim Deere-Jones

timdeerejones@outlook.com

6 August 2025

Next year will mark the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As global nuclear tensions rise yet again, please make plans now to commemorate the event locally and nationally.

NEVER AGAIN!



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.



HEDDWCH

Is the magazine of the Wales Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND Cymru). It can also be read online, along with past issues at www.cndcymru.org

- website** www.cndcymru.org
- e-mail** heddwch@cndcymru.org
- instagram** [@cndcymru](https://www.instagram.com/cndcymru)
- facebook** www.facebook.com/cndcymru/
- X Twitter** [@cndcymru](https://twitter.com/cndcymru)
- Bluesky** [@cndcymru](https://bsky.app/profile/cndcymru.org)

JOIN CND CYMRU NOW!

<https://www.cndcymru.org/take-part/membership>

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

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The next issue of *Heddwch* will be published in April 2025.



Welcoming the MoD roadshow to Pembrokeshire