



Mid-Somerset CND & Peace Group

Newsletter
January 2014

<http://www.midsomcnd-peacegroup.org.uk/>

How should we commemorate the centenary of the first world war The 'war to end all wars'?



The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, as part of the Stop the War Coalition, has joined in to the World War I commemoration campaign No Glory in War (<http://noglory.org/>). It has been agreed that Mid Somerset CND & Peace Group will affiliate with this campaign over the 4 years of the commemoration. To start, we will be in communication with relevant groups in our area to develop an awareness of what we're all doing. In time, we will plan events and possibly try to go into schools to further the peace education approach to World War I.

Here is an extract from the No Glory open letter: rHow should we remember the first world war?

2014 marks the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. Far from being a "war to end all wars" or a "victory for democracy", this was a military disaster and a human catastrophe. We are disturbed, therefore, to hear that David Cameron plans to spend £55,000,000 on "truly national commemorations" to mark this anniversary. Mr. Cameron has quite inappropriately compared these to the "Diamond Jubilee celebrations" and stated that their aim will be to stress our "national spirit". Instead we believe it is important to remember that this was a war that was driven by big powers' competition for influence around the globe, and caused a degree of suffering all too clear

in the statistical record of 16 million people dead and 20 million wounded. In 2014, we and others across the world will be organising cultural, political and educational activities to mark the courage of many involved in the war but also to remember the almost unimaginable devastation caused.

To sign their Open Letter calling for us not to celebrate WWI but to remember the almost unimaginable devastation caused :

<http://noglory.org/index.php/open-letter#.Utl32LTfDc>

Music Festivals 2014

If you wish to work for Festival Information Services at Glastonbury (25th-29th June) this year then you need to download the application form from:

<http://www.midsomcnd-peacegroup.org.uk/contact>

In addition Mid-Somerset CND & Peace Group aims to have a campaigning stall at several music festivals in the South West. We are looking for committed local CND members to help run these stalls. Applications to

drbevismiller@gmail.com

Please attach a brief c.v.

CND Carols December 21st in Glastonbury



We collected £130 and sent £70 each to Oxfam Syria Appeal & the Wells YMCA.

Published by Mid-Somerset CND
secretary@midsomcnd-peacegroup.org.uk

Study Day

We recently organised a Study Day with the objectives of increasing our knowledge on Trident and to better prepare us to provide speakers to go and talk to and debate with other organisations. It was enjoyable and a good group exercise. We discussed the risk of nuclear accidents, who owns Trident, Why does government want it, and how influential is the arms industry in making government policy. Our aim is to produce a set of speaker notes and to cover more of the issues related to the Trident campaign. If you would like to be involved then contact the secretary.

MANDELA A MAN OF PEACE



The following excerpt is from Nelson Mandela's final speech to the UN General Assembly on 21st September 1998.

"The very first resolution of the General Assembly, adopted in January 1946, sought to address the challenge of "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction".

We must face the fact that after countless initiatives and resolutions, we still do not have concrete and generally accepted proposals supported by a clear commitment by the nuclear-weapons States to the speedy, final and total elimination of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons capabilities

*.....
We must ask the question, which might sound naive to those who have elaborated sophisticated arguments to justify their refusal to eliminate these terrible and terrifying*

weapons of mass destruction - why do they need them anyway! In reality, no rational answer can be advanced to explain in a satisfactory manner what, in the end, is the consequence of Cold War inertia and an attachment to the use of the threat of brute force, to assert the primacy of some States over others."

He and his wisdom will be greatly missed.

CND hails 'historic step' in Iran nuclear negotiations

Iran's curtailment of uranium enrichment has been hailed as 'an historic step on the path to peace and security in the Middle East'.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today confirmed that Iran had ceased enriching uranium above the threshold 5% purity, with centrifuges disconnected at its Nantaz and Fordo facilities. The deal, reached in November following lengthy negotiations with international powers, will also see Iran diluting its stockpile of 20% uranium - curbing its nuclear activities in return for a gradual easing of sanctions.

CND's General Secretary, Kate Hudson said: 'Negotiations over such sensitive issues as a nuclear programme are fraught with political and logistical issues: they take time. But what we are seeing today is the fruit of dogged diplomacy and a willingness to pursue peaceful solutions to complex regional problems.'

'Not long ago, the threat of a military strike on Iran, whether by the US or Israel, was seen as almost inevitable. So today represents an historic step on the path to peace and security in the Middle East.'

'But transparency over nuclear programmes should not just be limited to Iran. While Israel is widely recognised as a nuclear-armed state, it refuses to confirm or deny its arsenal: the only state in the world to maintain a policy of nuclear ambiguity.'

'If today's announcement teaches us anything, it is that only through open and transparent negotiations can regional insecurities be overcome.'