



Mid-Somerset CND & Peace Group

March 2015

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

Nationally and locally CND's current campaigning priority is the General Election. This is because the decision as to whether to renew Trident has been postponed until 2016. However until recently the issue has been carefully avoided by the main parties. But hopefully it now will be debated since the conservatives on their website are arguing:-

"Britain's security could be put at risk by Labour. 75% of Labour candidates at the election are against renewing Trident – our country's last line of defence (New Statesman, 3 Mar 2015).

In an uncertain world, the need for our independent Continuous-at-Sea nuclear deterrent is greater than ever.

But Labour candidates are overwhelmingly against renewing

Trident. And in Labour's target seats – those constituencies where Labour think they have a good chance of winning – the number of candidates against Trident rises to 80%.

Labour's opposition to Trident makes a post-election deal between Labour and the SNP an even bigger threat, with Alex Salmond demanding that Britain's unilateral disarmament be part of any Labour-SNP coalition.

The prospect of Ed Miliband and Alex Salmond in Downing Street, giving up Britain's last line of defence, is all too real if the Conservatives don't win the election."

The views of the other main parties are given on page 2. As our contribution to the debate we have organised election Hustings in Wells (see below) for April 15th.

TWO IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY PLEASE SUPPORT THEM



Sponsored by **Bocabar**

REDBRICK BUILDING
COMMUNITY • ARTS • EDUCATION • ENTERPRISE



Mid Somerset CND & Peace Group presents

Battle of the Bands Competition

To be held on Saturday 21st March 2015

Doors open 7.30pm : tickets £5 on the door
At the Red Brick Building, Glastonbury

Several acts with headliner

Seize the Day



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

<http://www.orchardrecordingstudios.co.uk>

<http://glastonbury.bocabar.co.uk/>

www.redbrickglastonbury.co.uk

Mid Somerset CND & Peace Group
Presents political hustings on

Is the renewal of our Nuclear Deterrent (TRIDENT) the best defence for the UK?

To be held on 15th April 2015

Wells Town Hall

7.00 – 9.00 pm

Prospective parliamentary candidates who
have agreed to address the meeting.

Tessa Munt - Liberal Democrats
Chris Inchley - Labour Party
John Cousins - Green Party
Jeffrey Bolter - UKIP

The Conservative candidate has declined but a
statement from them will be available at the meeting.

If you would like to submit a question
or would like further details please contact
secretary@midsomcnd-peacegroup.org.uk

Labour On July 1, 2014 Vernon Coaker MP Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary, responding to the report of the Trident Commission, said: *"Labour is committed to ensuring Britain retains a minimum credible independent nuclear deterrent, which we believe is best delivered through a Continuous At Sea Deterrent."*

Liberal democrats Danny Alexander (Chief Secretary to the Treasury): 2nd July 2014. *"I subscribe to the view that Britain should remain a nuclear power and that our deterrent should continue to be submarine based. However, I and my fellow Liberal Democrats do not accept that we should be locked into configuring and deploying our nuclear forces in the future as we have done in the past when the security environment has changed so fundamentally from the cold war era."....."As well as not matching the security threat, this also fails to meet our wider international obligations to work towards reducing nuclear weapons, as other nuclear nations have attempted. We should end continuous at-sea deterrence, and conduct patrols in a pattern required to match the rising or falling perceived threat."*

Green Party Caroline Lucas MP January 21st 2015. *"When the impact of spending £100 billion is so huge, I'd argue it's inconsistent to be pro Trident and pro ending the housing crisis. In Brighton, as in many parts of the country, our A&E faces crisis, while nurses are being denied even a miserly 1% wage increase. But the £100 billion earmarked for Trident could fully fund all A&E services in hospitals for 40 years. It could cover the cost of building 180 new state of the art hospitals. It could employ 150,000 new nurses for the next three decades. When the impact of spending £100 billion is so huge, I'd argue it's inconsistent to be pro Trident and pro our NHS. £100 billion could pay the tuition fees of over 4 million students. It could reinstate EMA for 60 years, enabling students to afford books, transport and college materials. It could build as many as 30,000 primary schools – or refurbish thousands more. Instead of*

nuclear warheads we could - and should - be investing in our children's future.

UKIP Defence spokesman Mike Hookem MEP refused to be drawn on the party's policy on Trident. He would only say that the "public don't understand the importance of the nuclear deterrent" and that UKIP was looking at how it could "afford" to keep nuclear weapons. Reported in the Independent 11th March 2015

Trident nuclear missiles are £20bn waste of money, say generals
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2009/jan/16/trident-is-20bn-waste-say-generals>

"Nuclear weapons have shown themselves to be completely useless as a deterrent to the threats and scale of violence we currently face or are likely to face, particularly international terrorism," the group said in a letter to the Times. "Our independent deterrent has become virtually irrelevant, except in the context of domestic politics."

One of the signatories being Field Marshal Edwin Bramall, Head of the British Army, between 1979 and 1982, Head of the British Armed Forces, from 1982 to 1985.

Local news

On March 8, we took our stall to the International Women's Day event in Wells Town Hall. We took our place near the display of the history of women's campaigns for the vote and for peace, and felt proud to be still carrying out that work today. Fifty-two people stopped to talk and look at our information.

The following week, we set up the stall at Strode College in Street. We were there to talk with students and staff, in the college refectory. We hoped to inform them and exchange views about the anti-Trident campaign and the general election, to publicise our up-coming events, and to encourage them to buy and wear a CND badge!