



Mid-Somerset CND & Peace Group

Newsletter
May 2014

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

Annual General Meeting

7.30pm Monday June 9th
Seager Hall, Wells

Following the AGM formal business, there will be a discussion on the next steps for CND both local and national led by Anne Schulthess (national campaigns officer).

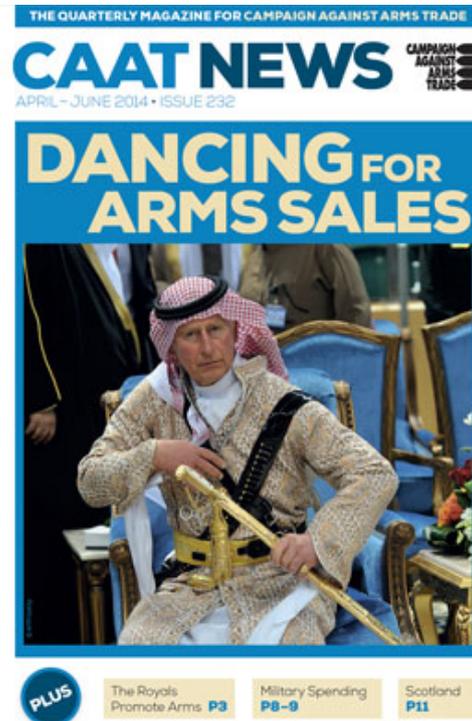
Secretary's report

1. Trident Campaign

We attended Sunrise and Glastonbury Festivals with our information stall and received good positive feedback; we were disappointed that we didn't get to more festivals.

We were at Strode College for their Fresher's Fair in September where students signed the anti-Trident petition and gave us e-mail addresses for follow up meetings. We arranged one meeting with students that was attended by two people, more successful was a meeting in One World Week with Tessa Munt and 50 students, from this we have an invitation to speak to students at a later date.

As part of our education programme we had a study day in November where Members researched an aspect of Trident and presented to the rest of the group.



We are currently looking at other training packs and also linking with education about WW1, this work is ongoing

2. Harry Patch Memorial

September 21st is International Day of Peace, September 22nd 1917 was the date that three of Harry Patch's comrades died and he was wounded; his personal remembrance day. We chose 21st September to commemorate Harry Patch's life with a white poppy wreath that was laid by Tessa Munt and Michael Eavis on his Memorial Stone outside Wells Museum. We hope to make this a regular feature of our local campaign.

This event began our thinking about commemoration of 100 years since start of 1914-18 war. Jane & Donnie attended Peace Education training on WW1 Centenary and plans are ongoing about

how we can deliver this to schools, linking with the Trident Training. Donnie is following this up. We are also looking at an all-day event next year about the war, the planning committee has given itself four years for this campaign

3. Hiroshima

This year we had the privilege of working with Geoff & Mitsuko Read and their Strong Children Campaign about the lives of children living in Fukushima at the time of the tsunami and the melt down of the nuclear power plant in 2011. We held an exhibition of the children's painting on the Cathedral Green, where people also made origami boats that were floated as part of our annual Hiroshima event on the Bishop's Palace's Moat in the evening. This event was attended by Michael Eavis, Theo Butt-Phillip, Mayor of Wells, Geoff & Mitsuko, CND and members of the public.

4. Communication

This is an ongoing issue, we have a total of 316 members, 153 of these have BA, TA & BS post codes, we have 10 regular members of planning meeting and possibly another 10 who will come to specific events. We have a web site, Facebook page and a regular newsletter but get very little feedback from any of this. We know that many of our members join to work at the festival but we would like to feel that they are part of our campaign

5. Wider Peace Issues

We were challenged at our 2013 AGM to look at wider peace issues especially in the Middle East.

In a way part of the answer is in the paragraph above, there is a limit to what a small group of people can do.

However we are in good contact with South Somerset CND & Peace Group and they have a programme of a wide range of

speakers, also Frome Stop the War and we do post these events on the web site. Jane attended an excellent meeting in Ilminster in October by Baroness Jenny Tonge "Whither Palestine – One State or Two?"

Mid Somerset CND & Peace Group will launch our No Glory World War I Commemoration programme on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

This is the day we observe International Day of Peace at the Harry Patch memorial, Wells Museum. Planned events include showing World War One -related films, speakers, and speaking in local schools. We are looking to co-ordinate with other Mid Somerset human rights and peace groups, as well as supporting their events. If your group has plans to commemorate the First World War, let us know on d.houser@btinternet.com.

In March a First World War conference at M Shed, Bristol, was organised by BBC History Magazine. Dr Margaret MacMillan spoke about World War I as 'the war that ended peace.' In her 2013 book of that name, she includes the chapter 'The Dream of Peace,' describing several peace movements active before the outbreak of the war. Two members of our group attended the Peace and Social Justice action meeting at the Friends Meeting House, Taunton, on May 1. The speaker was Jessica Metheringham, Quaker National Parliamentary Engagement Officer. Her emphasis was on action, in terms of campaigning. She made us aware of various ways to approach MPs and local government officials.