



Mid-Somerset CND & Peace Group

Newsletter
September 2013

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



International Day of Peace EDUCATION FOR PEACE

21 September 2013



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. Coincidentally Harry Patch referred to September 22nd as his personal Remembrance Day, since that is when he was injured by a shell and his three comrades were killed at Passchendaele. We therefore feel that it is highly appropriate that we will lay a wreath decorated with white poppies at his memorial outside the Wells Museum on Saturday the 21st. The wreath will be decorated with white poppies and Harry's own words

"To me, it's a licence to go out and murder. Why should the British government call me up and take me out to a battlefield to shoot a man I never knew, whose language I couldn't speak. All those lives lost for a war finished over a table. Now what is the sense in that?"

We aim it to be a quiet reflective opportunity to remember all those who suffer from war, the majority of whom are innocent civilians. Please feel free to join us **at 11.am on Saturday 21st September.**



HARRY PATCH – "THE LAST TOMMY"

Hiroshima Day commemoration

On Saturday August 3rd Mid Somerset CND had a campaigning stall on Wells Cathedral green, and exhibited our recently acquired Hiroshima exhibition (details see later). On the following Tuesday August 6th we floated 68 origami candle boats on the Wells moat, one for each year since August 6th 1945, when the a nuclear bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The well attended gathering was joined by artist Geoff Read and his wife Mitsuko, who had earlier that day shown an art exhibition on Cathedral Green showing work by children affected by the Fukushima nuclear power station disaster.

Mitsuko spoke movingly about the confusion after the disaster happened and how difficult it was to get accurate information. She and her husband and son were living near Fukushima in March 2011 and she still has family there. She says she doesn't wish to be

alarmist, but if the worst does happen it is important to know what to do. She is particularly concerned about children's health as there were no iodine tablets available in the wake of the disaster and now 50% of children have abnormal thyroids in Fukushima. They are not sure what the future holds for them.



Geoff and Mitsuko Read with Michael Eavis
And Theo Butt Phillips

This was a quiet and thoughtful occasion, and Michael Eavis and Wells Mayor, Theo Butt Philip also spoke of the horrors of war, and the need to keep politicians and those in power mindful that innocent civilians often suffer most - especially in the nuclear age.

Festivals

This year the group took a campaigning stall to both Sunrise and Glastonbury Festivals. At both events we were very well received, albeit sadly with the comment

“didn't know CND was still going”!!!!

This reaffirms our commitment to this activity. If you wish to get involved next year, please get in touch. A lasting record of the support we received for the anti-Trident campaign is on our Facebook page. Over 100 people wrote to their local MP and joined our photo petition. If you use Facebook please have a look and become our friend as a way of being involved with the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Somerset-CND-and-Peace-Group-Supporters-Page>

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Candles floating on Wells Bishops Palace Moat

HIROSHIMA EXHIBITION

We have recently obtained a copy from Japan of an excellent exhibition on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It consists of 30 large A1 laminated sheets which are highly detailed on the consequences of these terrible bombs and the rebuilding of the two devastated cities.



Mushroom Cloud about 1 Hour after Detonation

We are keen to get the widest possible exposure of this valuable resource. It is suitable for display in schools, libraries, churches etc. Please get in touch if you wish to borrow it or know of somewhere we should approach to see if they would take it.

