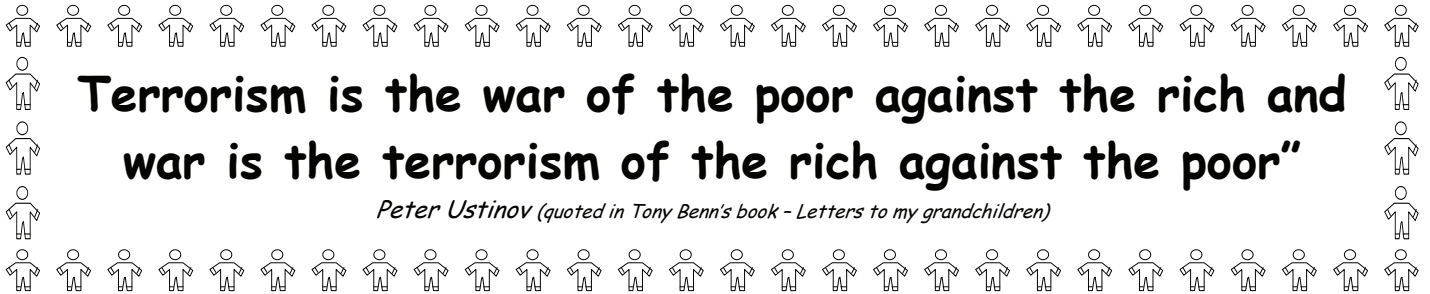


Merseyside CND Newsletter



April /May/June 2011

52 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD 0151 702 6974 mcnd@care4free.net www.mcnd.org.uk



**Terrorism is the war of the poor against the rich and
war is the terrorism of the rich against the poor"**

Peter Ustinov (quoted in Tony Benn's book - Letters to my grandchildren)

Liverpool Working Class Life and Music Festival Fri April 22nd to April 30th

April 22nd - Leon Rosselson - Sefton
Palm House with support from Rich Man's Ruin
- Gaby Monk, Vinny Spen and Alun Parry
Tickets £9/£7 concessions

Spring Fayre



St Brides Church
25th April 1.30 - 4pm
Stalls, refreshments

Liverpool Socialist Singers

Invite you to an evening of songs celebrating
revolution and protest
Wednesday 27th April 7pm
at St Bride's Church, Percy St, Liverpool
Featuring Claire Mooney, Vinny Spen, Acoustica, Black
Lamp + friends
£5 on door or on-line at
www.workingclassmusic.org.uk

Chernobyl Disaster 25th Anniversary

8.30pm April 26th Candlelit Vigil
on the steps of St. Luke's Church,
Top of Bold St.

9pm Film

"When The Wind Blows"

All the more poignant in the light of events at
the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant

Help needed...!!

...running sales and information tables, at events over
Easter and at other times in the future. We are
desperate for helpers who live in Liverpool. For
instance could you fetch and carry the banner and
bag of materials from the CND Office to St. Bride's
Church for , collecting before Good Friday.

If so please give us a ring or email (see above)
Would you be willing to join our email help list????

**If we ignore it, the light will go out. If
we all help, it will burn free with the
hope of a beautiful tomorrow!** Rachel Corrie

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A Hard Rain

Yesterday evening I walked home through Liverpool University campus taking a route I haven't used recently. I saw a temporary metal fence had been erected along the side of the Mathematics building. Attached to this was a long banner with photographs and text printed onto it. I was stopped in my tracks. It was Bob Dylan's 'A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall' - line by line, with each of Dylan's images illustrated by a large photo. "I've stepped in the middle of seven sad forests" was accompanied by a photograph of a sandy desert littered with the stumps of dead trees. "I've been out in front of a dozen dead oceans" was followed by a photograph of a bird covered in black tar struggling out of an oil slick.

The text at the left of the banner announced that this was 'Hard Rain Our Headlong Collision with nature' by Mark Edwards, lyric by Bob Dylan, presented by UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme). Mark Edwards writes that on July 20th 1969 the Apollo 11 mission to the moon sent

back photographs of the earth from space - the newspapers, he said, wrote about our fragile, lonely, blue planet, but we trashed it with no thought for the future.

The song asks, "Oh, what'll you do now, my blue-eyed son? Oh, what'll you do now, my darling young one?" At the end of the banner, Edwards asks us "What'll you do now?" and says that Dylan's song written at the time of the Cuban Missile crisis in October 1962, when the world was on the verge of being destroyed by nuclear war, is still as relevant today when re-framed as applying to the environmental crisis we have created. And the situation is as dangerous.

Across the way from the banner, behind the Guild of Students building, there is another, much shorter, banner which gives commentaries on each of the photographs. Dylan's line "Heard the song of a poet who died in the gutter" is illustrated by a photograph of a mother and child living in a drainpipe in Calcutta, India: "Almost half the people on earth (nearly 3 billion) try to exist on the

equivalent of less than \$2 a day. The absolute poor try to exist on the equivalent of \$1 a day.

....Their rain is now."

These beautiful, powerful photographs are a warning and a call to action.

Copies of this exhibition have been touring the world since 2009. There is also an accompanying book, first published in 2006, revised in 2007, with extended versions of the commentaries, more photographs, and essays by leading environmental campaigners and environmental scientists.

Go and see the exhibition*

Buy a copy of the book from your local independent bookshop,
Find out more from
www.hardrainproject.com

Roger Stephenson,
8/4/11

*When I asked Liverpool University how long the exhibition was on for they said they didn't know - "It's nothing to do with us."

Women to Women for Peace

Just over thirty years ago at the height of the cold war, two elderly Quaker women saw a poster which read "World Peace Will Come Through Ordinary People Like Yourself." Although not mothers themselves they felt that mothers all over the world are linked through their children and so formed the idea of sending four mothers to the Soviet Union and four to the United States with the same message of peace. This led in 1981 to the formation of "Mothers for Peace" later to become Women to Women for Peace. Since then links have been made with at least twelve countries - Albania, Israel,

Palestine, Northern Ireland, Cuba, Ukraine, to mention just a few.

The 30th anniversary in 2011 is being celebrated in two ways. First, two women from the twelve countries with which links have been made have been invited to the UK for ten days in August. For the first eight days the visitors will stay in private homes in different parts of the country - those staying in Merseyside will be from Albania, Romania and Czechoslovakia. Together with some from WtoW for Peace the last two days will be spent in London, accommodation having been booked at the London School of Economics, where the visitors will have the opportunity to meet with one another.

The other part of the 30th anniversary celebration is a travelling exhibition with display boards depicting information and the links made with each of the various countries plus artefacts.

In addition four magnificent quilts or wall hangings will be displayed, the last, "The Tree of Life", made jointly with a group of Muslim women in Liverpool. Locally the exhibition will be in St. Peter's Community Church, Chester (near the cross) from Tuesday 7 June - Saturday 18 June probably from 10.00am - 4.00pm and in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral from Tuesday 21 June - Sunday 3 July times to be arranged. Publicity giving more precise information will be available nearer the time but for any queries please ring

A Tribute to Syd Leathwood

(25/6/1936 - 17/3/2011)

On Friday 25th March 2011, at Springwood Crematorium, we said farewell to a dedicated and long standing member of CND and the peace movement as a whole. I was honoured that day to be invited to read out a eulogy, that I had written, which paid tribute to a man that to me was like a second father, a mentor, advisor and above all a great and very close personal friend.

Syd first moved to Courtland Road, with his wife, Dot and the boys, in 1972. I first came across the Leathwood family, when his 2 eldest sons, Paul and Philip joined the 6th Wavertree Cub Scouts at Elm Hall Drive Church, in which I was already a member. In fact Syd often reminded me of his first memories of my young self at the ripe old age of 9, in short trousers and a green uniform, in somewhat confused and upset state, and Syd asked me what was wrong, I told him that I had been sent home from cubs for having thrown a tin of beans at someone, for calling me names. However Syd helped put me back on the straight and narrow, and I went on to become sixer of the pack, so his advice must have helped.

The friendship our 2 families forged would continue and strengthen, with Syd and Dot helping me through the death of my mother when I was 16 and again 11 years later when my father passed away.

I warmed to Syd, from an early age as he was someone you could turn to, as a friend and rely upon with his great compassion, generosity and love for life. On my frequent visits to the Leathwood household to see the boys and Dot, I soon realised that I had a great empathy with Syd. He was someone I could relate to easily and find a lot in common with, a sort of kindred spirit.

He was a larger than life character who was always ready to offer advice or give an opinion, when asked on

anything, from the vast archives of his knowledge, skills and experience gained from his own upbringing and over 40 years in the NHS

Syd was often full of humour and political satire, with a ready anecdote and observation about topical issues or life in general, which made him like a great Storyteller who kept everyone entertained whilst imparting knowledge. He even had the ability, memory and skill to quote poetry and verse from such wide ranging pieces as Wilfred Owen's famous 1st World War poem "Dulce et Decorum Est" to Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. Syd also wrote his own works, which he often read to me and was for years a active member of a writers workshop.

I also learned that Syd had been a lifelong peace campaigner and had even been a conscientious objector in his early years, in fact in 1954, at the age of 18, Syd had to defend his anti war views in front of a tribunal, when he refused to take up military service. This was in the days when Conscriptio into the Armed Forces was compulsory in early post war Britain. Syd won his case to be classed as a Conscientious Objector and was given non combatant community service in a mental hospital, which became the basis for his life long career, as he decided to embark on being the best he could by taking up full scale training in mental health nursing.

My common bond with Syd and what he believed in led me into following in his footsteps by joining the Peace Movement namely CND, as in the 1980s I also was strongly opposed to most war and was especially concerned re the threat of Mutually Assured Destruction or M.A.D, with the vast amounts of nuclear weaponry held by both sides during the Cold War. Syd was to work in the CND Office even long after his retirement, and was only forced to reduce his activity in later years when his health and mobility declined. I always remember some of the marches that we went on together especially the 50 mile walk from London to Aldermaston in the late 1980s, sleeping on community hall floors at night after walking all day to

highlight and commemorate the cause.

I also joined Syd in volunteering for Night Owls which was a mobile soup kitchen for the Homeless run by staff from Syd's place of work at Olive Mount Nursing Home. In 1995, Syd invited me to join him and Dot and their friends Tom and Cath on a 3 week trek to India and the Himalayas. We had a memorable few weeks travelling across the vast region journeying through Shimla down to the Dalai Lama's summer retreat of Dharamsala. through our friend and guide Rajan we visited many fascinating and beautiful places of interest and worship including the Bahai Temple in New Delhi, many churches, the temple of the Monkey God, Hanuman, from the Hindu Faith and the Taj Mahal. I even had a blessing said for me on the River Ganges at Rishikesh, and imagined the scene when the Beatles had been there many years before.

The holiday was very memorable and I remember that Syd was amazed that I was the only one in the party that hadn't come down with the dreaded "Delhi Belly", although this miraculous escape only lasted as far when I touched down back home in Old Blighty when it hit me with a vengeance. Syd, honest and succinct as ever said I caught it from eating veal, in Frankfurt, on the way home from India, and that it was a form of karmic retribution for eating it.

I found a common soul in Syd and we could have good debates about most things especially politics and the way of the world. Although we steered clear of sport especially football, which unlike myself didn't appeal to him, as he likened it to tribal warfare. Still we had to disagree on something.

In summary, I know that Syd has had a profound influence upon my life over almost 4 decades and I will, as will many who have known him, find that his passing will leave such a large void that may be impossible to fill.

However, we can all find comfort in the knowledge that we have been blessed to have known such a very kind, warm and generous man.

Paul Winters

Walking to raise funds for ICAHD UK

On the last weekend of this month John and I are joining a sponsored walk to raise money for ICAHD UK, the support group in this country of the Israeli Committtee Against House Demolitions in Jerusalem. This email is to invite you to sponsor us and support the excellent work of both organisations.

We first came across ICAHD Jerusalem in 2005 on a half day political tour of East Jerusalem with one of their guides when we were picking olives at harvest time in the Bethlehem area. We were deeply shocked to witness for the first time what is happening to Palestinians in their own capital city, and also deeply impressed by the political analysis and the passion for justice of our guide, South African Jew, Angela Godfrey-Goldstein. In 2008 it was my privilege to work in the Jerusalem ICAHD office for 3 months organising those very tours, which can be booked by any organisation or individual visiting Jerusalem. Many journalists, diplomats, politicians, church and union leaders, and other opinion formers from all over the world do just that as well as thousands of 'ordinary' people. When I returned home I was invited to join the national board of ICAHD UK and last Saturday at our AGM in London I was elected back onto it for a second term.

ICAHD does so much more than its name suggests. Yes, it vehemently opposes the appalling human rights violation practised by the Israeli authorities throughout Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories of violently bulldozing the homes of Palestinian families - some 25,000 to date, making an estimated 144,000 men, women and children homeless. This happens every day - except each Shabbat - and yet, what do we hear about it in our media? I have stood with families as they are forced to watch at gunpoint the destruction by giant jack-hammer of their life's work

and security, and the memories still arouse intense anger and helplessness in me. Demolitions happen after a protracted administrative procedure and are justified when challenged in court on the ground that families do not have permits to build. This is true - but the reason they don't have permits is that the Israeli planning authorities hardly ever give building permits to Palestinians, even though their rate of population growth is faster than that of Israelis. Actually, it's *because* of this faster growth rate that they are denied the capacity to build and expand their presence. Israel has a demographic policy which works entirely one way: expansion for all Jewish communities both in Israel proper and in the West Bank illegal settlements, in tandem with Palestinian contraction, which in practice means a policy of creeping ethnic cleansing. House demolitions are one particularly brutal component of that policy - there are many more.

ICAHD opposes house demolitions in the courts and during the administrative process, it has a legal fund to help victims fight their case, it even engages sometimes in non-violent resistance to the bulldozers that demolish and the armed police and soldiers that guard the process. They also have a small-scale policy of on-going house-rebuilding, and they organise an annual summer camp for internationals, Israelis and Palestinians to work together to construct one or two houses in 2 weeks, ending with a ceremony of handing over the keys to the family. Such camps are open to anyone to join. They are damned hard work but truly inspirational. Ex-MP Clare Short was on the last one.

ICAHD uses this key issue of demolishing houses as a hook to understanding the nature of the Occupation itself and the racist nature of Israeli government policy throughout its jurisdiction. Houses are rebuilt, not primarily for humanitarian reasons, but as acts of political resistance to a brutal military occupation - as a sign that such policies will never be accepted and

must be resisted. Sometimes a home has been reconstructed 3 or 4 times.

ICAHD works continuously, and at great cost to its members, to expose the realities of the Occupation to Israelis themselves, many of whom remain wilfully ignorant of them. It was the first Israeli peace organisation to give its backing to the Palestinian civil society call to the international community to boycott Israeli goods, services and cultural/sporting events. As such it exposes itself to demonisation in Israel and also to harsh new legislation just passed in the Knesset to strangle its work by cutting off foreign funding - until recently it received a substantial grant from the EU.

But crucially, and primarily through the tireless travelling and writing of some of its key campaigners, ICAHD is a major advocate for a just solution to this seemingly intractable conflict. It is an actor on the international political stage, for only a political solution will bring resolution to this wholesale denial of human and national rights for Palestinians and security and acceptance for Israelies. A major advocate is Professor Jeff Halper, founder and until recently the Director of ICAHD. Jeff is a charismatic, larger-than-life character who spent 2 days with us at last weekend's AGM, inspiring us all. Utterly dedicated to his chosen work, he has access to opinion formers the world over through supporters of the struggle for justice working in many countries. An important element of the work of ICAHD UK is to gain the ear of politicians, both in Westminster and in Brussels, civil servants, media, academics and others to promote our cause and to create opportunities for ICAHD workers from Jerusalem to put forward their case; as well as to pursue and argue the case for boycott and sanctions against Israel until it falls into line with international law. It is particularly powerful to hear Jewish Israelis themselves bear witness to the illegal excesses and cruelties of their own government.

Well, I didn't mean to go on like this

Peace Picnic / Guest Speakers /
Tour of the Base

Menwith Hill...

- Is the most secret US base in Britain
- Is unaccountable, unlawful and undemocratic
- Is integral to US plans to fight in and through space
- Is the world's largest spy base

International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament

Join the Women's Peace Camp at US Spy Base Menwith Hill

Tuesday 24th May, from 12.30pm



For more information and lifts from Harrogate train station, call Yorkshire CND on 01274 730 795 or email info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

If anyone would like to go to Menwith Hill on May 24th please contact Jan Harper on a Monday in the CND Office and we will see if we can arrange joint transport.

Merseyside CND is also willing to help pay for members to attend such demonstrations - contact Janet via the CND Office

Chernobyl Children's Life Line

A fundraising event lighting 25 candles to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster

Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton

Saturday 30th April 7.30pm

Featuring The Jaywalkers with Cath, Steve Macfarlane as "Neil Sedaka", and Neil T as "Paul McCartney" plus a special Guest Grand Raffle

Compere Peter Grant of the Liverpool Echo
Tickets £8 Tickets from bruce@ccllWirral.co.uk

Peace and Ecology Festival

Sat. 16 July 12 noon to 6pm

St. Luke's Church, Leece St

Free Festival

Stalls, Music, Speakers, street theatre
Volunteers needed from 10.0am to 7pm
to help setting up and dismantling,
selling raffle tickets, trouble shooting
etc. etc. Times to be arranged
Contact MCND office 702 6974

when I started writing but I felt I *from previous page* needed to explain the fundamentals of ICAHD's work if we are to ask you to dig into your pockets to support it! For more information please look at the 2 websites www.icahd.org and www.icahduk.org

ICAHD UK is a tiny organisation in terms of our membership (200 souls) but it "punches well above its weight" as they say. We exist to support the work of ICAHD Jerusalem and we work independently here to raise the issues and point the way forward out of the morass. In addition our Director, Linda Ramsden, leads 2 study visits to the region every year, including one for medical professionals, and most people who go

on them come back changed and committed to promoting the work of justice and peace. We are all inspired by the Palestinian concept of "sumud" (steadfastness) which keeps us going for the long tough haul. Linda also leads the annual summer rebuilding camp. All of these visits are open if anyone reading this is interested. If so, contact our administrator on info@icahduk.org

So Finally:
ICAHD UK is a small, strapped-for-cash organisation that is looking at creative ways to gain money and influence!

If you can't roll up your sleeves to build houses, please consider sponsoring John and me as we "slog our guts out" on April 30th in the

Derbyshire Peak District on our Sponsored Walk. For those who want to know our mileage, we shall probably do the B walk of 8 miles as my stamina is being whittled away both by age and by sitting almost permanently in front of this damned machine.

Alternatively, if you'd like to join us for a convivial weekend in a youth hostel in our glorious English countryside (and do a 16 mile walk as an alternative) please sign up for the walk at info@icahduk.org

Many thanks indeed

Gwen and John Backwell

PS. If you pledge some money we'll put your name on our sponsor form and then contact you again after the

Bristol CND Film Competition

Are you aged 12-25 years and interested in film? Bristol CND is offering £1000 worth of cash prizes. For a chance to win, all you have to do is make a film between 30 and 120 seconds long about what nuclear disarmament means to you. Entrants can enter as many films as they like but all before the competition deadline on 31st October 2011. Competition entries can be live action or animation, but all must include a title, credits and the official CND symbol at some point.

This symbol and more information can be found on the competition website - <http://www.thechanceofalifetime.org/>

Specifics:

1. Films must be 30 - 120 seconds long
2. Closing date is 31.10.2011
3. Winners chosen by David Sproxton of Aardman
4. There will be a screening of best entries on the big screen at a showcase and prize-giving event at

May Day March against the cuts

Sunday May 1st 2.30pm
Assemble at Metropolitan Cathedral to march through the city

Peacepool

Sat. May 14th 2-4pm Friends Meeting House, 22 School Lane Liverpool " it is not the world that needs peace; it is people. When people in the world are at peace within, the world will be at peace" - words of peace global www.wopg.org
Free entry; refreshments, further info - google: peacepool.blogspot.com Peacepool are the local volunteers promoting the work of words of peace global - an international peace organisation.
Contact: Kelvin: 078 154 444 52

Birkenhead CND

Next meetings : Thur 5th May 9pm and 9th June at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd. No meeting in June.

Stall - June 4th Helpers needed: contact: Shirley: 0151 652 3768

Maghull and Lydiate

Contact: Sylvi: 0151 526 7293 for information

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: February draw: Peter Wilson; March draw: Tric and Chris Brown
Thanks to all members of the 50 Club for your continuing financial support.

For £5 per month you too could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 annual draw. For further information or a member-ship form contact Janet - 0151 702 6974

Wallasey CND

Planning Meetings: Mon May 9th 3pm at Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd.

Tea in the Park: 2pm-4pm - Sun. April 17th with Green Blade & May 15th with Mojo Storm, June 19th - live music to be arranged
My Generation Rock Concerts 2-5pm Vale Park
Mon. May 2nd, Sat. May 21st - WCND stall

Peace One Day: We're planning a concert on Wed. Sept. 21st at St. Alban's Church
Help much appreciated at all above events.
Contacts Barbara 638 3967 & Janet 677 1133

MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

To receive regular newsletters please complete form and return to address below.

Name..... Phone.....email.....

Address.....

I/we wish to *join/ rejoin Merseyside CND.

Subscription rates: *waged-£4/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £1.

I/we *would/ would not also like a new member's pack at a cost of £1.

I/we understand that Merseyside CND needs funds for its campaigns and donate £___

Total Enclosed £..... (Please make cheques payable to Merseyside CND)

Signed..... Date.....

(* Delete as appropriate)

Merseyside CND, 52 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD

MerseysideCo-ord meeting: Wed. June 8th 2pm in the Office 52 Mount Pleasant All members welcome

If you receive a separate renewal form with this newsletter it means your subs are due - Thankyou.

This edition of the newsletter edited by Cathy Page and thanks to Barbara Hardcastle for duplicating it.