



## **The origins of Salisbury CND / A Tale of Two Banners part 1**

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, but Salisbury CND was also founded in 1958.

A key figure in the early days was Austin Underwood. As well as being a school teacher, a Labour councillor for Amesbury, and a peace activist, he was also an accomplished photographer, and lodged many of his photos into the Salisbury CND archive.

CND was formed largely to mount the very first Aldermaston march which arose out of Britain's development of the Hydrogen bomb, which was far more powerful than the two Atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Following this event in Easter 1958, a second march was organised in June 1958, this time from Aldermaston rather than to it.

Underwood organised a contingent from the West of England, converging on Turnham Green in West London, joining groups from other regions before marching to Trafalgar Square. Austin Underwood was a speaker at this Rally.

After a vigil in Guildhall Square, the very first Salisbury CND banner was hoisted, then made its way to London.



It is widely believed that the now iconic logo was created for the first Aldermaston march in 1958, but we can now reveal its use in Salisbury much earlier, in October 1954.

The County Council's Civil Defence organisation organised the demonstration of a mobile kitchen, to be used in emergencies, including a nuclear attack. Held outside the Guildhall, in a foretaste of the furore surrounding the 1980s "Protect and Survive" pamphlet, several protestors, declaring the futility of such an exercise in a nuclear conflagration, can be seen holding placards declaring "Civil Defence is a False Pretence" and "Refuse our Rates for These Fiascos". Underneath each placard is the symbol now widely recognised as that of CND.



Salisbury CND went on to press the cause of unilateral nuclear disarmament throughout the '50s and '60s, and was present with many other groups at subsequent mass rallies



This was prepared by Tim Sedwick, Salisbury CND, and Part 2 will follow shortly.

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