



The origins of Salisbury CND / A Tale of Two Banners part 2

The Salisbury Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament entered the 1980s with the threat of United States nuclear armed Cruise missiles being stationed at RAF Greenham Common nearby in Berkshire, and at RAF Molesworth. So began the group's most active decade to date.

A new banner had been designed by a group of art students, combining the CND logo with the equally iconic Cathedral spire. It was unfurled for the first time in October 1981 at a national CND demonstration in London against all nuclear weapons and Cruise missiles in particular.





The very first Hiroshima Day Candle Float was organised the same year, by members of Youth CND and Labour Party Young Socialists. By all accounts it proved to be anything but a dry run, using the wilder part of the river downstream from Churchfields, rather than the tamer waters of recent years with their streamlined operation.





More sedately Austin Underwood presided over the planting of a cherry tree in Lizzie Gardens to commemorate Nagasaki Day. Sadly, the tree was vandalised soon after, and no trace of the event remains.

Salisbury CND initiated an attempt to get Salisbury District Council to join the growing number of Nuclear Free Zones. It failed only by 16 votes to 26.

However serious the risk of nuclear annihilation, the group also had a sense of fun. It took part in the Hospital Carnival in 1983, using characters from the Wizard of Oz to promote the message.



Silk screen posters by Caroline Lanyon promoted a series of concerts and other events, combining consciousness and fund raising with sheer enjoyment. This poster warns of the nuclear winter which would follow the explosion of a nuclear bomb that would have effects worldwide, that would put the climate change after the volcanic explosion of Krakatoa in 1883 literally in the shade.



Salisbury CND had God on its side when at its Open Meeting in January 1983 the then Bishop of Salisbury, John Baker, was convinced of the need for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The banner and logo passes the test of time, and is admired locally and nationally whenever it is given an outing. This shows it joining a recent blockade of the nuclear weapon factory at Burghfield in the 21st century.



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