



# OXFORD CND

## NEWSLETTER

March/April 2020



**OXFORD CITY COUNCIL** has passed a resolution supporting the multilateral UN International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and the ending of the replacement of Trident as the most effective way forward to a world free of such weapons.



**Towards a global  
nuclear ban treaty**

**NOBEL  
PEACE  
PRIZE  
2017**

# ICAN CITIES APPEAL

A global call from cities and towns in support of the  
UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

**Oxford Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**

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# A Sea of Troubles

WHO REMEMBERS GORBY NOW? There were high hopes of a better world thirty years ago when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Mikhail Gorbachev (pictured). There was clear evidence that a peace process had begun, largely thanks to his initiative, said the Award Committee. It wished to emphasise “the tremendous potential which is now available for a more secure world, and for a more responsible and rational use of our resources.” Gorbachev’s embrace of openness and a willingness to compromise had helped to dispel the dark shadow of the cold war. And the changes that were under way had given the United Nations “a new lease of life”.

Three decades later we may wonder whether the dark shadows which now darken the horizon are not worse than those of the late cold war. They certainly appear to be more numerous and complex than in the years when the nuclear threat over-shadowed all else. Yet the challenge to act against them is essentially the same, and the approach that Gorbachev himself would outline in his Nobel lecture a year later is still worth studying. At a time when “peace” was still widely regarded as essentially the absence of war – and that was certainly a goal to strive for – Gorbachev embraced a



much wider definition along the lines of the “positive peace” (though he did not use the term) which modern peace studies, led by the pioneering peace scholar Johan Galtung, now regard as central.

Gorbachev began with the fact that the Russian word for peace – *mir* – originates in the traditional peasant commune in pre-revolutionary Russia. In that definition he saw reflected “the people’s profound understanding of peace as harmony, concord, mutual help, and cooperation”. And it was this spirit that needed to be translated from the local to the national and from there to the international. ‘Concord’ – we could call it coexistence – was desirable, but beyond that the world needed ‘cooperation’ to tackle what he acknowledged were formidable challenges on all fronts. Gorbachev warned against “increased nationalism, separatism, and disintegrational processes in a number of countries and regions”. In a prescient paragraph, he highlighted

*The growing gap in the level and quality of*

*socio-economic development between “rich” and “poor” countries; dire consequences of the poverty of hundreds of millions of people, to whom informational transparency makes it possible to see how people live in developed countries. Hence, [this leads to] the unprecedented passions and brutality and even fanaticism of mass protests.*

Gorbachev was not alone in understanding that the world faced a spread of challenges largely obscured till then by the narrowed vision of the cold war. The 1990s, it was said, were – or at least should be – the Decade of Decision. The UN Secretary-General set out an ambitious (and now forgotten)

Agenda for Peace. Successive reports from the UN Development Programme explicitly linked the prospects for meaningful “human development” to meaningful reduction in military expenditure. This would be a real “peace dividend” – another term often used. Social and environmental issues began to be discussed more realistically, and all of this fed into the UN Millennium Declaration at the end of the decade.

There are two ways of looking back at the dashed hopes and promises of the last thirty years.

One is to be overwhelmed by a Shakespearian “sea of troubles” but we can also register the progress that has been made, to be encouraged by the new forms of commitment, especially in those tackling the crisis of climate change. Instead of resignation, we can choose – as even Hamlet briefly contemplated – to “oppose” these troubles (even if we are unlikely to “end them”). Gorbachev himself continues to make the challenge very clear. A new era like that of the Cold War, he told CNN last November, could lead to a hot war and the destruction of civilisation. Yet he too was encouraged by the greater awareness of this danger. “It’s good that already all over the world there is a conversation and people are talking, people are reacting, and this is the most important thing. Speakers and politicians, people understand that this, the New Cold War, must not be allowed.” The challenge is how to make the 2020s a new Decade of Decision. ■

**John Gittings**

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# Oxford City supports the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL wants the British Government to back support the multilateral UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as the most effective way forward to a world free of such weapons. Oxford City Council wants the UK Government to renounce first use of nuclear weapons, end the renewal of Trident and to sign the Treaty.

A resolution was agreed overwhelmingly by the City Council on Monday 27th January. It was proposed by Cllr John Tanner (Littlemore) and seconded by Cllr Martyn Rush (Barton & Sandhills). John Tanner said at the meeting: "Replacing Trident missiles is costing Britain a huge £205 billion, twice the cost of the high-speed rail line, HS2. Nuclear weapons are costly, outdated and ineffective. Most countries, including Ireland, Germany and Japan, manage perfectly well without them." Martyn Rush said, "I am concerned about the huge cost to the taxpayer of nuclear weapons, the risk posed by the regular transport of nuclear weapons on Oxfordshire's roads and the continuing threat of nuclear war."



Cities large and small have used the appeal as a

way to encourage their governments to take action on nuclear weapons. The decision by the Council adds to over 230 towns and cities worldwide who have passed resolutions calling on support for the multilateral nuclear disarmament treaty that was agreed by 122 nations at the United Nations in July 2017. At present 35 states have now ratified this Treaty.

Nigel Day, representing Oxford's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), spoke to councillors before the motion was debated. He told them, "Trident warhead convoys regularly travel past Oxford on the A34, supporting the UK nuclear weapon system. We are that close to nuclear weapons".

After the meeting Cllr Tanner said, "I'm thrilled that Oxford is backing this treaty to begin scrapping these weapons of mass-destruction. If there was ever a nuclear war the world would be plunged into perpetual winter and the survivors would all starve to death", he added.

Britain has 4 nuclear-armed submarines, each with 8 Trident missiles, each of which carries 5 independent nuclear warheads. Each warhead is 8 times more destructive than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945. The UK government is planning to replace this system at a cost of £205 billion. ■

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## AWE Aldermaston tree through wire



**A picture for our times: Bluebell Wood, AWE Aldermaston, 11 January, 2020.**

A fallen tree in this ancient woodland lies on top of the fence surrounding the nuclear weapons base, symbolising two of the greatest threats to our planet: climate change and nuclear war. Also symbolic is the fact that these two threats are of course interlinked, with the military machine being one of the major contributors to climate change. ■



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# Macron unveils 'nuclear weapons doctrine'

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT MACRON unveiled his nuclear doctrine advocating for a more coordinated European Union defence strategy in which France, the EU's only post-Brexit nuclear power, and its nuclear arsenal holds a central role.

European nations should also insist on being signatories of any new deal to limit the development of new intermediate-range weapons, he noted. "Let us be clear: if negotiations and a more comprehensive treaty are possible. Europeans must be stakeholders and signatories, because it's



our territory" that is most at risk.

Macron did not specify whether Britain, Europe's other nuclear power, should be part of the deeper EU cooperation now that it has quit the bloc.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg dismissed this call by Macron to put France's nuclear deterrence at the centre of European defence strategy, saying the United States and Britain already provide an effective security umbrella.

Macron has been pushing for an overhaul of European Union security and defence matters in response to Brexit – Britain's departure from the bloc.

Following Brexit, France is the only EU nation with a nuclear arsenal, and Macron has pressed for European "strategic autonomy" – the ability to defend the continent without relying on Washington, although he has stated his commitment to NATO.

France is a NATO member but does not make its atomic weapons available to the alliance. It has long prided itself on its independent nuclear deterrent." ■

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## XR Peace – at the October 2019 Rebellion

**81-year-old Sarah Lasenby was part of XR Peace who were blocking the Embankment with a car, close to the Ministry of Defence building, and attaching themselves to a fake missile.**

I WENT TO LONDON on the Sunday 6th Oct to join up with other members of Trident Ploughshares to plan for our action early the next morning. We were with the affinity group XR Peace. It was formed for this October event and included CND. I belong to another group in Oxford but I thought I would go along with XR Peace Group this time.

Although we got up at 4am and arrived on the Embankment just after 6 we could see that down the road near Big Ben, the police were already in place.

We blocked one carriageway of the Embankment. The other was blocked by a car and a large model missile. Sometime later I was arrested at around 7am for obstruction of the highway and taken by a police officer, called Sarah, to Charing Cross police station. I was released 10 hours later. I hope that when a



'proper' parliament comes into being the government takes the necessary actions needed to reduce our CO2 footprint. Our Government must take the essential actions that will tackle both the major issues about fossil fuels and also work to increase both solar panels and insulation in our housing stock. It is an emergency. Later six other members of Trident Ploughshares / XR Peace were arrested for blocking the offices of BAE as the role of weapons CO2 emissions is as bad and as the dreadful multiple deaths in Yemen and elsewhere. Of course, several nuclear warheads would change the climate creating a nuclear winter lasting 10 years. Catastrophic.

"The future life of the planet is so important. So, I protest with XR Peace." ■

**Sarah Lasenby**

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# 79-year-old peace campaigner 'roughed up' by MoD police

A SEVENTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD peace campaigner told the 'Star' today that she was "roughed up" by Ministry of Defence police officers at a weekly vigil at Menwith Hill, the US's Yorkshire spy base.

One witness said that retired nurse Lindis Percy (pictured below) had been 'appallingly treated' as she was dragged to a police car.

Ms Percy said the rough treatment continued at Harrogate Police station, when the two MoD officers dragged her down a corridor and her jacket was pulled off over her head.

When she was handed over to North Yorkshire Police she was released without charge, but a nurse was called to check her blood pressure and it was found to be "sky high," Ms Percy said.

She is instructing lawyers to pursue the incident with the MoD force.

Menwith Hill is nominally an RAF base but is run



by the US National Security Agency.

It has been the target of peace campaigners for more than 40 years. A vigil is staged at the base's main gate every Tuesday evening.

Ms Percy said problems with Ministry of Defence police officers had worsened recently.

"On Tuesday I was doing what I usually do, passing and re-passing along the highway, which is legal. I was grabbed by one officer and another bloke and dragged to the side of the road.

"They said I was being arrested under Section 5 of the Public Order Act, which is about 'causing alarm, harassment or distress' to another person. I was forced along to a police car. They were very nasty and very rough.

"In the custody place at the police station there's a corridor. They dragged me again. My hi-vis jacket came off over my head.

"There was a custody officer and I think he was quite shocked. He said he had no intention of arresting me because the incident was over.

"I am talking to barristers in London about this."

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Defence Police said: "The Ministry of Defence Police expects all of its officers to maintain the highest possible standards of behaviour and conduct at all times. Any alleged misconduct by our officers is taken extremely seriously and investigated accordingly." ■

*Morning Star, February 5th, 2020*

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## Two women arrested at Coulport, one at Trident nuclear warhead loading jetty

TWO FASLANE PEACE campers were arrested on January 28, one of them just a few yards from the Trident warhead loading jetty at Coulport on Loch Long, Scotland.

Sylvia Boyes and Willemien Hoogendoorn hung banners at the pedestrian gate, and a hole (first cut on October 8) was re-opened. After about an hour, Sylvia went through the hole with a banner to hang directly in front of the warhead loading bay. The banner read 'TRIDENT – An atrocity waiting to happen'.

Despite openly carrying out these actions, it took at least 1.5 hours for the Ministry of Defence police

to arrive. Willemien was arrested at the pedestrian gate, and Sylvia was arrested immediately in front of the loading bay.

After they were released, the women commented, "Over the past week we have been continually reminded of the horrors of the Holocaust and to learn lessons. Trident is evil. One missile can kill the same number of people as Jews murdered during the Holocaust and World War II".

We need to be on the right side of history and oppose these weapons of mass destruction always. ■

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## Sydney Baiman, 91, Artist, Activist, and Healer



SYDNEY WAS BORN FEBRUARY 29, 1928, in Philadelphia and she ended up growing up in Mexico. When she came back to the U.S., Sydney (pictured left) elected to go to Europe to help refugees after WWII and later did volunteer work with noted socialist and civil rights leader Bayard Rustin. She also spent some time as a student at in a center for avant-garde artists and poets, and at a graduate school for progressive social science.

Sydney married, spent some time at a training farm, and then in 1950 helped start a Kibbutz in Israel, before returning to the US and enrolling in the Putney (VT) Graduate School of Teacher Education directed by progressive educator Morris Mitchell.

Thereafter followed a long period of teaching, numerous relocations and employments in many parts of the US. She moved to Caracas, Venezuela, and then to New York. She met an Englishman, Gordon Quance while on vacation in Cyprus, whom she married and moved to the U.K. In England, Sydney made many friends and got involved with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and Labour Party activists. Sydney taught at a middle school in London. She and Gordon eventually also separated but never divorced, and Sydney returned to England numerous times until and after Gordon died. Sydney came back to the US. There she eventually resumed her teaching, healing, and political activism, and became very involved in the US anti-Nuclear movement and in natural and herbal healing, including completing a Masters in Herbology. This was followed by another long-period of teaching, and the Sydney moved to Oak Park, Illinois where she immersed herself in local progressive political and environmental activism, and also in local painting, folk dancing, and singing groups. She also traveled frequently and extensively to Europe, especially to the UK to see her friends, and for environmental conferences, walks, bike rides, herbology studies, and conferences.

Due to increasingly severe health issues, Sydney had to move to a nearby nursing home. She continued however, to have weekly dinners and celebrate holidays with her son's family. After a long illness Sydney died peacefully in her sleep at 9 pm on January 30th, 2020. A memorial service for Sydney will be held on Saturday April 11th in Oak Park.

Sydney will long be remembered with great affection by her many friends. ■

## The Path of MADness, Upper Heyford

USAF UPPER HEYFORD hosted F111 nuclear capable bombers which could have caused a holocaust during the Cold War during the policy of 'Mutual Assured Destruction' or MAD. The Path of MADness marked Holocaust Memorial Day at Upper Heyford on 26th January. There was a good turnout of Seagreen Singers, Oxford CND and others at the event. There is a new Heritage Centre

(which includes a quote from the late Oxford CND member and Aldermaston Women's camper Jean Kaye), and there was a visit to shelter 9 in the Quick Reaction Area, with songs for peace, the NATO runway and the old nuclear bomb store area. Very interesting, with good guides. This could be a venue for a future visit, especially for those who didn't make it this time. ■





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# Pentagon reveals deal with Britain to replace Trident

MPS ARE DISMAYED AFTER US defence officials leak news of nuclear weapons deal before the UK parliament is told.

Britain has committed itself to buying a new generation of nuclear warheads to replace Trident, and which will be based on US technology. The decision was revealed by Pentagon officials who disclosed it before an official announcement has been made by the government.

The revelation has dismayed MPs and experts who question why they have learned of the move – which will cost the UK billions of pounds – only after the decision has apparently been made. It has also raised questions about the UK's commitment to staunching nuclear proliferation and the country's reliance on the US for a central plank of its defence strategy.

In February, Pentagon officials confirmed that its proposed W93 sea-launched warhead, the nuclear tip of the next generation of submarine-launched ballistic missiles, would share technology with the UK's next nuclear weapon, implying that a decision had been taken between the two countries to work on the programme.

Admiral Charles Richard, commander of the US strategic command, told the Senate defence committee that there was a requirement for a new warhead, which would be called the W93 or Mk7. Richard said: "This effort will also support a parallel replacement warhead programme in the United Kingdom, whose nuclear deterrent plays an absolutely vital role in NATO's overall defence posture."

Ed Davey, acting leader of the Liberal Democrats, said: "It is totally unacceptable that the government seems to have given the green light to the development of new nuclear weapon technologies with zero consultation and zero scrutiny. Britain under Johnson increasingly looks like putty in Trump's hands. That Britain's major defence

decisions are being debated in the United States, but not in the UK, is a scandal. Under Johnson, it seems that where Trump leads, we must follow."

Alan Shaffer of the Pentagon said "I think it's wonderful that the UK is working on a new warhead at the same time, and I think we will have discussions and be able to share technologies".

David Cullen, director of the Nuclear Information Service, said: "We are legally bound to take steps towards disarmament under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, but this would take us in the opposite direction."

It is understood that the US had agreed with the UK not to make any announcement while parliament was in recess. However, US defence officials were apparently oblivious to the agreement and confirmed the programme's existence – to the embarrassment of the UK government.

Hans Kristensen at the Federation of American Scientists, said, "...this is a serious challenge for the international non-proliferation regime."

Tom Plant, of the thinktank RUSI, said the lack of debate about the new weapon was a concern. "There's been a presumption from those in opposition and analysts like

myself that it should come to parliament in some way, like the 2016 vote on Trident. I suspect that the MoD's position is that they don't want it to. What the programme doesn't need from their perspective is lots of scrutiny. But if there's going to be a decision it should absolutely come to parliament."

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has now confirmed that it has committed to a multibillion-pound replacement of Trident with nuclear warheads based on US technology.

CND said that this is more proof that the "UK's nuclear weapons system isn't independent" and "depends on the supply of US nuclear warheads." ■

## Scrap Trident now!

**NHS  
NOT  
TRIDENT**      **JOBS  
NOT  
TRIDENT**

**HOMES  
NOT  
TRIDENT**      **CLIMATE  
NOT  
TRIDENT**



**Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**  
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# Diary



**MONTHLY ALL YEAR:** USAF Croughton main gate Quaker meeting 2-3pm (fourth Saturday of the month). Contact: **Elisabeth Salisbury – 01865 515163.**

## March

**Wednesday 4th** – Faringdon Peace Group, Friends Meeting House, Faringdon SN7 8AQ, 7.30pm.

**Saturday 7th** – Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp – Margaret – 01865 248357

**Tuesday 10th** – Oxford CND meeting – AGM – Oxford Town Hall, 6.45pm. Speaker 7.00pm Robert Forsyth RN former nuclear submarine Commander.

**Wednesday 11th** – Oxfordshire Peace Campaign meeting, 11.00am, Peace House.

**Tuesday 17th** – Abingdon Peace Group meeting, 8.00pm, Northcourt Centre.

**Saturday 28th** – Southern Region CND - AGM – West Oxford Community Centre 12.00-3.00 Speaker 1.00-2.00pm – John Gittings – 'Peace in an Age of Crises'.

## April

**Wednesday 1st** – Faringdon Peace Group, Friends Meeting House, Faringdon SN7 8AQ, 7.30pm.

**Saturday 11th** – Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp – Margaret – 01865 248357

**Tuesday 21st** – Abingdon Peace Group meeting, 8.00pm, Northcourt Centre.

**Thursday 23rd** – Oxford CND meeting, Oxford Town Hall, 6.45pm.

## May

**Saturday 2nd** – Oxford CND May Day stall East Oxford Community Centre afternoon.



## Latest News

### Doomsday Clock nears apocalypse over climate and nuclear fears

THE SYMBOLIC DOOMSDAY CLOCK, which indicates how close our planet is to complete annihilation, is now only 100 seconds away from midnight. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS) said that the change was made due to nuclear proliferation, failure to tackle climate change and 'cyber-based disinformation'.

The clock now stands at its closest to doomsday since it began ticking. The time was now being kept in seconds rather than minutes because the 'moment demands attention' and that the threats level is worsening.

### Membership subscriptions 2020 Please pay your subscription soon!

If you pay your subscription by cheque please can you pay us as soon as possible. Oxford CND needs that money to campaign and send you information and newsletters. We are also very grateful for extra donations.

Subs are very reasonable – £10 or £5 low wage, but are essential for us to continue to campaign. Standing orders can continue as before.

Make cheques for 2020 payable to Oxford CND and send to: Membership, 22 Downside Road, Oxford, OX3 8HP.

### Oxford CND Newsletter by email

Some members already receive the Oxford CND newsletter only by email. If you would also like to receive it only by email, contact: [oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop](mailto:oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop)

### Contributions to the next issue...

Please send letters and items to:  
Newsletter, 22 Downside Road, Oxford, OX3 8HP  
No later than **Sunday 26th April 2020.**

### Oxford Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

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