



OXFORD CND

NEWSLETTER

September/October 2020



**U.S.A.F. Croughton
(US communication base)
Keep Space for Peace
CND Webinar
'Global war-fighting starts here'**

Saturday 3rd October – 2.00pm

Speakers:

Kate Hudson – General Secretary CND

Dave Webb – Chair CND

Another – (tbc)

Q&A

**Video update USAF Croughton – Paul Mobbs (Croughtonwatch)
Seagreen Singers sing Peace songs**

This major U.S. communication and intelligence base supports space communications, data links, military drone information, bomber guidance, missile defence, diplomatic communications, and command and control war fighting functions. It is a key link in the 'chain' controlling US surveillance, armed drone and special forces operations across Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Webinar register

<https://cnduk.org/events/global-war-fighting-starts-here/>

01865 248357 or oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk

Oxford Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

All in it together

If ever there was a time for international cooperation across the entire globe – that time is now. The pandemic, as we are constantly being reminded, respects no national boundaries. It requires a joint effort, in which all parties act to protect themselves and in doing so protect others. It is, writ large across the world, the same imperative for collaboration that we face every day at our local level when we need to wear masks for mutual protection. Countries afflicted by war or with less adequate health facilities require external help, since apart from the humanitarian imperative, they will otherwise become viral seed-beds, and in this age of global travel the seeds will spread far and wide. The same applies to the development of effective vaccines, which should be shared as widely as possible, again for motives that are both disinterested and self-interested. Yes, we are truly all in it together.

So, it is sobering to hear the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his recent speeches warn us, in stark language, that far from becoming more cooperative, the major powers on whose action this depends have become much less so. Relations between the US, China and Russia, he told the Guardian (23 July) are now “more dysfunctional than ever.” Further, the multilateral institutions on which we rely “have no teeth. Or, when they do, they don’t have much of an appetite”. One only needs to be reminded of the shortfall of budget for the World Health Organisation, and the hostile attitude towards it of Trump’s administration.

Mary Robinson, former Irish president and now chair of The Elders group, put this in context at Chatham House (10 July). Both China and the US, she said, bear responsibility for the counterproductive infighting over the origins of the virus, “which has contributed to almost paralysing the UN Security Council and to undermine the WHO.” Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Norwegian PM and WHO Director-General, who is also a member of The Elders, has stressed (11 August) that the virus will not be overcome unless all states work together, pooling their health resources and

expertise to distribute vaccines and protect all who need it in society.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has summed up the whole situation (12 August) with equal clarity. “Global solidarity has been loosened while multilateralism has been under threat.” I could go on for a long time quoting the warnings of current and former world leaders whose opinions, based on long experience, we should take very seriously. I could also document the lack of media attention to these warnings and especially the way that they have been ignored by most national leaders and certainly by our own. This is not a new phenomenon. Some of these global leaders, and others as well, have warned for many years that the nuclear situation is inherently unstable and becoming more so. We were saved by a fluke during the Cuban Crisis, as Robert McNamara testified much later in life. Of course, we might ask some of these eminent figures why they did not speak out sooner but we should be thankful they are now doing so. The question is what difference if any does it make, and how can we make it more of a difference.

We should, for a start, seek to incorporate this weighty material in the letters that we write, the leaflets that we produce, and the tweets and social postings. They add significantly to any bare statement of principle, and on the nuclear issue they add force to calls to subscribe to the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We should also forge more links between separate organisations campaigning in separate fields, as is already happening with a number of joint peace campaigns. Issues that have been regarded as no-hopers also need to be revisited. It is encouraging that Secretary-General Guterres has begun to talk about the need for UN reform – particularly reform of the Security Council veto -- which has been regarded as a dead issue for many years, though much talked about in the brief optimism that followed the end of the cold war. In a globalised world struggling with the pandemic, we need global solutions. ■

John Gittings



UK nuclear bomb programme in trouble

The cost of UK programmes to replace Trident and nuclear submarines on the Clyde increased by over £1 billion in a year, according to data released by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Critics warn that escalating delays will make it increasingly difficult for Westminster to meet its objective of always keeping a Trident submarine on patrol. Existing submarines will be forced to keep operating for much longer than the 25 years for which they were originally designed, they say.

These include four big nuclear projects now totalling over £44bn which are vital to the UK Government's bid to bring new nuclear submarine fleets to Faslane over the next two decades. Four Dreadnought submarines armed with Trident missiles and powered by nuclear reactors are planned, along with three more nuclear-powered Astute submarines.

One of the key projects is to build reactor cores for the new submarines by Rolls Royce. The anticipated cost of the "core production capability" has risen by £167 million to £1.83bn between 2018 and 2019.

The MoD said the amber rating recognised "the remaining schedule and technical risk in delivering a new core to meet the Dreadnought build programme". The current project delivery date of April 2028 will be "revised" when designs have "matured", it added.

Critics suggested that the core construction problems had mostly been caused by a fuel leak discovered in 2012 at the MoD's Vulcan reactor testing facility at Dounreay in Caithness. This triggered a previously unplanned refuelling of HMS Vanguard, the oldest of the Trident submarines.

Vanguard has been undergoing a major overhaul at the Royal Navy's Devonport dockyard near Plymouth since 2015. This was originally due to have been completed in 2019, but the MoD said that the "planned deep maintenance has not yet concluded".

The estimated cost of building the four new Dreadnought submarines by BAE Systems at Barrow has increased by £39m to £30.1bn between 2018 and 2019. The project has also been given an amber rating.

"The understanding of the Dreadnought design has matured significantly," said the MoD. "Over this last period major suppliers have firmed up their costings."

The MoD also reported "technical complications" and "build quality issues" with the manufacturing of the Trident missile tubes for the submarines. "A greater understanding of the technical requirements for the combat systems have increased material cost," it added.

The MoD insisted however, that the Dreadnought programme was "within budget" and "on track" for the first boat to enter service at Faslane "in the early 2030s".

The official delivery rating for new onshore submarine facilities being built at Faslane on the Gareloch and Coulport on Loch Long has worsened from amber/green to amber. The projected cost has risen £3m to £1.77bn between 2018 and 2019.

The former conservative defence minister, Tobias Ellwood MP, warned in April that the Royal Navy had been "limping on" with two of the UK's four current Trident submarines out of commission. *The Times* reported that, in addition to the prolonged HMS Vanguard refit

at Devonport, another unnamed submarine had been in maintenance at Faslane for a year.

THE Nuclear Information Service (NIS), which monitors the UK's military nuclear activities, argued that the MoD's latest admissions reinforced fears that it was struggling to maintain continuous deterrence.

"If the MoD is not certain whether it will be able to fulfil its goal of keeping a submarine permanently at sea, we really need a public debate about whether it is reasonable to spend eye-watering sums of money towards that end," said NIS director David Cullen.

"If it is not prepared to level with the public, parliament needs to step in and provide ongoing scrutiny and oversight of the nuclear weapon upgrade programmes." ■

Rob Edwards
The Ferret



Obituary – Mykil ‘Michael’ Waugh

Most of us knew Mykil as Michael and I will refer to him as Michael from now on. On his recent 75th birthday Michael (pictured below) had a large cake with candles in the garden of the nursing home where he had been since last year. In the week following his birthday his sister and husband were able to visit him from Leicestershire but his brother was too unwell to come from Yorkshire.

Michael was a member of CND for many years. Kate Hudson, general secretary of CND, has written ‘I very much liked Michael and knew him through CND council. He was incredibly committed and hardworking but with a real wry humour too. He will be much missed’.

Nigel Day from Oxford CND said that Michael was a veteran peace campaigner, a CND South delegate to CND Council, a Quaker, and the

He did my garden for many years; he was the same age as me, and like me, he sometimes offended people with a degree outspokenness, especially when younger, and occasional eccentricity. I do not claim to know him well, but I am glad I did know him, and I want to mark a life well-lived, warts and all. Of such, I believe, is the Kingdom of Heaven, however it is named’.

Another former attendee of the Southampton Quakers, Douglas Constable, wrote ‘I remember Michael well. Every time he spoke, my too-easy accommodation with the powers of this world was pierced by his passion for uncompromised peace; that is, peace that refuses to yield to militarism and corporate injustice for the sake of a quiet private life’.

I think I met Michael first in the late 1970s at a Southampton CND meeting which he had



Michael with Bruce Kent in 2017.

author of the most comprehensive history of peace camps in Britain – ‘Peace Camping – A History’. The current edition traces the history of British Peace Camps beginning with some peace Camping in the 1930s and then runs from Aldermaston in 1958 to the bombing of Libya by the USAF aircraft from Upper Heyford in 1986. This is a very readable history of some 331 pages and covers an important era of British life.

Peter Martin, who used to attend Southampton Quakers, described him as ‘he had Parkinson’s but more than that he was a lifelong peace campaigner, Quaker, an ecologist at ground-level (you may have seen him riding around Portswood. wispy beard afloat, on his bespoke tricycle, made to carry garden waste), a man of complete integrity. He was a remarkable, unremarkable man.

convened. I remember him at a peace meeting in a park on Southampton waterfront helping to plant a peace rose. At those early CND meetings when we showed films, he hired a cine projector which often ran in fits and starts. He organised Southampton CND during the lean years before 1980 but graciously gave it over to others in the resurgence of peace making in the 1980s and 1990s. Michael was a keen cyclist and was a member of a cycling group who visited India. He wrote numerous letters, usually on peace issues, to the local paper which sometimes got printed. He regularly reported on what went on in CND Council meetings and was often Southern Region CND delegate to the national CND annual meetings. Michael will be much missed in our CND group. ■

David Hoadley, Southampton CND

Obituary – Caroline Gilbert

Caroline Ilse Maas was born 20 August 1942 in Berlin, and she and her mother stayed in the devastation of Berlin until 1947 when they moved to Oxford. Caroline's mother was strongly against all forms of nationalism and was also a very early campaigner against nuclear weapons, taking Caroline along on the second Aldermaston March in 1959 organised by CND. Caroline was still campaigning against nuclear weapons within days of her end. Caroline went to Milham Ford Grammar School, and read English at Leeds University. She started studying for a teaching diploma in London but this was cut short by the arrival of her son David in 1965. Caroline worked as a supply teacher and became a qualified teacher in 1971.

In 1973 she got a three-year contract in Ethiopia, teaching English. She met me and we married on the 29th of November, 1975. We left Addis Ababa in 1976 and returned to Oxford, then to Nairobi for five and a half years. Caroline painted a Nandi Flame Tree there for her terminally ill mother. This was a pivotal event and when we returned

to the UK to Kew she took painting and drawing classes, discovered printmaking and became a founder member of the Richmond Printmakers. Later she did all her work at Oxford Printmakers and became a full member of the Oxford Art Society. She loved choral music, particularly early church music and Benjamin Britten, and one of her regular treats was going to Choral Evensong at Christ Church. Her last request was for 'Spem in Alium' by Thomas Tallis.

The other important happening on our return from Kenya was the Cruise Missile Crisis, the great resurgence of CND and the setting up of the Greenham Women's Peace Camps. Caroline took part in several demonstrations and did get arrested and charged with 'defacing the fence'. Caroline was a passionate supporter of the Greenham Women but then discovered Christian CND (CCND) and became strongly involved with them. She went on to be a co-chair and initiated many activities, in particular the very well attended Treaties Day Schools and trips to France to highlight the

Anglo-French Teutates agreement. Caroline was also actively involved with Abolition 2000 and No Trident Replacement and was elected to CND Council. She went to New York, Geneva and Vienna to lobby at United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) meetings and the meetings that led to the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, signed by 122 nations and now nearing the 50 full ratifications needed to make it a binding law. The International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their part in

achieving this and one of Caroline's proudest moments was to have been involved and to get to hold the real Nobel medal.

Probably her most successful bit of individual lobbying was at the Church of England General Synod. She informed the Archbishop of Canterbury that the C. of E. was out of line with all the Churches that had produced clear statements denouncing nuclear weapons. The then Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell managed to set up a fringe meeting for Caroline to discuss the morality

of nuclear weapons which led to a full debate on the subject at the next General Synod in 2018 when Stephen Cottrell, now Archbishop of York, successfully moved motion GS 2095 asking the **British Government to 'respond positively to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by reiterating publicly its obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its strategy for meeting them...'** and the General Synod went on to pass the motion decisively.

Caroline was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017 but this was treated successfully. After the start of the Covid-19 lockdown we were told that Caroline had an untreatable grade 4 carcinosarcoma. Her last actions, just days before her end, were to dictate a message to Stephen Cottrell, asking him to be the keynote speaker at a meeting to celebrate 60 years of CCND and then dictate her thoughts on how CCND should go about helping to rid the world of nuclear weapons. ■

Mike Gilbert



Caroline holding the ICAN Nobel Peace Prize.



Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki 75 years on

Left: A reading by Lord Mayor Craig Simmons

Oxford marked the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the Peace Plaque in Bonn Square. On Hiroshima day, Thursday 6th August, a number of campaigners led by Rene Gill gathered with a sign urging 'Never Again'. On Nagasaki Day, Sunday 9th August, another socially-distanced group gathered to hear the Lord Mayor Craig Simmons and Lady Mayoress Elise Benjamin

open the anniversary event. This was followed by songs from the Seagreen Singers, music by Arne Richards and Isobel Knowland, and readings from David Chanter, Rene Gill, John Tanner, Nigel Day, Janey Carline and an address from John Prangle in remembrance of our colleague Caroline Gilbert. These were both poignant and moving ceremonies with positive thoughts on the future. ■

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp



The Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp marked the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima and the many victims. The main event centred on floating paper lanterns down the river Kennet not far from AWE Aldermaston, the UK nuclear warhead factory. We also remembered the late Caroline Gilbert, lifelong peace activist and campaigner, and thanked all health and care workers during these Covid times. Finally, we held a vigil outside AWE Main Gate and attempted to hand in a copy of a letter from Hiroshima nuclear bomb survivor Setsuko Nakamura Thurlow to Boris

Johnson, which no-one at AWE Aldermaston was prepared to take and which will now be posted to AWE Management. It appears that neither the Prime Minister, who never replied to Setsuko's letter, nor AWE want to engage with the real-life testimony of one of the survivors of these horrific weapons. A poignant day which must strengthen our collective determination to rid the world of nuclear weapons, starting with our own. The UK government must follow the lead of the 140 plus countries who have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and do the same now. ■

US B-52 Bombers back in Britain: escalating nuclear tension



Six US Air Force B-52 bombers arrived at USAF (RAF) Fairford on the 22nd August to carry out theatre and flight training across Europe and Africa. Such a mobilisation raises serious concerns, not least because some B-52s are nuclear capable.

The first exercise was carried out on Thursday 27th August, then on Friday 28th August six U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress strategic bombers flew over all 30 NATO nations in Europe and North America in a single-day mission titled Allied Sky. Four B-52 Stratofortress bomber aircraft from USAF Fairford flew the European portion of the mission. NATO nations scheduled to participate in the mission and integrate with the bomber aircraft include Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, the U.K. and the U.S. **Once again Britain is being sucked into US military activities. ■**

UK lobbies US to support controversial new nuclear warheads

The UK has been lobbying the US Congress in support of a controversial new warhead for Trident missiles, claiming it is critical for “the future of NATO as a nuclear alliance”.

The close cooperation on the W93 warhead casts further doubt on the genuine independence of the UK deterrent – parliament first heard about it when US officials accidentally disclosed Britain’s involvement in February – and the commitment of both countries to disarmament.

Sceptics believe the rush is intended to lock in funding before the election. A Biden administration would be likely to review or even cancel the W93 programme.

Congressional staffers said they could not recall such a direct UK intervention in a US debate on nuclear weapons.

The UK insists its Trident nuclear deterrent is autonomous, but the two countries share the same missiles and coordinate work on warheads. The

current UK Trident warhead, the Holbrook, is very similar to the W76 warhead, one of two the US navy uses in its own Trident II missiles.

The US and UK versions of the W93 are also expected to resemble each other closely. Both countries will use the same new MK7 aeroshell, the cone around the warhead that allows it to re-enter the earth’s atmosphere, which will cost another several hundred million dollars.

It will potentially be the first new warhead design in the US stockpile since the cold war and is expected to be of considerably higher yield than the current W76, which is already six times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima 75 years ago next week.

Alexandra Bell, a former state department official and now senior policy director at the Centre for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, said the US-UK special relationship had shown greater solidarity in promoting new weapons than in arms control. ■



Climate not Trident

**U.S.A.F. Croughton
(US communication base)**

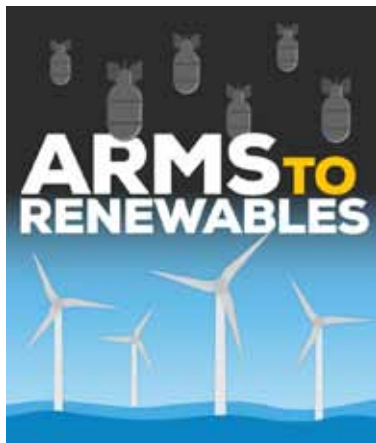
**Keep Space for
Peace week**

**CND Webinar
'Global war-fighting starts here'**

**Saturday 3rd October
2.00pm**

Register

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global-war-fighting
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Latest News

Four new nations ratify 2017 treaty

Seventy-five years since the United States detonated an atomic bomb over Hiroshima, four nations – **Ireland, Nigeria, Niue and St. Kitts and Nevis** – have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, a landmark United Nations accord to outlaw nuclear arms and establish a legal framework for their abolition.

The tally of ratifications for the treaty now stands at 44, just six ratifications shy of the threshold of 50 required for its entry into force. It will take effect 90 days after the 50th ratification is deposited.

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No later than **24th October 2020**.

Oxford Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

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