

# Nuclear Alert

the newsletter of Greater Manchester CND

**December 2014 - January 2015**

## CND launches general election campaign 2015

CND's Conference in October saw the launch of the general election campaign against Trident replacement.

The elections in 2015 are crucial to our campaigning as the decision to replace Trident will be made in 2016 by the government voted in this time round.

Now is the time to put extra pressure on our MPs, to show them the strength of the opposition to Trident replacement and to ask them to commit to supporting the NHS, education and other local services, not Trident.

Greater Manchester & District CND is working with North West Labour CND to plan our joint strategy for working with and putting pressure on the MPs in our region. We will be letting you know our plans soon but in the meantime here are some ways you can give vital support to the campaign.

### How you can get involved:

If you have a local CND group near by please contact them to offer your support. Membership of groups is an ideal way to get involved.

Join the Greater Manchester bloc at Wrap Up Trident.

Keep up the pressure. Send your MP a letter asking them where they stand on the issue of Trident and tell them you expect a No vote when the time comes.



**MASS DEMO** in LONDON  
to **WRAP UP TRIDENT**

**SATURDAY 24 JANUARY 2015, 1.00 PM**



**JOIN the PEACE SCARF** round Parliament and the Ministry of Defence, followed by a **RALLY** with speakers and music in Parliament Square.

**SUPPORT PEOPLE, HEALTH, JOBS**  
**SCRAP TRIDENT AND BAN ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Manchester M4 7HR 0161 273 8283  
gmdcnd@gn.apc.org www.gmdcnd.org.uk

# CND national conference & AGM 2014: Report

## Global NATO. Report by Rae Street

At CND Conference this year Rochdale and Littleborough Peace Group, together with Labour CND put in the following Resolution which was passed with, I think, with one abstention.

Here is the main part of the resolution

Following the lead of the Obama administration to an Asia 'pivot' in foreign policy, NATO has already established Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programs with Australia, South Korea and New Zealand. It signed a Joint Political Declaration with Japan in 2013 and is developing ties with other states around the Pacific.

Conference believes:

1. Just as NATO expansion in Eastern Europe has heightened conflict there, so its further expansion is likely to increase tension and the potential for military conflict in the Pacific and South Asia region. This is especially dangerous when it is remembered that NATO is nuclear-armed with a policy of 'first use' of nuclear weapons.

2. At any time the Trident submarines, integrated into NATO, could be under the South China Sea.

Conference further believes:

1. NATO is an impediment to a peaceful world and global nuclear disarmament.

Conference therefore resolves:

1. To prepare a new Briefing and campaigning materials on 'global NATO', emphasising both the dangers consequent on NATO's expansion to the Pacific and South Asia regions and the obscenity of increasing expenditure on the military in a world where people die from hunger and lack of clean water.

2. To campaign to seek the dissolution of NATO, or, failing that, withdrawal from it.

## Rae's supporting speech

The NATO review for 2000 shows the world with the NATO areas in glowing gold and the rest of the world be-nighted in dark green; the caption is NATO a more capable and balanced alliance. NATO rules the world!

Fast forward to this year, 14 years later. According to the retiring NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, he is leaving NATO fitter, faster and more flexible. He or his speech writer is the master of English alliteration. He is proud now of NATO as global NATO. As he says with breathtaking arrogance Europe and North America are at the core of the global community. And NATO must continue to reach out to like-minded partners across the globe and it is at the centre of a wide network of security partnerships across the globe. As Rasmussen says, the question is no longer why NATO but more NATO.

In CND in the 90s we warned of the dangers of the expansion of NATO and of expanding NATO up to Russia's borders, always reminding people that NATO had and still has a policy of retaining nuclear weapons and using them first, with nuclear armed bases across Europe as far as Turkey. While holding no brief for the Putin regime, have these policies not led to the present conflict in Ukraine? Rasmussen is still provoking the Russians who he claims are 'virulent, violent and viciously anti western', alliteration again.

Now this large North Atlantic military alliance has agreements across the Mediterranean (the Mediterranean Dialogue seven countries including Israel) and is at present carrying out military exercises in the Mediterranean under the title Noble Justification (their fine phrases are becoming meaningless).

In addition to the 28 member states there are 22 countries in the Partners for Peace programme and then in the last few years have been added the countries listed as Partners Across the Globe: Afghanistan, Australia, Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Mongolia. With each of these countries NATO has made bi-lateral agreements. This of course adds to the tensions between Japan and China for example. It is a repetition of the 90s but now surrounding China. Remember too those nuclear weapons. Trident is integrated into NATO and at this very moment there could be a submarine under the south China Seas. And while the Secretary General repeats again and again about upholding our values of democracy and freedom, NATO is linked with the Gulf Cooperative Council, consisting of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Friends - NATO is not a peace organisation, so, to take alliteration for our own use:

NATO is a dangerous, deadly, destabilising force, the military arm of the dominating western groups of governments.

I urge you to support the resolution.

**Rae Street October 2014**

# Focus on nuclear power

## Drones over French nuclear plants

The French parliament held meetings in early November to discuss the threat posed by drones flying over nuclear power plants operated by AREVA and EDF.

AREVA confirmed that a drone had been spotted over one of its sites and EDF reported that in a one month period drones had been seen at 14 of their 19 sites.

Whilst three young men (reported as being model aircraft enthusiasts) are being questioned about a drone flight over EDF's Belleville-sur-Loire nuclear plant there is no information about the reason behind this stunt and these men have, so far, not been linked with the other events.

The French Interior Minister has announced an inquiry and a senior member of the Socialist Party, Jean-Yves Le Deaut, said "It's giving people ideas and suggests parallels with cyber-attacks."

We don't think 'people' need ideas. We have highlighted our concerns for the safety of nuclear plants many times and believe that the Civil Nuclear Constabulary is not in a position to protect the UK's nuclear plants against attack.



## Sellafield: massive radioactive release threat

Dilapidated nuclear waste storage ponds at Sellafield, abandoned 40 years ago and containing hundreds of tonnes of fuel rods, pose an immediate danger to public safety, photographs sent to The Ecologist reveal. The fuel and sludge in the ponds could spontaneously ignite if exposed to air, spreading intense radiation over a wide area.

The images show the state of spent nuclear fuel storage ponds that were commissioned in 1952, and used until the mid-1970's as short term storage for spent fuel until it could be re-processed, producing plutonium for military use. However they were completely abandoned in the mid-1970s and have been left derelict for almost 40 years.

The photographs show cracked concrete tanks holding water contaminated with high levels of radiation, seagulls bathing on the water, broken equipment, a dangerous mess of discarded items on elevated walkways, and weeds growing around the tanks.

The ponds are now undergoing decommissioning in order to restore them to a safe condition. But the process is fraught with danger - and nuclear expert John Large warns that massive and uncontrolled radioactive releases to the environment could occur.

"This pond is built above ground", he said. "It's like a concrete dock full of water. But the concrete is in a dreadful condition, degraded and fractured, and if the ponds drain, the Magnox fuel will ignite and that would lead to a massive release of radioactive material."

"Looking at the photos I am very disturbed at the degraded and run down condition of the structures and support services. In my opinion there is a significant risk that the system could fail."

**Support Radiation-Free Lakeland**

<https://mariannewildart.wordpress.com/>

# Regional Groups

## Bolton CND

Meets 2nd Thurs of month, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Silverwell St, Bolton.  
Contact Barry Mills millsbcp@googlemail.com

## Glossop Peace Group

For next meeting(s) contact Linda on 01457 863534

## Manchester CND

For details of next meeting contact Heide on 0161 969 1724

## Prestwich & Whitefield CND

Meets every 2nd Thurs in month, 7.30pm at The Ostrich Pub, Ostrich Lane, Prestwich.  
Contact Cath on 0161 798 6565

## Rochdale & Littleborough Peace Group

People's Ballot on Trident, Sat 13 December, 10.30 to 12noon, Yorkshire Sreet, Rochdale.

Christmas Group meeting/social evening, Weds 17 December, 8pm, 'Calder Cottage', 97 Harehill Road, Littleborough.

Group meeting, Weds 14 January 2015

Contact 01706 370712 or 01706 370117

[rochdaleandlittleboroughpeacegroup.blogspot.com](http://rochdaleandlittleboroughpeacegroup.blogspot.com)

## Saddleworth Peace Group

For details of next meeting contact Jacqui on 0161 633 2728

## Salford CND

Meets 3rd Weds in month, 2pm at Pendleton Gateway Library

## Stockport for Peace

Weds 26th November, Disability Stockport, 23 High Street, Stockport SK1 1EG. AGM, 6.30 followed at 7.30 by:"Untold Stories" women anti-war activists, Manchester and Stockport 1914-1918

Talk by Dr Ali Ronan, local researcher, author and pacifist who will bring up some contradictions and strategies for activism.

Sat 20th Dec, 9.30 am until 1 pm: Christmas stalls in Marple (9.30-11) and Stockport (11.30-1)

Contact Ann on 07775 605062 or Sheila on 07803 928778 for further details

[www.stockportpeaceforum.org.uk](http://www.stockportpeaceforum.org.uk)

## Nuclear Alert Subscription Form

GM&D CND relies heavily on the financial support of interested groups and individuals. For £10 per year you will receive our bi-monthly newsletter. Return this form to GM&D CND office.

**I enclose my £10 cheque as my year's subscription.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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For office use only: GM&D CND Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Signed on behalf of GM&D CND

## Standing Order Form

Paying by standing order gives us a more stable income and helps us plan our work more effectively. Please fill in the form below and send to us.

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(bank name) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Starting on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ until further notice (please make this one month from now)

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## Greater Manchester & District

### AGM

Saturday 31st January 2015

Friends Meeting House

Mount Street

Manchester

11am AGM

(deadline for nominations and resolutions - 12th Jan 2015)

1pm guest speaker - Julie Ward MEP

What hope for a Labour government that would scrap Trident?

What role does the European Parliament have in the struggle for peace and disarmament?

What role does the European Parliament have in the struggle for the elimination of nuclear power?



MANCHESTER

# PEACE & CRAFT FAIR

**SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER**  
**11 AM TO 4 PM**  
**FREE ENTRY**

**AT BIRCH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

BRIGHTON GROVE, MANCHESTER M14 5JT - OPPOSITE PLATT FIELDS PARK  
FULLY ACCESSIBLE AND ON STREET PARKING

STALLS BY PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS FROM A CROSS  
GREATER MANCHESTER.

BEAUTIFUL JEWELLERY, EXQUISITE GLASS AND CERAMICS FROM PALESTINE,  
NEPALESE TREASURES AND  
MUCH, MUCH MORE.

HAVE BRUNCH OR LUNCH IN THE CAFE AND ENJOY THE MUSIC OF  
DAVE KRAMER AND HIS BAND



Make next year's election a  
referendum on Trident...

**Cast  
your  
vote**



Cast your vote in the  
People's Ballot.



Make sure you cast your vote in The  
People's Ballot by visiting

<http://act.cnduk.org/lobby/77>

# The next train arriving at Wigan will be carrying nuclear waste!

Trains pulling containers of highly-radioactive nuclear fuel rods travel regularly through **Wigan** from Crewe to Sellafield.

They are the most dangerous cargoes carried on our railways. They continuously emit low-level-radiation, and any increase in radiation means an increased risk of cancers.

As a result of a serious accident or terrorist attack the flasks could break open, releasing highly-radioactive material that would blow for miles in the wind and kill thousands of people in the **Wigan area**.

The transport of nuclear material is recognised by the International Atomic Energy Agency to be the nuclear operation most vulnerable to terrorist attack or sabotage. The flasks are vulnerable to attack from armour piercing rounds and the routes are regular, making it easy to work out when these trains will be passing through any number of stations.

The trains are not escorted and the driver and guards do not have any other security. They stop in ordinary stations within anyone's reach, including prospective terrorists.

The UK is being dragged into a new nuclear age with Government spin doctors and the nuclear industry working overtime to repackage nuclear power as a green solution to climate change. They want to build new nuclear power stations, but they know we won't want them if we know the reality – nuclear power is dirty and dangerous and not the answer to climate change.

What you can do.

Let others know about these transports and campaign to stop these nuclear trains.



## What Continued Nuclear Madness Means to the North West:

1. Drives the push for uranium mining worldwide eg. Peru (being aggressively eyed up), The Grand Canyon USA, Niger, Australia, Russia. Endangering the lives of miners and their families

2. Uranium arrives at Ellesmere Port Dock by ship where it is transported by road to Capenhurst. It is enriched at Capenhurst and then taken again by road to the Springfields fuel rod conversion plant near Preston.

3. The Fuel Making Process produces radioactive wastes which are released to the River Ribble and dumped in Clifton Marsh landfill. Depleted Uranium is stored at Capenhurst.

4. The fuel is taken to nuclear reactors including Heysham which is being restarted despite "a crack in the boiler spine, a metal rod supporting the weight of the reactor" (Institution of Engineering and Technology).

5. Once the fuel is burnt (no longer flammable but still radioactive) it travels by rail through towns and villages to Sellafield where it is reprocessed increasing the volume of waste x180. Sellafield uses over £30M of gas every year.

6. Spent fuel has travelled by plane from Carlisle airport which is still authorised to carry radioactive materials. In a three year period, 1995-8 saw at least "8 shipments of nuclear fuel assemblies included passage by air from Carlisle Airport from West Cumbria to Switzerland" (Freedom of Information Response from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to RaFL 17th Sept 2014)

7. Next to Sellafield are 500 acres of beautiful farmland, hedgerows and ancient tracks. This land should be a buffer zone around the world's most dangerous stockpile of nuclear waste. Instead the government plan to sell it to the same companies responsible for Fukushima in order to build 3 new nuclear reactors.

8. There is no "solution" to the problem of nuclear waste apart from distributing it to the environment, and not only to the air and sea but also to landfill.