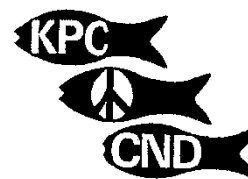


January/February 2023

KINGSTON PEACE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF KINGSTON PEACE COUNCIL /
CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

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Report from Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp on 40th anniversary of Embrace the Base

On a freezing weekend in December 2022 Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp marked the 40th anniversary of **Embrace the Base when 35,000 women surrounded Greenham Common in 1982**. Scary Little Girls, an activist drama company, and Greenham Women Everywhere joined 100 women to make a weekend of fun, creativity, information, remembrance and planning – all despite below freezing weather conditions.

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp was set up in 1984 and ran in conjunction with the Greenham Common Peace Camp. When the missiles were removed from Greenham and the base was returned to common land, the protest against nuclear weapons continued at Aldermaston every second weekend of the month.

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Thanks to Ailsa Johnson for photo and article

Members of the UK **Guantánamo Network** are organising a campaigning action in London on **Saturday 14th January 2023** to mark the 21st anniversary of the opening of Guantánamo on 11th January 2002. Volunteers are needed to walk in single file on behalf of those still detained in Guantánamo and to recognise those who have previously been detained. Currently there are 35 men still detained in Guantánamo of whom 21 have been cleared for release.

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Aldermaston and Burghfield, both not far from Reading, are nuclear bomb factories where nuclear weapons are researched, manufactured, put together, refurbished and sent up to Coulport to be put onto nuclear submarines at Faslane.

The weekend was packed with creativity, information, and fun – all reflecting the contrast between the base and the real world outside the base. This was reflected in a performance by a group of Movement Artists who gave a moving presentation of the contrast between the peaceful protest and the evil going on inside the fence. We had workshops making webs and spiders showing the links between all the campaigns now running (especially the climate and nuclear, the lack of investment in our public services and the cost of living crisis). We made paper lanterns for our night time procession to the laser building (which houses the supercomputer). We were privileged to host an Iranian woman who spoke of the situation in Iran. There was a reading of a play telling the story of the Welsh women who marched to Greenham in 1981 and, making sure we were also looking to the present and the future, a workshop on the links between Climate and the Military and made our first preparations for the event in London on 21st April 2023. The highlight of Saturday evening was a lantern puppet show telling the story of webs and crows and Aldermaston Women.

The challenge of feeding so many women and providing unfrozen water was overcome with delicious vegetarian food organised by the amazing Myfanwy with the help of lots of vegetable choppers. Locals supported us by giving us water and firewood for free and we had an abundance of blankets, sleeping bags, hot water bottles, dry tents and even a marquee.

At the end of camp the nuclear convoy arrived back at Burghfield having travelled down from Scotland through population centres such as Glasgow and on Britain's motorways. Thanks to Nukewatch for alerting us. Nukewatch is an organisation which monitors the movement of nuclear weapons between Aldermaston/Burghfield and Coulport. Its arrival made the weekend protest even more relevant at a time when new nuclear submarines are being built at Barrow-

in-Furness, when **the cap on Britain's stockpile has risen from 225 to 260 warheads, and when we are planning to build new warheads.**

The weekend celebrated the success of the Greenham Common Peace Camp but an important part of the weekend was the bringing together of old campaigners from Greenham days and a new generation of peace activists. In a rapidly deteriorating international security environment, the monthly camp is even more necessary. **If you would like to come to camp any month for the day or to stay overnight, we can offer lifts from Aldermaston train station (10 minutes journey from Reading) and can provide any camping equipment you may not have. Details of camp are on our facebook page (Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp) or on the camp mobile 07852293386.** The next camps are 13-15 January. 10-12 February and 10-12 March (the 2nd weekends of the month) The camp is on the A340 between Tadley and Aldermaston Village.

Nuclear weapons are a loaded gun in a rapidly deteriorating international security environment. The decline in international transparency and the lack of trust between nations could easily lead to misinterpretation or mistakes. We have been too near disaster too many times for us to rely on luck much longer.

Thanks to Ailsa Johnson for this.

Advance notice of an important XR event ~ April 21st - surround Parliament

XR Peace Key Messages:-

Militarism is a central pillar of the extractive systems causing Climate Change.

Up to 6% of global greenhouse gases are from military activity.

Climate change causes war - war causes climate change.

Nuclear weapons are the twin existential threat to humanity and the planet.

To address the climate crisis we must end militarism.

Please put in your diaries now because KPC/CND intends to take our big banner.

PROTEST IN NOVEMBER AT “RAF” LAKENHEATH IN SUFFOLK



More fighter jets are coming to “RAF” Lakenheath in Suffolk soon, and in all probability nuclear bombs will be brought back too. This is a great danger and we must campaign strongly against it. Two members of Kingston Peace Council/CND went to the protest which was held there last November. We joined a coach which went from London, others came from Yorkshire CND, Norwich CND, Cambridge University CND, and many other places. Our message to the government has been made loud and clear: **US nuclear weapons are not welcome back in Britain**, and we will campaign with all our might to prevent their return. We have also condemned the government’s failure to come clean to MPs about what is going on – the Ministry of Defence initially told Parliamentary CND that they could neither confirm or deny the reports: that it was US Department of Defence business. CND made it clear that we will show the same persistence in opposing US nuclear weapons sited at the base as we did before 2008 – until they are removed from Britain.



Chair of Cambridge Student CND Junayd Islam delivers a rousing speech, another student had made a beautiful white poppy wreath.



A message from Richmond and Kingston Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Here are the details of our January campaign **against Twickenham Stadium being used for the International Armoured Vehicle Fair** (referred to as a forum for sharing 'best' practice in the use of tanks and other armoury), for the 2nd consecutive year. This is a major initiative for our branch as Israel is always well represented at such events, being both a significant buyer of weapons (to use on Palestinians) and a seller of weapons (which have been tested on Palestinians). We know that Israel tests its new weapons on innocent Palestinians, including children. This year around 200 Palestinians have been killed, including 37 children. It has been the deadliest year in the Occupied West Bank for some time. We need all the help we can get to reach as many local residents and activists as possible. In particular, we need volunteers to help distribute leaflets at our street stalls on the **14th and 21st January**, and to leaflet and collect signatures for a petition in the residential streets around the stadium in the days leading up to the event.

We also need to have as many people as possible at the protest outside the stadium on the 23rd.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 14 January 12-2 pm and Saturday 21 January street stalls to draw attention to the arms fair. Corner of Water Street and Church Street, Twickenham - we hope to be joined by local partners.

Monday 23 January 2.30-4.30 pm demonstration outside the Stadium, Whitton Road (by the statue). *Please note new times.*

Please let me know if you are able to assist with any of these events.
fionaleach@gmail.com

Kingston Peace Council/CND is supporting this campaign.

And see the next column for another joint event with Richmond and Kingston Palestine Solidarity Campaign:-

Tuesday 17 January 7 pm, The Exchange Twickenham. Screening of the film The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade followed by a question and answer session with the author/director Andrew Feinstein. Those of you who attended his recent talk in Richmond will know what a brilliant speaker he is. We are fortunate to have the chance to hear him speak again, this time specifically on the global arms trade.

Entry £5 on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/500097333587>

Places are limited so please register in advance to make sure that you get a seat.

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Guantánamo Protest.

Please meet at midday at **Old Palace Yard** opposite Parliament. Exact directions and information for the day will be sent to you once you sign up as a volunteer.

We will walk in single file to Parliament Square and then up past Downing Street to Trafalgar Square where speeches will be given.

We will be demanding the closure of Guantánamo and justice for those still detained there and those who have been detained there.

We are aiming, over the next two weeks, to put together a list of **at least 35 volunteers** who are prepared to join us to wear an orange jumpsuit and take part in this vigil as a sign of respect to those whose human rights are being abused (or have been abused) in Guantánamo.

Can you be one of the 35 volunteers we need in order to make an impact?

Further details will be sent out to all volunteers prior to the demonstration so that everyone knows exactly what to do on the day.

Please send your email contact address to Sara Birch (Lewes Amnesty Group and Convenor of the UK Guantánamo Network) who is putting together a list of all volunteers and will be available to answer any questions you may have as the demonstration date approaches.

Her email is: sarabirch50@hotmail.com

Many thanks – together we can make a difference .

Please do come along on the day to support us even if you haven't signed up in advance.

Media Presentation

How the media presents issues is a huge problem. It is often very partial and therefore does not lead to full understanding on the part of the reader. Vested interests are usually quick to intervene—to make sure that coverage is in their interests and does not upset their business models. **Scientists for Global Responsibility** (SGR) has been focusing a lot on this recently.

A prime example is the recent coverage of the 'breakthrough' in nuclear fusion technology. It is certainly true that researchers at the US National Ignition Facility have got a 'net energy gain' from a fusion device using lasers. However it would take at least 25 years and an enormous amount of money to translate this research into a commercial nuclear fusion reactor, which could be used to produce energy for the population. **We do not, of course, have 25 years---to halt and reverse the damage that we have already done to the earth's climate.** In the meantime, the discovery could be, and probably will be, used to boost the effectiveness of nuclear weapons. The US National Ignition Facility, which did the research, is part of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, which has a history of involvement with nuclear weaponry. A huge amount of time and money has already been expended to get to this point---money and time which could have been much better spent.

With reference to the climate emergency-again SGR sees the main problem with the reporting of this to be the way that the climate questions are framed. **It is assumed that 'our way of life' will continue almost unchanged, with the rich world suffering no more than minor inconvenience and the poor world left to pick up the pieces of its' already shattered existence**-therefore, only inadequate solutions that reduce emissions by a few percent per year are considered, when 20% per year is pretty much the minimum needed.

The SGR posting of 18th December lists the following actions that need to be taken so that emissions stand a chance of being reduced by 20%:-

Stopping fossil fuel use as soon as possible
Not giving the go ahead for more coal mining and exploration in the North Sea
Stopping leisure flying immediately
Reducing car mileage by at least 20% a year
Instigating a massive programme of insulation
Restructuring food production and distribution
Building renewable sources of energy etc.

If these measures are implemented SGR recognises that society would need to be hugely restructured and would certainly be very much inconvenienced, but until these issues are presented honestly, and the above actions are taken, realistic progress will not be made.

For more information visit www.sgr.org.uk

From the Morning Star Tuesday 20th December. Campaigners and trade unionists have vowed to continue fighting the Tories' morally reprehensible Rwanda policy after the High Court ruled that the plans are lawful. On Monday, judges dismissed an application from asylum-seekers, charities and civil servants' union PCS to stop the Tory government from carrying out its deportation agreement with the African country. Rights groups responded with dismay, describing the decision as a "dark day" for the rights of the most vulnerable." **But the court also ruled that the cases of eight asylum-seekers involved in the challenge due to be sent to Rwanda in June would have to be reconsidered as the Home Office had not properly considered their individual circumstances.**

Groups who brought the legal challenge expressed relief at Mr Justice Swift's and Lord Justice Lewis's decision to quash the individual deportation orders, but said that the finding of the overall policy as lawful was bitterly disappointing. Following the judgement, PCS head of bargaining Paul O'Connor told the Star: "Even if the decision is found to be lawful, it doesn't change the fact that it's morally reprehensible — we will continue to campaign for safe passage going forward." The other groups involved in the case — charities Detention Action and Care4Calais — also vowed to fight on.

**KINGSTON PEACE COUNCIL
/ CND**

Subscription rates:
£8 annually,
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£3 unwaged

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SECRETARY'**

Positions vacant.

Please offer if you could help as secretary. At present several people are sharing these jobs.

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this edition are not necessarily those of Kingston Peace Council/CND

Our Regular Stalls in Kingston Market Place take place on 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, outside the gate of All Saints Church Kingston, in the market place..
Dates for January will be Saturdays 7th and 21st, for February Saturdays 4th and 18th.

We start at 11am and have 2 or 3 one hour shifts. Please contact Angie Cooper 020 8399 5537 to help, angecooper47@hotmail.com

(If you are new to this, you will always be with an experienced member)

Forthcoming Events (Some online)

Sat 7 Jan KPC/CND Stall in Kingston Market Place, see bottom left.

Tues 10 Jan KPC/CND Monthly Meeting on Zoom, email gill@gillhurle.plus.com for joining instructions

Sat 14 Jan **Guantánamo Protest – see details P1&4**

Sat 14 Jan **London CND ‘No New Cold War’ annual conference** will take place on zoom, 11.30am to 2.30pm. There will be keynote speeches, panel discussions on the new cold war and nuclear imperialism, and a refreshment break with music. The London CND AGM will also take place on zoom the following week. Details will be confirmed soon. Contact rosemaryadd@aol.com for up-to-date details.

Sat 14 and 21 Jan **Street stalls in Twickenham to publicise the Arms Fair. See Details on Page 4**

Tues 17 Jan 7pm Andrew Feinstein film **Shadow World** See details on Page 4

Tues 17 Jan 6.30 pm. London CAAT meeting
The London CAAT group meets monthly to discuss arms trade issues. Currently they are organising around the **StopArmingSaudi** campaign. Via zoom.
For more information about the group, to request to be added to their group email list, or to confirm details of the next meeting, please email londoncaat@riseup.net

Mon 23 to Wed 25 Jan **Twickenham Armoured Vehicle Fair** – see protest details on page 4

Fri 27 Jan **Greet the New Year with London CND**, who are returning to Ev Restaurant in Waterloo this year, 6.30 for 7pm, for a mezze supper with friends and colleagues and a guest speaker. More details – contact Rosemary rosemaryadd@aol.com

Tues 31 Jan to Sat 4 Feb **8pm at Arcola Theatre, 24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL, The Mistake** by Michael Mears, actor, playwright and pacifist. Direct from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, an urgent new play exploring the events surrounding the catastrophic ‘mistake’ that launched our nuclear age. Performed by Emiko Ishii and Michael Mears. There will be a matinee performance as well on Sat. 4th Feb at 3pm and a Q and A on Thursday 2nd Feb. after the performance (with Kate Hudson, CND chair, taking part.).
Box office: 020 7503 1646 www.arcolatheatre.com

Tues 10 Feb KPC/CND Meeting– email gill@gillhurle.plus.com for joining instructions