

B A N ☰

Summer 2021

Annual Bromley Borough CND News

40p

Published by Bromley Anti Nuclear Group



CAMPAIGNS/ACTIONS

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Activities

Fri 6th Aug 6pm SE London CND groups Charlton House peace garden.

Sat 7th Aug 12-3:00pm. Bromley Vigil outside the Churchill Theatre. Leafleting, candles, shadows, cranes.

Thurs 9th Aug 1.30-3pm Peace Picnic in Archbishop Tutu Peace Garden, Chinbrook Meadows, Grove Park.

Sat 14th Aug 12noon-5pm Bowie Festival stall Croydon Rd Rec ground, Beckenham.

Mon 30th Aug Bank Holiday 12-3pm Bromley Street Stall in Market Square by Mural, Bromley.

International Peace Day

Tues 21st Sept International Peace Day to mark the annual Sept 21st Global Cease Fire Day. A live festival at the Friends meeting House, Ravensbourne Rd Bromley from 7.30 -10.00 pm, or a zoom meeting, to raise awareness of the UN. International Day of Peace. For more details contact: Peace One Day on 020 8344 9900, St George's House, St George's Rd, Richmond.

Sat and Sun 16th and 24th Oct National CND Conference/AGM online event.

Sat 11th Dec Seasonal Social 7.00pm at Jeanette Mitchell's home - 17b Freelands Rd. Bromley. Please bring some food & drink to share. All welcome.

Mon 26th April 2022 12-3pm Chernobyl Day Vigil and stall. Market Square by Mural, Bromley.

London Region AGM 2022 at SOAS or online. Phone 020 7607 2307 for more details.

Remembrance Sunday

Sun 14th Nov 10.50am White Poppy Ceremony at Peace (War) Memorial, Church Road, Bromley. We will assemble outside Primark (at the Church Rd side) at 10.30am.

Notice from Secretary

All of the advertised events are to be confirmed owing to Covid -19. Some of them may be Zoom meetings or have reduced numbers to adhere to social distancing .

Grateful thanks to those of you who are officers, attend meetings, campaign, give donations and pay their subs.

Subs of £5 are now due - please send them to Ann Garrett. [use the tear-off slip at end of news-letter].

The good news on January 22nd was that the Nuclear BAN Treaty became legal! We hope to celebrate this in Bromley with the planting of a tree at some time this year or in the future

CND still very much needs support with their campaigns especially since the Coronavirus has exposed the futility of spending billions on new nuclear weapons when money is needed for essential services. CND is also supporting the challenges of climate change working with XR, dealing with the refugee crisis, and the campaign to get the UK to sign up for the Nuclear Ban Treaty.

The selling of arms to Saudi Arabia continues and there are great concerns regarding increased tension in Gaza, the UK's plans for Trident renewal, the use of drones and the dangers from nuclear power pollution from the Fukushima fall out. This year the Arms Fair takes place again at the Excel Centre from Sept 14th - 17th and we will aim to be there with our banner.

As I say each year - it would be really supportive if local Bromley Borough CND members could also join National CND, if they don't already belong.

Help is also badly needed to restructure Bromley CND and take on some of the responsibilities, including the secretary post, for its future continuation. Part of this is our integration with the SE London CND Peace, Justice and Solidarity Network.

Please also visit our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/GarrettCnd>

(Deadline for items for the next annual CND newsletter - May 1st 2022. Please email to anncgarratt@yahoo.com)

Unaffordable

15% increase for NHS staff
Unaffordable ! ! ! !

Fresh nuclear submarines
Affordable ? ? ? !

Fresh nuclear warheads
Affordable ? ? ? !

Other military expenditure
Affordable ? ? ? !

HS2

Affordable ? ? ? !

15% increase for NHS staff
Unaffordable ? ? ? ? ? ! ! ! ! !

Bunny Easton [April 2021]

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to those who supported on line and live demonstrations - the Lewes Amnesty Close Guantanamo demos, campaign stalls for the Nuclear Ban Treaty, the Chernobyl Day vigil on April 26th/2021, Conscientious Objector's Day zoom ceremony on May 15th 2021. Also for help at last year's Bromley August Bank Holiday Monday stall and Hiroshima, Nagasaki and White Poppy events.

We are especially grateful to Rob Clark who is continuing to take on the task of newsletter production editor, Richard Hart for press releases, and Tahir Swift for continuing as treasurer, contacting members and doing minutes of meetings.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Events 2020

Leaflets were distributed in Bromley and signatures collected on the petitions. Then we had a silent march through Bromley and walked to the lake in the Library Gardens where we scattered white chrysanthemums. We read poems and made statements. As usual a very moving occasion, and the silent march we hope made some impact. A ceremony was held in the Archbishop Tutu Peace Garden in Chinbrook Meadows, Grove Park followed by another on August 9th to mark Nagasaki Day. This was supported by the SE London Peace, Justice and Solidarity Network groups.

National CND zoom AGM 2020

National officers were elected : including Kate Hudson as General Secretary, Dave Webb as chair and Linda Hugi as treasurer. A report on the conference is enclosed in this newsletter. Kate Hudson will continue in her post for the time being.



Some good news BUT

The UK's Covid infection rate is coming down.

That is good news.

BUT we are not an island.

What about the rest of the World, especially India ?

The death figures there are almost out of control.

Why is this ?

They possess nuclear weapons.

Money that can better spent.

If we got rid of nuclear weapons the whole world would benefit .

The WE is all the nuclear powers.

Nuclear Power is also a threat.

Get rid of it and everybody would be safer.

We want peace .

We want a world free of pandemics.

A world where pandemics are no more.

Richard E. Hart

should be shared responsibility.

The role of CND should be on focussing on dominant threats.

We have to rethink what we feel about national security.

Rokhanna Flaz [Mayor of Newnham]

The Pandemic has brought forward the question of safety throughout the world.

Inequality and deprivation hasn't been addressed. The Pandemic is affecting these

groups. They are exposed to danger through economic necessity. Authorities need to look at the quality of life for these groups of people particularly.

The Economic Forum has stressed the havoc that has been created throughout the

National CND AGM Report - by Ann Garrett

This webinar took place on zoom on Oct 18th 2020 and the title was - 'How Covid has shifted the boundaries in terms of the planet and national security'.

It was attended by 136 people.

Tom Unterrainer

Nuclear weapons are a deadly threat to us all.

Climate change is the biggest threat facing humanity. This the closest we have come to international annihilation. Despite the threat of Covid 19 there was no preparation for this. The outcome was a threat to nuclear and climate security.

Paul Rogers [Peace Studies dept at Bradford University]

Trident is completely irrelevant when it comes to Covid and Climate Change. 20 or 30 people can die in a couple of hours.

Covid has now killed more people in the world that WW2

Dominance of the whole security narrative is by a small group of people.

The military are focussing on hard security.

Security should be a common right, and

world. This is the dominant problem facing the planet.
Weapons are continuing to be manufactured, when the money is needed elsewhere.
The cost of Trident at £307 billion is inexcusable.
Think globally and act locally.

Roger McKenzie [Assistant General Secretary of Unison]

We need to stand up and get things done - organise and build a movement that can support people.
All the lives of people in Unison who had lost their lives from the pandemic were remembered at The Black Lives Matter demonstration, which was very moving.
Many in the black communities who are particularly exposed, need more protection.
People who don't have access to water and food, need to be able to have it, to save their lives and improve their health.
The presence of Trident and other nuclear weapons is making a big impact economically.
The public service workers are being sacrificed to the Pandemic.
We have to do something about the urgency of the situation.
We need to prioritise welfare and public services and build a movement.

Discussion Points and Comments

Is it really right that nuclear weapons can kill 20 million people in two hours?
CND needs to act at a local level, contacting mayors for peace and councillors.
Motivation of local communities – festivals for peace.
Spending billions on Trident is unacceptable . We are tied to NATO.
Lack of world wide co-operation over Covid.
The Green New Deal and jobs creation requires focus.
The Trade Union movement needs to be fully involved in putting pressure on the Government to pledge to provide the resources to support people.

Breakout groups included 'Visions of a Green World', 'Security for the Many' and 'Creative Campaigning'.

Jeremy Corbyn

[Closing keynote speech introduced by CND Parliamentary Rep - **Rachel Earlington**]

Thanks to everyone for keeping the arguments for peace going.
The issues today are frightening, but an opportunity to promote peace.
The Coronavirus has shown up health inequality throughout the world. We should be challenging this. The World Health Organisation - states that everyone has a right to healthcare.
The present government is allowing the discrepancy between the rich and the poor.
Justice, peace and human rights - overwhelming issues.
Concern expressed about global warming - forest fires and rising sea levels. COP 26 conference in Glasgow in 2021 - vitally important to reduce CO2 emissions. Investment is needed to do this.
Economic insecurity and poverty must be addressed.

WAR

Man fights man

Man fights woman

Woman fights man

Why?

Answer

Power

Higher level answer

An attempt to integrate one into the other

Issue

Attachment to one over the other

Solution

Journey deep

Paula Lloyd

Wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria have taken their toll.

What has happened to justice? Appalling treatment of refugees.

Being in the peace movement is about understanding these issues.

Nuclear weapons - the Non Proliferation Treaty has seen 136 smaller countries against nuclear weapons.

The International Law of Human Rights and the start of job conversion from the arms trade, require emphasis.

I want our children to live in a world of peace.

Building international peace with other countries - a way forward.

[Jeremy spoke from outside a primary school in Islington]

London Region zoom AGM March 25th 2021

The following officers were elected - Carol Turner [Chair], Tim Wardle [Sec] and Phil Sedler [Treasurer].

London Region CND AGM Report - by Ann Garrett

This took place on zoom on January 24th 2021 and the title was - 'What Now - Foreign Policy Under Biden'

Rokhana Fiaz

We must make sure the UK signs the Nuclear Ban Treaty. Email the prime minister and foreign secretary.

We need to be the voice throughout the world.

£205 billion to be spent on nuclear weapons, when we need to be spending money on health, the environment and dealing with poverty - like increasing food parcels and housing.

Opposing the arms trade is vitally important - put pressure on Excel and the mayor.

Welfare not warfare.

We need to press for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Phyllis Bennis

The new Biden democratic party has divisions.

The progressive wing of the party will put pressure on Biden. Shifts around healthcare and social justice. There is widespread agreement on the environment.

UK - The Green New Deal. We have to question how the money can be found.

Some new initiatives in the Biden administration will be seen.

Russia poses a threat to the US.

There should be a positive shift in Yemen, to stop any more bombing. Stopping military sales to Yemen is another question.

Question of Iran and enhancing their weapons system. Obama recognised the problem of the Iran nuclear deal. US has imposed 3 years of crippling sanctions - big effect on poverty in Iran. So much policy in the Middle East is affected by the attitude to Iran. Israel's nuclear monopoly is also contributory to unrest.

The whole of this is a big challenge to the US. Hopefully Biden will be able to hold on to the progressive beginning he has introduced.

Jenny Clegg

We should never forget Trump's legacy with his fingers on the button.

The US has swung more to increasing tensions with China.

Biden's foreign policy will be conflicted. He has to get domestic policy sorted. His multi-lateralism will be a challenge and he will have to work with China on climate.

China has offered a no first use agreement to the US

The UK will be with the US in NATO to increase their power. [e.g 2 new aircraft carriers].

Hosting the Cop26 climate conference, needs to be an opportunity to work co-operatively.

There is always the danger of accidental nuclear war.

This poem is written in the voice of my wife Maria, a child refugee from war in Cyprus, who approved it.

Refugee

barbed wire blocks the road
to my childhood
who will lift me over?
to walk back under silent stars
in pale moonlight
while the mountain looks down
memories throng dusty fields
and encircle the olive trees
who will harvest the fruit?
to break bread in the awakening
dawn
when night flees like fear
while the mountain looks down
my dreams inhabit
a little mud-brick house
who will sweep the yard?
and sit to shell beans
on my mother's chair
in noonday shade
while the mountain looks down
sorrow entwines my heart
who will free it?
to let me breathe deep
laugh cry dance love
bathed in sunset's rays
while the mountain looks down

© **Leon Silver**
Bromley 1996

Bell Ribeiro – Addy MP

We should celebrate the coming together of The Black Lives Matter movement. This is important to sustain throughout the world.

Black women workers have supported Biden and hopefully with Kamala Harris there will be real change.

We need to be activists in supporting to sustain this.

Increasing racism throughout the world is a real challenge.

How is foreign policy going to affect the individual?

The is what people really want to know.

They must be motivated to oppose the nuclear deterrent.

We need to focus our policy on domestic issues and on getting sustainable change throughout the world.

Conclusion - discussion took place around the importance of getting all countries to reduce their weapons production and to focus on the struggle for climate justice.

Stop The War Coalition webinar rally report - by Ann Garrett

This took place on zoom on January 25th 2021 and the title was - 'The World says No to War in Yemen'. It was introduced by Dr Cornel West and Aisha Jumaan. Thousands attended from different parts of the world.

Chris Nineman

18 countries have been protesting.

Global protest throughout the world.

Big demonstrations in the UK.

Lobby MPs and Joe Biden.

Prsaria Begum

2,500 people dead in Yemen - underreported in the UK.

Ongoing campaign to stop selling arms to Yemen/Saudi Arabia.

Serious breeches of international law.

UK sells weapons, but also trains pilots who fly the bombers.

Much money is made from selling arms - also the UK is showing its power.

Our campaign must be to spread peace.

Lindsay German

Very encouraging to see people at this rally from all over the world.

The conflict in Yemen has been ignored by successive UK governments.

Yemen is the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

Nothing can be defended about the sale of arms.

The US and UK are both putting Empire at the forefront of control.

Yanis Varoufakis

Greece is sending a frigate in support of Saudi Arabia.

The politics of fear is being generated.

Greece and Turkey are both guilty of selling arms.

A lucrative cruelty is being generated.
It's up to the people of the world to unite in the campaign.

Almed Al-Babati - [A Yemeni campaigner]

He has tried to help the people in Yemen and started campaigning against the government.

Took it upon himself to demonstrate outside Downing Street .
The fundamental reasons for the war are profits and control.
Ahmed stated that we need to get politicians to do something.

Dr Cornell West -

Spoke about affirming our solidarity with the people of Yemen.
Peace and justice is their right.
Important to continue being a voice.

Esa Mightly - a rap artist

Stated how the people of Yemen want a future.

Kate Hudson [CND]

Brought solidarity from CND.
Yemen is a man made catastrophe .
We should be demanding that Biden and the UK stop selling arms.
Profits are being made on a huge scale.
Time for the arms industry to diversify .
CND is proud to support the campaign.

Ro Khania

Committed to working with Bernie Sanders to introduce a war crimes resolution to the US administration.
The blockade should be lifted.
Believes the Biden administration is committed to bringing the war to a close.

John Finucane - Sinn Fein

Disgusted by the humanitarian situation of no clean water.
Humanitarian aid is vital.
Will be calling on the Irish government to increase aid.

Daniele Abono

The Western governments as a whole are guilty.
80% of the Yemeni people are living in poverty.
The situation is a major crime against humanity.

Dr Shineen Al – Adeimi from Canada

All campaigning matters.

Jeremy Corbyn

Unite against poverty throughout the world.
Yemen is the largest humanitarian disaster anywhere in the world.

Dream of Peace in an Occupied Land

Perhaps one day I'll wake up, without that constant fear
no more the sound of hovering planes and skies once more are
clear

just knowing that this is my home; its where I want to be.

where dust has settled in my land; where I'm in peace and FREE

We're hated for our language, our clothes, our very words.

They keep us trapped like cattle, penned in, in crowded herds.

We all have rights; we wish for peace; to end upheaval, strife

yes we all want the one, same thing; a safe and settled life.

At night I pray, in silence: "End the evil; stop the hate!"

I dream of my own culture, my land once whole and great

we all deserve the basic thing; from captivity a sweet release.

The idea must be cherished; we have to bring back peace.

Patricia Lower May 2021

The pollution there will last for years to come.

The people of Yemen should decide their future - a project for peace and justice.

Thanks to everyone in STWC.

CND Conference Report - by Richard E Hart

USA

The first motion on Trident and Covid19. Report of CND Conference 10th October 2020.

I, obviously, missed the chance to socialise and exchange information. There is the up side for those members living outside the Greater London

area: they do not have to get up to London, with problems of accommodation. 88 people logged in. The theme was 'Covid19 and Trident.

In the business section of the meeting I noted that two of our members, Gini Bevan and David Leal are regional representatives, but there is one vacancy. Hopefully the vacancy will be filled by a member from another part of London.

Linda Hugl in her treasurers report noted that we need more funds and this was emphasised by Bruce Kent in his fund raising message. He said that the money for Trident should be diverted to the NHS, especially as we do not even own it. It is easy enough to donate on line.

After lunch, the conference started. The first motion was on Trident and Covid19 from Rochdale and Littleborough had an amendment from Jenny Clegg which was accepted.

There is the danger of a new Cold War between USA and China.

The USA is no longer the sole super power with China being the rising power.

Biden, if elected, is unlikely to make a significant change of course.

Will there be a new Nuclear Arms Race?
 China has a smaller Nuclear arsenal and no first use policy .
 There is the danger of an arms race in space.
 There are flash points around China's borders This exacerbated by the possibility of joint USA/UK exercises.
 That day's Financial Times had spoken out against that possibility.
 The possibility of a new Cold War was a threat to World Peace.

The motion, as amended, was passed nem com. In all the votes there were problems with relative lack of IT experience.

The second motion from Rae Street was on Disarmament Treaties. Unfortunately this spoilt by Rae suffering broadband problems, but this did not spoil the effect of the message and Pam Flynn gave valuable support.

Trump is a reckless man and a danger to World Peace.
 The danger of the USA resuming nuclear testing.

This motion was passed nem com.

The third motion from Yorkshire CND was proposed by Dave Webb. Its subject was 'Keep Peace for Space,'

Dave cited the Yorkshire examples of Menwith Hall and Fylingdales.

Trump wants US dominance in Space.

This is the newest fighting domain: USA, Russia, China, India, France and UK all expressing an interest.

UK has set aside £30m for this. Whilst for the USA the sky's the limit.

UK has made grants of £40m to private companies for space ports: no mention of military use.

Under an executive order Trump has given money to private companies to develop

What Shakespeare said about 12.12 82

This day is called - the feast of Greenham.

She that outlives this day and sees old age

Will yearly on the vigil feasts her neighbours,

And say tomorrow is St Greenham.

Old folk forget, not all shall be forgot,

And she'll remember with advantages

What feats we did that day. Then shall these names,

Familiar in our mouths as household words,

Christine King, Sarah, Helen John,

Katherine Barker, Simone Wilkinson,

Be in our flowing cups freshly remembered.

This story will the woman teach her child,

And Greenham Common Day shall ne'er go by

From this day till the ending of the world,

But still in it shall be remembered.

These few, these happy few, this band of sisters

And womenfolk in England, now at home,

Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,

And hold their womanhood cheap, while any speaks,

That stood with us on GREENHAM COMMON DAY

Heather Barfoot

space ports.

Campaign to keep Peace for Space. Urge UK Government to work for it.
Passed nem com.

Carol Turner of London CND proposed the next motion on Covid19 and defence expenditure.

The UK Government was not prepared for the health pandemic
It has not considered defence diversification and needs to get its act together.
In 2017 the TUC passed a motion on defence diversification, but nothing since!
Richard Johnson said you need to define defence diversification and also maintain defence.
The motion was passed nem com

Labour CND presented a motion on defence diversification.
It cited the example of shipyard workers in Plymouth working on defence diversification.
Need to convince workers and the general public that nuclear disarmament is in their own interests.

Stressed the need to involve business groups.
Need for a stakeholder strategy.
Passed nem com.

There was an emergency motion from CND Cymru: Palestine, Israel and a Nuclear Free Middle East.

It called for a conference on peace in the Middle East.

The need for a nuclear free zone in the Middle East.

The need to review the Non-Proliferation Treaty considering the role of nuclear power and nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

Israel is a Apartheid State.

Need to keep agreements.

UAE already has nuclear power: both Egypt and Saudi Arabia are interested.



Bromley Borough CND Chernobyl
Day vigil on April 26th

Passed nem com.

Pat Sanchez proposed a motion on new Nuclear Power stations.

Economics will eventually kill of nuclear power stations.

Wind Power and other renewable forms of energy are increasingly becoming economically viable.

Warns of the danger of sabotage and human error.

Passed nem com

Martin Filler from Christian CND proposed that the Central Hall Westminster be used for a conference in July 2021

This invitation was accepted

Tom Cuthbert proposed a motion on engagement with Youth. This stressed the role of Extinction Rebellion and the need to contact places of education.

I welcome this means of getting the membership together.

Chernobyl Day Vigil - April 26th 2021

Bromley Borough CND Chernobyl Day Vigil
press letter

Chernobyl Day Vigil

Dear Editor,

Members of Bromley Borough CND [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament] marked the anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster on April 26th with a vigil in Bromley Market Square. They gave out leaflets and lit a candle in memory of the people who died in 1986, and have lost their lives since as result of nuclear reactor disasters, including the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in 2009.

At Chernobyl 150 tons of radioactive debris exploded into the air and contaminated 23% of the territory around. The radioactive fallout spread across large parts of Europe including the UK and millions of people have died of cancer as a result. At the time, the Ukraine and Russian governments covered up the facts .

CND are opposed to nuclear power on the

Chernobyl

I remember the Day
My daughter was four
Friends said you can come
So I took her
And we went round London
By bus
Here and there, there and here
And everywhere
Giving out yellow daffodils
People said
Why are you doing this ?
What's happened
A nuclear power station
Has blown up in the Ukraine
Some are dead
And radiation
Is pouring out into the Earth
Here and there , here and there
Everywhere
We are mourning the dead
And the violation of the earth
The people were shocked and surprised
They took their daffodils
Some came up and said
Can we take a photo of your little girl
With her daffodils ?
I remember the Day
And now she's thirty eight
And nothing has been learned

Fay Roberts [April 26th 2021]

Nuclear Ban campaigning in Penge on October 2nd 2020



grounds that there is always a danger of a disaster and fully support more investment and creation of jobs in green renewables industries.

Ann Garrett and Richard Hart

[Secretary and Chair of Bromley Borough CND]

Nuclear Ban campaigning at Penge on Oct 2nd 2020

A good response despite the rain and we were joined by Hanifah Smith from Bromley Woodcraft Folk in The Blemheim Shopping Centre at Penge.

The recording of the SE London CND Peace Coalition Peace One Day event can be seen on you tube if you google Peace One Day. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQUL3JRg820&t=22s>



**Nuclear Ban petition Orpington
September 5th 2020**



Nuclear Ban stall in Orpington
April 9th 2021

White Poppy Ceremony 2020

About 10 people attended - and we were grateful to have support again from Forest Hill and Sydenham, and Lewisham and Greenwich CND groups. Gini Bevan was the main speaker and the wreath, made by Ruth Fabricant, was as usual bio-degradable. Poems were read by Patricia McKinnon Lower, Leon Silver, Roisin Robertson, Richard Hart and Ann Garrett. Mike Coulston and David Leal kindly recorded the event for our Facebook page. We just had a small event

Nuclear Ban Begun

The Nuclear Ban Treaty is now legal
122 countries have bravely signed
The world is on the cusp of possibility
to see the nuclear menace to its bunker consigned

Those that wish to see weapons proliferate
hold on to a false anchor of security
While those whose lives have been taken
have died on the white poppy grave of purity

Those who make profits from the nuclear machine
ruthlessly pursue their crazy course of murder
lacking any conscience on their evil journey
They must be stopped before they proceed much further

Let's rise up and ring joyful bells of celebration
Let's ring in the countries still to sign
Let's help them see the folly of eventual mass destruction
as nuclear pollution becomes an unforgiveable crime

Let's plant trees to help the earth breathe more freely
They will be symbols of a hopeful kind
that nuclear weapons might one day be fully banned
and human responsibility take hold and shine

Ann Garrett

[written for January 22nd 2021 - the day that the Nuclear Ban Treaty became legal]

due to Covid restrictions.

Bromley Borough White Poppy Ceremony

Bromley Borough Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament held its annual White Poppy Ceremony on Remembrance Sunday, as part of the South East London CND Peace Coalition. This ceremony commemorates all victims of war not just those who fought in wars.

The White Poppy was devised in 1933 by the Co-operative Womens' Guild to remember all those who had died as a result of the First World War. Since 1934 responsibility has been taken by the Peace Pledge Union.

The ceremony was not so long this year due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Poems and speeches were made, but there was no music. Over 20 people attended the ceremony at the Bromley Peace/War memorial.

Richard Hart, Chair of Bromley Borough Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said ' We feel that in these dangerous times the

The Last Day of George Floyd

If you told him that day would be his last on Earth
He would have looked at you and exploded with mirth

But the last thing he heard was the policeman's shout

The last thing he saw was the grit on the road
The last person he called for was his mum
The last thing he felt was that weight on his neck
The last breath he took was on that tarmac
'I can't breathe. I can't breathe, agony
and then silence, silence

But was that the end ? No way , just wait
A tide exploded against the hate
A sea change erupted all over the world
An unstoppable wave of righteous anger
against horrifying injustice

His sweet little daughter Gianna cried out -
' My daddy changed the world '

Well darling how right you were, you may not see him

but you will know ;- not one more anonymous guy, his name will no be known forever, joining the long list of martyrs -
Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, Mark Duggan, Stephen Lawrence, Rayshard Brooks

Lives extinguished in any wished for aim
Please don't let them have died in vain

Julie Etter [2020 BLM]



SELondon and Bromley CND white poppy ceremony

voice for peace needs to be made. I just wear a white poppy although some attendees wear a red one as well. We also commemorated Jim Radford a local peace campaigner

Bromley Black Lives Matter vigil May 25th 2021



who died on Friday. He had been a cabin boy on D Day when he was just 14 and until recently had been a leading light for Veterans for Peace and a performer on the local Folk Music Scene. His message lives on!

Richard E. Hart

Bromley Black Lives Matter vigil

Many thanks to all who supported.

Poems were read and statements made. and then a silence observed at 6pm. Bromley Peace Council held a Black Lives Matter vigil in Bromley Market Square on May 25th, the first anniversary of George Floyd's death.

Statements were made and the following is one of the 3 poems which was read.

Conscientious Objectors Day Report - 2021 by Ann Garrett

This was a virtual event on May 15th and was effective as it included film and participation by peace groups from different areas.

Michael Mears introduced the event from Tavistock Square by stating that it was illogical and that COs object to killing in the name of capitalism, communism and religion - that peaceful alternatives would be performed instead.

There was a film about COs in Israel and a campaigner spoke about women who refused to join the army there, saying that peacemakers exist even in places of conflict.

'Raised Voices' then sang a song written in 2003 opposing the war in Iraq. Nadia Cortez spoke about War Resistance International in Colombia and peace makers from Edinburgh wrote messages on a fence and laid white flowers.

Seagull sounds heralded a group of campaigners at Friends Meeting House in Brighton remembering COs they had known., Paul Steele recited a peace poem and then there was a return to Tavistock Square as white carnations were laid by the peace memorial stone and

the names of COs from different parts of the world were read. A time for reflection and another song by Raised Voices 'One Who Says No' by Sue Gilmurray concluded the event.

Campaigning Activities

We have leafleted in Bromley, West Wickham, Beckenham, Orpington and Penge, collecting signatures on the Preventing Trident Replacement and Nuclear Ban petitions and outside Bromley South Station against Nuclear Trains on May 1st 2021. We supported Lewisham and Greenwich CND's Aug 6th Hiroshima event at Charlton House where the Blackheath folk club members sang and the Bromley Peace Poets read. This was partly live and on Zoom hosted by London Region CND.

Bromley Peace Council attended two Black Lives Matter demonstrations in 2020, and held one live and one Zoom meeting. On June 25th 2021 they marked BLM with a vigil in Bromley Market Square.

Nuclear Power/Waste Update

NTAG [the nuclear trains action group] and Kick Nuclear have resumed live vigils outside the Japanese Embassy and TEPCO after two lockdowns.

There are great concerns over the radioactive water about to be released into the sea in Fukushima, and the safety of holding the Olympics in Japan this Summer.

We objected to the Bradwell B proposed nuclear power plant during a period of consultation in 2020.

International Peace Day Event -2020

This was held on Zoom as a SE London Peace, Justice and Solidarity Network event on Sept 22nd, and hosted by London Region CND. Music was provided Nick Jeffries, The Gillies, Paul Steele and Curtis Savage and poems read by Leon Silver, Richard Hart, Patricia McKinnon Lower, Roisin Robertson and Ann Garrett. Mike Coulston gave a talk about Jerusalem and Gaza as a member of Palestine Solidarity.

Bromley Peace Council is supported by people who aren't all members of CND, so it still functions as an umbrella group for different organisations.

Meetings will continue to be held on Zoom for the time being [July 18th and October 24th 2021 at 3.00 pm]. Peace Day will held on Tuesday Sept 21st on Zoom with the SE London Peace, Justice and Solidarity Network

Nuclear Ban Treaty Celebration

On February 22nd 2021 the SE London Peace, Justice and Solidarity Network marked the day the Nuclear Ban Treaty was made legal, by a celebration event on Zoom.

Nuclear Waste Train campaigning May 1st 2021



David Leal gave a presentation about the treaty and campaign, music was provided by Nick Jeffrey, Paul Steele and Curtis Savage, and poems read by Leon Silver, Patricia McKinnon Lower, Richard Hart and Ann Garrett. Gini Bevan co-ordinated the event.

Nuclear Waste Train campaigning - May 1st 2021

Bromley Borough CND opposite Bromley South station on May 1st, where the nuclear waste comes through on its way from Dungeness to Sellafield.

Condolences

To the family and friends of Jim Radford who died in July 2020 - he was a Veteran for Peace, an ex Services CND and Lewisham and Greenwich CND member, and a life long dedicated campaigner and folk singer. We paid tribute to him at our White Poppy Ceremony and placed a photo and message on the wreath.

We were also very sad about the loss of Julian Matthews, one of our supporters, last July. His mother Theresa Matthews was a dedicated member of Bromley CND for many years.

Many of us were shocked to hear that Zsuzsi Yardley died on June 3rd 2021. Her commitment over many years as a CND, Bromley Peace Council and WILPF member will always be valued and remembered.

Comment

As stated at many recent conferences, the focus needs to be on funding for climate change diversity, the NHS and alleviating poverty rather than spending money on nuclear weapons.

The government's decision to increase Britain's warhead stockpile by 40% and reduce trans-

parency over operational deployments, is extremely damaging. Even more dangerous still is Boris Johnson's assertion of the right to use nuclear weapons in response to non-nuclear attacks, such as a cyber attack. This increases the chance of nuclear first use, harms global counter-proliferation efforts and generally makes Britain less secure, demonstrating a reckless attitude to nuclear weapon's use.

Meanwhile campaigning continues locally and nationally on getting Britain to sign the international treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

Bromley Borough CND in Orpington yesterday

We collected a few signatures on the Nuclear Ban petition.

Tried using a small card table which was easier to take on the bus and train !

CND and Me: The Early Days

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was launched in Westminster Central Hall, February 1958. Canon Collins of St Paul's became its first chairman; the black and white circular symbol our instant badge.

But many factors converged to give CND lift-off. The pioneers opposing nuclear weapons tests soon realised that it wasn't just the testing that must go, but the weapons themselves. Pat Arrowsmith inspired the more radical Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War (DAC), which organised the first Aldermaston march. Aldermaston was the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment near Reading; its very existence a suspicious blank on Ordnance Survey maps.

Collins and CND, wary of alienating potential allies, were law-abiding; the DAC, with Lord Bertrand Russell, argued for non-violent civil disobedience.

For traditional socialists, such weapons could be banned only by parliament; our priority was converting the Labour Party to 'unilateralism'. Pacifist groups gave qualified support, including the Peace Pledge Union, Quakers, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Some hesitated; why specify nuclear



Tutu Garden Nagasaki Peace Ceremony Aug 9th 2020

weapons when all wars were obscene? Others saw this as a glass half full.

I too entered on a pacifist ticket. In 1957 I was conscripted among the dying embers of 'National Service'; a young man's two years in the armed forces. Those with conscientious objections faced a tribunal; if counted genuine they could choose between forestry, coal-mining, food distribution or hospital work. I served my time portering at Grove Park, a TB hospital within an easy cycle ride from Bromley.

Alongside big national events, most towns including Bromley had their local CND groups; I chaired the youth section until October 1959, when university called. One Saturday morning, we marched up Bromley High Street with our home-made banners, from Masons Hill to the Market Square.

We argued, debated, and once parked ourselves outside the Conservative Club on London Road, challenging the arriving Tories until they called the police to remove us. In the local paper we claimed to be Bromley's fastest-growing youth movement; not difficult, as we started from nothing! Several grammar school girls started wearing CND badges with their uniform. We also worked with the main group in the Hammelton Road home of John and Cynthia Taylor.

Then as a 1960 student I joined the more radical DAC at a rocket-base at Harrington, Northants. In the biggest such demonstration yet, seventy protestors blocked the entrance, were duly arrested, and bundled off to jail in Bedford or Birmingham.

After an illuminating four days inside, we came up for trial. Our lawyer argued that we were not criminals but highly moral citizens; we were still surprised at our conditional discharge. We could all go home; but if anyone repeated the offence (some did), we could expect much tougher treatment. Me? I voted for home and back to my books. I now belonged to Oxford University's CND (COUND) with our own meetings, marches and manoeuvres.

Now in my eighties, it comes as a shock to realise that most of my old 1950s friends – but not the bombs – have now gone. Pat Arrowsmith turns ninety this year; for courage, persistence and vision, one of my 20th century heroes. Remember: her dad, like me, was a Vicar.

Christopher M Idle: 7th August 2020

EDM 1072 <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57642>

National & London Region Events

The following are postponed for the time being:-

Every Wednesday - Women only vigil - Edith Cavell Statue, St Martins Place WC1 6-7pm

Every Friday - Fukushima Vigil outside the Japanese Embassy and TEPCO headquarters.

Every 1st Thursday of the month - Close Guantanamo demo outside US Embassy 12-1pm.

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month - Close Guantanamo outside Parliament 1-3pm.

Every 3rd Thursday in the month - NTAG/Kick Nuclear meeting at 162 Holloway Rd 7pm.



Never Again

Never again will those dead eyes

See the sun

Never again will those young lives

Laugh in delight

The Bomb dropped

Everything went silent

After the winds and explosive noise

Far away the witness watched,

As the Mushroom cloud formed

Filmed for posterity

By those who did the dropping.

The horror was revealed

Hours later

No buildings stood unbroken

No people lined the streets

Only ghostly shadows

Blast-burned bodies

Etched into the walls

Those 'lucky' enough to survive

That first blast

Died quickly, died slowly

In agony.

Not much could be done

To heal those atomic burns

Festering deep.

And soon the horror

Was seen world wide

The shattered buildings

The shattered lives

And the world decided

Never Again.#

And we wait and wonder

When that will be true.

©LadyRoisin 2020/08/03

P r i d e ?

(My verse 7 is dedicated in honour of Wilfred Owen and all the war poets since)

As I stand up here I feel no **pride**

I wear my poppies side by side

Deep blood red and peaceful white

sharing now this morning light

in grief for all those lives, not lived.

I wear them with **sadness**

for the young men, who faced the sights

of that first great war,

lead into mud and senseless death,

and their families left desolate.

I wear them with **sorrow**

for the horrors of war

and for those who had no chance

to find a new tomorrow:

Lone generation; lost in the wastelands.

I wear them with **regret**

for the age-old family names

obliterated from time

because war had killed off

the last of their line.

I wear them in **anger**

for we have learned so little:

Despite their sufferings and fear

we groom yet more for bloody combat

on the false and fatal pride of yesteryear.

I wear them with an awful **fury**

at sponsors of the glory story

death abused for corporate gain

treating war like 'Boys' Own' games:-

for profiteers love a gravy train.

I wear them so the **truth** be told

It wasn't pride that set the mould

of working men upon both sides

committing carnage, based on lies

that claimed it all, 'Pro Patria.'

I wear them in **memory** of civilians bombed,

airmen burned, and sailors drowned.

I wear them because of the daily bravery

of ordinary men and women

and those who chose to be extraordinary

I wear them now because **I care**

for those who live with scars of war,

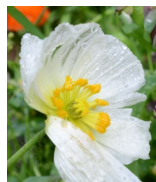
maimed in body, spirit, soul

crippled by the deadly toll.

This is **not** pride, just true compassion

and

remembrance



Geraldine Cowan November 2018

DIARY OF EVENTS

MEETINGS

Mon Oct 18th 2021 Community House, South Street, Bromley/or Zoom from 1.30 - 3.00pm
Mon March 14th 2022 [AGM] " " " " "
Mon June 20th 2022 " " " " "

LOCAL EVENTS

Leafleting in Bromley outside the Churchill Theatre or Bromley Market Square, in Beckenham outside LIDL, in Penge outside Boots, in Orpington near Lloyds bank, West Wickham near Caffe Nero/Oxfam or at Bromley South Station - 2.30 - 4.00 pm - the first Saturday of each month. [note - there may be changes to an occasional Friday or other days].

Due to the Pandemic some of these may have to be cancelled, including other Summer and Autumn events.

Aug 7th Bromley, Sept 4th Orpington, Oct 2nd Penge, Nov 6th Bromley South Station, Dec 4th West Wickham, Jan 1st 2022 Beckenham, Feb 5th 2022 Bromley, March 5th 2022 Penge, April 2nd 2022 Orpington, May 7th 2022 Bromley South Station, June 4th 2022 West Wickham, July 2nd 2022 Bromley.

NATIONAL & LONDON REGION EVENTS

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Every 2nd Wednesday of the month - Close.



Front cover design by Bethan Clark.

JOINING BROMLEY BOROUGH ANTI NUCLEAR GROUP (BAN)

If you wish to join or renew your subscription, please return the slip below to:

Ann Garrett, 31 Plaistow Grove , Bromley BR1 3PB Cheques Payable to: **Bromley CND**

Bank details - Bromley CND Account 77459712 Sort code 090153

I enclose £3/£5 as I am Low/Unwaged/Waged Donation £..... Total £.....

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