

MERSEYSIDE CND

NEWSLETTER

Aug./Sept. 2003

“Challenging the “axis of acquiescence”

The return home today of Private Jessica Lynch, the US soldier who was so dramatically ‘rescued’ by her compatriots from her ‘abusive’ Iraqi ‘jailers’, will be to a welcome fit for a hero as portrayed by the US spin machine. No matter that the true story came out in the end and showed how generous the Iraqi people had been to her after she was taken to one of their scarce hospital beds; still the folks back home believe the full US fairy tale. Meanwhile here in the UK, we are witnessing the sorry spectacle of a Prime Minister desperate to show how right he was in his slavish support for George Bush’s “Axis of Evil” foreign policy, hounding unmercifully those who question the wisdom or veracity of this policy. Fearful scenarios are presented almost daily to the public to persuade them that George Bush’s apocalyptic vision of parts of the world must be right. If you don’t go along with this you are either a traitor or a wimp and must be crushed. Fortunately there are millions of people all over the world, ready and willing to object to the barbarous and hypo-critical thinking of their governments. In a recent speech Janet Bloomfield, former Chair of National CND, highlighted the dangers of taking this line of least resistance, the “axis of acquiescence” and the importance of finding out where people are at and how they might be influenced to take a more objective view of world affairs. Copies of her speech are available from Merseyside CND, address below.

REMEMBER HIROSHIMA

Wreath Laying Ceremony

11am

Wed. Aug. 6th 2003

*The Peace Garden in St. John’s Garden
behind St. George’s Hall, Liverpool*

Introductions

Gina Shaw, Merseyside CND

Address and Laying of the Wreath in remembrance of all victims of war

The Lord Mayor of Liverpool

Cllr. Ron Gould

Speakers

Robert Wareing, MP

Fr. Austen Smith CP

Gordon Dixon, Ex-Services CND

The proceedings will end with the Peace Prayer

For further information contact

Merseyside CND, 24 Hardman St.

L1 9AX ☎ 0151 708 7764

mcnd@care4free.net

www.mcnd.org.uk

CND ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

Sept.6-7th Arts Building, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston
Reports, Debates on anti-war campaign-ing, Trident, UK military bases, arms fairs, depleted uranium, Iraq & the UN, Workshops, Stalls, Entertainment, Food. Accommodation available courtesy of West Midland CND, ☎ 0121 643 4617

Registration Fees:

Individual waged/unwaged: £25/£8

Merseyside CND are willing to help pay for any MCND member who'd like to go. You must be a National CND member. Joan Berry is Merseyside CND delegate.

The University is 2 miles SW of the city centre. The nearest station is University, 10 mins. from New St. Station in the centre of Birmingham.

Contact Tony Myers, National CND 162 Holloway Rd., London N7 8DQ ☎ 020 7700 2393
enquiries@cnduk.org www.cnduk.org

LOCAL & REGIONAL GROUP NEWS

Birkenhead CND

No meeting in August.
Eden Festival cancelled.
Thurs. Sept.18th (NB 3rd Thurs)
8.15pm Meeting at Cathy's, 9 Holt Hill Terrace ☎ 201 2273.
Stall: Sept. 20th on Milton Pavement – help needed.
Peace One Day: Sun. 21st 2pm
Birkenhead Park, details P2.
☎ Shirley: 0151 652 3768 or Stella: 677 6896.

Chester Peace Groups

Annual Flower Memorial to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Wed. Aug. 6th 8pm meet at the Bandstand, the Groves, Chester Cast white flowers on the Dee, readings, two minutes silence.
☎ Dai 01244 679 051
www.chesterstopwar.org.uk

Crosby CND

☎ Peter:0151 924 2981

Huyton CND

huyton.cnd@merseyemail.com
<http://www.folksites.com/Huyton-CND/> We are trying to arrange a POD event on Sept. 21st with a local Justice & Peace group. For details ☎ Paul: 0151 489 3167 or Dave 289 2619.

Liverpool Student CND

Info@livstudentcnd.org.uk
www.livstudentcnd.org.uk
Will be back at the end of Sept.

L'pool Pax Christi: Peace

vigils: Wed. 5-6pm: Sacred Heart Church, Hall Lane/ Prescott Rd. ☎ Jan 263 5623

Maghull & Lydiate CND

Tues. Sept. 16th 8pm social and planning meeting at Cath and Bob's.

☎ Sylvi: 526 7293

Merseyside Against Arms

Trade: First Mon. each month vigil and leaflet the workers at BAe Warton military aircraft factory. Cars depart 3.30pm St. Michael's Church, Horne St., West Derby Rd. L6
☎ Jan 0151 263 5623

**CAAT National Event: 'Shut Defence Systems Equipment (DSEi)' Europe's largest arms fair: Sept.6 -12th London Docklands. www.dsei.org
Merseyside CAAT ☎ Mike Williams: 0151 647 6374**

Merseyside CND

Wed. Aug. 6th 11am St. John's Garden, L'pool. Details P1.
Wed. Sept.10th 7pm Co-ord

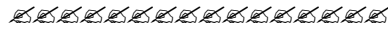
Meeting in the MCND Office,
24 Hardman St., L1 9AX
☎ 0151 708 7764
email: mcnd@care4free.net
<http://www.mcnd.org.uk>

Merseyside Peace Council
Thurs. Oct.16th 6.00pm AGM
at Friends Meeting House
Paradise St., Liverpool
☎ Gerry: 733 2018 Website:
<http://www.mpeace.org.uk>

Merseyside Stop War Coal.
Meetings: Every other Tuesday
7pm, MTU, 24 Hardman St.
Leafletting and petitioning: Sat.
12-2pm Church St. near Little-
woods ☎ Mark:0775 2350994
www.stopwar.org.uk
**National Demonstration Against the
occupation of Iraq and Palestine:**
*Sat. Sept. 27th in London. Coaches
will be going from Liverpool.
Tickets on sale at News From
Nowhere and usual vendors.*

Wallasey CND
Mon.Aug. 4th & Sept.1st 7.30p
planning meeting at Barbara's,
4 Taunton Rd., Wallasey.
Sat. Aug. 9th 2-6pm stall at
R&B Festival, Vale Park, New
Brighton. Tea in the Park:
Sun. Aug. 17th 1.30-4.30pm -
Walled Garden, Central Park.
Peace One Day: Sun. Sept. 21st
3-5pm. Concert and picnic in
Vale Park, New Brighton. P2.
☎ Barbara: 638 3967, Hope
638 4666 or Janet: 677 1133.
wlsycnd@amservice.com

Wirral Christian CND
Mon. Sept. 1st 6.30pm Meeting
for prayer and discussion at 4
Taunton Rd. Wallasey
☎ Doreen : 0151 200 7628
or Tony 0151 200 5448



Coulport Disarmament Camp
Sat. 2nd – Fri. 15th August
*Sited in Peaton Wood, Coulport
half a mile from the Trident
warhead depot and a few
miles from the Trident sub-
marine base at Faslane, the
Coulport camp is the longest
running and biggest Trident
Ploughshares camp. The site
provides comfortable camping
space for many people. Bring
your own tent and sleeping bag
Vegan food provided for a
donation. Many disarmament
actions will take place at the
trident bases commemorating
Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days.
Workshops on non-violence
and other issues. Welcome all
or part of the 2 weeks.
☎ 0845 458 8366 or email:
tp2000@gn.apc.org*

“Humanity has lost a tender Champion”

Thomas, d. 4/7/03 aged 11 yrs.

An appreciation:

“I only met Thomas twice yet
I shall always remember him.

The first time I saw him was
the day war started against Iraq.

Children from across the city walked out of their
schools in protest. Thomas was one of them.

When I arrived at Church St. where people had
gathered to march against the war, I saw a
remarkable young boy conducting the crowd via
the megaphone. This was a protest led by child -
ren and Thomas was at the head of them.

I can only say that he enchanted us, all of us. His
chants were witty and impassioned. We, the
adults, hung onto his every word and responded
to his every chant. We could not help but roar
with laughter or applause as this baby -faced
revolutionary brimmed with such infectious
enthusiasm, spirit and confidence.....

I was lucky enough to bump into him some days
later on the second of the 2 anti -war marches that
were held in London. I told him how fantastic I
thought he was. I am now glad I did. He was
clearly a charming and extraordinary young man.

Our chat lasted only briefly but I remember
thinking that if I ever had a son I would want
him to be just like Thomas.

I am distraught to hear of his death. Anybody in
the anti-war movement who witnessed or met
Thomas will know no words can truly do him
justice..... I was looking forward to campaign -
ing alongside him for years to come. We are
robbed. Thomas was a truly memorable and
inspirational human being.

Humanity has lost a tender young champion.”

Alun Parry. Huyton .

First printed in the Liverpool Echo. Alun speaks
for all of us whose lives were all too briefly
touched by Thomas. *‘He was a jewel’*.

Keep Space for Peace Week: Oct. 4-11th **International days of protest to stop the militarisation of space.**

Time to speak out and demonstrate to protect the space
wilderness. M/side CND will be running a stall in
Liverpool. ☎ MCND Office 708 7764 if you can help or
if you'd like to go to Menwith Hill Spy Base to
demonstrate. globalnet@mindspring.com
www.space4peace.org

Stop the War on Asylum Seekers

Even a cursory glance at where most refugees come
from highlights the obvious connection between war
and people fleeing for their lives. The Earth is a
planet at war. In the year 2000 there were 40 armed
conflicts underway in 36 different countries with
Africa the most war -torn region in the world. In 2001
the UN identified 21.8 million people as being
affected by war. That included 12m refugees.

Countries from which most people are fleeing in the
last few years include Afghanistan, Burundi, Iraq,
Sudan, Bosnia, Somalia, Angola, Eritrea, Rwanda,
The Democratic Republic of Congo,

Much of the press would have us believe that most
are coming to this country. This is not the case. Most
go to neighbouring countries while Germany is the
main Western home to refugees. The US and UK are
huge purveyors of arms to the regions from which
refugees are fleeing. From 1989-98 the US provided
over \$227m in weapons and training to various
African countries. Contact Merseyside Stop the War
Coalition if you'd like to get involved in the
campaign to make the links between who benefits
from war and how the victims of war are treated
when they try to escape conflict.

Email: Mark.Henzel@btoopenworld.com

Other relevant organisations: Merseyside Refugee
Support Network, c/o Liverpool Network for Change
☎ 0151 702 6964 Email: livnet@merseymail.com

Woolman House: ☎ 0151 281 5894

Asylum Link M/side: ☎ 0151 709 1713

Liverpool Friends of Palestine

Vigils Aug. 2nd and every other Sat. 12noon -2pm on
the steps of St. Luke's Church, top of Bold St.

Jeremy Hardy v The Israeli Army

Documentary about the international solidarity
movement in Palestine as experienced through the
eyes of comedian Jeremy Hardy, now on general
release at independent cinemas.

Australia to join the Club?

The nuclear club that is, according to a report by
Gerard McManus who cites evidence from experts
that a new \$600m nuclear reactor and a deal with the
USA to get 'off the shelf' tactical nuclear weapons in
a crisis will give Australia the option of becoming a
nuclear power. A government spokeswoman has
been quick to deny the rumours as absurd and to
claim that Australia will stick by the NPT. Send sae
to MCND for 2pp document on this alarming report.

**Farewell to long time friends and supporters
who have recently died:** Eleanor Connor, Val
Jukes and Vera Ellwand. Our love to their families.

