CCND Summer Campaigns

See page 2-3 for CCND’s summer activities, details of Annual General Meeting on page 3, plus page four for a diary of events
Friday 2nd August;

The first day — disaster looms. Minibus company let us down. Waited in vain for promised (and paid for) van. Back-up co. don’t deliver either. Off to Heathrow and book vehicle from there.

Delay means we miss booked ferry. Eventually arrive in Paris “Maison de Vigilance” at 11.00pm. Our wonderful friends from “Stop-Essais” are still waiting up for us with a meal. Thenceforward, fantastic!

Saturday; Off to Dijon. Set up tents on campsite and join Dijon “Mouvement de la Paix” for evening meeting, (and wine). Present them with Aldermaston scrapbook.

Sunday: Dijon group join us for short demo and leafleting (in French) by the lake. Local TV reporter comes too and spends day with us. Drive off to Valduc — MUCH stricter than Aldermaston. We photograph site from afar off then walk round base with banners and decorate fence with Sadako cranes. Allowed to pause briefly by gate to say “Lord’s Prayer” (Police too embarrassed to forbid it!) We are main item on regional news programme that evening. Going from UK to demonstrate in France makes quite a stir! Back to campsite for a shared camp supper.

Monday: Off to sports centre in Paris to join the beginning of the Hiroshima to Nagasaki Days fast. Camp on gymnasium floor and hear plans for action.

Tuesday: Hiroshima Commemoration near Eiffel Tower. Walk slowly down to Eiffel Tower past and over picnickers for “Die In” underneath. French campaigners queue up to sign our banner made by Wimbledon CND member. Presence of Brits has brought TV crews out in force. (We must get the French back!) We decide to visit British Embassy but are not allowed to stay. Follow it up with letter from home.

Wednesday: Back to UK. Miss the ferry again!! (Horrrendous traffic in Paris delays us, in spite of our wonderful driver). Apart from the travelling hitches this was one of the most successful activities we have undertaken.

For more pictures and a fuller description, see next Ploughshare.
Known by Greenham Women and Cruisewatch as Jean Witney, this tiny woman of towering strength brought love, determination and common sense to her work as another peace woman extraordinaire. In an Oxford Mail interview, Jean once said: 'Going to Greenham was a seminal point in my life. I don’t know what it was about the place, but you got a great positive strength from being there and being with the other women. They gave you a chance to speak and did not put you down. We had lots of tricks – I became handy with bolt cutters and still have pieces of [Greenham fence] wire in my garden.’

While still working as a primary school teacher, Jean would bring an evening meal for Greenham Women and stay to do the night watch. Once Cruise missiles were expected to leave the base on exercise, Jean would watch a road junction from her car, ready to radio the news of the convoy’s direction, alerting the Cruisewatch network before tracking the convoy, usually to Salisbury Plain. Then home in the small hours, ready for school later that morning.

Jean was a quietly-noticeable peace worker: tenacious, patient and reliable, establishing these qualities as the norm for Cruisewatch.

After retirement in 1985, Jean was freer to take part in nonviolent direct action, eventually going to prison rather than pay a fine. In 1991, she got thrown out, suffragette-style, from the chamber of the House of Commons for shouting and raising a banner against the Gulf War. The same year, she was dragged away by police from a blockade of Whale Island at the Portsmouth arms fair.

Amid all this, Jean continued to care for her disabled mother, enrich her family life with children and grandchildren, attend church, read avidly and enjoy the theatre.

Earlier, in the 1970s, with support from her husband, Frank, Jean was active in the World Development Movement, and became a district commissioner in the Girl Guides. With a job, and family of four boys, she even gained an honours degree as a founder student of the Open University. In the 80s, she worked with Witney Peace Group, Pax Christi, Christian CND and USAF Upper Heyford Peace Camp, apart from Greenham, Cruisewatch, and becoming an Aldermaston Women’s Peace Camp (AWPC) woman and a ‘spotter’ for Polaris Watch. In the 1990s, Jean protested at USAF Fairford and Campsfied (Oxford’s asylum seekers detention centre); continued at AWPC and helped set up Nukewatch.

By the 2000s, Jean was a founding member, and education team leader, at Oxford’s Asylum Welcome where she gave her time, money, skills and hospitality to those in distress, who needed someone unafraid of the authorities to be their advocate.

In her quiet humility, few knew that Jean received the Neve Shalom-Wahat Al Salaam Pax Christi Peace Award in 2010 for ‘Commitment over a number of years to working for Peace’. Jean will be sadly missed, but gladly remembered.

By Di McDonald reprinted from Peace News
18 October: This year marks the 70 anniversary of Franz Jägerstätter’s execution. There will be an evening event in Euston, London with speaker Severin Renoldner from Pax Christi Austria. Severin has researched and written on Franz and is Head of Education and Culture for the Diocese of Linz. There will also be a liturgy and time to share food together. The Centre for Youth Ministry, 20 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA. 7 – 9.30pm. RSVP to Pax Christi 020 8203 4884 https://twitter.com/paxchristiuk http://www.paxchristi.org.uk


27 October: Defend The Right To Protest: Conference. Speakers: Owen Jones, Gareth Peirce, Nina Power. 11am-5.30pm. Venue: ULU, Malet Street, London, WC1. For more info visit www.defendtherighttoprotest.org

10 November: Remembrance Sunday. 10.45 Women’s Vigil at Main Gate, Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment, near Tadley, Berkshire. All women welcome. Please wear black. Followed by vegan lunch afterwards at Citadel gate on A340, a discussion on countering the glorification of the First World war commemoration, and a Remembrance Time for Jean a founder member of AWPC. Contact 07946676761 Wheelchair accessible.

10 November: Movement for the Abolition of War AGM at 1pm. The Remembrance Day Lecture (Details tba) is at 3pm. Imperial War Museum London.

11 November: Remembrance Day. Wreath-laying 11am St John’s Garden (behind St. George’s Hall) including peace poems, songs and personal memories of war experiences and resistance. Later in the day film-showing of ‘Oh! What a lovely war!’ Time and venue to be arranged. Travelling Light West Kirby’s annual St Martin’s/Armistice Day lantern-lit family walk along the Promenade, with music, songs & refreshments on the beach. A sustainable celebration of community and peace. Bring a lantern or torch & meet in Coronation Gardens at 5.30pm. Merseyside CND, 151 Dale St, Liverpool L2 2AH. 0151 229 5282 mcnd@carefree.net www.mcnd.org.uk

18 October:

CCND Annual General Meeting

16th November, 12noon in Holloway Road north London. All welcome. See page 3 for more details.


24 November - 1 December: Scottish Interfaith Week. 0141 4206982 admin@interfaithscotland.org http://www.interfaithscotland.org/our-activities/scottish-interfaith-week/

1 December: Prisoners for Peace Day. The day highlights the plight of those who face imprisonment for the nonviolent actions for peace - be they conscientious objectors or direct action activists. info@wri-irg.org 020 7278 404 http://www.wri-irg.org/co/01dec.htm

There is a special elist set up for all peace groups organising events to coincide with the centenary of WW1, and anyone else interested.

You can subscribe by going to: https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/ww1peace and clicking the ‘subscribe’ button on the left hand side. Or email mail@networkforpeace.org.uk and ask to be added to the list. You can download a calendar of WW1-specific events at http://www.networkforpeace.org.uk/resources or ring Claire on 07794 036 602 for a paper copy.

CCND goods

Pack of 24 A4 sheets of Interfaith quotations on peace as used at the Creation Conference £1 a pack
CCND stickers 10 stickers for 50p, 50 stickers for £2
Legacy leaflet Free
Churches’ Guide Free
T-Shirts £12 each.
Cotton bags £3 each.
Christmas Cards, £2.50 for six identical ‘robin’ cards
Picasso Greetings Cards, £2.50 for six.
Other CCND items available: Church Porch Poster, badges, enamel brooches, window stickers, pens and a history of CCND.
Send orders with cheque made out to Christian CND to: Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Rd, London N7 8DQ Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357 christians@cnduk.org http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/