

# campaign



**Stop US nukes  
coming to Lakenheath!**



**19 November 2022**

**1pm-3pm, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk**

Visit [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org) for more information, including travel options to the base.

## Norwich on the front line

**Sue Wright** and **John Marais** from Norwich CND explain why residents in Norwich and in wider East Anglia are protesting US nukes arriving on their doorsteps.

**N**UCLEAR WEAPONS based at Lakenheath make all East Anglians potential targets for nuclear attack. We have no control over American defence policy, yet we could be the victims of their decisions. There has been no discussion in Parliament about the positioning of nuclear weapons by the USAF at Lakenheath.

It is extraordinary that a foreign power can place weapons of mass destruction on our soil with no oversight from our elected

representatives. There seems to have been no consultation with Suffolk, Norfolk or Cambridgeshire local authorities. Norwich City Council's acceptance of a Public Question on the issue is the first gesture towards local public awareness of a potential threat to every East Anglian.

Apart from policy decisions, nuclear war could break out by mistake or misunderstanding, especially in situations where negotiation has broken down. The Russians would be looking for targets, and American bases in Europe would quite

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likely be amongst them. We don't know what strength weapons they might use, but we do know the bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki were much less powerful than nuclear weapons of today. We also know that radioactivity spreads a long way, and people would probably die horrific and painful deaths within the region.

In 1956 and 1961 there were serious accidents at Lakenheath, both involving nuclear weapons. They were hushed up at the time – the first one was only known about in the UK after it was mentioned in America in 1979. In both cases the results could have been catastrophic for local people. Will the government give an assurance that there have been no other similar accidents since then? Is Lakenheath subject to any health and safety oversight by UK officials?

Are any preparations being made by government to deal with the catastrophic consequences of a nuclear

strike? Have local council officers been briefed at all regarding their role should disaster strike? Would local people know who to turn to? Would the emergency services know what to do? There are so many unanswered questions.

Noise nuisance from the fighter jet training has affected Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Apart from the actual noise, knowing what the training is for is likely to cause anxiety for many – despite the laughable pretence that they 'keep us safe'.

There is also the problem of the enormous carbon footprint created by the USAF, one of the biggest polluters in the world. The F35 jets which regularly fly over our heads will have been burning 22.3 gallons per minute of jet fuel.

Have these matters been considered by central or local government, in their commitment to reach 'net zero' carbon targets?

■ Join the campaign to protest US nukes at Lakenheath: <https://cnduk.org/lakenheath/>

## Spotlight

### This month Abingdon Peace Group



When Russia invaded Ukraine at the end of February, Abingdon Peace Group was out on the streets the very next Monday for an anti-war vigil. The CND group committed to being there every Monday morning until the war finishes – little realising how long that would be! But they have kept to their promise, and continue to hold banners every Monday morning for the attention of the morning traffic.

If you live in the area and would like to join these vigils, or any of Abingdon Peace Group's other activities, please get in touch. Phone 01235 526265 or 07786 055195, or you can email [abingdonpeace@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonpeace@gmail.com).

# Time to celebrate

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Embrace the Base, **Nuala Young** from the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp writes about the history of the camp and why it's important we highlight its role in Britain's nuclear weapons system.

**O**N 12th December 1982, 30,000 women held hands around the nine-mile perimeter of the base at Greenham Common to say 'No' to the US cruise nuclear weapons being brought there. Like the cruise missiles housed there, the base was intended to be invisible, to melt into the countryside, but this action, known as Embrace the Base, brought it into the spotlight, as did the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp where many of the women were based.

Mired in mud and harassed by ruthless bailiffs, some of the women decided to establish a quieter, less contested, respite camp by the nearby nuclear weapons factory at Aldermaston. Rebecca Johnson, one of the Greenham women, talks through her memories: "The Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp was started by Lorna, Lyn and me in late winter 1984. We decided to escape from Greenham, where we were living, and camp at the British nuclear bomb factory for a change.

"We set up under the oak trees at Falcon Gate where we

## 9-11 December 2022

**Come to Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp: Time to Celebrate** the most powerful women-only event ever and turn the spotlight on our illegal nuclear weapon factory.

would be visible and also (we hoped) safe, as there was a pub and garage. Lorna painted a green cloth banner with radiation symbols and 'Aldermaston Women's Campaign', and we took a spare kettle from Yellow Gate, some wood and water. We lit the fire, made some tea, ate chips and talked about stopping Trident as well as Cruise.

"Passing cars honked horns that seemed encouraging rather than hostile. A few even stopped for a chat. We stayed two nights and then returned the following month. More and more women joined us for Aldermaston actions, especially after the USAF and their cruise missiles left Greenham in 1991 – brilliant."

Since then, the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp has established a monthly presence in a little dell under oak and fir trees on the north-west corner of Aldermaston.

With the UK government taking no notice of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, now signed by 91 states and already ratified by 68 countries, it's high time we increase the spotlight on Aldermaston, where new nuclear weapons are being developed.

Women are urged to come to the camp for the 40-year anniversary celebration of Embrace the Base, on the weekend 9th-11th December. There will be web weaving, spider and crow making workshops, a party in the marquee, a brilliant shadow puppet show, a lantern procession and a workshop on the connections between militarism and the climate catastrophe.

■ For more details look up Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp on Facebook or phone 07852 293386.

**The Life and Work of John Ainslie – NIS webinar**

**9 November**, 2pm, online  
■ For link to join contact [office@nuclearinfo.org](mailto:office@nuclearinfo.org)

**Yorkshire CND regional campaigners meeting**

**9 November**, 6pm, online  
■ For link to join contact [info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

**Norwich on the nuclear front line – public meeting**

**9 November**, 7pm-9:30pm  
The Auditorium at The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich  
■ Contact [sue.wright44@icloud.com](mailto:sue.wright44@icloud.com)

**End the NHS crisis: SOS NHS conference 12 November**

10am-5pm, London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London  
■ Contact [campaigns@keepournhspublic.com](mailto:campaigns@keepournhspublic.com)

**Future War – CND conference**

**12 November** 10:30am-4pm  
Birkbeck University of London, Malet Street, London WC1  
■ Contact [information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org)

**Songs for Peace 2022 – Bradford event 13 November**

1pm, Bradford Cenotaph, Prince's Way, Bradford BD5 0BQ  
■ Contact [info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

**Yorkshire CND Peace & Craft Fair 2022 26 November**

10am-4pm, Victoria Hall, Saltaire, Shipley.  
■ Contact [sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

**Stop US nukes coming to Lakenheath!**

**19 November** 1pm-3pm

Join CND's demonstration at RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk. Transport arranged from across the country.

■ See [cnduk.org/lakenheath](http://cnduk.org/lakenheath) for more details.



**Come to Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp: Time to celebrate, 9-11 December**

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, Paices Hill, Aldermaston  
■ Phone 07852 293386 with any queries.

**Meet the staff**

**This month: Rachel Earlington, Parliamentary Officer**

"CND had a strong presence on my university campus, so it seemed natural to me to apply for a job in an organisation that I already supported and had worked with. Three years working for the campaign has flown by! I really like the variety of my role. In the same day I could be meeting with MPs in the morning and making placards for a demo in the afternoon.



In times like these it's really important to get MPs supporting our anti-war no nukes messages and although Westminster does present its challenges, the Parliamentary CND group have been key to getting our message on the agenda. In addition, our activities around the party conference season this year meant that we were able to engage and speak to many people affected by the government's plans to increase military spending and also those Parliamentarians who can use their position to oppose Britain's nuclear weapons."

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