

CAMPAIGN

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Wales says No to Space Wars

Dylan Lewis-Rowlands from CND Cymru explains why opposition is growing to a proposed military site in Wales.

When the Ministry of Defence announced Brawdy in Pembrokeshire as their preferred site for a deep space radar site, we were disappointed, but not surprised. Following centuries of Welsh land and air being militarised for the benefit of the state, the notion that the new frontier for

war – space – will be fought partially from Wales probably came naturally to those over in the so-called MOD.

What might've been more surprising to us is where they chose to site this element of the Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability (DARC) programme – in a



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national park noted for its extraordinary natural beauty, where the economy is propped up by tourism and leisure. It is also a site that has seen opposition to development before. In the late 80s and early 90s, a campaign known as PARC – Pembrokeshire Against RADAR Campaign – forced the Thatcher government to very publicly cancel a RADAR development in Cawdor due to overwhelming public opposition. The stage is set therefore for a rematch: the UK government vs the new PARC against DARC.

The DARC development poses many threats to Pembrokeshire and Cymru in addition to the political. Such a massive development could easily choke a local economy so reliant on tourism and leisure. A site like this, constantly broadcasting signals into the sky and space, lit up so brightly, could devastate local wildlife, including the endangered bird the Manx Shearwater. The development also creates a definitive military target – with DARC being the most advanced space tracking facility available to the Americans (yes- it'll

be run by America), it is a logical target for attack for the opponents of the dying imperial hegemon.

I've only briefly outlined some of the threats DARC poses – there are many more. But we hope to stop the proposals in their tracks. At a local 'PR' event that could only be described as an unmitigated disaster for the MOD, local campaigners and activists turned out to demonstrate their opposition. At a packed event a few months prior, even more came to the launch of the PARC against DARC campaign.

This proposal, much like the proposal of the 80s, can be defeated. But it requires us to show up. It requires peace campaigners and local communities to unite as before. We will not lie down and accept this. We will turn up to future PR events, we will oppose the granting of planning permission, we will show just how ferociously Cymru yearns to be a Nation of Peace. I hope you will join us.

- For more information on the campaign see www.parcagainstdarc.com

Spotlight

This month: Labour CND



The CND team has just returned from Labour party conference and we want to say a huge thank you to Labour CND for their support there! Despite the party's official position, many of the members feel strongly that the government should be getting rid of nuclear weapons, not spending more money on them.

There are still plenty of opportunities to advance the cause of disarmament in the Labour party, with many MPs members of Parliamentary CND. If you're a Labour party member and a CND member, why not help with this work? Get in touch with Labour CND by emailing labourcnd@gmail.com.

KATE HUDSON: MY TIME AT CND



CND General Secretary Kate Hudson retires at the end of this month. Here she looks back on her time with CND.

I accepted nomination as a vice-chair of CND in the summer of 2001. Little did I know that just days before my election, the terrible attacks of 9/11 would

take place: the 'War on Terror' followed, and the build-up to the war on Iraq. It was a baptism of fire, travelling around the country to meetings virtually every evening. But I drew strength from the enormous love and support from CND members, and the unity that has been a constant throughout my time with CND.

The years that have followed, as Chair from 2003, and as General Secretary from 2010, have been a roller coaster – the Iraq war, Trident replacement, missile defence, NATO, nuclear power, 'low yield' nuclear weapons, nuclear 'use' policies, the climate emergency, the Ukraine war, the genocide on Gaza... the challenges have been endless. But that has always been the case for our movement.

The greatest lesson that I have learnt is that CND is most effective when we work in alliance with others, united across the movements, embracing diversity and engaging internationally. And above all I value CND's democracy, the fact that it is a member-led organisation making its own political decisions, without fear or favour. And sometimes that means hard debate and discussion.

But that is our greatest strength, because only a movement open to different views can adapt and develop in an ever-changing world, and CND members are so passionate about our goals we are determined to get it right. As a result we have been able to play a leading role in virtually every peace campaign since CND was founded. Our most important asset has always been the accumulated experience of our members and I am confident that will continue. We are at our best when we relate directly to people's most pressing concerns - linking our issues to the reality of what is going on in the world.

The history of CND is the history of post-World War II, told from the side of those fighting for humanity against the horror of war. It is the story of ordinary people's struggles to shape a world without nuclear weapons and war, based on legality and morality; to make our governments responsive and accountable over our right to stay alive, our right to breathe air free of radioactive pollution, our right to say no to the indiscriminate killing of other peoples. We continue to make this history and I am proud to have been part of our struggle to bring our vision of the world into being.

It has been an immense privilege to serve in the leadership of CND for over two decades and I thank you all for the trust and support that you have shown me.

What's on: For a full, updated list of events, see cnduk.org/events/

Film screening of 'Threads'

3 October 6pm-9pm
Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester M2 1NL
■ gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

CND AGM and policy conference 5 October

10:50am-3:15pm, online.
■ To register, contact conference@cnduk.org

'One year on: end the genocide' – national demo

5 October 12 noon
Assemble Russell Square
■ information@cnduk.org

Space for Peace demonstration

9 October 12 noon-1pm
Outside Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB
■ information@cnduk.org

Keep Space for Peace demonstration

12 October 12 noon
USAF Croughton, Brackley
■ oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk

CND groups workshop on press 15 October

7pm-8:30pm, online.
■ information@cnduk.org

Christian CND AGM and Conference 19 October

10am-4pm, The Frassati Centre, Wellington Street, Lecester
■ christians@cnduk.org

Cambridge CND AGM

19 October 11am-12 noon
Thrive Café, 5-7 Norfolk Street, Cambridge
■ CNDCambridge@gmail.com



Meet the staff

This month: *Cristina Tofan, Scottish CND*

"Hello everyone! My name is Cristina, and I'm the administrator at Scottish CND, where I've worked for the past seven years. My role involves managing our members' database, ensuring our records are accurate, and monitoring membership data, which is vital to supporting our activism. I also handle financial tasks, such as keeping accounts up to date for the treasurer and auditors, processing invoices and donations, and preparing reports.

Additionally, I manage our merchandise – overseeing stock, working with suppliers, and tracking sales. On top of this, I'm responsible for a variety of administrative tasks, including responding to enquiries, organising mailings, and helping to coordinate events. I also support and train volunteers who assist with these activities.

Being part of Scottish CND allows me to contribute to the essential behind-the-scenes work that supports our mission for a world free of nuclear weapons.



'The nuclear cover-up' – Scottish CND webinar

24 October 7pm, online
■ Contact scnd@banthebomb.org

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace vigil

26 October 12 noon-2pm

RAF Lakenheath, Brandon
■ vigils@lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk

Stop US nukes coming to Lakenheath demo

2 November 12 noon
RAF Lakenheath, Brandon
■ information@cnduk.org

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