



West Midlands

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mailing

January/February 2023

LAKENHEATH DEMONSTRATION ON SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER

110 nuclear bombs were stored at the airbase until they were removed in 2008 following persistent popular protest, and they must not be allowed back.

Listen to CND Chair Tom Unterrainer here:

<https://www.facebook.com/CNDuk/videos/5317399178365029>



"We don't want these US weapons of mass murder back!

"We want their warplanes out of this country and we're going to build a movement to make sure their machines of death do not return here!"

And watch this video from ICAN about the delivery of new warheads from the USA across the continent of Europe without people's knowledge or consent:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgfckOtqWb8>

Join us on zoom on Wednesday 18th January 7.30 pm for our regular WMCND meeting.



As well as our regular business, John Cooper, Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation UK will speak to us about Britain's many atmospheric tests of nuclear weapons over Pacific islands in the 1950s, a scandal not enough people know about.

Details of the FoR /CCND action (asking the UK to support the investigations into the impact of the testing, currently being carried out by the government of Kiribati) can be found here:

<http://for.eaction.org.uk/PacificIslanders>

and for those who receive a paper copy of the mailing, a postcard is also included.

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Follow us on Twitter : @westmidlandscnd

BITS FROM ABROAD

Iran has begun construction on a new nuclear power plant in the country's southwest, Iranian state TV announced, amid tensions with the U.S. over sweeping sanctions imposed after Washington pulled out of the Islamic Republic's nuclear deal with world powers. ... Iran has one nuclear power plant at its southern port of Bushehr that went online in 2011 with help from Russia, but also several underground nuclear facilities. The announcement of Karoon's construction came less than two weeks after Iran said it had begun producing enriched uranium at 60% purity at the country's underground Fordo nuclear facility.

PBS 3rd Dec 2022

<https://to.pbs.org/3Csc3iT>

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister has said that Iran's Gulf Arab neighbours would take measures to shore up their security if Tehran were to obtain nuclear weapons. "If Iran gets an operational nuclear weapon, all bets are off," Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said on Sunday <https://to.pbs.org/3Csc3iT> an on-stage interview at the World Policy Conference in Abu Dhabi when asked about such a scenario. Al Jazeera, 11th Dec 2022

<https://bit.ly/3W3Ps3y>

India's Minister of State Jitendra Singh has called for the country's private sector companies and start-ups to take part in the development of small modular reactor (SMR) technology. The minister's comments were made in an address to a workshop on SMRs held by the government's NITI Aayog policy think-tank.

World Nuclear News 28th Nov 2022

<https://bit.ly/3WctVpi>

Will **Russia** raise its sunken subs now that it has invaded Ukraine? When Russia assumed the rotating chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2021, it proposed that over the next 14 years, it would raise from the depths of the Arctic a toxic array of rusting nuclear garbage—including two entire nuclear submarines—that had been dumped during the Soviet era. Read more.....

Bellona 5th Dec 2022

<https://bit.ly/3WfzblR>

FROM THE MEDIA

NATO ally Belgium's green party coalition uses Brexit rules to BLOCK export of critical nuclear arms technology to Britain.

Daily Mail 25th Nov 2022

<https://bit.ly/3uPGWsZ>

Workers at hazardous nuclear waste site test positive for drugs. Random testing has been carried out on 741 workers over the past year. Seven workers at the hazardous Sellafield nuclear waste site have tested positive for drugs over the past twelve months. Three have tested positive for alcohol, raising questions over safety at the site. ... The figures were released to The Telegraph following a Freedom of Information request. It did not reveal what action had been taken against those who tested positive. Sellafield is considered one of the most hazardous nuclear sites in the world, according to the Office for Nuclear Regulation, handling more radioactive material per square meter than any site in Europe.

Telegraph 4th Dec 2022

<https://bit.ly/3HurtGp>

A robot designed to inspect radioactive parts of Dounreay nuclear power plant has been named as one of the top inventions of 2022 by Time magazine (Stuart MacDonald writes). The robot, called Lyra, has been used in areas that are inaccessible and unsafe for humans. Between February and April, Lyra surveyed a radiologically contaminated duct that runs beneath the central corridor between the plant's laboratories.

Times 12th Dec 2022

<https://bit.ly/3uMrM85>

Pakistan has denounced statements from a Russian senator that accused Islamabad of helping Ukraine develop nuclear bombs, calling them illogical. Pakistan's ministry of foreign affairs said on Tuesday that the statements were baseless and sought an explanation from its Russian counterpart.

Independent, 2nd Nov 2022

<https://bit.ly/3PiXD9U>

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TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS

New evidence that Trident submarines have been at sea for a record-breaking five months in 2022 has prompted a former submarine commander to warn of risks to nuclear safety. Observations at the Faslane nuclear submarine base on the Clyde suggest that two submarines armed with Trident missiles each went out on patrol for 157 days, one from January to June and the other from May to November. That's longer than submarines are previously known to have been at sea. Rob Forsyth, commanded nuclear submarines with the Royal Navy in the 1970s, said that the strains of such prolonged voyages caused "operating errors", "a breakdown in morale" and posed "a direct threat to nuclear safety." *The Ferret 6th December 2022*
<https://theferret.scot/nuclear-safety-trident-patrols/>

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities have welcomed the Prime Minister's recent decision to award a medal to Britain's nuclear test veterans but recognise that their fight for justice goes on. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced at a special ceremony held at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire last Monday that a new Nuclear Test Medal will be awarded to nuclear test veterans. The ceremony was attended by veterans and their families and by Defence Secretary Ben Wallace and Veterans' Affairs Minister Johnny Mercer.
NFLA 25th Nov 2022
<https://bit.ly/3FIBoXA>

Huge nuclear convoy spotted making its way through Coventry and Nuneaton.
Coventry Telegraph 23rd Nov 2022
<https://bit.ly/3W9FQUD>

Nuclear weapons: Concern over reports missiles were parked overnight metres from Lancashire primary school.
Blackpool Gazette 24th Nov 2022
<https://bit.ly/3BpX6gw>

For more about nuclear convoys, see the website <https://www.nukewatch.org.uk/> or follow @NukewatchUK on twitter.

NUCLEAR POWER

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities have sent a second letter to each of the four Community Partnerships responsible for taking forward proposals for a nuclear waste dump to seek assurances that opponents of the plan should have a chance to take up membership. The Community Partnerships in West Cumbria and East Lincolnshire are each pursuing the possibility of hosting Britain's many tons of high-level radioactive waste, produced from Britain's civil nuclear and military nuclear programmes, in an undersea Geological Disposal Facility.
NFLA 1st Dec 2022
<https://bit.ly/3FLryUZ>

Experts have issued a dire warning about the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power plant, as climate change could mean that in future, the coastal nuclear site could turn into an island. The Government confirmed that £700million of public money will be invested power plant..... [but] experts fear that the reactor could be at risk of climate change, as rising sea levels threaten to erode and swallow up the East coast of the UK. Earlier this week, the UK's former Chief Scientific Advisor Sir David King warned that the new £20billion power plant would be "very difficult to protect from flooding" due to rising sea levels on the Suffolk coast.
Express 30th Nov 2022
<https://bit.ly/3UNmvYI>

Taxpayers will hand China millions of pounds to quit its nuclear power venture in Suffolk as part of a £700m deal as the "golden era" of UK-China relations comes to an end. The Government is spending an initial £679m to help get the £20bn Sizewell C nuclear power plant project off the ground and has confirmed part of this will go to state-owned China General Nuclear (CGN) under an exit deal. It has not disclosed what proportion will go to CGN but a government spokesman said the payment "covers the value of their share-holding, their contribution to the project's development and a commercial return reflecting their work to date". "CGN has decided to exit the project at this stage in its development, following constructive commercial negotiations."
Telegraph 29th Nov 2022
<https://bit.ly/3uM00Zs>

What's On

January - February 2023

The next **Mailing** is due to be sent out at the beginning of March 2023.

The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 18th January. Please e-mail wmcndall@gmail.com for the zoom link. John Cooper, Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation UK, will speak to us about British Nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Hereford Peace Council – AGM to be held on Monday, September 5th, 11.00, Friends Meeting House, King Street, Hereford.

Leominster Community Centre – weeks beginning 12th and 19th September: exhibition on the development of nuclear weapons and the protests against them.

Malvern Churches Justice and Peace group Prayers for Peace, 12 noon on 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (except Bank Holidays), Lyttleton Well Prayer Room, Church Street, Great Malvern.

Read the latest CND Campaign magazine here:

<https://cnduk.org/resources/campaign-magazine-december-2022/>

ICAN's new report shows a \$45.9 billion drop in long-term investments in nuclear weapons in 2022, including loans and underwriting. Read the report here:

<https://bit.ly/3YARsC5>



Noticeboard

Peace Posters

Hereford Peace Council produces monthly posters on peace topics, to be displayed as widely as possible. The posters are not dated. *This month's poster: "It is wrong to stand on the side of any warring armies. It is necessary to stand of the side of peace and justice". Ukrainian Conscientious Objectors*

**Youth and Student CND
in-person Away Day
The Warehouse Cafe and Bar
Cooperative 54-57 Allison Street
Birmingham B5 5TH**

Sat, 4 February 2023, 10:00 – 16:00

Book your free ticket here:

[Youth and Student Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament Away Day Tickets, Sat 4
Feb 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)



*The **Emerging Voices Network** is a digital, global network of high-potential, early career researchers on nuclear weapons and nuclear policy issues. The launch event will take place online on Tuesday, 17 January 2023, 16:30 – 18:00 GMT/ UK time*

*RSVP via **Zoom**.*

Find out more at <https://basicint.org/event-the-2023-evn-policy-cycle-launch/>

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Our website: <https://wmcnd.org.uk/>