

# Nottingham CND

## Newsletter for April and May 2005

### Future Events for Nottingham CND

First of all I would like to apologise for the lateness of the bulletin. No - we have not gone away, but we felt it was important to get all the arrangements in place for Bruce Kent's visit rather than leaving people wondering what's going on.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 05 - Bruce Kent is coming to Nottingham to promote the Non Proliferation Treaty.**

Bruce will be arriving in Nottingham at about **11.30am**.

**12 noon** Nottingham CND will be having its stall in the Market Square to promote and get people to sign the Non Proliferation Treaty petition. This will be a chance for Bruce to meet the public. If it is raining we instead go directly to Broadway Cinema where people can come and meet him.

**2pm** The Lord Mayor of Nottingham, John Hartshorne, will meet Bruce in the Council House to discuss the Non Proliferation Treaty and the international organisation Mayors for Peace.

**3.15pm** We have had an invitation from Radio Nottingham for Bruce to go on the John Holmes show where they will be chatting about Bruce's life and why he has become so involved with CND and why he is so keen to promote the Non Proliferation Treaty.

**4 pm** onwards we will be going to Broadway Cinema and anybody who wishes can come and meet Bruce and have something to drink. There will also be a chance to get something to eat.

Bruce will be catching the train home around **6pm**.

In order to make this event worthwhile it is important we get as many members as possible involved either on the day or by sending letters to the Evening Post. Please tell as many people as possible about the event and get them to listen to Radio Nottingham or record the programme, which will go on for about half an hour from 3.15.

The Non Proliferation Treaty Conference is taking place in May in New York. Bruce Kent together with members of CND will be attending to emphasise one priority: to reject the logic of "counter-proliferation" which will be a very dangerous road to go down. The treaty was designed first to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear technology outside the five main nuclear states of the United States, the then Soviet Union, Britain, France and China. Secondly, those five states would, in the longer term, disarm. This would mean that we would begin to see the end of nuclear weapons. It is very important that the original treaty is ratified

### Dates for the diary - Market Square stall

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July

As usual I am looking for helpers. Thank you.

April 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Peace supper at the Friends Meeting House from 6.30pm. This is a good opportunity to meet like-minded people in an informal atmosphere and to discuss events and peace issues generally. See the article regarding the peace garden being proposed for Nottingham.



## **Green Festival May 29<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) at the Arboretum.**

Please note the change of date and venue. Nottingham CND will be having a stall there together with the tombola (unless anybody has any other bright ideas). Please inform as many people as possible and I am looking for volunteers to help. Please, also, give us items for the tombola stall. Let's make it a success - a change is as good as a rest!!!

## **East Midlands CND AGM - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May in Derby**

This year the AGM is being held at the Unitarian Chapel in Derby. It will be taking place at 11.30. There is a very good bus service from Nottingham. Anybody interested in going please contact me so we can all go down together. It should be a very good AGM and it is your chance to find out what is happening in the rest of the East Midlands as well as Nationally. There will be food and drink available: please make an effort to turn up.

## **Stop the War Activities**

Weekend events campaigning around the general election asking people to find out if the candidates standing for election in their constituency were for or against the war. The dates are Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April in the Market Square 12.00 - 2pm, Saturday 23 April 12 - 14pm in Beeston. On the 30<sup>th</sup> April Ray Hewitt, a former soldier from Military Families Against the War will be joining us to protest in Geoff Hoon's constituency in Ashfield and in the afternoon there will be a picket at Chetwynd Barracks in Chilwell.

For further details and a chance to help out in some or all of these events please feel free to call me on Nottingham 9812034. All help is appreciated. Please also think about how we can best get our message across that we are commemorating 60 years since the first Atomic bomb was exploded over Hiroshima on August 6<sup>th</sup> 1945.

Diane Lunzer - Secretary NCND.

## **Celebrate Sustainability; 28<sup>th</sup> May - 19<sup>th</sup> June**

This list is **not** exhaustive - for further details phone 915 5245 or email [sustainability.week@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability.week@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

**28<sup>th</sup> May Arboretum:** This event will incorporate the launch of all the city events.

**29<sup>th</sup> May Nottingham Green Festival:** see report in this issue

**5<sup>th</sup> June Wilwell Farm Cutting Nature Reserve: Open Day**

**11<sup>th</sup> June Wildflowers walk** along Gotham Hill. The latter two events organised by the South Branch Wildlife Trust

**5<sup>th</sup> June St Anns Allotments Open day:**

**11<sup>th</sup> June: HEMLOCK HAPPENING:** A number of local activities with a Green theme including a 'pledge tree', to develop school children's knowledge on sustainable issues, also other horticultural activities.

**13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June Tollerton Village Fayre:**

A family event including a variety of stalls, refreshments, bouncy castles and live music etc. A green themed event is planned.

**11<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> June National Bike week:** A Greater Nottingham cycling event, part of National Bike week.

**18<sup>th</sup> June Bulwell Hall: Community Garden Open day** taking place between 1pm to 5pm



## **HERE WE GO (AGAIN) - Dave Hewitt went to London (again)**

It's Saturday morning; it's 7.30 and I am outside the Salutation Inn: there must be another demo in London.

March 19th, two years since the US and UK invaded and occupied Iraq.

Two coaches, organised by Stop the War, went from Nottingham and they weren't all the same faces either although many were.

The politicians thought it would be quick and easy but, with typical imperialist arrogance, they underestimated the Iraqis. Now they are stuck because the Iraqi resistance is winning, morally if not militarily. And then no exit strategy was formulated because they never had any intention of leaving.

The march went from Hyde Park Corner to Trafalgar Square and passed the US embassy in Grosvenor Square. It was said to be the first time this has been allowed since 1968. The Embassy was heavily barricaded with enormous concrete blocks and steel fencing but this wasn't for our benefit. The protection has been there since 2001. Apart from this and a very heavy police presence there was nothing particular about the place, it's more the symbolic meaning. There was someone at a window photographing us though.

Talking of which there were several police with cameras filming us as we passed by. What on earth do they do with all that film? They must have the most boring home movies in the world. Even Jeremy Beadle would reject them!

Several of the speakers in Trafalgar Square and many placards on the march referred to the 'illegal war' or the 'illegal invasion'. This has always irritated me as the legality, or otherwise, of the invasion is irrelevant and a distraction from the main issue. They have no right to be there full stop.

The turn out? Well as usual there was much disagreement but what ever the number there was much humour and a good atmosphere.

And the sun shone on us.

## **GREEN IS GO: Nottingham Green Festival 2005 29 May at the Arboretum:**

Jeremy Jago reports

This article's main purpose is made clear by its heading. The Festival is well-established over 20 years, under one name or another. You might almost call it a local tradition by now. Around this time of the year, the word goes round. Namely, that there isn't going to be one this year. And equally regularly, it takes place anyway - somehow. I wrote about the running of the Festival from the inside a few months ago in this paper, so there's no need to repeat things. The essence is using volunteering and scrounging (where possible) and paying for things (where unavoidable). We've never managed to afford really good publicity - it's generally conceded as the limiting factor on this and similar events - do people know it's on?

This year there's even less money available - so what to do? The armchair optimists (love 'em) always urge 'Why don't you go all out for sponsorship? There are dozens of firms anxious to be associated with eco-friendly principles.' True - but can we really take Global Sweatshop Nuclear Waste Credit Reference Corporation's shilling just to help give them a green gloss? All right, I exaggerate, but you get the point. We value greatly the active collaboration of real green business - like the Co-operative Movement. But such genuinely green organisations are few, so other means of survival must be sought as well, necessitating more radical changes.

What's different this year? For the first time, Green Fest is part of a city-wide programme of environmental events. 'Celebrate Sustainability' lasts from May 28th to June 19th. It kicks off on the Saturday with the Arboretum Festival, an event staged by the local community of that public park. As that day draws to a close the Green Fest people spring into action, revamping the same location for the Green Festival the very next day! The aim is to make use of some existing physical facilities, enlist the help of some existing staff, and to utilise a collectively-funded publicity campaign. All the Green Festival's traditional features are retained and its scale undiminished - but at a different place and earlier in the year. It's an experiment that the organisers think is worthwhile. (And anyway, says the cynic, you had no choice. Touche.)

If you want to know more about the Green Fest, if you could display a poster or could help in some other way, however small, phone me on 962 1453.



## Declarations for a Nuclear-Free World

With this newsletter you should find a copy of a *Declaration for a Nuclear Free World*, produced by the World Court Project UK. The declaration is not a petition, rather it is a personal statement of belief that nuclear weapons cannot be used for defence, and a demand that the promise of a nuclear-free world is fulfilled.

The World Court Project (WCP) is collecting these (deadline April 29th) and will be taking them to New York for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May, where they will be presented, with other global citizens' initiatives, to show our concern. WCP has collected 10,000 of these in the UK, but is looking for more. Please sign your copy and return it to them, and you can ask them to send you more for your friends to sign too. Alternatively you can sign online at WCP's website: <http://wcp.gn.apc.org>

## A Peace Garden for Nottingham Report by Sally & Mark Ramsey

The idea of a Peace Garden in Nottingham was conceived by attendees at the Friends Meeting House occasional Peace Suppers as a way of highlighting peace issues and providing a space for contemplative meditation. Following on from some peacefully persistent lobbying, Nottingham City Council has offered us a location for the Peace Garden - one corner of Lenton Recreation Ground.

The population surrounding the recreation ground is very mixed and it is hoped that both students and permanent residents will be involved in this project. Suggestions so far have included some low-maintenance planting (possibly themed) with plaques bearing short sayings / thoughts for the day, a central sculpture or feature on a peace theme, some seating (possibly benches provided by different groups or religious communities). With the use of a noticeboard actually on the site and/or a website, local children and their schools could be invited to submit writing or artwork on peace themes. A website could also become a focal point for the many varied kinds of peace work happening in our city. A further idea is that, alongside the existing inter-faith garden and other focal points in the city, the peace garden could become part of the route for a peace walk.

Would you like to be involved? Do you have good ideas, an artistic streak, or can envision other positive uses for this site? If so, please contact Nottingham CND who can pass comments on or put you in touch with those currently involved.

## From the Archive - excerpts from *Atomic Energy and Moral Issues*, lecture by Prof Kathleen Lonsdale, 1954

... We cannot, for example, discuss the conditions in uranium mines although we know the health hazards must be great. The facts are kept secret for security reasons. I believe this secrecy is futile and harmful ... because it is immoral. What is morally wrong can never be sensible, and this applies to secrecy as well as to other problems. Mr Gordon Dean has done a service in his 'Report on the Atom' in pointing out that, spies or no spies, Russia, starting in 1945, would have made atomic bombs within a few years and certainly long before this. That secrecy is harmful to science there can be no doubt. It also, however, leads to civic irresponsibility and to an attitude of fatalism. I was horrified to read in a recent editorial in *Nature* (23/1/54) on 'Atomic Energy in Great Britain' the statement that

'to the very extent that informed public discussion is undesirable for security reasons, it is essential that those responsible for policy and its execution should command the greatest possible confidence.'

In other words, the citizen of the Atomic Age need only vote. After that, presumably, he must do as he is told. But should he, ought he, even if 99 per cent of his fellow-men tell him that he ought?