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# GREENPEACE DISRUPTS OIL INDUSTRY PARTY

On the day the world finally enacted the Kyoto Treaty, February 16th, the oil industry tried to hold a huge party to say, 'We don't care, and it's business as usual.' I, along with other Greenpeace volunteers, decided that for at least one evening they should be forced to face the reality of what they're doing.

We disrupted the oil industry's most prestigious annual gathering in a Park Lane hotel. The activists blockaded the £250-a-plate dinner as Middle-East energy ministers and the heads of some of the world's most powerful companies arrived. Another two activists camouflaged in their finest eveningwear were later able to disrupt Esso boss Lee Raymond's speech.

Greenpeace climate campaigner Emily Armistead said from the scene: *"According to the UN, climate change is already killing 150,000 people a year, yet Raymond and Esso have waged a ten-year campaign against efforts to tackle the threat. The men and women who feed the world's oil addiction came to London to hear him speak in a show of defiance against Kyoto. Instead we told them to consider the terrible damage they're wreaking on our planet."*

Earlier in the day 35 Greenpeace activists stopped trading on the global oil market by occupying the International Petroleum Exchange which trades all the world's Brent crude each afternoon. One thousand billion dollars of business is done each year on this trading floor as if the lives of millions and the future of whole species mean nothing.

This was the first national Greenpeace action I have been involved in and the first time I have taken non-violent direct action (NVDA). Greenpeace did not invent NVDA. It has a long history as a way of demonstrating opposition to the harmful activities of political, industrial or other organisations. This style of protest has been around for as long as there have been people prepared to stand out from the crowd and speak up against the wrong doings of others. NVDA has Quaker roots. Quakers hold the fundamental belief that *"Everyone's duty is to bear witness to truth and to stand in front of evil."*



Greenpeace's belief in non-violence is at the core of everything that it does. It affects the way campaigns are run, the way protest is conducted, the way protestors feel about their actions. Non-violence is the only way to tackle violence. In acting non-violently you show people that there is another way. It is about working honestly and peacefully towards a society that is harmonious in all ways. The power of non-violence is as limitless and enduring as the human spirit.

I was very confident going in to this action and not nervous about the action I was about to take. This was due to the excellent training activists get before an action and to my mental clarity - I believed in the issue I was standing up for. Greenpeace NVDA training is a six hour workshop. During the day I got an opportunity to explore non-violence, its role in Greenpeace actions, legal issues around NVDA and how Greenpeace actions work. The training day was experiential in nature - with small workshops and role-plays a predominant feature. All this meant I was physical and mentally prepared for the Kyoto actions in London.

For more information on the climate campaign see:  
**<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/climate/>**  
There are Greenpeace groups in Chester and Wrexham.  
Chester: Cheryl Buxton:  
**[cherylbuxton@hotmail.com](mailto:cherylbuxton@hotmail.com)** or 07763 881036.  
Wrexham: Joanne Stafford:  
**[Joanne\\_Stafford@hotmail.com](mailto:Joanne_Stafford@hotmail.com)** or 01978 823518.

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## DELYN DEMOCRACY: THE POLITICAL WATCHDOG

*Delyn Democracy: The Political Watchdog* is a non-profit-making, public-awareness-raising tool that is freely available online at [www.delyndemocracy.blogspot.com](http://www.delyndemocracy.blogspot.com). In the run-up to the 2005 General Election in Delyn, this non-party-political web site will be providing independent news, information, comment, scrutiny, and satire. Its primary target audience is the 70,000-plus residents of the Delyn electoral constituency in Flintshire. The editorial team is made up of Delyn constituents.

Delyn Democracy provides a slightly satirical take on events, but there is a serious point too. A co-editor said:

*"We are still waiting for our local MP, David Hanson, to voice his unqualified support for the publication of all drafts, details and dates of the government's advice as to the legality of the Iraq war. Why might he be reluctant to support publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000? Perhaps he knows that (a) the Iraq war was agreed between Blair and Bush in April 2002 and that (b) the official legal advice is being concealed because it says the war could be ruled illegal."*

**Website: [www.delyndemocracy.blogspot.com](http://www.delyndemocracy.blogspot.com) Email: [delyn.democracy@gmail.com](mailto:delyn.democracy@gmail.com)**

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# A NUCLEAR-FREE WALES: CYMRU DDI-NIWCLIAR

The threat of nuclear power has recently come to the fore again with prominent scientists, such as Sir Robert Winston and James Lovelock, originator of the Gaia theory, supporting the resumption of a global nuclear power programme to "fill the gap" until energy from renewable resources can supply the world's needs. Nuclear power, its supporters say, is carbon-free and will not contribute to global warming. Now it is rumoured that Tony Blair is convinced by this argument and, if re-elected in May, will back the building of new nuclear power stations.

This was the background to a day-long conference held in Aberystwyth in February, organised by WANA (Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance) and PAWB (People against Wylfa B). Several excellent speakers told of the dangers of nuclear power, its links to nuclear weapons, and the renewable energy options we should be considering instead.

Dr. Chris Busby (University of Liverpool) gave an accessible explanation of the science behind the dangers of low-level radiation. Dr. Busby has researched clusters of childhood leukaemias along the North Wales coast and found strong links to radiation leaks from power stations at Sellafield in Cumbria and Wylfa on Anglesey, held in the sand and mud of the coastline. He has also demonstrated similar results following the Chernobyl disaster. However the nuclear establishment has tried its best to cover up Dr. Busby's work; see WPJN issue 9 for more.

If the nuclear programme is restarted there will probably be a new station in Wales, already the site of 2 stations at Trawsfynydd and Wylfa. Hugh Richards of WANA summarised the practical problems of the likely new reactors: they are an untested design with several safety and fail-safe mechanisms removed to cut costs; there is no safe way to dispose of nuclear waste; they are vulnerable to terrorist attack; the planning, design and

build would take 20 years; they are not carbon-neutral due to the huge amount of carbons burned during their construction and in uranium mining. Hugh challenged BNFL, responsible for nuclear energy in the UK, to "Put up or shut up", to submit the proposed reactor plans to an open licensing process, or admit that its designs are dangerous and unfeasible and shelve them.

Rod Stallard (CND Cymru) reminded us of the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. The plutonium needed for bombs is produced from uranium fuel rods used in power stations. Some nuclear waste can be used to make "dirty bombs", such as the Depleted Uranium shells used to devastating effect in the two Gulf Wars.

So what are the alternatives to nuclear power? Neil Crumpton of Friends of the Earth Cymru ran through some of the options: A combination of wind, tidal, wave and biomass power combined with reduction in energy demand and increased energy efficiency could render nuclear power unnecessary. In Wales alone the 800 onshore wind turbines planned to be in use by 2010 will provide up to 14% of demand, a greater proportion than nuclear has ever provided. More advanced technologies could contribute even more, given the research and development investment.

The conference closed with a campaigner from PAWB leading a discussion about practical opposition to nuclear power. What can we do? Nuclear power could be made an issue at the forthcoming election; ask your candidate his/her opinion, and mount a postcard/letter/email campaign to widen public awareness of this issue. Please also support the Atomstopp campaign at [www.atomstopp.com](http://www.atomstopp.com), a Europe-wide anti-nuclear and pro-renewables petition.

**CND Cymru web site: [www.cndcymru.org](http://www.cndcymru.org)**



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