
DIARY DATES

Saturday 2nd April

Counter Terror Build Justice Day of Action in Wrexham.

From 10am. Queens Square.

WPJF is supporting the month of campaigning: "Counter Terror Build Justice" called by JNV for 19 March – 15 April. We are planning events in the town centre; please come along and help. Ideas welcome!

Monday 18th April

WPJF Planning meeting

6pm, Basement, Peace & Justice Centre, 35 Kingsmills Rd, Hightown, Wrexham.

Thursday 21st – Monday 25th April

Peace Camp, RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire.

We will try and arrange shared transport from Wrexham to this event, so please let Genny know asap if you're interested in coming along. You will need to bring sleeping bag, camping mat and a tent, although we may be able to loan a tent and camping mat if you don't have these. Food will be provided communally for a contribution. This camp aims to draw attention to the continuing war in Iraq before the General Election.

Saturday 30th April

**Oswestry Coalition for Peace presents:
A MUSICAL MISCELLANY**, in aid of IRAQI CHILD VICTIMS OF WAR. 7.15 pm, at Christchurch, Castle Bank, Oswestry. Contact 01691 650527 or 658330 for tickets or pay on door. £5 adult, £2 child.

Saturday 14th May

NVDA (nonviolent direct action) training workshop. Run by Seeds for Change and organised by WPJF and Cynefin y Werin

Be prepared for G8! 10.30am – 4.30pm, Trinity Church, King Street, Wrexham. A suggested donation of £4 will help us cover the cost of this day. Bring a packed lunch. **Please let Genny know asap if you want to book a place.**

Saturday 2nd July – Sat 9th July

**Activities in connection with G8 Summit,
Gleneagles, Scotland.**

GLENEAGLES DIARY

Major events are planned to protest against Bush, Blair and their friends as they attempt to carve up the world for corporate profit. Protesters will be travelling to Scotland from all over the world; we'll be there too.

Saturday 2nd July

Make Poverty History March and Rally in Edinburgh.

Transport from Wrexham if enough takers (there and back same day). Tickets £16. Contact Sister Sheila at the Peace & Justice Centre: 01978 356969.

Sunday 3rd July

Alternative Summit, Edinburgh

Monday 4th July

Blockade of Faslane, home of Trident Nuclear Submarines

Blockade of the 7am shift change. Faslane is 60 miles from Gleneagles, where the G8 Summit will be taking place. The blockade will focus attention on the military power by which the world's richest countries protect their economic interests. The aim is to cause as much disruption as possible to the base to highlight the link between state violence and the exploitation of the poor. The blockade is not just for people who want to risk arrest – you can also support by your presence and practical help. There will be overnight accommodation in Glasgow for the blockade and cheap buses between Glasgow and Faslane.

See www.faslaneg8.com for more information.

Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th July

G8 Summit, Gleneagles

Lots of creative and disruptive actions will be happening to draw attention to this criminal gang.

NVDA training is a must for anyone who wants to take part in direct action at the G8 events. Come along to our training session on May 14th (details opposite).

WPJF CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE

Monday 21st March was International Day of Action Against the Arms Trade. We took the opportunity to make some new banners (see also front page) and set up a stall in Wrexham Town Centre to protest about this trade in death and destruction, which kills thousands of people every week worldwide. Nine out of ten of those killed are civilians.

Our government spends getting on for £1 billion of our taxes every year subsidising the arms trade. Blair & co. continue to approve and encourage the export of weapons, tanks, fighter planes etc. to countries where there is conflict, leading to more death, more injury, more refugees, more poverty. Buying arms takes resources away from important services like health, welfare and education, often in very poor countries, and the trade contributes to 'third world debt' as countries which can't afford to pay for arms borrow money from international creditors. The only winners in these shameful transactions are the arms dealers. We call on the Government to act responsibly: to stop subsidising the arms trade with our taxes and to stop supporting and encouraging the arms industry.

The fourth largest arms manufacturer in the world, BAE Systems (the company formerly known as British Aerospace), has a presence in Wales, with an ammunition

factory at Glascoed, South Wales, and Airbus at Broughton, Flintshire. Since 2001, Airbus has been a separate company, but BAE Systems is still a 20% shareholder in this business. If anyone is interested in taking part in demonstrations at the Broughton site, please contact WPJF (contact details on back page).

Campaign Against Arms Trade: www.caat.org.uk



Handing out leaflets on the stall

COUNTER TERROR : BUILD JUSTICE

On Monday 21st March, WPJF held a public meeting at Trinity Church, King Street. Author Milan Rai of Justice Not Vengeance (JNV) spoke about the Government's "War on Terror" and asked the question "How can we stop Al-Qaeda?"



JNV graphic for the Counter Terror: Build Justice month of action. Web site: www.j-n-v.org

People are genuinely afraid of terrorism, and there is a real chance that there might be a terrorist attack in the UK, Milan said. There is never a justification for terrorism, but trying to understand why terrorists act as they do is not to condone their actions, and may give us some insights into how to reduce the terrorist threat. Terrorism grows from poverty, injustice, oppression and powerlessness, and these cannot be relieved by military force.

Milan argued that the Government's response to the threat of anti-Western terrorism is increasing rather than reducing the risk of a terrorist attack in Britain. This was reported to Tony Blair by the intelligence services before the Iraq war. Supporting Bush's invasion and occupation of Iraq has made Britain many more enemies in the middle east, while the injustice of detaining Muslims without trial and without declaring the evidence against them simply fans the flames of discontent at home and abroad.

Quoting the spook previously in charge of the CIA's "Bin Laden" office, Milan showed that Al-Qaeda's threats are made against those who interfere and kill civilians in Muslim majority countries, and that the best way to reduce such threats is to take measures to stop such interference. Withdrawing US and British troops from Iraq and condemning the oppression of the Palestinian people, in particular by putting pressure on the US to end its support for Israel which is in breach of far more UN resolutions than Iraq ever was, would be effective ways of preventing terrorist attacks by Al-Qaeda in Britain.

Terrorism is not only carried out by the poor and stateless; indeed, if terrorism can be defined by a lack of respect for non-combatants, then the attack on Iraq is terrorism. We must oppose all terrorism, whoever initiates it.

This meeting marked the start of an international month of action entitled "Counter Terror: Build Justice". WPJF will be holding a stall in Wrexham Town Centre on Saturday 2nd April from 10am.