

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days

Wrexham Women for Peace held a remembrance ceremony and a peace picnic to mark the 62nd anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, and Oswestry Coalition for Peace held an anti-nuclear stall to mark the anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing.



*Sadako Sasaki, 1943-1955
Hiroshima victim who died of
leukaemia aged 12, ten years after
the bomb was dropped*

Marking the Anniversary of Hiroshima in Wrexham

At the brook

We met at 5pm on Monday 6 August on the St Giles Link Road below St Giles Church. We put up a banner facing the road and then walked down to the brook where we listened to readings of Hiroshima survivors' accounts of their experiences and scattered petals on the water. There's a grassy area and little amphitheatre at that point on the brook. Situated away from and well below the level of the road, it was a surprisingly quiet and peaceful place to be.

In the Peace Garden

Afterwards, we walked over to the lovely Peace Garden on Holt Street, where we shared yummy vegetarian food and Fiona the storyteller recounted tales of hope in the warm evening sunshine.

Mayor of Hiroshima condemns US

The mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatashi Akiba, has criticised America for failing to meet its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The US condemns other countries which have or seek to obtain nuclear weapons, but has done nothing to work towards the complete nuclear disarmament required by the Treaty.

UK also culpable

The UK is also a signatory to this Treaty. Gordon Brown's commitment to replace Britain's ageing Trident nuclear weapons system with a new generation of nuclear weapons is in clear breach of the Treaty.

Wrexham Women for Peace calls on the government to abandon plans to replace Trident with more nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons pose a threat to us all and do not make Britain more secure.



*Wrexham Women for Peace,
one man and a child, pictured
before the remembrance ceremony*

Trident replacement will cost billions of pounds at a time when essential services such as health and welfare are desperately under-funded.

To join or find out more about
Wrexham Women for Peace
call: 0845 330 4505
or email:
wrexhamwomen@yahoo.co.uk



Marking the Anniversary of Nagasaki in Oswestry

No Trident Replacement

Oswestry Coalition for Peace held a stall in the town centre on market day, handing out leaflets about Trident replacement and collecting hundreds of signatures on the new CND/Medact petition: '**No to Trident Replacement. Yes to a Nuclear Weapons Convention**'. The response from the people of Oswestry was very encouraging, with a lot of support for the stall.

Petitions can be downloaded from <http://www.cnduk.org/pages/nwc.pdf>

Text of the Petition

We, the undersigned, welcome the UK government's commitment to multilateral nuclear disarmament through good faith negotiations as required by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We call upon the government in recognition of this commitment to:

- *cancel its preparations to renew the Trident nuclear weapons system and start the process of dismantling the existing system;*

and in the spirit of its support for existing treaties banning indiscriminate weapons such as land mines, chemical and biological weapons to:

- *pursue multilateral negotiations with a view to concluding a Nuclear Weapons Convention by the year 2020 to ensure the elimination of nuclear weapons world wide.*

St Athan School for Slaughter

A campaign has been launched against plans to open a huge military academy at St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan.

by Cynefin y Werin
& Marc Jones



Campaigners protest at the site of the proposed Military Defence Academy at St Athan on 23 August

Welcomed by the First Minister

It's been labelled the School for Slaughter by its opponents. Its proponents call it the biggest ever investment in Wales. Now a campaign to fight the establishment of a new military training centre in St Athan is gathering pace.

In January 2007, the London government announced the success of the St Athan and Metrix bid to establish a new military training academy - in Wales. First Minister Rhodri Morgan and the Economic Minister Andrew Davies sprayed Champagne outside the Senedd in celebration. The local media gave the impression was that this was just about the best thing that had ever happened to Wales: £14 billion worth of contract and around 5,000 jobs.

The Reality

But how will this military academy contribute to the Assembly's proud goal of achieving sustainable development? What exactly is Wales committing itself to when it signs up to the St Athan deal?

- A future based on militarism
- A stand against the international victims of British military aggression
- Making military work look acceptable to Welsh youth
- An acceptance of green-washing over true environmental accounting
- A commitment to military privatisation
- A welcome mat for the world's largest missile manufacturer

Impact on the Environment

What will be the impact of the academy on local quality of life – on traffic congestion, for example, and housing affordability? What will be the impact on Welsh education, and the social and political values that are taught to Welsh children and youth?

Those who are committed to a nuclear-free Wales should be aware that the Royal Navy's Maritime Engineering School, which contains the Nuclear Systems Group, is projected to move from HMS Sultan to St Athan by 2017. The Nuclear Systems Group trains the Naval Officers responsible for operating the nuclear submarines that are the heart and soul of Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system.

Massive Jobs Bonanza?

Promoters of the St Athan Defence Training Academy claim the Academy is good for Wales because of the jobs it will create. When the Academy was announced in January 2007, the South Wales Echo described it as a 'massive jobs bonanza'. Welsh politicians and media have claimed that the Academy will create as many as 5,550 on and off-site jobs, and that these will be 'highly skilled jobs' in fields such as 'mobile communications, IT, engineering, logistics, even photography.' Such claims, however, do not stand up to close scrutiny.

In reality, most of the jobs will come from re-locating trainers from other military bases that are being closed in England. There will be jobs for local people - minimum wage work in catering and security.

Union Opposition

The PCS union, which represents the trainers, is fiercely opposed to this centralisation of services because it will be a massive Private Finance Initiative scheme that effectively privatises military training and threatens many jobs.

Campaign Against the Academy

A recent mobilisation of campaigners against St Athan Academy saw 30 activists gather outside the base and further action is being planned. 2,000 bilingual pamphlets have also just been printed to highlight the case against the military academy.

For a fuller analysis of the issues, more information about the campaign and a downloadable research document: *St Athan and the Future of Wales* by Stuart Tannock, see the Cynefin y Werin website at: www.cynefinywerin.org.uk

or contact: jamesmaiden@wcia.org.uk to be added to the St Athan campaign email list.

Historical Precedent

There is a history of direct action against military training schools in Wales. In 1936, three Plaid Cymru leaders burnt down a bombing school at Penyborth on the Llyn Peninsula in a symbolic act of direct action against militarism. The three were subsequently jailed for six months each, but gathered massive popular support throughout Wales for their actions.