

Experts for Nuclear Disarmament

Owen Hardwicke

Experts agree on the need to make all nuclear weapons illegal.

While we are right to encourage people to raise their voices against the extension and up-dating of Trident missiles, it is good to know there are people with extensive knowledge to provide us with reliable scientific facts and assessments. Among these is the outstanding Oxford Research Group (ORG) whose publications are always brilliant.

This December ORG organised an international symposium at the Royal Society entitled *Nuclear Futures – Realities and Choices* to examine current trends in civil nuclear power expansion and proliferation of nuclear weapons, to try to identify imaginative and practical ways forward and to mitigate the threat of environmental damage. It was possible for me (as member of Movement for Abolition of War) to attend the briefing session at the House of Lords after the symposium.

Under the chairing of Carol Naughton of WMD Awareness Programme – replacement for Baroness Helena Kennedy, who was ill – we had brief presentations from two American Professors from Princeton and George Washington Universities with expertise on fissile materials and membership of Lawyers Alliance for World Security respectively, then from a Chinese Major-General and

Ambassador Miguel Marin-Bosch from Mexico's National University. Better known to most of us was Ambassador Maj-britt Theorin, the Swedish former Ambassador for Disarmament, President of the International Peace Bureau, to which most organisations are affiliated, Dr. Frank Barnaby, former Executive Secretary of the Pugwash Conferences, and Professors Ken Booth and Nicholas Wheeler of the University of Aberystwyth.

Among the items on which they were all agreed was the need to eliminate and eventually to make illegal all nuclear weapons internationally. Their very existence is a threat to the world politically and militarily and a vast danger to the environment. They noted that military leaders agreed on their impracticality as weapons of war. With some emphasis they brought to the fore the simple factors from our humanity, so elegantly stressed by Gorbachev of Russia, and the need to take real steps forward at times of relative political calm. Among the graduated steps towards eventual total abolition and a declaration of their illegality was the need to take all such weapons off alert status, and then to reduce their numbers worldwide. We were given to understand that the cabinet had been informed about this symposium.



tales-of-iraq-war.blogspot.com

Networking at The Vic

A number of action groups including Wrexham Veggies and WPJF have been talking for a while about coming together to run a regular 'coffee morning' type event at a town centre location on a Saturday, somewhere where people can call in, look round campaign stalls and partake of vegan refreshments.

We have booked The Vic Youth Centre on Hill Street for the second Saturdays in February and March. Please come along, have a browse, enjoy a cuppa and meet like-minded people. See Diary Dates for details.

All welcome - spread the word.

Diary Dates

Saturday 5 January

11.00 am

TOTAL Petrol Station Protest for the people of Burma

Demo at the TOTAL Petrol station on Hoole Road, Chester.

Organised by Wrexham Women for Peace. Men welcome too.

wrexhamwomen@yahoo.co.uk

Thursday 17 January

1.00 pm

No to Murder Academy at St Athan Demonstration

Outside the Assembly Building in Cardiff Bay.

no2militaryacademy@inbox.com

Monday 21 January

6.15pm

WPJF Planning Meeting

Quaker Meeting House, Holt Rd.

For future meeting dates, email:

wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com

Saturday 26 January

11.00 am

TOTAL Petrol Station Protest

As above.

Saturday 9 February

In the morning

Wrexham Action Groups

The Vic, Hill Street.

Campaign stalls and vegan refreshments. All welcome.

info@wrexhamveg.org

Saturday 23 February

Hands Off Iraqi Oil

National Day of Action

www.handsoffiraqoil.org

Actions across the country.

Saturday 23 February

CND Cymru Cyngor

11.00 am - **Council meeting**

(for CND Cymru members)

2.00 pm - **Speaker &**

discussion to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Nuclear Free Wales declaration.

All welcome.

Quaker Meeting House, Holt Rd, Wrexham.

Saturday 8 March

Morning

Wrexham Action Groups

The Vic - As above.

For more information about any of the above events, call WPJF:

0845 330 4505

TOTAL Oil urged to pull out of Burma

Genny Bove

Wrexham Women for Peace held a protest at a local TOTAL petrol station in November in support of the Burmese people...

Wrexham Women for Peace and supporters held a demonstration in support of the people of Burma (Myanmar) on the morning of Saturday 17 November. The campaigners targeted the TOTAL petrol station on the A483 Ruabon by-pass as part of a series of similar protests nationwide to draw attention to the links between French-owned TOTAL Oil and the Burmese military junta. Banners were hung on nearby bridges, placards displayed on the roadside and leaflets handed out to motorists on the petrol station forecourt in a peaceful action designed to raise awareness of this issue and to encourage a boycott of TOTAL petrol stations until the company severs its links with Burma.

Burma's democratically elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi – who has been under detention or house arrest for the past 12 years – has said that TOTAL is the biggest supporter of the Burmese junta and should pull out of Burma immediately. There is also a call for TOTAL to give up its interest in the Yadana natural gas pipeline to Thailand, constructed using forced labour, which it operates in conjunction with another oil giant: Chevron-Texaco.



Banner over the A483 by-pass calls for TOTAL to pull out of Burma

A spokesperson for Wrexham Women for Peace said:

Burma is a country rich in natural resources, yet its people are poor and hungry. Almost half of government spending goes on the military; very little is spent on health and welfare. There are more child soldiers in Burma than in any other country. Rape is used as a weapon of war. Many of Burma's political prisoners are tortured by the regime.

Meanwhile, companies like TOTAL profit from links with this oppressive military dictatorship, which has recently been guilty of violent suppression of peaceful actions by Buddhist monks and pro-democracy activists, and the military regime in turn profits from TOTAL.

We support the Burmese people in their peaceful struggle for self-determination and call for TOTAL to pull out of Burma and end its support for the regime now.

More information about the campaign can be found at:
totaloutofburma.blogspot.com

Readers can pledge their support for the campaign by signing a postcard to TOTAL asking it to pull out of Burma:
www.burmacampaign.org.uk/total.html

To contact Wrexham Women for Peace, or to arrange to borrow our banners and placards for your own demo, call **0845 330 4505** or email:
wrexhamwomen@yahoo.co.uk

Celebrating Veganism

To celebrate World Vegan Day (1 Nov) and UK Vegan Week (27 Oct – 3 Nov), Wrexham Veggies ran a successful vegan stall in Wrexham town centre on Saturday 3 November, with a wide range of literature about veganism, from vegan recipes to the miserable truth about meat and dairy farming. As well being offered leaflets, visitors to the stall were invited to sample yummy vegan snacks. When it rained, we moved into the doorway of the now defunct *Burger King*. When burger joints close down and vegans move in, it is surely an indication that meat eating is in decline!

World meat production has quadrupled in the past 50 years and farmed animals now outnumber people by more than three to one. This trend will contribute to continuing malnourishment in the developing world, global warming, widespread pollution, deforestation, land degradation, water scarcity and species extinction because more animals mean more crops are needed to feed them: the planet cannot feed both increasing human and farmed animal populations. A varied vegan diet uses just one fifth of the land needed for a typical European omnivorous diet. The Vegan Society

To find out more about veganism, download the rest of this booklet: *Eating the Earth* and many others from the Vegan Society website: **www.vegansociety.com**, or write to: **The Vegan Society, Donald Watson House, 21 Hylton Street, Hockley, Birmingham B18 6HJ. Tel: 0121 523 1730.**