

Diary Dates

Saturday 5 July

10 am to 1 pm

Penycae Bring and Take Event

Freeconomy Wrexham, together with Church of the Nazarene.

Everything for Free!

Church of the Nazarene, Stryt Issa, Penycae.

More information about Bring and Take on page 8.

Saturday 12 July

11 am to 4 pm

Bring and Take Event

at **Caia Environment Day**

Gwenfro School, Queensway.

Everything on the Bring and

Take stall will be free!

More information about Bring and Take on page 8.

Saturday 19 July

Day of Action for Burma

10.30 am to 12 noon

Stall for Burma

Eastgate Street, Chester.

12.30 to 2 pm

Demo against TOTAL Oil's involvement in Burma

TOTAL petrol station, Hoole Road, Chester.

For more information about either of the above, see page 14, call **0845 330 4505** or email wrexhamwomen@yahoo.co.uk.

Saturday 26 July

1 to 5.30pm

'Think Global, Act Local' with Friends of the Earth at the Llangollen Fringe

Llangollen Town Hall.

Speakers and music

Tickets £5 in advance, £6 on door.

www.llangollenfringe.co.uk.

Monday 28 July

8 pm

First meeting of

Transition Town Wrexham

WMTS, Corner of Salop Rd and Rivulet Rd, Wrexham.

Transition Towns are places where people are working together to reduce their carbon footprint. See page 15.

3 to 11 August

Camp for Climate Action

Kingsnorth, Kent.

10 day camp - a place for anyone who wants to take action on climate change.

Saturday 9 August

Day of mass action against Kingsnorth coal-fired power station, Kent.

For more information about both the above, see

www.climatecamp.org.uk.

18 to 19 October

10 am Sat to 4 pm Sun

Wales Peace Festival

School of Lifelong Learning/ Informatics, Dean St, Bangor.

Talks, debates, workshops, plus gig on Saturday night at the Anglesey Arms, Menai Bridge. More information in next issue.

26 to 27 October

Aldermaston AWE Big Blockade

Arrive Sunday from 1pm.

Blockade Monday morning.

More information at:

www.tridentploughshares.org.

Tel: **07804 640643**

Late October

Date and details to be confirmed

A group of Nepalese musicians hopes to be touring Wales in October, with a performance in Wrexham.

More details in the next issue.

Dates of Peace Group Meetings

Please let us know if you would like to be kept informed of dates of future WPJF meetings.

You can call us, email or write using the number below or the contact details on the back page of this newsletter

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

0845 330 4505 or email:

wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com.

In this issue

- Photos of marches and solidarity actions - p. 1
- Diary dates and Contents - p. 2
- Demos against St Athan and Raytheon - p. 3
- Picnicking for Peace in Wrexham on Memorial Day - p. 4
- Memorial Day in Portland, Oregon - p. 5
- Anti-fascist, anti-racist march; Support Iraqi oil workers - p. 6
- Trade Unions in Colombia - p. 7
- Waste not, want not - Bring and Take in Brynteg - p. 8
- Bad Chair Day at the Skips; Victory through Waste - cartoon - p. 9
- 'First they came for' - Animal rights trial report - p. 10
- Torture Team - book review - p. 11
- Star Wars in the US, the Czech Republic and Wales - p. 12
- Stop Deporting Iraqis - Tent City; Cluster Bomb Treaty - p. 13
- The Lady of Burma - review; Burma Update; Day of Action for Burma - p. 14
- Homage to Radio 4 - poem; Transition Town news - p. 15
- Detention without trial statistics; Contact details etc. - p. 16

Many thanks to everyone who sent donations following our appeal for support in the last issue. These donations will pay for this issue and the next. If you didn't donate last time, please consider making a donation this time (form on back pages) so that we can continue to produce Wrexham Peace & Justice News beyond the end of this year.

Thanks!

Demonstrating against St Athan...

Wrexham peace activists have been demonstrating in Cardiff and Broughton, Flintshire against the military industrial complex.

Genny Bove

March and demo in Cardiff

As reported in previous issues of WPJN, St Athan Military Academy is the latest bright idea in the government's so-called 'War on Terror'. In the biggest PFI scheme yet, using billions of pounds of taxpayers' money, an unholy alliance is being forged between the Open University and a bunch of arms manufacturers including Raytheon and QinetiQ to create the Metrix consortium which will be training armed forces from across the world in subjects such as 'peacekeeping'. Anyone notice just the tiniest conflict of interest there? How are arms dealers going to make their profits if the people they get paid to train go on to spread peace in the world?

On 26 April, members of Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum joined Oswestry Coalition for Peace, who had organised a minibus to the Cardiff march and demonstration against St Athan. A couple of hundred people turned up to be marched along a desolate route dictated by the police to the Open University offices in Cardiff and then back along the same empty roads. The local police Evidence Gathering Team, aided and abetted by Ian Skivens of the Metropolitan Police's FIT (Forward Intelligence Team) were out in force, photographing everyone and everything in a very intimidating manner. A ridiculous set of restrictions was put in place under Section 12 of the Public Order Act, 1986. We should all be aware that



Protesters demonstrate outside the Open University's offices in Cardiff

...and for the Raytheon 9

restrictions like these may be placed on all demonstrations - not just marches and processions - if the government gets its way over 'harmonising' (extending) the laws which already infringe our right to protest. They're hoping we'll be too busy celebrating the demise of sections 132-137 of SOCPA to notice.

It was good to hear Davy McAuley of Derry Anti-War Coalition speak for the Raytheon 9 at the rally after the march. McAuley drew attention to Raytheon's involvement in the Metrix Consortium at St Athan and called for direct action against the arms dealers.

Solidarity demo in Broughton

On 4 June, Wrexham peace activists organised a solidarity demonstration outside the Raytheon factory at Broughton for the Raytheon 9, who were on trial in Belfast for damaging computers at Raytheon's Derry factory in 2006 to prevent war crimes being committed with Raytheon weapons. Raytheon is the world's biggest manufacturer of missiles. In modern warfare, the vast majority of casualties and fatalities are civilian.

In 2006, Israel used Raytheon missiles supplied by the US to bomb civilians in Lebanon. The bombing resulted in many deaths including those of 28 members of two families, half of them children, killed by a Raytheon 'bunker buster' bomb at Qana on 30 July.



As well as showing solidarity with the Raytheon 9, we wanted to raise awareness of Raytheon's involvement in the Metrix Consortium which hopes to run St Athan military academy.

On the day of the demo, the Raytheon 9 were acquitted of the charge of affray. A week later, on 11 June, they were also found not guilty on charges of criminal damage. The defendants had not denied destroying Raytheon's computers, but argued that they did so to save lives, to stop war crimes, and that their actions were not therefore criminal. The jury agreed. One of the defendants was found guilty of theft of two computer disks from Raytheon and was given a conditional discharge by the judge. Derry Anti-War Coalition is now calling on the Attorney General and the Crown Prosecution Service to investigate the activities of Raytheon across the UK to establish whether the company is a criminal enterprise.

More info: www.raytheon9.org

