



*Sophie and Gay (centre) waiting for the stragglers*

messages, pictures, flowers and ribbons, and even life-size figures of people climbing over!

After listening to the speeches, some people carried out a sit-down protest at the main gates, but tired and hungry we made our way the last mile or so around the base to the Women's Peace Camp in Bluebell Wood, where at 6pm we could finally sit down for a very late lunch, a well-earned cup of tea and a relaxed chat with all the lovely Fairford people who had set up camp there. Someone described the March as "a 50 mile gossip" and this wasn't far from the truth. It was good to catch up with old friends and to make new ones along the way and especially good to share campaigning experiences and ideas.

**In March, the National Assembly for Wales tabled a Written Statement of Opinion drawing attention to the 22nd anniversary of the "Declaration of Intent for a Nuclear Free Wales" and called on the British Government to uphold its legal commitment to nuclear disarmament.**

I am proud to have taken part in a march in such good company along such an historic route, but sad and angry that it is still necessary to protest so long after Britain has put its name to a Treaty to ban nuclear weapons. It is sheer hypocrisy to expect other countries to decommission their nuclear arsenals when we are not prepared to do the same. I will continue to take part in protests like this until Britain fulfils its obligations under the Treaty, and I would willingly walk 50 miles again - miraculously I didn't sustain a single blister!



*Emily with her Peace Flag*

## MORE NUCLEAR BAD NEWS

Keeping stockpiles of nuclear weapons is a really bad idea, not least because of the risk of accident. This applies equally to nuclear power stations. The Low Level Radiation Campaign (LLRC) has recently issued a campaign briefing about a cluster of cancers and leukaemias amongst children living by the Menai Strait, where mud banks are contaminated by discharges most probably from Sellafield (the nuclear power station formerly known as Windscale), which is, says LLRC, "the biggest source of radioactive pollution in the whole of Europe."

LLRC and regional TV station HTV have been working together for two years to investigate concerns raised by worried parents in the area. The results of the research are shocking: In Caernarfon, leukaemia in the 0-4 age group is over 20 times the UK national average, and brain cancers in the 0 - 14 age group 18 times the average. And it's not just Caernarfon. In the 34 council wards surrounding the Menai Strait, leukaemias in the under 4s are 8 times the average, brain and spinal cancers in the under 15s 5 times the average and cases of retinoblastoma (a rare eye cancer associated with radioactive contamination) in the under 14s 10 times the average.

LLRC claims that the Government bodies COMARE (Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment), SAHSU (Small Area Health Statistics Unit) and WCISU (Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit) are guilty of malpractice and cover up and have failed to protect public health. For example, WCISU found no excess of cancers in the area, but they mysteriously disregarded 15% of cancers previously recorded on the database of the Wales Cancer Registry (WCR), and took in populations up to 5km from the sea, when it was known that the clusters occurred in those living closest (under 1km) from the sea. LLRC accuses COMARE of unquestioningly accepting and using inappropriate medical data, and SAHSU of "treat[ing] nuclear installations as if they were lawn sprinklers, spreading their radioactive pollution evenly in all directions... they'd say a road wasn't dangerous for hedgehogs because in the fields near the road you don't find any squashed ones."

HTV has made a documentary "Cancer in Children", broadcast on S4C recently. LLRC hopes to obtain a grant to make this available on video. LLRC is also campaigning for the Department of Health to disband COMARE and SAHSU and for the Welsh Assembly to insist on an investigation into what happened to the WCR databases.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Get full details about the research from: LLRC, The Knoll, Montpellier Park, Llandrindod, LD1 5LW; email: [bramhall@llrc.org](mailto:bramhall@llrc.org); web site: [www.llrc.org](http://www.llrc.org).
- Write to your MP at House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or fax your MP from [www.faxyourmp.com](http://www.faxyourmp.com).
- Write to your Welsh Assembly Member at National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA.

More suggested actions are contained in the briefing: *The Nuclear Laundry - Again*, available from LLRC as above or from [www.llrc.org/menaibriefing.htm](http://www.llrc.org/menaibriefing.htm).