



**Newsletter of South
Cheshire & North
Staffordshire
Campaign for
Nuclear
Disarmament**

Summer 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of Banner from South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. If you require this newsletter in an alternative format or wish to contribute a piece for the next edition, please email scanscnd@ymail.com or call 07778 913528.

Stop Trident Public Meeting report

Kate Hudson, General Secretary of CND, spoke on 13th March about why we should not be replacing Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system.

The meeting was chaired by long-standing SCANS CND supporter Joan Walley, former MP for Stoke-on-Trent North. In her introduction to Kate's talk, Joan said that "there hasn't been the spotlight this issue deserves". Kate Hudson thanked Joan Walley for her support for CND whilst a Member of Parliament and after.



Kate talked about the huge expense of replacing Trident, estimated to be £205 billion over the system's lifetime and how, especially in the context of current cuts, there are so many ways the money could be better spent such as on education and the NHS. Kate highlighted that the vast majority of young people and also the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and most trade unions are against the replacement. Even former Defence Secretary Lord Des Browne now says hi-tech underwater drones will render Trident obsolete. There were a variety of questions from the floor, including one about how we can better engage young people in the debate around nuclear weapons. In response Kate spoke of CND's work with the Nuclear Education Trust, a UK charity that works through education and research to advance understanding of arms and disarmament, with an emphasis on nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

SCANS CND Vice-Chair, Owen Sloss, presented Joan with lifetime membership of SCANS CND and with honorary presidency of the group for her long-standing support. She was given a ceramic peace poppy, made for SCANS by Gladstone Pottery.



There was also a stall with publications, t-shirts, leaflets and the current petition calling on the government to cancel the replacement of Trident and to support a global nuclear ban treaty. You can access the petition online at <http://www.cnduk.org/campaigns/no-to-trident/scrap-trident-petition>

UN nuclear ban treaty agreed

At our public meeting with Kate Hudson in March she spoke of how regrettable it was that the UK government had boycotted the historic negotiations at the United Nations in New York on a legally binding treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons. This is despite thousands of CND supporters writing to Boris Johnson, the Foreign Secretary, urging the government to take part in the UN conference. The UK, which commands approximately 215 nuclear weapons, voted in October 2016 against the UN resolution to begin negotiations on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons.



More than 130 states took part in the conference. However, all 9 nuclear weapons possessing states (Britain, United States, Russia, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea), between them controlling around 15,000 nuclear weapons, boycotted the talks.

The conference finished on 7th July and agreed a treaty which contained many of the elements that CND has been calling for. Get the latest updates on the UN nuclear ban treaty on the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) website <http://www.icanw.org> and on Kate Hudson's blog at <http://www.cnduk.org/cnd-media/kate-hudsons-blog>

Musicians' Union Say Scrap Trident

A poster with a grey background. At the top left, it says 'Musicians' Union conference motion'. Below that, it reads: 'Conference opposes the continuation of the Trident weapons system and calls for the Musicians' Union to actively support initiatives aimed at the conversion of the technologies and expertise of workforces involved in the development and production of nuclear weapons to peaceful purposes.' At the bottom left, it says 'Passed unanimously on the 26 July 2017'. On the right side, there are two logos: the top one is the Musicians' Union logo (a circle with 'MU' and 'Musicians' Union' text), and the bottom one is the CND logo (a peace symbol with 'CND' below it).

In July the Musicians' Union conference in Brighton voted unanimously to oppose Trident and actively support initiatives to transform the skills and technology of the nuclear industry from producing nukes to more peaceful purposes.

The motion was seconded by SCANS CND Joint Secretary Jason Hill.

Successful stall at local Vegan Fayre



We had a popular stall at the Great Staffordshire Vegan Fayre on Saturday 1st July, shared with North Staffordshire Campaign Against Racism & Fascism (NorSCARF).

The next local vegan fayre will take place on 25 November at 11:00–16:00 at Oddfellows Hall, Stafford.

Upcoming SCANS CND Events

Remember Hiroshima stall and vigil



On Saturday **5th August**, the day before Hiroshima Day, join us on the SCANS CND stall from 11am in upper market square Hanley, to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the world's first atom bomb being dropped on the city of Hiroshima. It is estimated that between 100,000 and 180,000 people died, out of a population of 350,000. Find out more at <http://www.cnduk.org/campaigns/global-abolition/hiroshima-a-nagasaki>

We have chosen the Saturday to reach more people. Please come along and show your support and say Never Again.

Then on Sunday **6th August**, there will be a Hiroshima Day vigil outside Stoke Minster on Glebe Street in Stoke (ST4 1LP) from 9.30 – 10.30.

As well as paying our respects to the victims of Hiroshima, this will be an apt time to remember that a single Trident warhead is estimated to be eight times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima and that each missile contains three warheads - <http://www.cnduk.org/about/item/1668-the-bombings-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki>



Nagasaki Day

On **9th August**, 72 years since the second atom bomb was dropped on Japan by the United States, SCANS CND will join East Midlands CND for their vigil at the Rolls-Royce factory in Raynesway, Derby, which builds reactors to power the Trident nuclear weapons submarines. We will be getting the train to Derby at 1.33pm from Stoke-on-Trent and there will be transport from Derby station to Raynesway. The vigil will be from 3 – 5pm.

Trip to Hack Green nuclear bunker

We've agreed on a date (**September 11th**) to visit the Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker, a 35,000 square foot bunker in Cheshire that is now a museum. It will be a chilling reminder of the dangers of nuclear weapons to be up-close to real (though now deactivated) missiles, which if detonated would have killed millions.



If you'd like to visit the bunker in September with SCANS, please contact scanscnd@ymail.com as we hope to arrange transport if there is sufficient interest.

SCANSCND Annual General Meeting

The provisional date for our next AGM is **23rd September**, where we plan to have a national speaker as well as the usual AGM business.

The date will be confirmed once we have a speaker organised. If you are interested in getting involved in SCANS you can find out more through our facebook and twitter or through contacting scanscnd@ymail.com

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And don't forget that you can join SCANS CND for £8 per year waged and £4 unwaged, students, over-60s, and other concessions.

You can become a member of national CND at <http://www.cnduk.org/support-cnd/join-cnd>

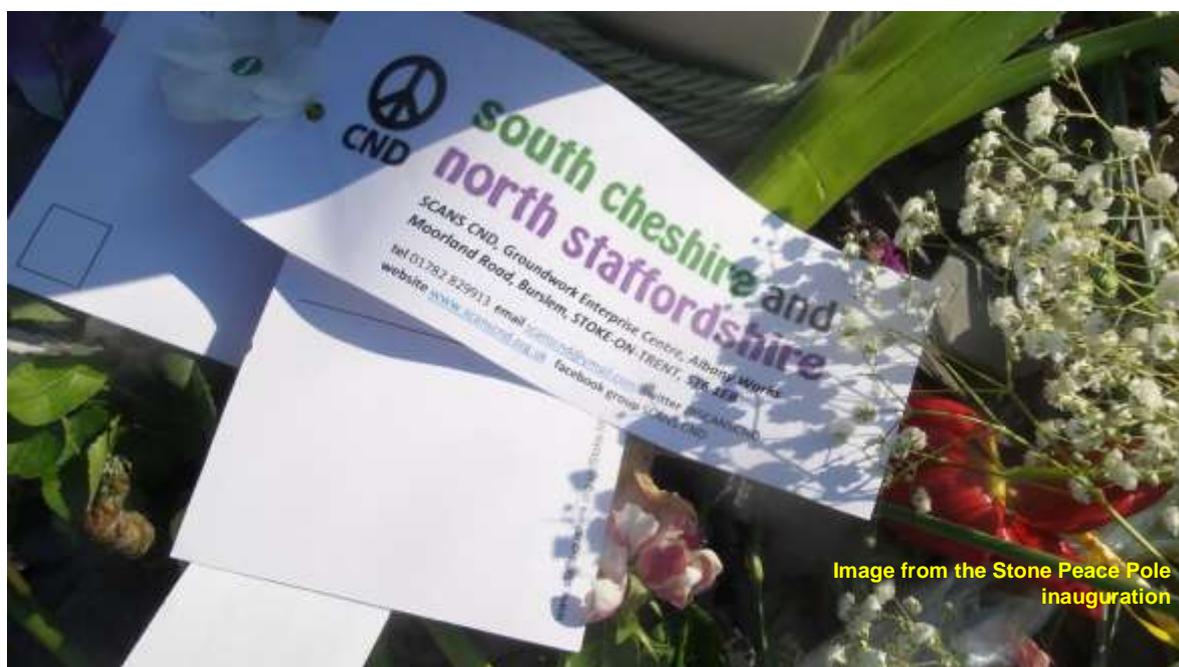


Image from the Stone Peace Pole inauguration