

campaign



Hiroshima remembered

As CND groups and supporters across the country mark Hiroshima Day this Friday, **Peter Gloyns** on behalf of Salisbury CND, writes about their very special connection with the Japanese city.

IN 1945, the United States dropped nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with tragic and devastating consequences.

Salisbury CND has been organising a commemorative candle float to remember these events each year since the early 1980s. The group has felt strong links with Hiroshima and Nagasaki by doing this, and in recent years we even had the pleasure of welcoming students from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to our event. They were over in

Salisbury on a language course and had seen our publicity. The students made us paper cranes - important symbols in Japan - which they gave us to include in the candle float.

In a chance encounter during the Salisbury International Arts Festival, which had a special section of talks related to nuclear matters, we made contact with Hideko Okamoto from a group in Hiroshima. This led to an exchange of emails and wonderfully, a letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima

wishing us well with our event.

In preparation for this year's event, we explored the possibility of us incorporating some lanterns from Hiroshima with our own, as a symbol of our joint efforts towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Eventually we received a wonderful parcel from Hiroshima, for which we are most grateful. The lanterns we received include a hand-painted one, made from paper recycled from the cranes used in Hiroshima last year, with the words 'Peace' and 'Ties' written in Japanese.

As we weren't able to arrange a Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative event last year due to the pandemic, we made a film instead. And this year, we've decided to make another one, as we are reluctant to encourage large crowds to gather with Covid-19 still rife. The film places great emphasis on the

lanterns from Japan joining our own in a peaceful setting.

Another link we now have with Japan is the fact that Salisbury CND is honoured to have received a tree seed from Hiroshima. Green Legacy Hiroshima was established to safeguard and spread worldwide the seeds and saplings of Hiroshima's A-Bomb survivor trees. We have received a Camellia seed taken from the Yoshijima Inari shrine. It will take some time to grow from a seed to a tree, but it will be a further symbol of our empathy for the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We greatly value these links and look forward to continuing to work together for a world free of nuclear weapons.

■ To view Salisbury CND's Hiroshima and Nagasaki film and find out more about their other activities, see their website www.cndsalisbury.org.uk.

Meet the staff

This month: Rob Wells, Office Manager

"I look after the admin and HR side of things at CND, as well as being responsible for the CND office — though obviously less of that over the past 18 months!

The absolute highlight of my job is meeting and speaking with CND groups and members, and hearing about all of the brilliant things you do.

Our Conference is online again this year for safety, but I can't wait to see you all in person again rather than on a screen!"



Spotlight

This month Southampton CND



It's an important time of year for CND groups, as events are planned across the country to mark Hiroshima and Nagasaki days. One of the groups getting ready to commemorate the dropping of atomic bombs on these Japanese cities is Southampton CND.

All are welcome to join as they gather on 8th August, 8pm, in Riverside Park. The Sheriff of Southampton will say a few words, before paper boats with their lit candles are launched on the river by all participants.

For any enquiries (about this event or the group in general) feel free to contact 023 8022 9363 or email dhoadley@phonecoop.coop. If you live locally in particular, Southampton CND would love to hear from you.

Time to end the Korean war

Carol Turner, CND Vice-Chair, writes about why CND is supporting a campaign to officially 'end' the Korean war.

DID YOU KNOW the UK is still officially at war with Korea? Peace organisations in South Korea have launched an international campaign, the Korea Peace Appeal, calling for a peace treaty to end the Korean war, with unification and a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula as their goal.

27th July this year marked the 68th anniversary of the armistice, signed after three years of brutal war with atrocities on both sides. In May, I spoke on behalf of CND at the DMZ Forum which launched the peace treaty initiative with support from an array of international guests. Plans are now underway for a week of international action on the 70th armistice anniversary in 2023.

More than seven million Korean family members were lost or separated by the war. Koreans are among the world's most homogenous peoples. In South Korea today, the three most common surnames – Kim, Lee and Pak (or Park) – are shared by around 40% of the population. Family reunification is a powerful driver of the peace campaign.

After Japan withdrew from Korea in 1945, the US and



Soviet Union formed a temporary administration. When reunification negotiations collapsed, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north and the Republic of Korea in the south were formed in 1948.

Widely regarded as the first 'hot war' of the Cold War era, the three-year long Korean conflict was shaping up by the early summer of 1950 when President Truman sent US forces to aid the south. China had troops in the north by the autumn, and the two sides clashed in December.

Military stalemate resulted in an armistice in 1953. By then Chinese and North Korean casualties fell just short of four million. Allied and South Korean casualties were between 1.3 and 1.8 million, including 1,100 British soldiers killed. Declassified US documents reveal a Pentagon

policy of civilian strafing and a well-developed debate about using nuclear weapons.

The demilitarized zone (DMZ) which separates the two parts of the Peninsula remains one of the most heavily armed places on the planet, with over a million Korean and foreign troops on patrol twenty-four hours a day. The many diplomatic and military clashes over the years mean the DMZ is as close as it gets to a combat zone in an area where international powers regularly hold massive military exercises.

A nuclear weapons-free Korean peninsula would represent an enormous contribution to a peaceful world – which is why CND will do our bit to help focus world attention on the need to end the Korean War.

■ Find out more at <https://en.endthekoreanwar.net/>

Hiroshima and Nagasaki 76th anniversary

August 2021

Events are being planned across the country to mark the 76th anniversaries of the nuclear bombings of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

■ See our events page or email information@cnduk.org to find out more details.

Yorkshire CND regional campaigners meeting

4 August, 6pm. Online.

■ Contact jonas@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Faringdon Peace Group meeting

4 August, 7:30pm. Online.

■ Contact 01367 710308 or steve.jenny@hotmail.com

Say no to US military drone tests in UK skies

14 August, 12 noon
RAF Waddington, Lincoln.

■ Contact enquiries@cnduk.org

40th anniversary walk from Cardiff to Greenham

Aug 26th-Sep 3rd

■ Registration: <https://greenhamwomeneverywwhere.co.uk/march/>

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp: Greenham Peace Camp anniversary

Sep 3rd-5th

AWE Aldermaston, W Berks.

■ Contact via AWPC Facebook page.

Nurses not Nukes 26th September

Mark the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

The Nuke-Free Europe network is coordinating a month of action in September to highlight the presence of nuclear weapons stationed across the continent.

Here in the UK, we will be shining a spotlight on the nuclear chain by encouraging action at nuclear sites across the country on 26th September.

■ See www.cnduk.org/Sep26 for more information.

CND Conference 16th and 24th October 2021

No new nuclear arms race

Join us on 16th and 24th October 2021 for CND Conference, which will be held online due to the ongoing uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic. Have your say at our AGM and Policy Conference on Saturday 16th, and join in the discussion, debate and activities at the public event on Sunday 24th.

10th September: Deadline for amendments and special (constitutional) resolutions.

(The deadline for nominations and resolutions has now passed).



Oxford CND benefit concert with Oxford Classic Jazz Band

11 September, 7:30pm

Friends Meeting House,
Oxford

■ Contact 01865 248357 or oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop

Stop DSEI Arms Fair online rally

14 September, 6:30pm

■ Contact enquiries@cnduk.org

Say no to US military drone tests in UK skies

18 September, 12 noon

RAF Lossiemouth

■ Contact enquiries@cnduk.org

Stories of State Surveillance and Infiltration of Peace Movements

26 September, 2pm

Online.

■ Contact 0161 273 or 8283gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

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