

March 1981

G.M. Chairperson Roger Greenough (70873)

General Secretary Rite Thomson (32163)

Membership Secretary Jenny Smith (37117)

Minutes Secretary Richard Seaford (33415)

Press Officer Bill Parker (74265)

Treasurer Graham Baker (59935)

Exeter CND continues to grow from strength to strength. We now have over 800 members while the youth section has about 100. While this growth in membership is very encouraging and, of course, must not be allowed to falter it brings with it certain problems. Perhaps the most crucial problem is that of cohesion - enter the Newsletter.

E.P.Thompson exhorts us to "feel our strength". However Michael Pentz pointed out at the AGM that while numbers is certainly crucial to the effectiveness and power of CND it is not enough. We cannot effectively "feel our strength" without being able to organize our membership into collective action, without a smooth and efficient flow of information through the organization. In much the same way that military strategists feel that quality as well as quantity is crucial to effective "deterrence" (e.g.Cruise) so Exeter CND must ensure that its membership develops into something more than simply a collection of individuals.

The Exeter CND Newsletter can help achieve this. However it can do this ONLY WITH YOUR HELP. To develop into an efficiently functioning organ of useful and interesting information it needs your contributions. If you have attended any functions connected with CND, have any information of future events and dates concerning CND or, indeed, if you have any suggestions concerning the content and format of this newsletter WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. The Heavitree/Polsloe group has taken responsibility for the newsletter so pass any information you have to any member of this group or to Barry Webb (52079 at work), 25 Regent Square, Heavitree. We would like to make the deadline for the newsletter of any month to be the date of the Exeter CND Council meeting within that month. Whether we can do this or not remains to be seen!

And now

(1). The Easter Peace March

Plans are well advanced for the Peace March and Rally in Plymouth on April 18th. Plymouth Council at first refused to allow us to use the Hoe to start and finish on as we were considered "too political". However they reversed their decision after a week of bad publicity. The plan is to gather on the Hoe at 12.00 midday, starting the march at 1.00pm and returning to the Hoe at 2.00pm. The Rally will be addressed by Ferner Brockway and various local representatives, followed by musical and other events and finishing between 4.00 and 5.00pm. It is anticipated that about 5000 people will attend from Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

We have 18 fifty-seater coaches leaving from Exeter coach station at 11.00am. These coaches will leave Plymouth at about 5.00pm. There will also be at least a coach each from Crediton and Tiverton leaving at 10.30am.

Tickets are £1.40 or 70p for unwaged people, children etc. Please buy your ticket from your co-ordinator or Rita Thomson as soon as possible so that we know if we have to order any extra coaches. Tickets are also available from the CND shop (New Bridge St.) and from Chapter & Verse (Princesshay). This event cannot succeed without you. If you are unable to attend please ask any friends or acquaintances if they would like to go in your stead. If you are able to attend persuade your friends to come with you. Don't forget your banners and placards !

STOP PRESS : Exeter Cathedral Council will not let us gather on the Cathedral Green on the morning of the march in preparation for our own march to the coach station. This part of our plans is therefore cancelled so please go straight to the coach station.

The Banner

Working group B (graphics etc.) have designed a rather splendid banner which will be used to head the Plymouth March. However they now need volunteers to help in actually making the banner. Anyone who can help should contact Bill Parker (74265).

Stewards

Volunteers are still needed for stewarding the Plymouth march. Anyone interested should contact Bill Parker (74265). This is an easy but necessary

job so please help.

(2). Spring Fair and Craft Market

Another important event is the spring fair on Sat. 25th April at St. George's Hall, Exeter. Its success depends on you. Each member is being issued with 2 books of draw tickets. If each person manages to sell his quota (which really is not very much) this will help considerably to swell our bank account. The area groups are taking responsibility for various stalls :

St. Matthews	Books and Records
Heavitree/Polsloe	White Elephant
Whipton/Barton/Minhoe	Bottle Stall
N.W. Villages	Fancy Goods and Crafts
S.W. Villages	Produce and Third World Crafts
Pennsylvania	Toys and Games
Rougemont	Food (cakes etc.)
West of the River	Plants and Flowers
St. Leonards	Side Show
Topsham	Will do the catering

It is vitally important that all the stalls are well stocked. It would be a tragedy if stalls ran out of wares half-way through the day. Rougemont have asked for volunteers to help make cakes etc. for their food stall. If you are interested you should contact Andrea Lester, 59 Thornton Hill (51063). However, all stalls need your contributions. Celia Shepherd, 12 Thornton Hill (74141) is acting as a "clearing house" for any goods that might be useful to a stall other than the one opted for by your area group.

(3). Disco

Don't forget the Exeter CND disco at the Quay Club on the 24th March. 50p admission on the door. Tickets are also available in advance from the CND shop or from Chapter & Verse (Princesshay). Come before 10.30pm (otherwise you won't get in!).

SPECIAL WORKING GROUPS

Churches

Any member wishing to help with a church liason group should contact Liz Snowdon (78425).

Schools

Fran Jenkin (30556) is the co-ordinator of the schools group. If you are connected in any way with school teaching you should contact Fran to let her have your name and the school at which you work, even if you have no time to attend meetings.

Information

If you can help with the collating of newspaper and magazine articles and letters to provide a central information library you should contact Bill Parker (74265).

Affiliated

Organizations

Chris Baldick (The Queen's Building, Exeter University) is compiling a list of those organizations, particularly Trade Union branches, who might affiliate to Exeter CND, with a view to liasing with them. This is an important task and he needs your help. Area co-ordinators should, at their next group meeting, compile a list of members in their group who belong to some organization they feel might affiliate. That list should be forwarded to Chris Baldick. Individual members who belong to an organization such as a Trade Union but who do not have time to attend their area group meetings should, nevertheless, get in touch with Chris Baldick letting him know your name and the organization of which you are a member. Individual members might also raise the issue of affiliation to Exeter CND at the next branch meeting of the organization of which they are a member. The importance of affiliating organizations to Exeter CND cannot be overemphasized so please help Chris.

REPORTS

(1) Treasurer's Report

We have £314.61 in our bank accounts of which £685 has been earmarked at Council meetings for various projects. These include £ 300 for the fact and information sheets, £30 for the Spring Fair hall, £50 for schools books and leaflets, £30 for the Plymouth March banner and £10 for repairs to the 'War Game'. We therefore depend on income from the disco, the draw and the Spring Fair to restore us to a healthy financial position. These events should bring in over £2,000 if they're successful - so get busy !

Graham Baker

(2) Bristol CND National Speakers School

(a) A number of members attended the Bristol Speakers School over the week-end March 6 - 8th. The overall impression gained from listening to their reports is that it proved a very valuable experience indeed. The general aim of the school is to improve the quality of public speaking, an essential piece of education for the more active campaigners in our midst. Members attended a variety of workshops dealing with a range of issues. Not only is knowing how to speak in public important (i.e. technique) but it is also essential to know exactly what to speak about (i.e. content). The workshops covered both of these broad areas. In regard to content of public speaking the school covered such issues as twin-town connections and general contact with peace groups in Europe, nuclear-free zones, non-nuclear defence and medical aspects of nuclear war (more of which later). It would be impossible to cover all the issues in such a short amount of space. The best thing for people who want to know more to do is to contact Bill Parker (74265), Graham Baker (59935) or Andy Pratt (79607).

(b) Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons

Bill Parker reported at the last Council meeting that while in Bristol he came in contact with Dr. Martin Hartog. Dr. Hartog is very keen to liase with other doctors and anyone involved in medicine

within the S.W. region in order to organize a regional branch of the Medical Campaign against Nuclear Weapons. Any member who is involved in medical work of any kind should contact Andrea Lester, 59 Thornton Hill (51063). For those not involved in medical work but who have friends or acquaintances who are, they should engage in discussion with these contacts ! This would seem to be a very valuable aspect of CMD and well worth encouraging.

(c) Children's Competition

Graham Baker tells us that while at the Bristol Speakers School a suggestion was made that children be involved in some sort of competition involving the design of posters, paintings etc. Does anyone have any suggestions? Anyone interested in organizing this? Contact Graham Baker (59935) or maybe Fran Jenkin (see under Special Working Groups - Schools).

(3) The War Game

The War Game has received very heavy use over the past couple of months - which is great news ! This seems to be the case not only regionally in Exeter but also across the country nationally. If the showing of the film by all area groups was as successful as the Heavitree/Polsloe group's showings it can't be bad ! The two showings in Heavitree and Polsloe attracted about 80 - 100 people altogether and £18 of literature was sold.

Comments by people who saw the film indicate that they felt the film to be rather dated now. By way of answer Exeter CMD is considering joining forces with Bristol CMD in order to buy Jonathan Dimbleby's film "The Bomb" - an exciting prospect.

(4) Exeter University Nuclear Diarmament Group

EUNGDG have now officially affiliated to Exeter CMD. They reported at the last Council meeting that the Thompson Twins benefit at the University was a great success making over £100 for them. Readers may

also be interested in the outcome of a recent debate at the University on unilateral disarmament. The motion for unilateral disarmament was won by 80 votes for to 17 votes against !

On Sat. 14th March EUNDG arranged for a half-hour peace vigil to take place within the Cathedral. Close to 200 people came along - quite a turn out.

(5) The Leaflet

At the last Council meeting Rita Thomson reported that the leaflet used by Exeter CND in the massive leaflet drop has gained strength throughout the country. London, Ipswich, Glossop and the West Midlands (the whole region !) have all shown great interest in it. Michael Pentz informs us that Milton Keynes has taken over the leaflet but have made some improvements on it. We hope to hear more about the new, improved version !

(6) Working Group A (information)

Working group A plan to distribute the first of their information sheets soon. Issues to be covered in their 'fact pack' include the aims and structure of CND, the arms race and nuclear strategies, a question and answer sheet (ever been asked a question which you've found difficult to answer ?), the effects of nuclear war and the question of civil defence.

The importance of their work cannot be overemphasized. When you receive these information sheets please read them carefully, inwardly digest and make sure you understand them. They will be particularly useful in the forthcoming County Council elections (see diary).

(7) The Shop

Since the shop (in New Bridge St.) became the general responsibility of Exeter CND area groups have been asked by the newly formed shop committee to man the shop on a rota basis during the week. However,

volunteers are still urgently required to 'fill-in' the gaps. At present the shop appears to be open only at very erratic hours during the week. This is a terrible waste of a very valuable asset. If you are available to man the shop at any time during the week contact Melanié Small (39854). Also, if you have any bric-a-brac, books, records etc. which you would like to donate or sell on a profit-sharing basis you should contact Melanie. If you want to get more involved in the running of the shop you might like to go along to the next meeting of the shop committee. This will be on Thurs. 2nd April (8.30pm) at Hillyfield House, Bartholomew Terrace, Exeter. The shop is making a small profit but . . .

SOME BITS AND PIECES

Membership Forms

A number of members have commented that people have asked them where they can get hold of Exeter CND membership forms. At present these are available from the CND shop and from the book shop 'Chapter & Verse' in Princesshay. Do you know any shops that might agree to make membership forms available?

Exeter Festival

The forthcoming Exeter Festival presents an opportunity for Exeter CND to organize some event. The Barnfield Theatre has been booked by Rita Thomson for Sun. 24th May for our "Festival Review". Quite what this will consist of we will let you know ! Rita has also arranged a float for Exeter CND and I gather the Youth CND are planning one as well.

E.P.Thompson

We still have no firm date on which E.P.Thompson will be able to come down to Exeter. We must accept that he is a very busy man but don't be alarmed, folks - he will be down at sometime or other. A suggestion was made at the last Council meeting that once we have a

~~firm date we might contact John Nott~~ and arrange a debate between the two - an exciting prospect !

Atomic Times

A monthly publication has come to my notice which members may like to take a look at. 'Atomic Times' (a magazine from Lancashire) advertises itself as a "monthly meltdown of nuclear news" and that is exactly what it is ! It is packed full of information concerning the activities of CND and various peace groups throughout the country - a valuable asset to the active campaigner. Subscription is £1.50 for individuals and £2 for groups. Postage and packing is charged on top of this at £1.50. If you are unemployed issues are free as long as you send SAEs. Something the shop committee might like to consider is the sale-or-return offer : 10 for £1.30 inc. post. Subscriptions and orders should be sent to Robert Poole, 120 Main St., Warton, near Carnforth, Lancs. LH5 9PJ.

And finally

Many people feel that the most effective way CND can work towards its objectives is politically i.e. to support those political candidates who unequivocally support unilateral disarmament - no matter what their party politics. However, many other members feel that, while agreeing with basic premise that CND is sooner or later going to have to get its hands dirty and step into the political arena, we must ensure that Exeter CND's neutrality concerning party politics cannot be called into question. In order to ensure that Exeter CND has a very firm base from which to enter the political arena it has been suggested that some special working groups be set up e.g. Liberals Against The Bomb, Labour Against The Bomb, Conservatives Against The Bomb, Social Democrats Against The Bomb.

This is a vitally important issue and we urge you to attend your next area group meeting to discuss these suggestions and put forward your own ideas and opinions.

D I A R Y

MARCH

- Tues. 24th Exeter CND Disco at the Quay Club.
9 - 1. No admission after 10.30pm.
Over 18s only. 50p on the door. Tickets
also available from the CND shop or
from Chapter & Verses (Princesshay).
- Fri. 27th YCND meeting at the Friends Meeting House
(opp. Lye Infirmary). For details contact
Andy Pratt (79607).
- Sat. 28th CND Labour Movement Conference in
Manchester.
- Mon. 30th St. Matthews group meeting at 9 Alexandra
Terrace (off Blackboy Rd.)
- Mon. 30th Tim Reutor (lecturer in History at the
University) and Freddie Tendell (chairman
of Huxon Parish Meeting) to talk at the
Reid Hall, Methodist Church, Sidwell St.,
Exeter. The talk will concern issues of
civil defence and the newly issued Parish
War Book. ALL WELCOME!
- Tues. 31st War Game showing by S.W. Villages group
at Victory Hall, Kanton. 8.00pm.

APRIL

- Wed. 1st St. Leonards group meeting at 8 Landsdowne
Terrace, Exeter. 7.30pm.
- Thurs. 2nd Shop Committee meeting. Hillyfield House,
Bartholomew Terrace, Exeter. 8.30pm.

April (cont'd)

- Mon. 6th Exeter CND Council Meeting. Oddfellows Arms
7.30pm.
- Tues. 7th N.E. Villages group meeting. The Castle Hotel,
Bradninge. 8.30pm.
- Wed. 8th Pennsylvania group meeting. Oddfellows Arms.
8.00pm.
- Thurs. 9th West of the River group meeting. Senior
Citizens Centre, Cowick St. 8.00pm. This
area group will require a new co-ordinator
soon. Anyone interested?
- Thurs. 9th Crediton group meeting. Sandford Rectory
(opp. St. Swithun's church), Sandford.
7.30pm. Jim Penman will examine the confused
relationship between civil and military
nuclear power.
- Thurs. 9th Heavitree/Palaloe group meeting. Room B30,
Curriculum and Resources centre, St. Lukes.
7.30pm.
- Sat. 11th Jumble Sale. The Nissen Hut, Labour Party
H.Q., Clifton Hill, Exeter.
2.30pm. All contributions to Jenny Smith, 92
Pennsylvania Rd., Exeter.
- Sat. 11th YCND march in Exeter. For details contact
Andy Pratt (79607).
- Sat. 11th Folk/Dance evening. Silverton New Hall
8.00pm. Featuring Hips & Haws plus Bert
Hollocks. 75p. Bar.

April (cont'd)

Mon.13th

Rougemont group meeting. Thornlea Annex, New North Rd. (opp. Imperial Hotel).

8.00pm. Tape recording of an advocate of nuclear weaponry to be played.

Tues.14th

Whipton/Barton/Pinhoe group meeting. America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe.

7.30pm.

Sat.18th

Easter Peace March and Rally in Plymouth (details in this newsletter).

Sat.25th

Spring Fair and Craft Market. St. Georges Hall, Exeter. 11.00am - 4.00pm.

May

1st - 15th

"No Nuclear Weapons". Photographic Exhibition booked from the Half Moon Photographic Workshop. Available for showing in schools, church halls etc. Anyone know of any suitable venues? If so, contact Mark Robins (38464).

Thurs.7th

County Elections

Sat.9th - Sun.10th

National CMD Conference on Campaigning (in London)

Sun.24th

"Festival Review". Barnfield Theatre (more info. later).

And That's All, Folks