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E. P. THOMPSON

VISIT

JULY 18TH

NOW READ ON!

Yes folks - it's the man himself, the guru of CND. E.P. Thompson (author of "Protest and Survive" and founder member of European Nuclear Disarmament) will be addressing a public meeting to be held in Bury Meadow (by the Clock Tower in Exeter). The meeting will take place on the afternoon of Saturday July 18th. A number of other speakers will also be there. Dr. Martin Hartog has been asked to speak on behalf of the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons. Norman Buchan M.P. will also be speaking as will Janie Buchan (Euro M.P.). Prior to the speeches, a procession is being arranged through Exeter City Centre (or at least a part of it!) ending at Bury Meadow.

Hopefully there will be at least around 1,000 people at the meeting (i.e. the membership of Exeter CND). However it is vitally important that we do all we can to attract as many of the "unconverted" as possible to the venue. It is with this goal in mind that the procession is being arranged.

This is an opportunity for us to inform the people of Exeter that Exeter CND does exist. It's an opportunity for us to present some of the arguments for nuclear disarmament to them. It's an opportunity for us to persuade the people of Exeter that we do need to Protest to Survive. Let's not miss it! Come along nad bring a friend!

For the procession people should gather in Princesshay in time to leave for Bury Meadow at 1.00p.m. Representatives of area groups bring your banners! Various stalls will be provided at the rally. Food, tea and beer will be readily available. There will also be some entertainment for children.

Nagasaki Day

August 9th is Nagasaki Day. It is the anniversary of a day which the people of Exeter should not be allowed to forget. The onus is on Exeter CND to ensure that they do not do so. Black arm bands bearing the CND symbol are being ordered by Exeter CND and will be available to members through their area groups. Members are being asked to wear these arm bands for the period August 6th-9th. A vigil at the Nagasaki Cherry Tree in Exeter on August 9th has also been suggested. A 2 minute silence will take place at 11a.m.

It has also been suggested that we do as the people of Japan do on this day - float candles down the river on the evening of August 9th. However, someone or a group of people is needed to organise this event. Anyone interested in doing so should contact Rita Thomson (32163)

Affiliations

Exeter Trades Council has recently affiliated to Exeter CND. NALGO has also recently affiliated to National CND. If there are CND members who belong to NALGO, or indeed any other union, this decision may encourage them to go along to their branch meetings and try and persuade their branches to affiliate to Exeter CND.

Medical Campaign

The newly formed Exeter branch of the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons has recently been meeting at the Postgraduate Medical Centre at the R.D.&E (Wonford). However, the powers that be have now decided to ban them from the P.G.M.C. because they are "too political" ! For further information about this important organisation contact Andrea Lester (51063).

Youth CND

A change of co-ordinator for this group should be noted. Hilary Snowdon is now the temporary co-ordinator and can be contacted at 52, Wonford Rd., Exeter.

A Request for Information.

Jeremy Wellens, 25 Richmond Rd., Exeter (51985) has asked that anyone who has any information concerning the transport of radioactive materials, nuclear warheads etc. through Exeter or the surrounding region to get in contact with him.

Campaigning Meeting of Exeter CND Council

Many and varied issues were discussed at the special council meeting on Campaigning Strategies. Among strategies of a more general nature: it was felt that pressure should be put on Local Government to declare Nuclear - Free Zones and that County Hall should be pressed for information concerning Nuclear War Contingency Plans. The following proposal was also raised at the meeting for discussion in area groups and at the July council:

"That Exeter CND open a special savings account with a fund target of £5,000 to be known as the "general election fund", to be spent on a propaganda campaign during the run-up to the next general election".

Another concern of the meeting was the possible alienation of groups from Exeter CND. It was felt that groups of special interest could be formed within

Janet Barber reports on the Activists Conference in London

I was very glad of the chance to go on the National CND Activists Conference in London in May and was only sorry that more people from all over Britain did not take advantage of this opportunity.

The workshops I chose to take part in were 'Journalists', 'Using the Media' and 'Pacifism'. I've taken copious notes from the first two - which are freely available for inspection by anyone wishing to - and feel that I have learnt a lot which could be useful to us in our handling of the media - which I see as an essential part of our Campaign. I was somewhat disappointed by the Pacifism Workshop - which I felt never really got off the ground - mainly due to the leader not turning up. The only thing I felt emerged from this Workshop was that there are many different degrees of commitment to pacifism and that, for those of us who are pacifists, we fully accept that we are working within a movement with one specific aim - namely the banning of nuclear weapons - and will do our best to express our pacifism by working on this issue.

The feeling of the Conference to me was that we are now entering upon a 'second wind' stage. CND groups have sprung up throughout the country and have now done all the obvious things - such as showing 'The War Game', giving talks on Cruise missiles etc. Now we must decide where to go from here - our campaign must be political, but not party political. We have recruited the "trendy, lefty middle class" - now we need a much broader base of opposition to nuclear weapons. From the bottom up - we could leaflet dole queues, chat to people in pubs, etc., and from the top down we work to get councillors, etc., into power who are sympathetic to our policies - and then don't let them backtrack for the sake of political expediency.

It could be that eventually the Labour Party winning the next General Election is our hope of progress - but we must not rely on them doing this or sticking to their promises if they do - and, if only for this reason, it is essential to achieve wider support within the community for our aims.

WOMEN FOR PEACE

1. Why have a separate women's group?

It is not as an alternative, but as an additional part of the strategy of expanding and giving impetus to the CND movement. Just as other groups with common interests find it easier to work together, some women may initially feel happier working with other women. At the CND Campaigning Conference in London, many women said that women's groups, formed as part of their area peace groups, had given them confidence to take more active and public roles. Also, practically speaking, the way Exeter CND operates at the moment may be excluding some women who might find it easier to operate during the day.

2. What could it do for Exeter CND?

It could broaden our active membership, and help establish contacts with other groups and organisations. Women as mothers may be able to make contact with PTA's, playgroups etc. and we could also try to influence other local women's groups, such as Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guild, the Housewives Register etc.

3. Why is now the time?

Now is the time to think of as many ways as possible to increase our membership and help our present members become more active. This would take the form of the same process as the affiliation of Trade Unions, and the establishment of Teacher's Groups, Christian and Youth CND.

4. How will we go about organising it?

Through area groups co-ordinators. This gives us the advantage of establishing personal contact in local areas - a proven method of gaining and maintaining members. It also gives greater convenience and flexibility for meetings.

5. How will it work in practice?

A few contacts having been made, the women in a given area initially could meet

Exeter CND with a view to involving people in the organization who might otherwise feel rather isolated or disinterested. The Women's/Parent's group described in this newsletter is one example.

Some concern was expressed about attendance of members at area group meetings. Ideas for involving members in their area groups included social functions where members of an area group could get to know each other on a more personal level. It was also thought that items for distribution throughout an area group could be delivered to each member personally rather than simply dropping literature through the letter box. The overall message was that personal contact should be developed and maintained within area groups.

Publicity also received its fair share of time at the meeting. Various ideas put forward included advertising via Sandwich-boards, stalls at fetes etc. and advertisement hoardings. One medium which it was felt wasn't being used fully was Car Stickers. It was recommended that Working Group B design Car Stickers which might appeal to car owners more than those presently available and which would be of a more local nature. The message, though, was clear - if you have a car, put a sticker on it!

Other issues discussed concerned the education of ourselves and the general public. It was felt that Working Group A could organize workshops with the aim of training speakers, keeping members engaged and creating activists. It was felt that perhaps the time had come for Exeter CND to organize large public debates and meetings.

News of Working Groups

Members may recall a piece in the last newsletter informing them of plans to restructure the working groups in Exeter CND. Members may also recall a request to all those with time and skills to offer to fill in a form giving details giving details of their particular skills and the working groups to which they could contribute. This was done by one member. Consequently details of the various working groups are again given below and again we request people to complete the form below and send it to Rita Thomson, 19 Thornton Hill, Exeter. We really do need this information.

W.G.A is to be concerned with

1. Education and information. To extend the role it has played in informing us, to include the possibility of workshops etc.
2. To provide a letter-writing and letter-writing advice service.
3. The production of more general leaflets for public distribution and specific occasions

W.G.B is to be a service group for A and C. For this purpose we need a directory of the members particular skills so that any other W.G. can select the specific talents they consider most useful for any project. That would not preclude their working together as a Group. Present members of W.G.B would also make useful permanent members of W.G.s A and C, should they be prepared to take this on.

W.G.C is to be an events and fundraising group i.e. to extend their activities to include public meetings, exhibitions, rallies etc. which are not necessarily fund raising.

W.G.D This emergent working group is responsible for Publicity and Campaigning Strategies. As such it is a very important group. It is essential that it runs efficiently so that we do not miss opportunities to make the presence and ideas of Exeter CND seen and felt. It would be the responsibility of this group to argue, discuss and put together long term campaigning and publicity strategies for Exeter CND, something we very much need at the moment. Walter Cairns has agreed to convene this working group. Anyone interested in joining it should contact him at Mardon Hall, Streatham Drive, Exeter. (Tel. 77911 ext.336)

I should like to volunteer for

WORKING GROUP A

WORKING GROUP B

WORKING GROUP C

WORKING GROUP D

My special skill/interest is

to decide how to organise themselves - eg. gaining information, making contact with local women's organisations. As with all groups within CND the nature of the group should respond to the character of its membership.

If you are interested, contact your area group co-ordinator, Olwen Goodall (214077) or Fran Jenkin (30556).

Liz Snowden writes on Christian CND

At a meeting in St. Stephen's Church, High Street, Exeter on June 8th a group of Christians of all denominations decided to form the Exeter & District Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. This group will be part of the Exeter CND organisation and will work particularly within the Churches and with church groups. Activities proposed include the arranging of a public meeting at which a nationally known Church leader (eg. Mgr. Bruce Kent or Canon Paul Oestreicher) will speak. Members will also contact local churches offering to speak to various church groups and hope to visit local clergy to inform them of the concern felt by many Christians about nuclear weapons.

Elizabeth Snowden, 50 Wonford Road, Tel: 78425 is secretary of this group and anyone interested in joining should contact her.

Rita Thomson reports on the First Meeting of the S.W. Region of CND in Exeter on May 30th

That there is a need for co-ordination and co-operation between the Peace Groups in Devon and Cornwall was clearly indicated by the response to this meeting. Over 50 people attended representing 21 CND and other Peace Groups. The meeting was chaired by John Somers of East Devon CND.

It was agreed that the groups in Devon and those in Cornwall should meet separately over the summer months: roads clogged with holiday traffic would make getting to a meeting any distance away difficult, if not impossible.

As the region has no money, and as most of the representatives there already had a very heavy work-load, it was agreed to keep the organisation and paper-work to a minimum. The four most necessary steps needed to be taken were considered to be:

1. A regional newsletter and events diary. Chris Wakefield of E. Devon agreed to take on this onerous task and the first one will be coming off the presses (duplicating machine!) in the second half of June. It will include a revised list of the Devon and Cornwall groups and their contact people.
2. The setting up of a regional literature bank. Kay Little of the Plymouth Group (P.U.P.A.) has agreed to be responsible for this.
3. The compiling of a comprehensive list of resources and speakers already available within the region - something to keep me busy.
4. The opening of a regional account and the collection of a levy of £5 per group to put in it. Graham Baker, our treasurer, foolishly agreed to do this, but to date no £5's have come his way.

Stanley Keelele of the Peace Tax Campaign explained how the P.T.C. are trying to get the law changed on the payment of income tax. (He would make an interesting speaker, perhaps at one of our proposed educational workshops.)

There were some good discussions about the possibilities of combined regional action, particularly letter-writing campaigns. Roger Greenhough and Andrea Lester handed out information and suggestions for groups to back up the South West Regional Health Authority's decision not to appoint a medical war planning officer.

Nial Ogilvie of Kingsbridge W.D.C. group was appointed co-ordinator for the Devon petitioning. Unfortunately he has since had to give this up due to ill-health.

John Moreland of Penzance CND and Stephen Huggett of Plymouth United Peace Action were appointed as alternating representatives at National CND council meetings.

The next Devon only meeting will take place at the Friend's Meeting House, Exeter on Saturday July 4th at 2.00p.m. and the next joint Devon/Cornwall meeting will be in Plymouth on Sept. 11th with Stephen Huggett in the chair.

DIARY

JUNE

Tues. 30th Pennsylvania Area Group meeting at 8.00p.m. in Coolings.

JULY

Fri. 3rd Meeting of the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons. For details contact Andrea Leater (51063)

Thurs. 9th Heavitree/Polsloe Area Group Social. The Globe, Clifton Hill 8pm.

Thurs. 9th West-of-the-River Area Group Meeting. Senior Citizens Centre, Cowick St., St. Thomas 8.00p.m.

Mon. 13th Exeter CND Council meeting. Oddfellows Arms 7.30p.m.

Thurs. 16th Heavitree/Polsloe Area Group meeting.

Fri. 17th Meeting of the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons. For details contact Andrea Lester (51063)

Sat. 18th E.P. Thompson talk at public meeting. Bury Meadow. 12.00-6.00pm.

AUGUST

Sun. 9th Nagasaki Day

Thurs. 13th West-of-the-River Area Group meeting. Senior Citizen's Centre, Cowick Street, St. Thomas. 8.00p.m.

SEPT.

Thurs. 10th West-of-the-River Area Group meeting. See above.

OCT.

Sat. 24th National CND Rally in London.

P.S. Chris Wakefield would be grateful for contributions to the regional newsletter the deadline for the next one is 30th July. Please send contributions to him at 3, Patteson Close, Alfington, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.