

ACTION for PEACE

Yorkshire GND
newsletter



Issue 50
Autumn 2004

We've printed a special bumper size Action for Peace this season to mark the newsletter's 50th edition. Inside your Action for Peace:

- # How we got this far:
 - 50 issues of Action for Peace, by Dave Webb
- # All the latest Star Wars news and updates on the major campaigns
- # What we've been up to all year
- # Ways that you can take action
- # Details of upcoming events



Thom Yorke at the demo

HUNDREDS DEMONSTRATE AT FYLINGDALES IN KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE WEEK *FULL STORY INSIDE ...*



Hundreds march across the moors towards the Star Wars base

Action for Peace reaches 50

*by Dave Webb,
Convenor of Yorkshire CND*

Congratulations to all involved in the 50th edition of the Yorkshire CND newsletter "Action for Peace". The first Action for Peace appeared in the Autumn of 1991 and was launched by John Brierley who was then the full time development worker for Yorkshire CND. Since then it has been produced regularly 4 times a year and contains news of peace activities in Yorkshire for all

members and affiliates of Yorkshire CND. Looking through back issues (Nos 25 onwards are available from the Yorkshire CND web-site) you can see reports and notifications of events such as demonstrations, conferences, meetings, workshops, festivals, sponsored walks and of course the Day of Dance (which started in April 1995 and has been a wonderful twice yearly event that has helped raise our profile, our funds and our spirits ever since). All of the past issues are packed with news, views and events from Shipley to Sheffield, Hull to Hebden Bridge and Whitby to wherever.

It has been an excellent resource and a non violent flag ship for peace campaigning for over 20 years.

Throughout that time we have supported and initiated protests, including non-violent direct actions, at Menwith Hill, Fylingdales, up and down the A1, Faslane and elsewhere. We have organised conferences in Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield and taken part in others in London, Manchester, Paris, Barcelona, Nanjing, Colorado

Springs, Washington, Maine and San Francisco. Through all of this there have been the constant themes of "Star Wars", Nuclear Convoys, Trident submarines, and issues of war and conflict in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere.

In fact issue no. 1 of "Action for Peace" contained an article on the upgrade of the Fylingdales radar - from what were then the three famous golf balls containing huge radar dishes to the current pyramid shaped phased array radar. Even at that

time Yorkshire CND was claiming that the new radar system was not just as an early warning system as claimed by the MoD but would be used for U.S. 'Star Wars' plans. Our claim was denied by the Government but eventually proved to be correct when the UK agreed that the radar become part of President George W. Bush's Missile Defence system in January 2003. Now of course Fylingdales is undergoing further more minor hardware and software upgrades so that it can participate in and become integrated into the U.S. missile defence and star warring

schemes. That issue also contained details of the arrests of 9 people from Yorkshire at an arms fair in Portsmouth - emphasising that we work at local and national levels. In fact our continued participation in events such as "Keep Space for peace Week" and protests, conferences and actions at home and abroad have involved us in many international activities.

There are consistent themes running throughout the past 49 issues - support for national CND



*Issue 1 of Action for Peace,
Autumn 1991*

actions and the generation of regional events. It is interesting that there have only been three editors/producers of "Action for Peace" in all of this time. Rachel Julian took over from John Brierley in the summer of 1998 and then current editor Neil Kingsnorth took over in January 2002. Each brought their own particular personality and ideas to the newsletter and they have always

been energetic, refreshing, supportive and innovative. CND is one of those organisations that goes to great lengths to recruit incredibly talented and industrious workers and then asks them to make themselves redundant as soon as possible. We are still doing this and the contents of this issue will testify to that.

Hundreds join Yorkshire CND demo at Fylingdales

Around 350 people joined the Yorkshire CND "Switch Off Star Wars" demo this September, to mark the first day of Keep Space for Peace week and to oppose Bush's plans for Star Wars - due to come online (officially at least) within weeks. Thom Yorke of the band Radiohead came to add his support and, as a result, so did the media. After some speeches and fun and games the protestors marched up the road to the radar base before crossing on to the base and walking, hundreds strong, along the newly discovered footpath across the moors, over the base's entrance road, towards the radar. There we stopped to hear a message from our friends from No Nukes North in Alaska before heading back to sign a giant petition to Tony Blair. The event got media coverage regionally and nationally and provided protestors new and old an opportunity to remind the government of our intention to stop Star Wars and Keep space for Peace!



Just a taste of our work over the past year

Yorkshire CND's proud to have played a significant part in another year of campaigning for peace on a regional level and nationally on Star Wars. Here's just a taste of what we've been up to:

- A major blockade of Menwith Hill with hundreds of people taking part and 30 arrests, closing all but one of the gates and causing five-hour delays to the staff shift change in the base.
- An exhibition on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Leeds and a walk of 70 miles from Menwith Hill to Fylingdales in three days from Hiroshima day to Nagasaki day
- Research and publication of a detailed report on space weapons, reported in the Guardian and sent to over 250 MPs.
- Commissioning of an official ICM poll on the public's knowledge and view on space weapons,

with excellent results.

- A huge demonstration at Fylingdales with Thom Yorke joining experts and 350 protestors
- Being one of the groups to notice early and act on the significance of the NFIRE development
- 2 of our famous Day Of Dance events, a Christmas Peace and Crafts Fair and setting up an online shop
- Talks across the region and around the UK, created new campaign postcards, posters and materials, expanded the website to include more detailed specialist sections and basic introductions to issues and taken part in attempts to create a Northern Nonviolence Center in Bradford.

It's your support that's made all of this, and more, possible. Thank you.

Missiles at Fylingdales?

Press reports in October suggested that the UK government was considering allowing the US to deploy US Star Wars interceptors at Fylingdales.

In fact, it appears that the story wasn't quite accurate. The US is unlikely to want to put the missiles at Fylingdales as there is no operational reason for doing so (the missiles do not need to be near a radar) and it would place two elements of the in one place, making an attack on that area doubly tempting.

The UK government has denied that there has been any talk of putting missiles at Fylingdales, and they are probably telling the truth. But the crucial question is whether there has been any talk of the UK hosting Star Wars interceptor missiles anywhere in the UK. The US is keen to use supportive countries like the



*Fylingdales radar base.
Future host of US Star Wars missiles?*

UK as front line outposts for the Star Wars system and have talked of deploying missiles in "North-West Europe."

CND will vigorously oppose the deployment of any Star Wars missiles on UK soil, no matter where they are deployed and we will continue to work with supportive MPs and the media to try to ascertain from our frustratingly secretive Government what is planned.

You can help by writing to your MP and asking them to ask the government for the details of any discussions, formal or informal, that have taken place between the US and UK governments about the deployment of Star Wars missiles in the UK. We'd like to see any response you get.

NFIRE - the mystery satellite

Yorkshire CND joined with NGOs around the world this year to ensure attention was drawn temporarily to a little-known satellite development that had potentially serious consequences for the peaceful uses of space. The "NFIRE" satellite, due to be

deployed earlier this year, was to carry elements of basic space weapons technology that could have been used in the development of space-based interceptor and attack technology. The onboard "kill-vehicle" had the potential to provide vital data for the future

development of space-based weaponry. Yorkshire CND and others took the issue head-on and joined other groups in raising concern and debate. We gained an article in in Guardian, wrote press releases, asked for parliamentary questions and even phoned up the company in ahcrge of the project to ask

them what they were up to.

Such a reaction surprised those in the US behind the project and, probably in part as a result of that reaction the project has been toned down, with the kill vehicle element removed, and deployment delayed.

ruussian nukes

In mid-November Putin said that Russia was working on new, unique, nuclear missile systems. Various experts interpreted the Russian president's words as an announcement that Russia may soon have weapons to counter the U.S. anti-missile defense system.



new threats to us could appear," the Russian leader said at a meeting with the heads of the military forces. "I am sure that in the near future weapons will appear... which other nuclear powers do not and will not possess," he said.

"We know that we have only to weaken our attention to such components of our defenses as the nuclear-missile shield, and

Putin gave no further detail about what type of weapons he was referring to or what shape these new security threats could take. "We will continue to consistently and successively build up the armed forces in general and its nuclear component," he said.

Women only Peace Camp

@ Menwith Hill

from Friday afternoon 10th December through to a Blockade of the A59 main road supply route to USA Menwith Hill Spy Satellite Missile Guidance Base, on Monday morning 13th December '04

The camp is at: Kettlesing Head layby, (opposite Black Bull Pub), 7 miles west of Harrogate, North Yorkshire. A59 Road toward Skipton

Warm waterproof clothing and footwear essential,

Veggie/ vegan food(donations welcome)

Tents, cars, and vans, for sleeping arrangements.

Tel 01943 468593

or e-mail helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk for futher info

Stay in touch ...

If you want to stay in touch with peace actions across Yorkshire and beyond, keep up to date with all the latest news on Star Wars and other peace issues and be able to inform hundreds of people about peace activities you're involved with, sign up for free to the Yorkshire CND email list.

By joining the hundreds that are already members, you'll get a few emails a week ensuring you stay in touch with all the latest news. To sign up for free go to www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk and fill in the form on the home page.

at the click of a mouse ...

Another way to keep up to date with all the latest is to visit the hugely popular Yorkshire CND web site. The site has grown and developed over the years and is now a well respected resource for information and ideas for action on Star Wars and nuclear issues.



www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk - Yorkshire CND's web site is your resource, so have a visit and take action today

The site contains information as guides to key issues all the way to detailed briefings, ways to take action online and ideas for groups and individuals to make a difference. It's constantly updated with international news on the key campaigns and has details of upcoming events across the region. There's also an

online shop where you can buy a range of campaign resources and gifts and can donate to or join Yorkshire CND.

With specialist sites on Menwith Hill, Fylingdales, space weapons and Missile Defence and links to all the relevant groups locally, regionally, nationally and across the world too, it's no wonder we get thousands of visits to the site every week.

To stay in touch with the campaigns and make use of the resources that have been specially developed for you, visit

www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Take action

Ever wanted to get a bit more active? Here are a few ways that you can take more action to help make the world nuclear-free.

Join the demos or take part in non-violent direct action

Yorkshire CND organises large-scale demonstrations several times a year. They're a great way to show practical support for the campaigns and to reach tens of thousands through local media coverage. As well as the major Yorkshire CND demos there are demos every Tuesday at the main gate of Menwith Hill from 6pm - 8pm, organised by CAAB, and others demos organised throughout the year by FAN, the Women's campaign and others. Yorkshire CND and others also support and organise direct action when appropriate. If you'd like to get involved or find out more, contact us. Stay in touch with Yorkshire CND to find out the latest.



Sign a petition

It's a small step but it's worth doing. Yorkshire CND runs petition on its main campaigns and presenting thousands of signatures to the Government reminds them that there is genuine popular support for campaigns on Government policy. You can sign petitions online at the Yorkshire CND website - www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk - or give us a bell and we'll send you a sheet to fill in. If you'd like to get together with others and run a stall in your town, once or regularly, contact Yorkshire CND and we'll help you to organise it.

Write to your MP

Writing to an MP can raise the MPs knowledge and awareness of an issue considerably. Why not write a letter to your MP about one of Yorkshire CND's issues which concerns you. Ask them for their opinion and what the relevant Minister plans to do about the issues you've raised. You should get a response from your MP and, after a while, your MP should forward you whatever response the relevant Minister makes to your questions too. Yorkshire CD has the contact details of all Yorkshire MPs.

Write to your local newspaper

Local newspapers are always read by a large number of people including the politicians that want to know what their constituents concerns are. That's especially true of the letters pages. When there's a hot topic in the news that related to CND's campaigns, write a letter to your local paper telling them what you think. There's a good chance it'll get published, especially if you link it to a local issue.

Help out at the Yorkshire CND office

The Yorkshire CND office is staffed by one full time worker and one part time worker and it always needs help from volunteers. There are all sorts of ways to help out. You can come in every week and help out or once in a while to help with big mailings or major events. Whatever you can offer is appreciated so give Neil a call on 01274 730795 to volunteer.

Join your local CND/peace group

There are CND/peace groups scattered across the region. They offer you a chance to meet like-minded people, discuss the key issues and take action on a local or national level. Yorkshire CND has details of many of the local peace groups in the region so contact us if you'd like to find out more about acting locally.

CONTACT YORKSHIRE CND

Write to: Yorkshire CND, 22 Edmund Street, Bradford, BD5 0BH

tel: 01274 730795 (mobile 07818 411823)

email: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

web: www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Events for your diary

- Don't forget that you can join the CAAB demonstrations at the main gate of Menwith Hill every Tuesday from 6pm - 8pm. more info from CAAB - 01482 702033 or 01943 466405

- December 10th - 13th is a Women only peace camp at Menwith Hill, including a demonstration and blockade of the A-road on the Monday. To find out more and join in call Helen John on 01943 468593

- 10th December - 12pm - 1.30pm @ Lecture theatre ALG07 School of Technology, Civic Quarter, Leeds Met Uni "Peace, War, Weapons and Ethics - Defending Human Rights in a Time of Terror." A seminar launching the Praxis Centre

Have a peaceful and happy holiday, from all at Yorkshire CND

Help us make a difference

Join the Yorkshire campaign for nuclear disarmament

Membership rates:

Household = £12 Individual = £9

Youth (under 23)/Student/Unwaged/Pensioner = £5

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

tel _____ email _____

I want to join by Standing order (our preferred way to pay): Please pay Yorkshire CND £_____ each month/year (delete) starting on _____ until further notice.

Name of my bank _____

Address of bank _____

My Account Number _____ My sort Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I want to join by annual cheque. I enclose a cheque made payable to "Yorkshire CND" for £_____

Please complete the form and send it to Yorkshire CND, Freepost BD2869, Bradford, West Yorks, BD5 7BR

Thank you