



# OXFORD CND

## NEWSLETTER

November/December 2021



# WAR CAUSES CLIMATE CHANGE

# CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES WAR

Disarm for Our Planet

# COP26 & peace



PHOTO CREDIT: WE HARBORLAND CATH OVER

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# The Three A's of Climate Change

On the eve of COP26 in Glasgow, we have been hearing a lot about “wake-up calls” on climate change, but we have already woken up, and the last bastions of climate change denial have fallen – or almost – fallen silent. When the *Daily Mail Online* publishes a survey headlined “Over 99.9% of studies agree that global warming is mainly caused by humans” (19 October), we can understand why the perverse views of Nigel Lawson hardly get mentioned now. Of course the near-universal acceptance of the reality of man-made global warming is more the result of lived experience than of rational persuasion: it is hard to argue with devastating floods and exceptional heat-waves when they turn up not in a far-off country but in our own green and pleasant land, which may become less of both. But let’s not be churlish: for whatever reason, almost everyone has got there.

The process of coming to terms and dealing with an existential crisis such as global warming (and there are others we face now) may be summed up by Three As. The first is Awareness, in the sense that the threat is well understood by those – scientists or other professionals – who have had the opportunity and skill to study it. In the case of climate change, this point was reached some forty years ago. In an article in February 1978 summarising the state of knowledge, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS)* asked “Is mankind warming the Earth?” and answered with an “unqualified yes!” A report from the US National Academy of Sciences the following year said that there was now “incontrovertible evidence” that atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide was steadily increasing as a result of fossil fuel use and land exploitation,

The second A is Acceptance, in the sense that a wider community beyond the scientists, with the power to mobilise public opinion and implement policy, takes the reality on board. This was achieved a decade later when the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, set up at the 1992 Rio Conference, was ratified by 197 countries. It committed them to the goal of “[stabilizing] greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system...” The argument could now shift to where and how soon to set that level, not on whether it was needed.

But this brings us to the third A which is Action,

and that has proved the most difficult of all. It is true that on an activity scale, measures to combat the existential risk posed by the climate crisis score somewhat higher than action taken to avert ahead of time the other major existential risks – the pandemic threat, and the danger of a nuclear weapons disaster by accident or design. The operative phrase is “ahead of time”: we are coping now with the consequences of a general failure to prepare sufficiently in previous years for the risk of a pandemic outbreak. As for nuclear weapons, where the threat to human existence is even greater, the steps taken to avoid future disaster have been even fewer.

So on that activity scale, the prevention of nuclear catastrophe would score only one out of ten; guarding against the pandemic might reach three out of ten. And measures so far taken against global warming could, at a generous estimate, hit six out of ten. Yet six-tenths success in reaching the target set at Paris in 2015 of limiting the increase in global temperatures to at least 2, and preferably 1.5, degrees, means four-tenths failure. This will result in going almost another one degree higher, which is generally agreed takes the world to an environmental tipping point.

This can still be avoided if the nations gathering at Glasgow live up to their pledges to cut emissions. The developed nations (and China should now be included among them) must stick to their deadlines – indeed where possible bring them forward – and deliver the aid already pledged to developing nations, who should then not shirk the obligation to develop green energy alternatives. It is still just about doable, but what is needed from COP26 is the real Three As: Action, Action, and Action. ■

**John Gittings**



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# Glasgow UN Climate Change Conference – COP26

## CLIMATE NOT TRIDENT

**Climate change is one of the main threats the world faces today. Urgent action is needed but our government prioritises war and weapons over the future of our planet. CND is proud to be part of the movement calling on the UK government to make sure that concrete actions to reduce the climate threat are taken at COP26.**

### CLIMATE AND MILITARISM DAY OF ACTION

Thursday, November 4th has been designated the official day of protest to highlight the links between climate change and militarism. Oxford CND plans a demo outside a MOD building in Oxford featuring 'Climate not Trident' banners. Details later.

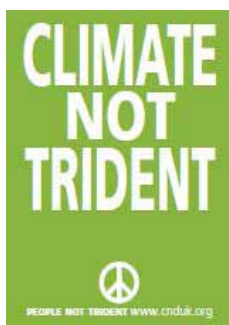
War is huge contributory factor to the climate chaos currently unfolding before our eyes. It is estimated that 20% of all environmental degradation around the world is caused by military and related activities involving the US and UK.

#### **The threats posed by climate change and nuclear weapons are intrinsically linked.**

- Trident uses massive energy and resources in research, production, operation, dismantling and eventual waste storage – its carbon footprint is enormous. This is in addition to the environmental devastation wreaked by decades of uranium mining, nuclear testing and nuclear waste dumping.
- Every penny the government spends on Trident is money that could be better spent on tackling climate change by investing in green technologies and renewable energy sources.
- As climate change leads to increased competition between states over dwindling resources, such as land, clean water and food, the threat of conflict and even nuclear war is increased.
- Studies suggest even a regionalised nuclear conflict could devastate our eco-system causing mass starvation affecting millions of people.



**Saturday 6th November – There will a March and Rally in Oxford, starting at Manzil Way on the Cowley Rd (1pm to leave at 1:30) and finishing with a rally in Broad Street. PLEASE JOIN US!**



'Feeder marches' to join this march from different parts of Oxford would be welcome. Other ideas include cycle rides from different towns across the county.

Oxford FoE has helped draw together the organising group. This could and should be Oxford's biggest-ever climate action. Can you help make this happen? Email - [climate@oxfoe.co.uk](mailto:climate@oxfoe.co.uk) with 'Nov. 6' in the subject line if you can help in any way. ■

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# Hinkley Mud

Richard Bramhall: A particular threat to health: Why it is vital to stop the dumping of mud from Hinkley Point C in the Severn Estuary. In 2018 the French state-owned company Électricité de France (EDF) dug more than 100,000 tonnes of radioactively contaminated mud from the bed of the Severn near Hinkley Point. Ignoring widespread protests, they dumped it back into the water less than two miles from Cardiff. This was to allow construction of huge inlets and outlets for water to cool the reactors in the new nuclear power station – Hinkley Point C – which EDF is building in Somerset. EDF held an old licence for the 2018 dump but it expired before they could shift their target volume of nearly a million tonnes. They applied to renew the dumping at Cardiff but, because of strong opposition in Wales and more protective Welsh environment law, they switched to a site at Portishead near Bristol.

This August the Marine Management Organisation granted a licence for the Portishead operation and dumping immediately began again. Campaigners on both sides of the estuary have now applied for a Judicial Review. The legal challenge identifies many scientific and regulatory issues. This article concerns only one :- the health impact of radioactive particles in the mud. Every nuclear power station in the world vents dust particles. They are licensed to do this. Filters trap fragments bigger than about 5 microns (thousandths of a millimetre) but thousands of billions of smaller particles are released, as data published by the UN show. Particles this size are inhalable and are biologically very mobile. The greatest proportion are made of uranium.

**Nation Cymru, 10th Oct 2021**

## Sizewell 'C'

A joint statement by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and RSPB has outlined the two charities "significant concerns" with proposals for a new £20 billion power station on the Suffolk coast. Earlier this month EDF Energy, which has a controlling stake in the Sizewell C project, set out £250m of financial contributions, known as the Deed of Obligation, designed to mitigate the impacts of the project, provide legacy benefits and compensate some of those affected. This included £78 million to form an independent environmental body to enhance the landscape

of the area and £22m for biodiversity improvements and the creation of wildlife and habitat areas. However, the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and RSPB, who have been against the construction of Sizewell C since consultations began, are still adamant that, if built, the power station would cause considerable environmental damage.

**Suffolk Live, 21st Oct 2021**

## The Hiroshima A-Bomb black rain and the Lifespan Study.

In a peer-reviewed paper published by the respectable journal *Cancer Investigations*, British Scientist Dr Christopher Busby reveals the results of his investigative research into the Hiroshima A-Bomb Black Rain, torrential rain that fell on Hiroshima after the detonation of the US atomic bomb. *The Hiroshima A-Bomb black rain – a resolution of the enigma* provides evidence from an obscure US restricted report from 1976, declassified in 2014, that the 55kg of unfissioned material of the bomb, Enriched Uranium, contained vary large amounts of the Uranium isotope U234 which formed the condensation nuclei for the black rain and contaminated Hiroshima's water and air for many years.

The calculated exposures from the long-lived Uranium particles due to inhalation and ingestion by those living in Hiroshima after the bomb were 10,000 times greater than exposures to the isotope Caesium-137. U-234, which is lighter than U235 (the fissile component) is extracted into the Enriched Uranium during the separation process. Dr Busby said: "It is astonishing that no one has drawn attention to the presence of large amounts of this dangerous long-lived alpha emitter on the test sites. All the calculations that have been made of exposures, from Hiroshima to the Marshall Islands tests, to Christmas Island, will have to be re-assessed."

He added: "Of course, this also means that the Life Span Study basis of the current radiation risk models is worthless. The true risks from internal exposures to Uranium, as in Depleted Uranium weapons, are more than a hundred times or more than current legal limits are based on. The implications of this discovery are clearly massive and far-reaching for all things involving nuclear." ■

**Low Level Radiation Campaign**



## Celebrations at Greenham and Aldermaston

The weekend of 3rd – 5th September marked the 40th anniversary of the start of the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp, the largest women-led activist movement since suffrage. Those women took on the establishment and defended the future of the planet by protesting against the placement of nuclear Cruise missiles at RAF Greenham Common. The original march was from Cardiff to Greenham and the anniversary march arrived after 9 days and 110 miles.



The weekend was full of networking and many celebrations including the Saturday night party to celebrate the 36 years presence of Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp's outside Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston. ■



## Oxford CND Benefit Concert Oxford Classic Jazz Band

On Saturday 11th September many of us had a delightful and long-awaited evening entertained by Nick Gill, and the **Oxford Classic Jazz Band**, with guest stars Caroline the Musical Saw Lady, Holly Taylor jazz vocalist, Janice Day singer and Martin Litton, piano.

We are very grateful to Nick and all the musicians and singers for their generous support and for such a magic performance. ■

## International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons – 26th September – Aldermaston & Burghfield

The Nuke-Free Europe network coordinated a month of action in September to highlight the presence of nuclear weapons stationed across the continent. Here in the UK, CND shone a spotlight on the nuclear chain by encouraging action at nuclear sites across the country on

September 26th, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Southern Region CND had mass banner displays on the fences at AWE Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield. ■



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# U.S.A.F. Croughton communication base Keep Space for Peace

This major U.S. communication and intelligence base supports space communications, data links, military drone information, bomber guidance, missile defence, diplomatic communications, and command and control war fighting functions.

On Saturday 2nd October 2021 at 12.00 noon there was a small gathering at Main Gate with flags

& banners followed by the main event at 5.00pm, the Zoom presentation with videos, speakers and music which highlighted the increasing militarisation of space.

It's available on YouTube here:-

<https://youtu.be/w705mnZLpdU>



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## USAF Fairford

USAF Fairford on the Oxfordshire / Gloucestershire border now has 2 or 3 U2 intelligence gathering planes operating regularly out of it. These have been joined, on an exercise, by 4 US nuclear capable B1B bombers, which are flying around the European / Russian border areas. ■



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# NUKEWATCH

Two convoy movements in September – in early September a training run and then, in late September / early October a nuclear warhead convoy from AWE Burghfield to RNAD Coulport and return. New MOD police escort vehicles. Both convoys monitored by nukewatchers.

**These convoys are the most dangerous cargoes on our roads. ■**

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# Thursday 4 November Day of Action on Climate Change and Militarism

After the failure of the G7 to reach meaningful agreement under UK leadership, there is serious concern for the vital COP26 negotiations. Government spending to reduce UK carbon emissions is dwarfed by new spending on weapons of war.

Despite being one of the most significant sectors in terms of emissions, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change does not require

Governments to report military emissions, so most do not. Sadly, physics doesn't respect the notion of national security secrecy and military emissions continue to push us toward climate disaster.

**On Thursday 4th November there will be a 'Climate not Trident' banner display outside the Oxford University Officers' Training Corps at Falklands House, Oxpens Road, OX1 1RX between 3-4 pm. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS. ■**



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# Saturday 6th November COP26 Global Day for Climate Justice March & rally start Manzil Way 1.00pm

The threats posed by climate change and nuclear weapons are intrinsically linked.

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Every penny the government spends on Trident is money that could be better spent on tackling climate change by investing in green technologies

and renewable energy sources.

As climate change leads to increased competition between states over dwindling resources, such as land, clean water and food, the threat of conflict and even nuclear war is increased.

Studies suggest even a regionalised nuclear conflict would devastate our eco-system causing mass starvation affecting millions of people.

**In the face of two looming catastrophic threats it is more important than ever that we take our planet's future into our own hands and organise collectively for change. ■**

**STOP WAR  
STOP  
CLIMATE  
CHAOS**

# Diary

**MONTHLY ALL YEAR:** USAF Croughton main gate Quaker meeting 2-3pm (fourth Saturday of the month). Contact: **Elisabeth Salisbury – 01865 515163.**

## November

**Tuesday 2nd** – Faringdon Peace Group – COP 26 vigil Market Place.

**Wednesday 3rd** – Faringdon Peace Group meeting – Pete Dilly – 7.30pm.

**Thursday 4th** – Protest links between climate change & militarism – 3-4pm Falkland House, OX1 1RX.

**Saturday 6th** – Global Day for Climate Justice march & rally Manzil Way start 1.00pm.

**Saturday 13th** – Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp.

**Tuesday 16th** – Abingdon Peace Group meeting, Emma Pritchard – 8.00pm.

**Monday 22nd** – Faringdon Town Meeting – TPNW – Corn Exchange.

## December

**Wednesday 3rd** – Faringdon Peace Group meeting – David Johnston MP – 7.30pm.

**Saturday 4th** – CND Council.

**Saturday 4th** – Oxford CND stall – Oxford Green Fair – Town Hall.

**Saturday 11th** – Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp – Commemoration Surround the Base.

**Tuesday 21st** – Abingdon Peace Group Social meeting, 8.00pm.

**Best list of news items, webinars etc:**  
[https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news\\_items](https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news_items)



## Latest News

### On the horizon: drone spies coming to UK skies

In the last few months Drone Wars and UK Drone Watch have organised protests outside RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire and RAF Lossiemouth in North East Scotland. They were protesting the decision to allow US arms manufacturer General Atomics to conduct experimental flights of their SkyGuardian drone in UK airspace. SkyGuardian is a prototype of the UK's new armed drone, named Protector, which will replace the UK's current Reaper armed drone fleet in 2024. The prospect of such large drones regularly flying in UK airspace raises significant safety and accountability concerns.

### Membership subscriptions 2021 Please pay your subscription soon!

If you pay your subscription by cheque please can you pay us as soon as possible. Oxford CND needs that money to campaign and send you information and newsletters. We are also very grateful for extra donations.

Subs are very reasonable – £10 or £5 low wage, but are essential for us to continue to campaign. Standing orders can continue as before.

Make cheques for 2021 payable to Oxford CND and send to: Membership, 22 Downside Road, Oxford, OX3 8HP.

### Oxford CND Newsletter by email

Some members already receive the Oxford CND newsletter only by email. If you would also like to receive it only by email, contact: **oxfordcnd@phoncoop.coop**

### Oxford Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

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[www.oxfordcnd.org.uk](http://www.oxfordcnd.org.uk)

### Contributions to the next issue...

Please send letters and items to:  
Newsletter, 22 Downside Road, Oxford, OX3 8HP  
No later than **January 6th 2022**