



January 2010 Nottingham

Organised in cooperation with
Nottingham Student Peace Movement
and Notts Anti-Militarism

Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone St
NG7 6HX

***Peace News*, established in June 1936, is Britain's oldest peace publication, appearing ten times a year. Co-edited by Emily Johns and Milan Rai, *PN* reports anti-war news, dissects official propaganda and hosts debates on issues of concern to anti-militarists and others using nonviolence to achieve social change.**

Peace News opposes the brutal wars in Iraq and Afghanistan - and throughout the world - and the retention and renewal of nuclear weapons in the shape of Trident.

But these are only the most extreme forms of the violence which is inherent in our society.

This violence manifests also as sexism, racism, homophobia, hunger, inequality, corporate domination, government repression and the exploitation of people, animals and the environment.

Peace News seeks to oppose all forms of violence, and to create positive change based on co-operation and responsibility.

To create a nonviolent world, we believe we must avoid violence in our struggle for change.

Peace News draws on the traditions of pacifism, feminism, anarchism, socialism, human rights, animal rights, and green politics - without dogma, but in the spirit of openness.

Britain's entire arrogant and aggressive foreign policy is unpopular among British people.

In March 2007, a Telegraph poll asked whether people agreed with this statement: "Some people say that, although Britain is now only a middle-ranking power, Britain should as a nation continue to try to 'punch above its weight' – that is, have more influence in the world than our military and economic strength would seem to indicate."

55% said no, Britain should not "punch above its weight". Only 30% said we should.

65% agreed that: "Britain is already over-extended, Britain should reduce its commitments, spend less and not seek to have as much military influence in the world as Britain has at present."

60% said that because of military overstretch, we should: "Reduce Britain's commitments overseas so that British forces do not become involved in crises overseas."

(From front-page editorial 'Celebrate Unarmed Forces Day', *Peace News* issue 2510, June 2009)

Circulation * * * * *

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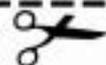
Please call Claire on 020 7278 3344 for more info. Thank you for your support

An invitation to subscribe to *Peace News*

The Welcome Pack

Take out a new subscription to *Peace News* and receive a Welcome Pack with your first issue. The pack contains a welcoming letter; an A2 poster; ideas for easy ways in which you can help *PN*; and an anti-war badge. **For all subscriptions and donations**, use the form below or visit <http://www.peacenews.info>

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- Please send me a form to set up a standing order

Subscription: £12 (standard rate) £20 (Superhero rate) or £22 (supporter rate) (please delete as applicable)

Donation to *PN* Unity Fund (free copies for prisoners, Global South activists etc)

General donation

Total payment

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To become a subscriber, please fill in and return to: *Peace News*, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DY.

or subscribe via <http://www.peacenews.info>

Welcome to the first ever *Peace News* Winter Gathering and to a weekend of exploration, celebration and empowerment – followed by nonviolent direct action for those who choose to take part. The gathering will be a small self-governed society run by democratic meetings, a viable example of the kind of world we are trying to bring about. It will help build a radical movement for the future by building a living community today.

We will be learning from other movements, struggling with challenging issues and creating more cohesion in a segmented peace movement. This programme contains details of all the workshops and sessions. There are several open sessions in the programme for you to propose and/or lead workshops in. If you have an idea, please talk to Beth, who is coordinating the schedule.

Please read the Practicalities section of this programme for important information that everyone needs to know. There will be sessions at the beginning of each day to discuss practicalities and organisational issues and there will be a noticeboard for posting updates and other information.

Finally, all work and no play would make a very dull world. Please stay with us on Saturday night for some entertainment and relaxation.



Peace News Summer Camp practicalities

HOW THE WEEKEND IS RUN

The gathering is organised in as participatory way as possible. Saturday morning there will be a meeting to deal with practical matters. Things that need to be done include: help with cooking, washing up and helping in the crèche. If there is something missing, or that you think could be better, please offer to help us run things better! Please note that the organisers are all volunteers who have also paid the entrance fee to help cover running costs.

CAR PARKING

There is limited car parking around the Sumac centre. We urge everyone to use public transport if at all possible.

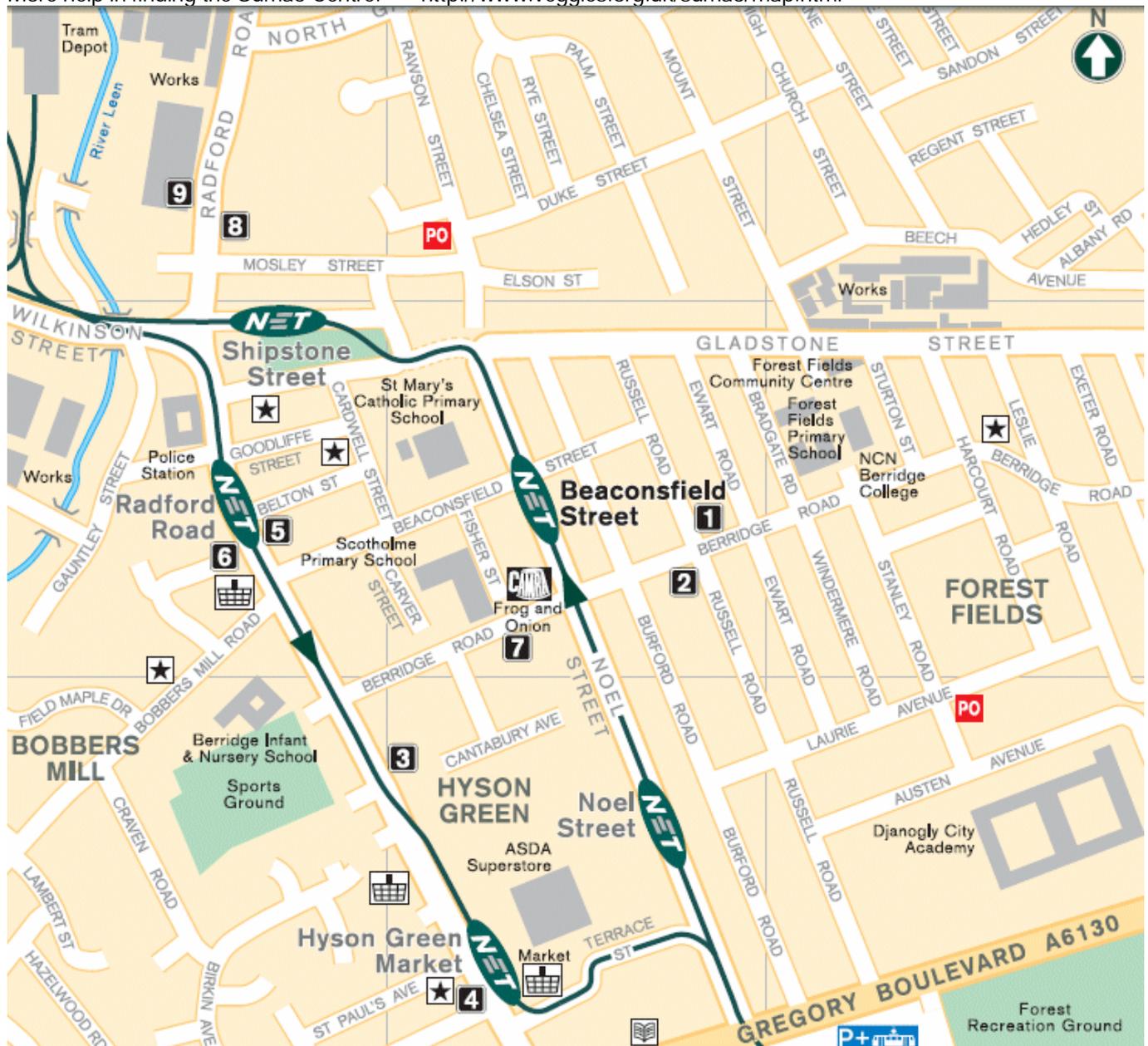
SUMAC CENTRE - WHEELCHAIR ACCESS/PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Sumac Centre is located at 245 Gladstone Street, west off Sherwood Rise at Alberta Terrace, opposite the top of Exeter Road, with a wheelchair accessible entrance at the back door at 73 Beech Avenue.

There is a tram from Nottingham station to Beaconsfield Road, which is less than 15 minutes walk from the Sumac Centre. Note that the tram does not allow bikes (unless folding). The timetable is online at: <http://www.thetram.net/>

On this map, the railway station is below the map; the Sumac Centre is to the right, along Gladstone St.

More help in finding the Sumac Centre: <http://www.veggies.org.uk/sumac/map.html>



KIDS

There is a crèche on site, which will run during workshop times. If you are leaving your children in the crèche please make sure that you have informed the person who will be there during the session where you will be (and leave your mobile phone number, if you have one). Kid-friendly food will be provided, for donations to cover the costs, please talk to Bek (kids co-ordinator) to arrange this. If you have any children on site, you need to let us know ages, names and any relevant medical conditions or food allergies (all food provided will be vegan).

There will be a Veggies tuck shop in the Sumac Centre.

DOGS

Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed on site.

WHAT EVERYONE WILL NEED

If you are staying overnight at the gathering, you should bring a sleeping bag and sleeping mat and any other equipment you may need. Do bring warm clothes as it can get chilly at night. You will also need money for paying your contribution to the camp and for paying for food (unless you have paid in advance). A torch would also be useful. You do **not** need to bring plates/cutlery etc.

MEDICS

If you are a first aider, please sign up at reception.

FOOD

The wonderful Veggies of Nottingham are providing food for us. Please buy meal tickets at reception (unless you've already brought them online).

Veggies will need people to help chop vegetables, cook, serve, and wash up for each meal.

They will also be providing a tuck shop.

MONEY

We have asked for donations on a sliding scale to help cover our costs. If it looks like there will be a shortfall, this will be announced at a meeting.

ACCESS

We aim to make our event as accessible as possible. If there is anything you need to help you enjoy this event, please ask at registration.

BAR

The Sumac Centre will be running as a bar on Friday and Saturday nights.

SMOKING

There is no smoking inside any of the venues.

MAPS

Maps of the venues will be available at the Sumac Centre.

ENTERTAINMENT

There will be entertainments on Saturday evening including a slot for DIY acoustic music (bring your instruments – proper and improvised – for spontaneous music making).

PHONE NUMBERS

If calling before the Gathering, please call the *Peace News* office on 020 7278 3344.

In case of emergency, here are some mobile numbers:

Gathering: 07980 748 555 / 07846 584 897 (Friday – Sunday)

Action: 07929 123 314 (Monday)

If for some reason those don't work, you can try the Sumac Centre: 0845 458 9595 / 0115 960 8254

PEACE NEWS WINTER 2010 –SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2010 -----										
Sumac										New Decade: New Struggles A public meeting 7pm.
SATURDAY 16 JANUARY 2010 -----										
	8.30-9.30 Bkfast	9.30-10.00 Meeting	10.15-11.30 Workshop	11.45-13.00 Workshop	13.00-14.30 Lunch	14.30-15.45 Workshop	16.00-17.15 Workshop	17.45-19.00 Extras	19.00 Supper	20.00-22.00 Entertainment
Sumac	FOOD	Registration		Advanced facilitation – Seeds for Change	FOOD	EDO Decommissioners	Strategies against the Afghan war – Gabriel Carlyle	Social Space and Screenprinting	FOOD	Entertainment
Factory		Welcome to the Gathering	Whole Camp discussion	Aldermaston Big Blockade – Dan Viesnik		NVDA training workshop – Seeds for Change		Hiroshima art – Emily Johns		
Between				Engaging with decision makers – George Farebrother		Killer drones – Chris Cole & Jim Wright	Food Not Bombs - Keith McHenry			

SUNDAY 17 JANUARY 2010 -----										
	8.30-9.30 Bkfast	9.30-10.45 Workshop	11.00-12.15 Workshop	12.15-13.30 Lunch	13.30-14.45 Workshop	14.50-15.30 Meeting		16.00-18.30 Meeting	19.00 Supper	
Sumac	FOOD	Solidarity with Palestine: The March on Gaza	Student anti-arms trade activism – CAAT & NSPM	FOOD	Anti-Militarist Network – Kirk		END		FOOD	
Factory		Arms and Arguments – Kirk	No Borders – Where next after Calais?		PN Summer Camp 2010	Farewell		Anti-arms trade action organising meeting		
Between		Chomsky and Revolution – Milan Rai	How to set up a housing co-op – Radical Routes		Prison reform – Hicham Yezza					

Workshops and sessions at the *Peace News* Summer Camp

Workshops will start promptly so please arrive at the start of each session. Please fill in evaluation forms at the end of each workshop – and at the end of the whole gathering – to help improve future events.

SATURDAY

Aldermaston Big Blockade

The Aldermaston Big Blockade is designed to highlight the illegality, immorality and criminal waste of resources involved in the multi-billion pound expansion of the nuclear warhead factory in West Berkshire and the wider Trident replacement programme. The blockaders are aiming to put a stop to the developments and begin the process of disarmament. This workshop will provide some background on the developments at Aldermaston and the Trident replacement process, and focus on preparing for the Aldermaston blockade on Monday 15 February.

Dan Viesnik is a member of Trident Ploughshares.

<http://www.tridentploughshares.org/article1577>

EDO Decommissioners

In January 2009, with bombs still falling in Gaza, five activists entered the EDO/MBM/ITT factory in Brighton and caused £300,000 worth of damage. One is still on remand in prison, others face strict bail conditions. What motivated them to do it? What impact do they feel it had? A chance to explore large scale actions and their impacts.

One of the EDO Decommissioners will speak at this workshop.

<http://decommissioners.co.uk/>

Engaging with decision-makers

A new Network for Law, Accountability and Peace (NETLAP) recently organised a two-day conference involving lawyers, academics, politicians, analysts and activists to help develop a structure for developing activists' contacts with Parliamentarians and Whitehall officials so that they are more open and informative for us.

George Farebrother is the coordinator of World Court Project UK, which helped to bring the issue of nuclear weapons to the World Court in 1996, resulting in a historic legal ruling.

<http://www.peacebourne.serifweb.com/NETLAP/>

Food Not Bombs

Keith McHenry is the legendary co-founder of Food Not Bombs, on a speaker tour of the UK. In 1980, Keith and seven friends started the first Food Not Bombs chapter in Cambridge, Massachusetts, providing entertainment and vegetarian meals in Harvard Square and the Boston Commons after making deliveries of uncooked food to most of the housing projects and shelters in the area. Keith has been arrested over 100 times for serving free food in city parks and has spent over 500 nights in jail. On a personal level, Keith suffers extreme pain every day from fibromyalgia caused by police violence and regularly sees a doctor for medical care.

<http://www.foodnotbombs.net/keithbio.html>

Hiroshima art

The Hiroshima Panels (原爆の図, Genbaku no zu) are a series of 15 painted folding panels by the collaborative husband and wife artists Maruki Iri and Maruki Toshi completed over a span of 32 years (1950-1982). The panels depict the consequences of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as other nuclear disasters of the 20th century.

Emily Johns, *Peace News* co-editor, received her art education at the John Cass and Goldsmiths College, both in London. She has been a professional artist, focusing recently on print-making, since 1991.

How to set up a housing co-op

Housing co-operatives offer a chance for people to take control of their own lives and provide a base for activists to engage in radical activity. They are a constructive example of what we can achieve and proof that there are alternative ways of living to the competitive model pushed under capitalism. Come and learn more about housing co-ops, how they work, and how to set one up.

Radical Routes is a co-operative of social centres (including the Sumac Centre), workers and housing co-ops working towards radical social change. The network operates through consensus and mutual aid.

<http://www.radicalroutes.org.uk/>

Improving facilitation

If you've been facilitating meetings for a while, and would like to acquire new skills or techniques, learn about facilitating larger meetings, or reflect on what you've been doing with other facilitators, this is the workshop for you. This is not an introductory workshop. It is an opportunity for experienced facilitators to reflect, and to improve their facilitation skills.

Seeds for Change offers workshops and training to grassroots action groups to help them organise for positive social change.

<http://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/>

Killer drones

Increasingly the military are using automated systems in their vehicles and weaponry. Predator drones have been used in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bosnia, Serbia, Iraq, and Yemen. What are unpiloted aerial vehicles (UAVs)? How can we end their use? The campaign starts here.

Chris Cole is director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and **Jim Wright** is an active member of Hastings Against War.

No Borders – Where next after Calais?

In June 2009, No Borders activists from the UK held a camp in Calais to highlight the plight of migrants living in "refugee camp" conditions in "the jungle" there. Most of the migrants - from countries such as Afghanistan, Somalia and Eritrea - were hoping to enter Britain, sometimes by smuggling themselves into lorries. No Borders is a network of groups struggling for the freedom of movement for all and an end to all migration controls.

<http://noborders.org.uk/>

NVDA training

A Nonviolent Direct Action (NVDA) training for people who are considering taking part in nonviolent direct action and/or civil disobedience. Includes a legal briefing for low-risk actions, a chance to practice some simple action techniques and to think about the pros and cons of taking part in direct action. Particularly useful for those intending to take direct action at the Big Blockade at Aldermaston in February.

Seeds for Change offers workshops and training to grassroots action groups to help them organise for positive social change.

<http://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/>

Radical climate activism: Where next after Copenhagen?

December 2009 was meant to be the month when climate activists from around the world descended on the climate talks in Copenhagen and altered the course of climate destruction. So what happened? This session will be a chance to explore the events of last December and look at where the climate movement could be going next.

<http://www.climatecamp.org.uk/actions/copenhagen-2009>

<http://www.climate-justice-action.org/>

Screen-printing

A hands-on workshop with **Shonagh** from Faslane Peace Camp.

Strategies for campaigning against the war in Afghanistan

After nearly a decade of occupation, both the US and Britain are engaged in escalating the war in Afghanistan. What are the opportunities today for peace in Afghanistan? How can we turn the withdrawal majority in Britain into a real force for change? What role can civil disobedience play?

Gabriel Carlyle, *Peace News* promotions worker and reviews editor, has been involved in a number of anti-war groups, including Voices in the Wilderness UK since 1998. He was recently on trial at Watford Magistrates Court for protesting at the Afghanistan command centre in Northwood, North London.

<http://www.stopbombingafghanistan.org/>

SUNDAY

Anti-Militarist Network feat. Notts Anti-Militarism

Formed in 2008, the Anti-Militarist Network is a non-hierarchical, UK-wide network of autonomous campaigns, groups and activists opposed to militarism and the arms industry. These groups, including Smash EDO and Faslane Peace Camp, believe in the necessity of direct action but support a variety of tactics. This talk aims to publicise the Network with a particular focus on the local group Notts Anti-Militarism. The second half of this session will look at the tactics they have used, and will guide you through launching a similar campaign, how to find arms companies in your local area and how to research their dealings.

Notts Anti-Militarism launched the Shut Down Heckler and Koch campaign in 2008 and has been continuously campaigning ever since. They are also both founding and currently active members of the Anti-Militarist Network.

<http://www.antimilitaristnetwork.org.uk/>
<http://nottsantimilitarism.wordpress.com/>

Arms and arguments

"Well, of course in an ideal world..." Those involved in anti-arms trade work all know how difficult it can be to deal with all those sensible sounding arguments in favour. This workshop looks at strategies for debating the issues and how to refute common pro-arms trade arguments.

Kirk is a member of Notts Anti-Militarism and has been active in the Shut Down Heckler and Koch campaign since it started in 2008.

Chomsky and revolution

This workshop provides a whistle-stop tour of Chomsky's ideas, with particular focus on his ideas for Revolution. This workshop does not assume any previous knowledge of Chomsky; Chomsky sceptics also welcome.

Milan Rai, *Peace News* co-editor, is the author of *Chomsky's Politics* (Verso, 1995), contributed to the *Cambridge Companion to Chomsky* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Chomskyan Studies*.

<http://chomsky.info/>

Peace News Summer Camp 2010

If you would like to be involved in organising this year's glorious Peace News Summer Camp (23-27 July, Oxfordshire), please come to the first organising meeting!

<http://www.peacenewscamp.info>

Prison reform

What are prisons like at the moment – and how could they be improved?

Nottingham Student Peace Movement organiser **Hicham Yezza** shares his reflections on prison reform - based partly on his five months in prison during 2009.

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/>
<http://freehicham.co.uk/>

Solidarity with Palestine: where next after the Gaza Freedom March?

In the winter of 2008-2009, the Israeli state launched a 22-day assault on Gaza provoking outrage worldwide. In winter 2009-2010 over a thousand activists from across the world headed to Egypt to join a Palestinian march inside Gaza protesting at the Israeli siege. This workshop will give you a chance to hear feedback from participants and think about where next for Palestinian Solidarity.

Two British participants in the Gaza Freedom March will share their experiences and their thoughts.

<http://www.gazafreedommarch.org/>
<http://starhawksblog.org/>

Students' anti-arms trade activism

Military organisations - including arms companies and the Ministry of Defence - annually sponsor hundreds of projects at UK universities. Furthermore, many UK universities and colleges invest in arms companies, often without the knowledge or approval of their students, staff and beneficiaries. Speakers from **Campaign Against Arms Trade** and from **Nottingham Student Peace Movement** talk about campaigning on campus against the arms trade.

<http://www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/universities/>