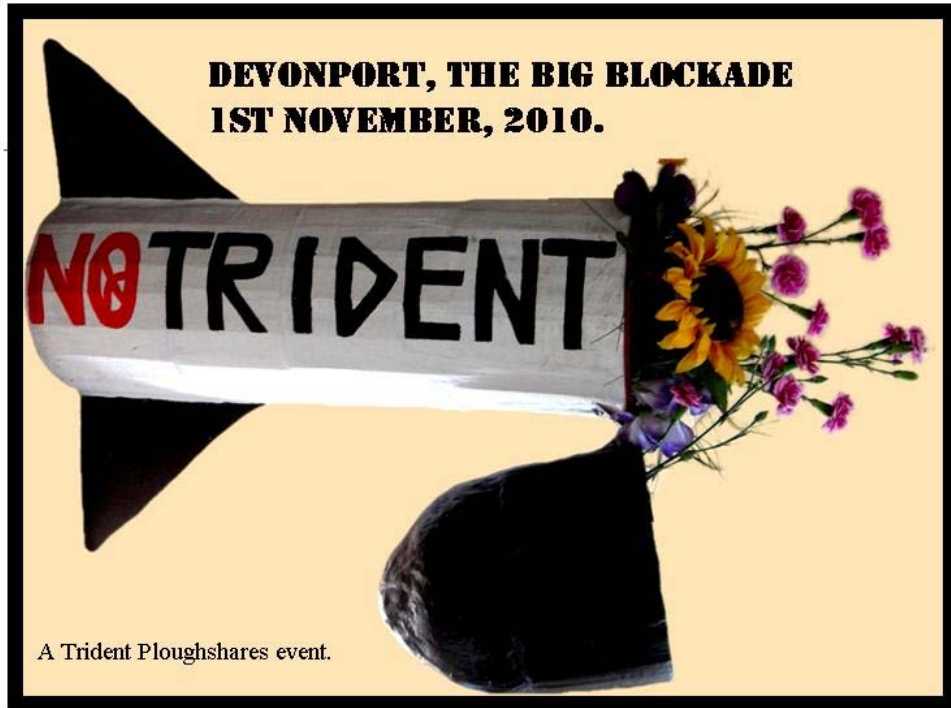


www.tridentploughshares.org

<http://plymouthtamarians.wordpress.com/>



Introduction.

Devonport Dockyard in Plymouth not only refits, maintains, and upgrades the submarines which carry the UK's immoral and illegal Trident nuclear weapon system, but it is also increasingly becoming the dumping ground for old and out of service nuclear submarines. Plymouth is being paid for its role in the servicing of Britain's weapons of mass destruction by becoming the 'Sellafield of the South West'.

A decade of Trident Ploughshares blockades and disarmament actions have helped build a strong and broad movement against nuclear weapons in Scotland. The Scottish government was elected with a policy of nuclear disarmament. Now it is England's turn.

On the 1st of November we are calling on people to join us to continue to increase the pressure by non-violently blockading the Devonport submarine base.

WHY BLOCKADE DEVONPORT?

Blockading the Devonport Dockyard is an effective way of disrupting the ongoing work there of “re-fitting” the submarines, and of expressing a clear and unambiguous message of opposition to the barbarity that is the UK’s Trident nuclear weapon system, and to the proposal to cut up and store old nuclear subs next to the homes of 250,000 people.

Such a blockade allows everyone to get involved at a level they are most comfortable with. YOU NEED NOT GET ARRESTED! Involvement could be just a simple but visible presence at the gates; it could be handing out leaflets, or trying to communicate (respectfully!) with workers. It could be legal support, media work, or Police liaison. Or it could be just providing moral support to those risking arrest. Whatever your level of involvement, we need YOU.

Participation is not restricted to TP members. Everyone and anyone are welcome, providing they are willing to abide by the non-violence and safety guidelines.



THE BIG BLOCKADE.

The action planned for the 1st of November is a mass blockade of all the gates at the Devonport Dockyard. We intend to be in place at the gates from 6am. Participants will also be distributing leaflets and displaying posters explaining why we are there. Don’t forget it will be dark at that time of the morning, so make sure your blockades are visible by having lights or florescent jackets and signs.

There are 6 primary gates at Devonport, these are Drakes Gate, St Levans Gate, Camels Head Gate, Granby Gate, Ferry Gate and Albert Gate. A map of the dockyard is produced below. The main gates are Camel’s Head Gate, and Albert Gate.



Getting There.

There are a number of buses from Plymouth town centre that will take you to the Dockyard. First Buses that pass the dockyard are those numbered **3, 81, 81a, and 81c**. Plymouth Citybus numbers are **26s, 26a, 46, 46a, 146, and 246**.

There is also a mainline train system to and from Plymouth, linking to all over the UK. Some trains stop near the dockyard, at Keyham or St Budeaux stations.

NON-VIOLENCE GUIDELINES.

We are committed to acting always in a way that causes no harm to ourselves or to others. We ask that everyone taking part respect and follow these guidelines.

- **We will be sincere and respectful towards the people we encounter.**
- **We will not engage in physical violence or verbal abuse towards anyone.**
- **We will carry no weapons.**
- **We will not bring or use alcohol or any other drug other than for medicinal reasons.**
- **We will clear blockades to allow emergency vehicles in or out of the base, and then resume afterwards.**

NON-VIOLENCE TRAINING.

If you haven't had training for Non-Violent Direct Action before you CAN attend a training workshop before the Blockade. There will be Trident Ploughshares non-violence trainings being organised regionally so once you have been put into contact with a local group you should be able to access a planning and training workshop. For more information call **0845 4588363**. Let us know about your training so we can help publicise it.

We would like as many groups as possible to organise their own training, tactics and support well before November and then travel directly to Devonport and join the blockade on the Monday morning. We can help put people in touch with groups if you contact us and we can also help provide groups with trainers and advice. We will be doing overall legal support and will organise the pick-ups from police stations as and when people are released. Those who cannot find a group to join can come along on their own on the day but should read the pack carefully and note the non-violence guidelines. Contact the Action Line on **0845 4588363** for more information.

There will also be a training day in Plymouth, contact us for details.

TACTICS.

We want to stop all traffic and pedestrians from getting into the base for as long as possible by non-violently using our bodies and our imaginations to block the entrances to the site.

No one should do anything that they are unhappy with. Usually the police only arrest people who refuse to move from the roadway, so arrest of supporters who do not wish to be arrested and who move when asked is unlikely unless the police place a section 14 order on the demonstration.

In the past people have blockaded by standing, sitting or lying across the road/gate entrances with their arms linked. People often go limp when arrested making it harder for the police to move them.

Sometimes people have locked themselves together or to objects. To make it more difficult for the police to cut links, people join their hands through metal or plastic tubes and lock their hands together using karabiners (climbing clips) attached to chains or rope around their wrists. The lock-on tubes have to be long enough to prevent the police sliding them along people's arms to reveal the chain or rope. If you use lock-ons make sure you know what they have been made of and can answer accurately the police cutting-team's questions on whether they are safe to remove, for example make sure they do not have asbestos or sharp glass or anything else that would hurt a careful person doing their best to release you without hurting you or themselves.

You can look at the photos on the www.faslane365.org website for lots of pictures of different kinds of blockades. Even just sitting can be very effective if there are large numbers of people and if they continue to keep coming back if they are just moved aside by the police. It is best to have a meeting specifically for planning and making materials for blockading and for painting your own banners. Remember that it will be **Halloween.....**



Support Work

There are important support roles that require some people to avoid arrest. At least one person in any group should act as 'Legal Observer' to record the names of those arrested and pass them on to the Legal Support Team. Training for legal observers can be included in your local trainings. People not risking arrest can also take care of practical support for people who have been arrested such as looking after their belongings and keeping keys safe. It would also be very useful for supporters to support other gates if and when their gate has had their blockade 'cleared' by the police. Some of the gates are not used much, but nevertheless it is important for the effectiveness of the blockade as a whole to have all gates blocked and it would be good if news, music, and/or good wishes and thanks can be taken around other gates.

The role of LEGAL OBSERVER and LEGAL SUPPORT is to be present, and:

- Ensure that everyone has filled out a legal registration form.
- Record all arrests where possible, including the name of the person arrested; the number of the arresting officer; time of arrest; reason for arrest and any other relevant details, including if there is any use of excessive force or other unlawful behaviour by the police.
- Provide this information to the Legal Support Team. Legal Observers should not liaise with the police, but should talk to the Gate Support Team if there are problems. All legal observers need to have pen and paper and a mobile phone in order to contact the Legal Support Team.

There is a lot of other support work that needs to be done in the week before, during and after the action. If you wish to help in any way then please contact the Action Line. For the On-Site Legal Support number and the Off-site Legal Support Team number please look at the bust card nearer the time. It will also be posted on the website. Action Line **0845 4588363**.



Practicalities

Accommodation: Many groups and individuals will be travelling overnight to arrive in time for the early start of the blockade. However for those needing it we will be providing accommodation and food for people on the Sunday night and also on the Monday night after the blockade so we can de-brief together, and provide food and entertainment for the blockaders as they are released from the police station.

The accommodation and meeting place is at the Central Methodist Church in Plymouth. Arrivals from 4.30pm onwards.

Central Methodist Church
Eastlake Street
Plymouth
PL1 1BA

Directions:

From Plymouth Train Station (1 on map below):

Leave train station and follow signs to the city centre. (through tunnel)

At first road turn left. (Mayflower)

Follow road and see Voodoo Lounge pub

Walk straight on a few metres, you will see a car park and the Methodist Church

From Plymouth bus station (2 on map below):

Take stairs to city centre.

Walk through Drakes Circus Shopping Centre(upper exit),

Central Methodist Church straight ahead on exiting the shopping centre.

There is no parking at the Church itself, however there are some car parks nearby that are free after 6pm.



Food will be available from about 6pm(snacks etc) with dinner available from about 7pm.

Non-violent Direct Action training will be available in the evening.

Sleeping venues will be available.

There will be several other places to sleep that will stay open until 9.30 am on the Tuesday morning. Please let us know if you want accommodation and for what nights by ringing **0845 4588363** or by emailing us.

There are no special arrangements for children at this event and for animal welfare reasons it would be preferable if you could please leave dogs at home.

Food: There will be hot vegetarian and vegan food available on the Sunday and Monday evening at our meeting venue, as well as the provisions to make packed lunches. We also aim to provide drinks and snacks on the blockade itself.

Registration: We'd like everyone to fill out a legal registration form (whether or not you are arrestable or a supporter) for the action so we can provide effective legal support and get people out of police stations as soon as possible. Please fill in a registration form and give it to the gate support person who will arrange for all the registration forms from that gate to be taken to the Legal Support Team. You can register before the event also.



What to bring to the blockade.

The police may not attempt to clear the road immediately so please come prepared for the whole day. Warm and waterproof clothes. Something to sit on. Food for you and to share. Thermos flask with a hot drink or soup. Any medication you are taking in a clearly labelled bottle or box. Musical instruments. Banners. A bust card with legal support phone numbers will be available on the website nearer the date and from support teams at the gates. The spirit of hope and resistance.

What NOT to bring to the blockade

Alcohol or illegal drugs. Anything that might be mistaken for an offensive weapon, for example penknives. Anything you don't want the police to see such as address books, mobile phone contacts, etc. A negative attitude.

After The Blockade Finishes

If you have not been arrested: We will get you back to the local meeting venue to get some good food and meet everyone else, to join in the de-briefs and to await those coming back from police stations. You are welcome to find a place to sleep at the local venue or at some other places we have booked and to travel back in your own transport when it suits you and your group. Please remember to collect all your baggage, and it would be helpful if it had a name on it.

If you have been arrested: When you are released there will be people outside the police station to collect you and to take you to the local venue (to be confirmed later) where you should let the Legal Support Team know you have been released and what you were

charged with. We hope you will join in the de-briefs and enjoy the food and company. There may be places to sleep if you wish.

Information about people who have been arrested: The Legal Support Team will do their best to get information about your friends and members of your group who have been arrested posted up at the local venue as soon as they can. Please do not ring the Legal Support number to ask for information as this will jam the Legal Support phone lines. If you wish to find out about people who have been arrested phone the Action Line: **0845 4588363** in the early evening by which time we should know what is happening with most people.

Media: The media team will send out press releases and liaise with journalists on the day. If you want to contact your local press or particular papers or stations please do this if you can. We plan to have our own video and photographic cover to feed into the media, to contribute to our own archives and to encourage best behaviour from police.

Health Warning! Non-violent direct action ALWAYS carries the risk of arrest. What could you be arrested for? See more here - <http://www.tridentploughshares.org/article1608>