

EVENTS and INTERESTING DATES 1985

- JUNE**
- 1 International Children's Day
 - 5 World Environment Day
 - 25 Summer Solstice

- JULY**
- Peace Festival in Nottingham
 - 19 Anniversary First 89 Rights Conference, Seneca Falls 1848
 - 7 Women for Peace trip to Greenham.

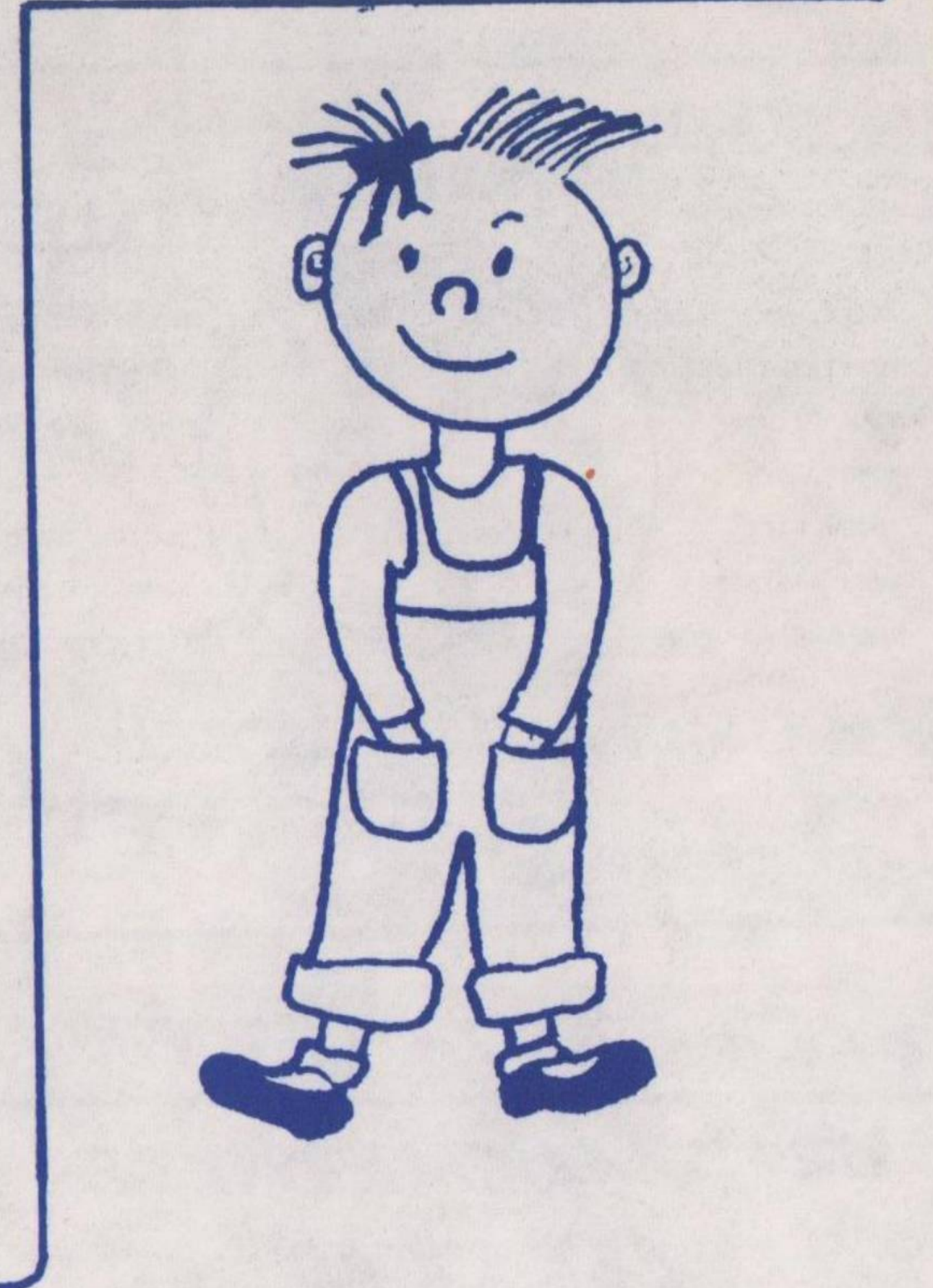
- AUGUST**
- 6 Hiroshima Day
 - 9 Nagasaki Day

- SEPTEMBER**
- 5 Greenham Common 89 Peacecamp 1982
 - 17 UN International Day of Peace
 - 23 Autumn Equinox

- OCTOBER**
- CND National Demo
 - 7 UN Children's Day
 - 16 World Food Day
 - 20-27 One World Week
 - 31 Halloween

- NOVEMBER**
- 11 Remembrance Day
 - 13 Anniversary: Death of Karen Silkwood 1974

- DECEMBER**
- 1 Prisoners for Peace Day
 - 10 Human Rights Day
 - 12 Embrace the base anniversary: Greenham 1982
 - 16 World's Children's Week
 - 21 Winter Solstice



For more info on the events listed above, contact Women for Peace!

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.....
Anyone who has any comments, news, letters, jokes, drawings, articles or information they would like to contribute to a future newsletter, please send them to Pat, 6 All Saint's Terrace, Nottm NG7 4DQ

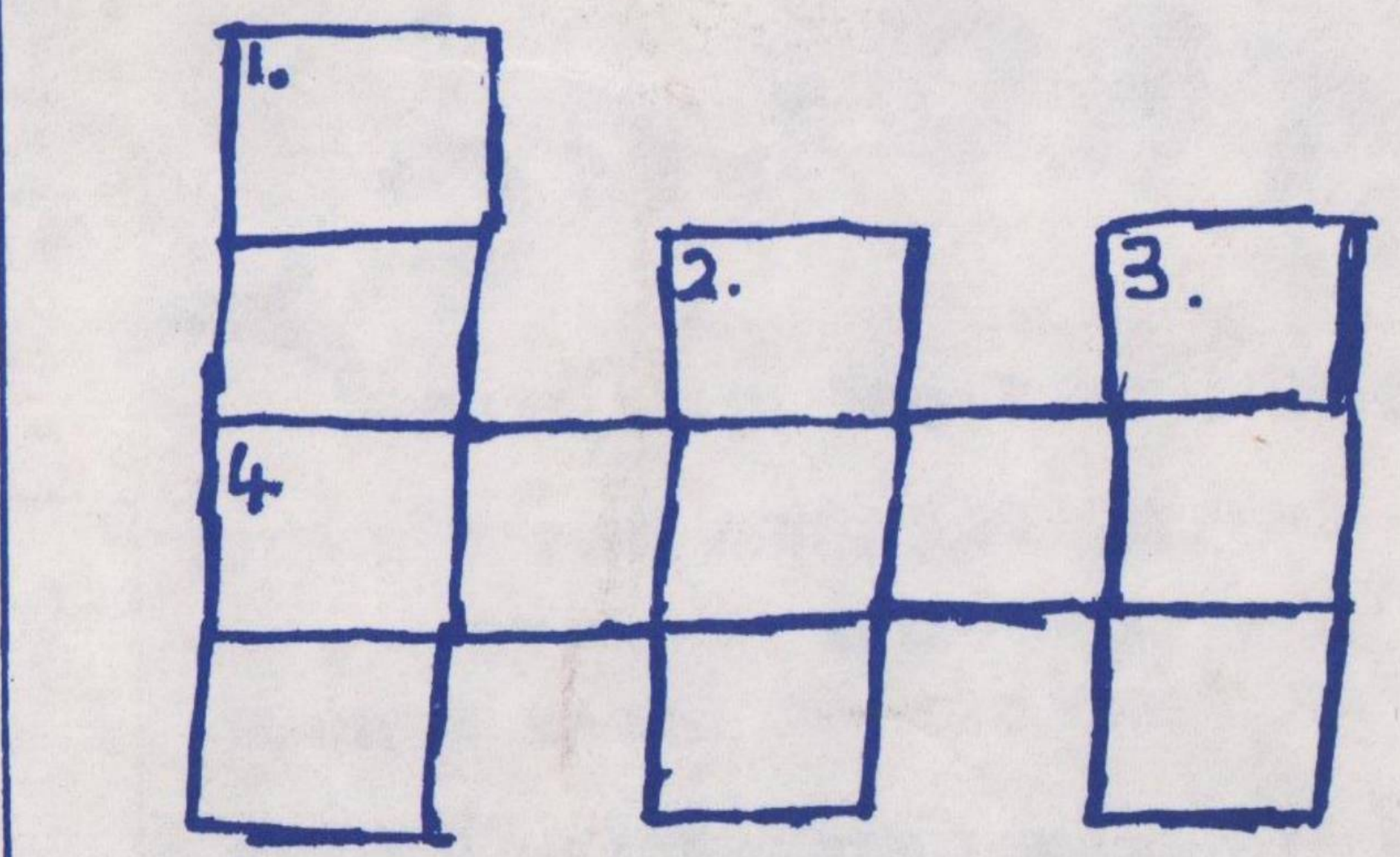
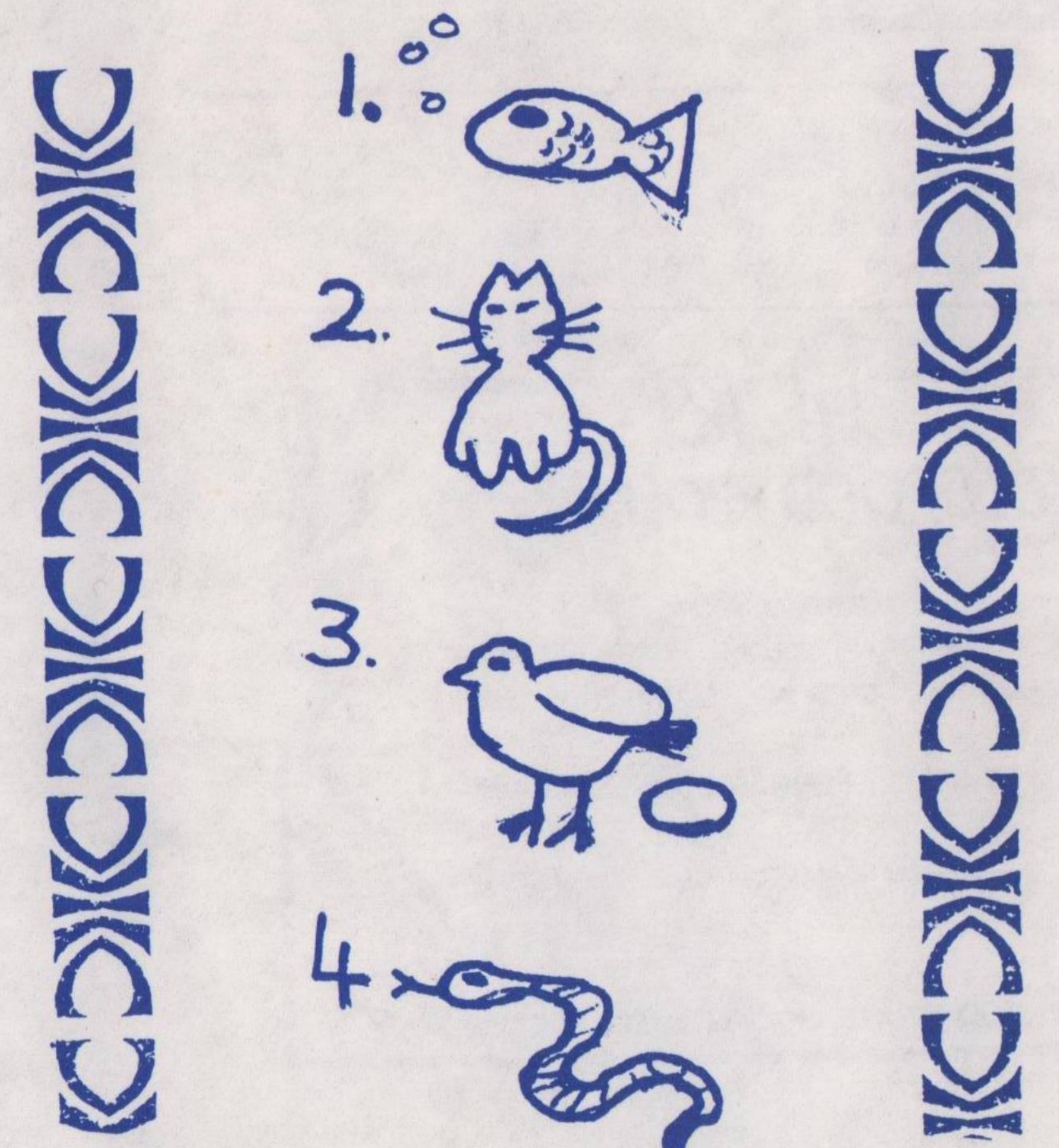
COME TO GREENHAM WITH WOMEN FOR PEACE

NOTTINGHAM WOMEN FOR PEACE

DAY TRIP TO GREENHAM (or come for the whole weekend). Nottm Women For Peace are organizing a visit to Greenham on Sunday 7th July. If you would like to go tickets will be on sale soon in Oroborous, Mushroom, or 'phone 625363.

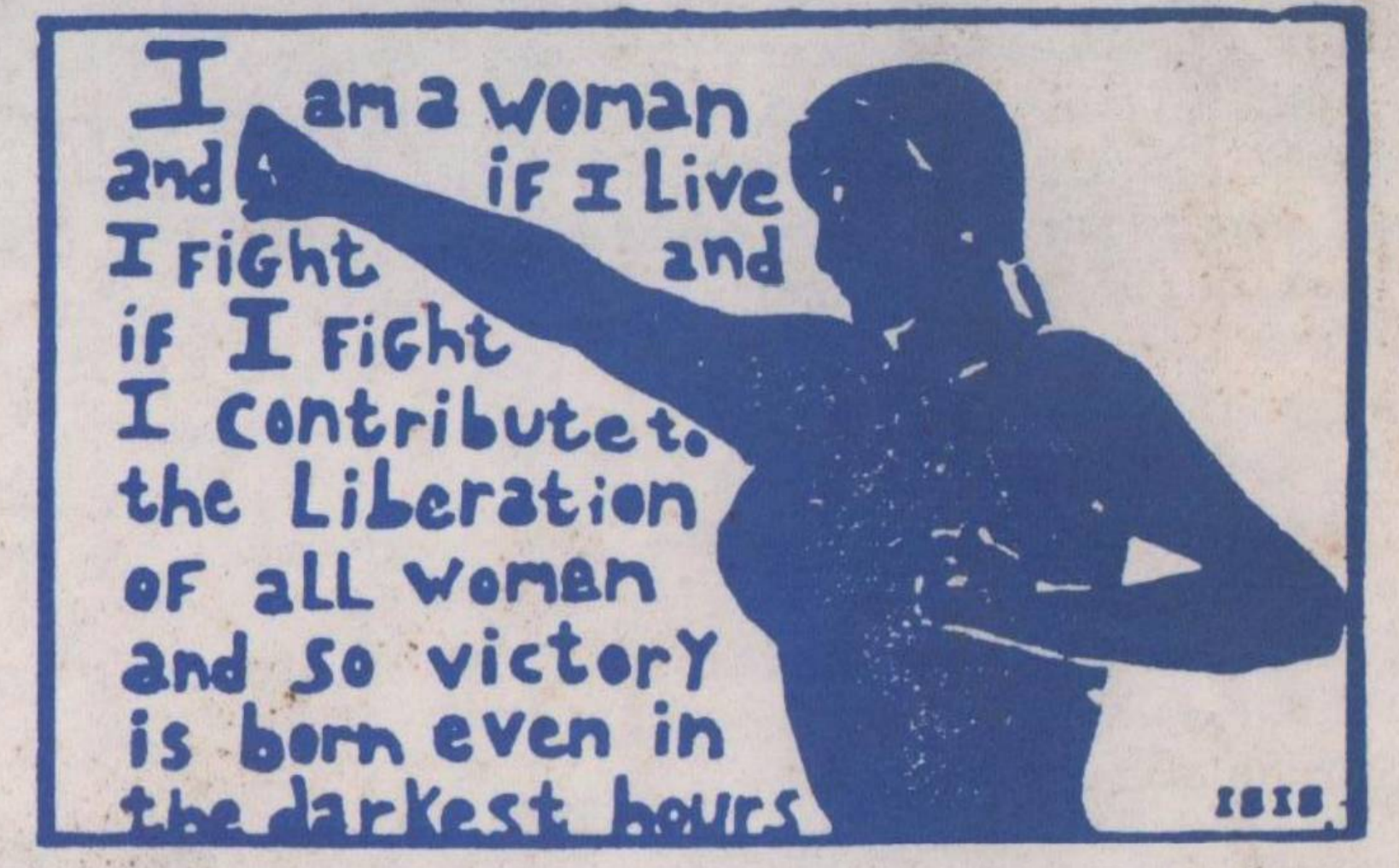
Women at Greenham are asking women to come to Greenham for the first weekend of each month. If you would like to travel there with other women, would like/could offer lifts, then please contact Nottm Women for Peace on 625363 or 411686.

Children's Crossword.



Newsletter

MAY '85



EDITORIAL

Following the enthusiastic reception of our first newsletter in March 1985 Nottingham Women for Peace are launching into print again. Discerning readers will see at once, however, that we have broadened our remit to include anything by women for women. In the absence just now of any other 'Women's Voice' in Nottingham we are keen to include information, publicity and comment on a wide range of feminist (or 'womanist' for those of us who are into Alice Walker!) issues. Many of us anyway would argue that the women's peace movement is inextricably linked with the recognition of and struggle against the many manifestations of evil, injustice and oppression in our daily lives and those of our sisters across the World - racism, torture, exploitation, poverty, you name it - there are millions enduring it and a few privileged power-people standing on top of them, blaming the victims.

Nottingham Women for Peace is one local pocket of resistance and we have links with many others so we were delighted by the news of the founding of the Women's Centre. At last - our own place, our own space. Obviously the project will require energy, commitment and women's hours if it is to provide the forum for meeting,

discussion and recreation - the lack of which currently deprives us all.

The winter seems to have been going on for an extraordinary long time. Women for Peace has certainly been feeling the draught since Christmas with not so many women at meetings and a consequent drop in energy and morale, but now the sun is shining again and optimism seems to have some basis in fact. The Tories didn't take Nottinghamshire in the May elections, plans to celebrate International Women's Day for Disarmament gather strength and we hear hopeful stirrings from Greenham. And then there's the Women's Centre to look forward to.....

This newsletter reflects our group's wish to reach out to other women in Nottingham - not making light of our differences but emphasising the common themes which unite us and bring us strength.

Peace - Is It Only The Absence Of War ?

" WOMEN HOLD THE TORCH OVER NAMIBIA" (Namibian song)



Last November women from Nottingham Women for Peace joined in a mass action at Springfields British Nuclear Fuels Plant, near Preston, to highlight the completely illegal connections between uranium mining and Britain's Trident programme. Other Mixed actions occurred at other related B.N.F.C sites such as Capenhurst.

Why is Namibia important to the Peace Movement? Because:

1. Namibia supplies 46% of the uranium used by Britain.
2. Britain is involved in the war in Namibia through supplying equipment, fuel and finance to the South African army.
3. Britain has helped South Africa, that is illegally occupying Namibia, to develop its nuclear capacity.
4. Namibian uranium is the most likely source for Trident Submarine fuel, enriched at Capenhurst.



Peace : Is it only the absence of war ?

For Namibian women peace means :

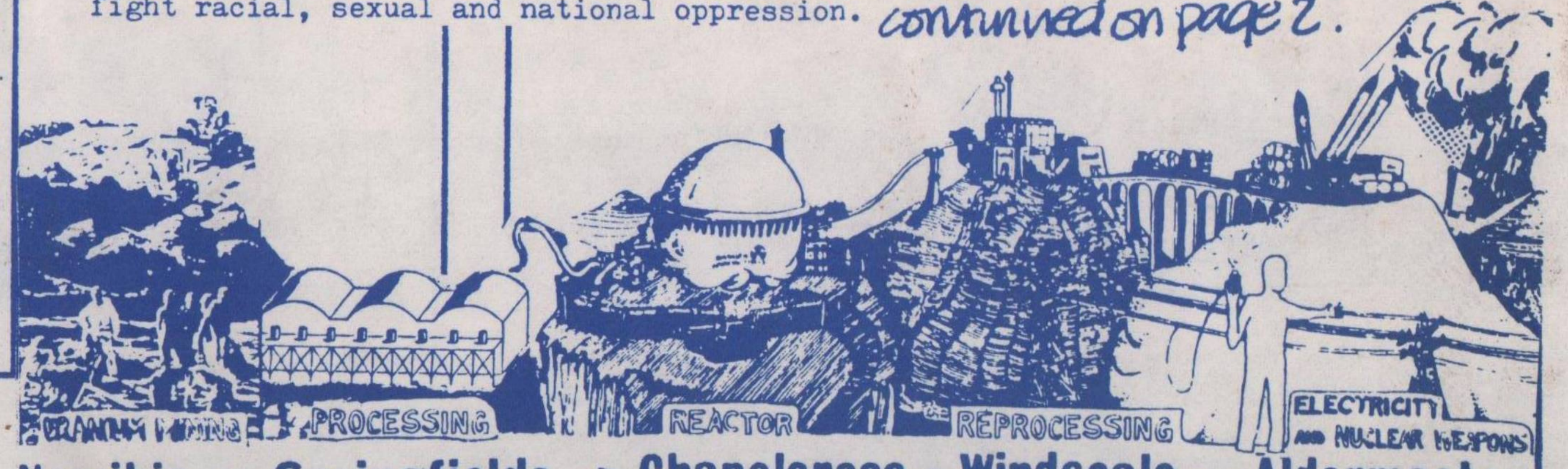
- freedom from any form of oppression,
- freedom to decide on their own future and to live wherever they please,
- freedom from illiteracy, poverty, lack of basic necessities such as medical care, food and shelter,
- freedom from violence, i.e rape, torture and war,

Namibian women are working through SWAPO Women's Council to fight racial, sexual and national oppression. *continued on page 2.*

PEACE NEWS the radical independent pacifist fortnightly, is looking for a new woman collective member to join our mixed editorial collective in Nottingham.

The position is full time, and we'd expect a minimum twelve month commitment. We're looking for someone with enthusiasm who is willing to put energy into the paper. Experience is not essential, but an interest in peace issues, disarmament, feminism, animal rights, racism and related issues is. If you're interested, please contact PN by June 27 and we'll send you further details.

Peace News, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham 3 (0602) 503587



Namibia → Springfields → Chapelcross → Windscale → Aldermaston

....continued from page 1.

How does uranium mining affect Namibian women?
" all the mines have far-reaching effects on women as well as male miners. A migrant apartheid labour system similar to that of South Africa operates in Namibia. Since there are no jobs in the reserves (so-called homelands), men are forced to migrate to the factories and mines on contracts of 12-18 months and women are left with families to scratch out a miserable existence. The male workers are paid very low wages. In the mines and factories, black workers are not covered by safety regulations so they work under extremely dangerous conditions. For example, the biggest problem is contamination from uranium. When the men return to the reserves they pass on the contamination. Diseases such as tuberculosis spread and speculation has it that man can often become impotent. One paper referred to Namibia as "the land of sterile women" because of the alleged effects of contamination on fertility. There are few health clinics or hospitals and treatment costs money. So the women bear the burden of looking after the sick, are forced to walk for days on end in search of the few doctors available. Lack of money and food means that the children die of malnutrition. So the mines affect everyone...."

Pendukeni Kaulinge, SWAPO Secretary for Women.



As long as uranium mining remains profitable for South Africa's allies, such as Britain, the companies involved, e.g. R.T.Z., will continue to back, through taxes, agreements, equipment etc., South Africa's occupation of Namibia so perpetuating the oppression of its people, especially women.
 "We want every women's organization to understand the suffering of the people of Namibia. We want them to know that we are fighting and we want to tell them how they can help us. We rely on all the support of women's groups throughout the world. They are sharing the same problems and together we must find the solutions."
 SWAPO member, from A.A News Dec '84.

LOCAL INITIATIVES.

- What we could do:
1. Publicize the origin of Trident fuel and the struggle of the Namibian people.
 2. Spot the Edmondson's lorries (Edmondson's is the firm which transports Namibian uranium secretly). This will help to work out the transportation route, a first step to blockading Namibian uranium.
 3. Take further action at the B.N.F.C processing plants, such as Springfields and Capenhurst, and support women arrested there.
 4. While supporting SWAPO's demand for an end to Britain's illegal trade in Namibian uranium we can support Namibian women directly by providing material aid - sanitary towels, toiletries, stationary - funding literacy campaigns. We hope there will be a collection outside the Broadmarsh Centre, Wed-
 - Fri 12th-14th June lunch times organized by the local Women's Anti-apartheid Group. Contact Izzy 412098 for details, volunteers needed.
 5. Investigate the activities of multinationals, e.g. R.T.Z., attend shareholders meetings.
- For more details contact;
 CANUC (The Campaign against Namibian Uranium Contracts)
 P.O. BOX 16, London NW5 2LX. Tel: 01-267 1921
 And if you want to form a local action group bring it up at Women for Peace or contact Izzy 412098, I could link up interested women.

Information for this article came from leaflets produced by SWAPO Women's Solidarity Campaign.



Birth Rites

I am thinking tonight
 of the time I was born;
 and of the woman I call mother.
 She was young then
 less years than I own now;
 I was her first child.
 Thirty five years ago-
 was it raining that day,
 What was the weather like?
 I wonder, why these questions,
 now
 after all these years
 of just accepting
 once I was born.

What is it to be a mother?
 I, who have two children
 do not know.
 Did she fear the future,
 was I a joy?
 I've never asked
 perhaps I'll never know.

Will my daughter, now peacefully sleeping,
 one day think of the night
 She came to call me mother.
 Or will I, with knowledge
 break the mother's vow of silence
 and give her freely
 our birthright.

Pat.



Pacific Womyn For a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific

After hearing the amazingly powerful and moving words of Chailang and Titewhai (the Pacific women who recently toured Britain) a group of us have been meeting to work out what to do to support Pacific peoples struggles.
 So far we've had three informal meetings in which we've shared ideas about what we could do. Some of the ideas we've come up with so far (and there's always room for more) are:

- making a poster, raising awareness,
- making links with other similar groups,
- direct action-pickets, sit-ins of tourist agencies, companies etc.,
- producing a leaflet, leafleting.
- self education, sharing/learning information,
- linking the issues involved,
- showing 'Nightmare in Paradise' (tape and slide show of the Pacific holocaust,
- Finding books and information available,
- producing an information pack,
- writing to Pacific women's groups and to Chailang and Titewhai,
- attend the anti-Japanese dumping demo in London in September,
- produce newsletter/bulletin,
- compile a mailing list.

We decided that the priorities at the moment were self-education, sharing information, learning from each other and finding out about books. We all thought that we needed to know more before we could do some of the other things.
 We each agreed to find out about a particular subject and that we would talk about these at future meetings; racism and colonialism, Japanese dumping, the Aoterean (New Zealand) treaty with Britain, effects of radiation, testing in the Pacific, uranium mining, multi-nationals, deployment in the Pacific, religion and the Church.

OUR MEETINGS - 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.
 AT - W.E.A, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.
 FROM - 7.30 to 9.30 pm.
 SEE YOU THERE. All women welcome. Disabled access.

For more details phone: Carol 822095 (p.m)
 or Alison 506101 ex 3657
 814288 (p.m)

If you can babysit or need a babysitter phone Izzy 412098.

250 Women Attend

Weekend Of Workshops

The Nottingham Women's Festival closed on a high note on March 30th/31st with the weekend of workshops. For the third year running the Adult Education Centre on Shakespeare Street was filled to capacity with women, mostly white, 20's-40's, seasoned with a scattering of older and younger women, some black women, very few Asian. As usual there were quite a number of newcomers to the 'women's event scene', who had heard about us via their adult education or 'outreach' class, and plucked up courage to come. We seem to have become an 'established' event, from Christmas on the Centre gets asked 'Is it happening, when, can I book, last year I couldn't get in.' And word has clearly got around, witness calls from as far afield as Hull and Bristol.
 The organising group, however, deliberately tried, via the publicity outlets and the choice of workshops, to give priority to local women and local concerns. Our aim was not only to inform ourselves but to extend and firm up local networks, a position not unaffected by fear of shortage of cash (not in fact borne out). There are things going on elsewhere in the country which we want to know about, treading the delicate line between insularity and dependancy on 'experts'. Last year we had more outside input, this year we played safe and had none and the absence was felt. There was a tremendous range of activity going on around here and we rightly celebrated ourselves, in workshops, in displays, stands and exhibitions in particular the excellent photographic record which 'Women for Peace' mounted.
 The most popular workshops were, 'Assertiveness', 'Stress Management', and resurfacing again 'Depression and how to deal with it' and 'Motherhood, the Ultimate Sacrifice'. Political workshops were least well subscribed, perhaps the weekend is a time when women feel free to have something for themselves, to enjoy each other and take a personal risk, rather than think about the grim reality that besets us every day. But given the increasingly repressive nature of the political climate can this be enough? I personally think that 250 women under one roof could provide a rare opportunity for different perspectives to be explored, shared definitions to emerge with a view to coordinated future action, as well as pleasuring ourselves. I felt frustrated that the dialogue with the women from the Notts Miners Wives Support Group didn't take place, despite efforts on both sides, and so an opportunity was lost. Historically we have seen the damaging effects of a wide gap between liberal feminists and working class women activists, are we all set to reproduce that? Perhaps it's now time to organize the workshop weekend in such a way that political remedial personal pain can begin to emerge?

In sisterhood,
 Monica Stoppleman



I REALLY WANTED TO BE A MECHANIC
 BUT THERE WERE NO APPRENTICESHIPS FOR WOMEN

Womens Centre

NEW NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S CENTRE

We have finally heard about the funding, and miracle of all miracles, we have got the money from the Inner City application!! So we will be going ahead with our plans for the old Blind Institute on Chaucer St. There's lots to do and we'll need a lot of women power and energy to make it into the best women's centre in England! We are arranging a meeting to be held in the Blind Institute, and want lots of women to come see the building plus give ideas for use ect. Hopefully it will be one night the week of the 24th of June
Please watch for publicity and come!



NOTTINGHAM WOMEN FOR PEACE
MEET WEEKLY ON TUESDAYS AT
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE
MANSFIELD ROAD
AT 7.30 p.m.

For further information ring
Pennie 411686

DISCUSSION GROUP ON MOTHERHOOD AND REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

We are having a meeting to talk about issues around motherhood and reproductive technology, starting with how and why some of us come to have children and some not. We will go on to talk about whatever interests the women who come e.g. infertility, lesbian motherhood, surrogacy, boy and girl children, handicapped babies.

The first meeting will be at the Women's Centre, 32a Shakespeare Street. (opposite the Fire Station) on 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5th. If you are interested but can't come, please phone Jan on 609307 or Jude on 583536. If necessary we could maybe start a daytime group with a creche. ALL WOMEN WELCOME - MOTHERS AND NON-MOTHERS.



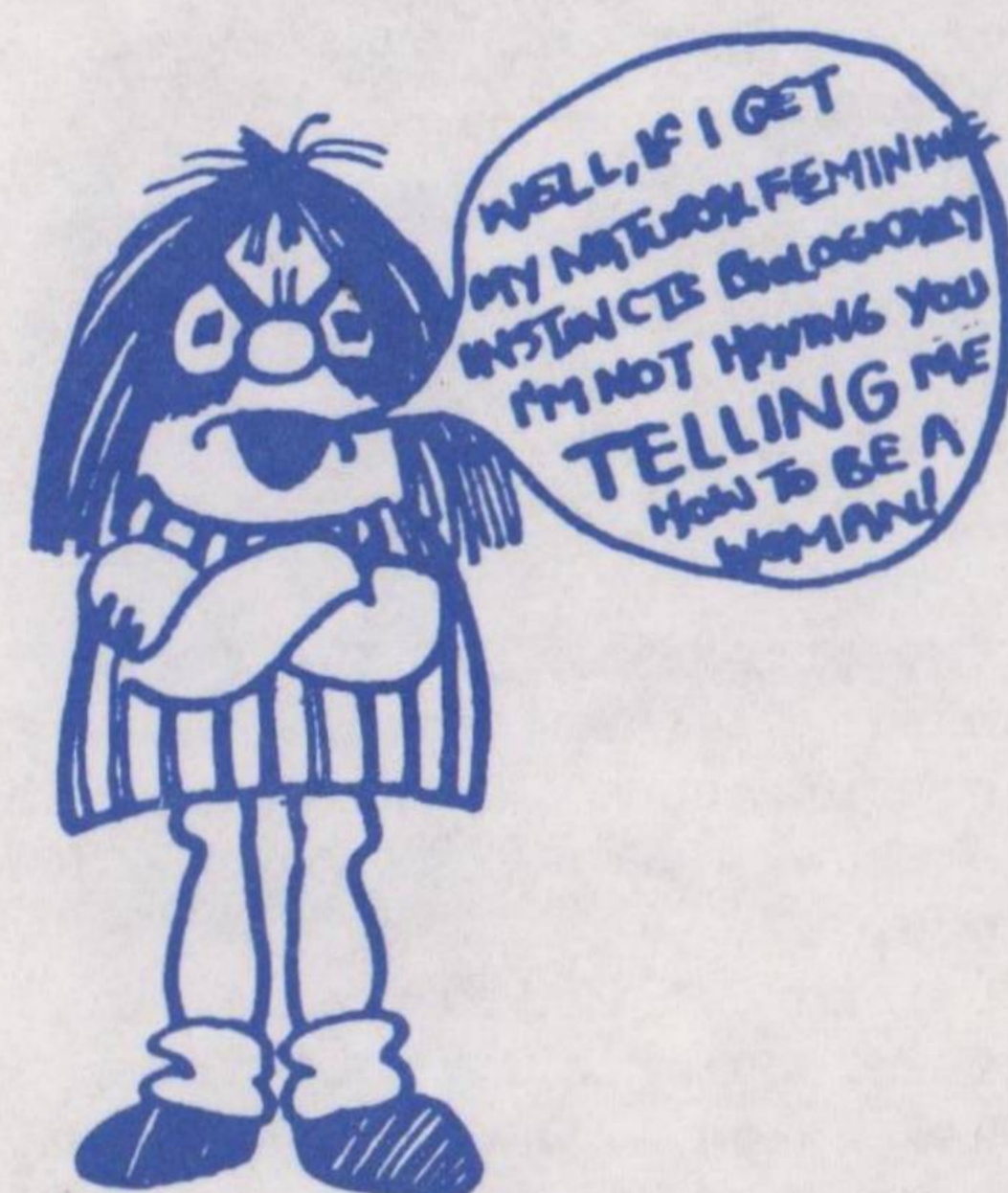
MOLESWORTH IN THE MUD

Thousands of CND supporters wade about in the boot-high mud, trying to reach the base from their coaches, trying to keep 'townies' from walking on the farmer's crops. The violence that the media had been promising all week did not happen, or if it did, the reporters were too deep in the mud to see! Helen writes: PEACE CORNER WATCH- there is now always someone there to join in the twice-daily services near the Peace Chapel and talk to the many visitors. Daily people visit for the first time and are emotionally shocked by exposure to the police state, the 'Moldwitz' of barbed wire, security fence and mud on the one hand, and the peace and beauty of the garden and English farmland on the other; by the destruction done to men by insistence on obeying orders without question, compared to the spiritual power of Mother Earth at Peace Corner and Peace Chapel. There is now a sporadic watch at 'Fire Gate' in Cockbrook Lane where most of the base traffic comes and goes. 8 have been arrested for not moving away from there so it may have to be a 'mobile watch'. We need WOOD, MONEY, FOOD, SUPPORT FOR COURT CASES and PEOPLE to come and stay for a day, two days..... Contact: Peace Corner Watch, Old Weston Rd, Nr Brington, Huntingdon, Cambs.

The Easter Demo was good, despite weather which ensured mud for all our restricted paths round the base. Despite constant police harassment Rainbow Fields established their Easter Festival at Polebrook and provided badly needed camping space. Five lorries of food went off to Eritrea. Everyone I met found the walks to Molesworth very good experiences. I was at the all-night vigil at ALCONBURY followed by a joyous Dawn Eucharist on Easter morning. We remembered all those who couldn't be there due to legal misuse of bail conditions including the ALCONBURY SEVEN. The National Farmers Union reported no damage to crops.

Helen Trask

Reprinted - with thanks - from Women Peace Alliance newsletter April 1985.



LESBIAN LINE are Desperately short of Funds. If you can donate some money or are prepared to fill in a standing order form please 'phone Lesbian Line 410652 (Mons & Weds 7.30.-9.00pm)



Lesbian and Gay Men's Sub-Committee

What would you like to see in Nottingham for lesbians ?

- A newsletter ?
- A lesbian centre ?
- Support for lesbian mothers ?
- Advice on housing ?

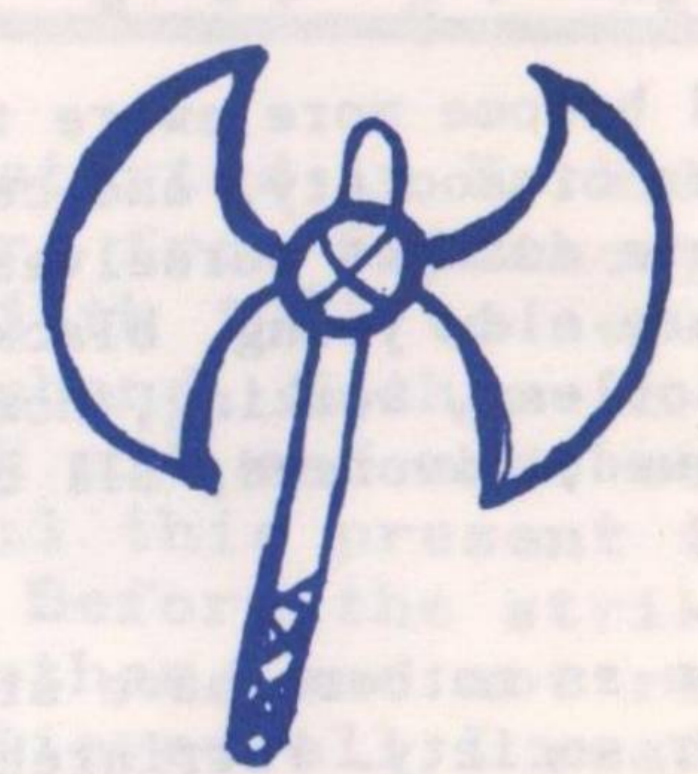
These are some of the ideas that have come up through the open discussion meetings that have recently started in Nottingham and we're beginning to change them from ideas into reality. The meetings came about through Nottingham City Council setting up a sub committee to advise them on how we are discriminated against and what can be done about it.

There are five lesbian representatives on the committee as well as five gay men, councillors and council officers. The discussion meetings started to discuss issues that we wanted to be raised at the sub committee meetings. There have been four meetings so far and each one has been different.

The meetings are now going on to be general discussion, information exchange and setting up working groups on the different areas. So if you're interested in anything to do with being a lesbian come along, there are usually between ten and twenty women at the meetings. Now that the Women's Centre has got the money for workers and resources and will be moving to new premises women need to be involved in setting up the lesbian centre which will be part of the Women's Centre.


There have been two sub committee meetings so far, (they are held once a month), two of the main subjects that have been raised are; a new Equal Opportunities job, and discrimination training for council staff. The council has an Equal Opportunities Unit with several people, 'officers', working there. They are funding another officer with special responsibility for lesbian and gay rights, this will be a job share with a woman and a man each working

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN
LINE



410652
MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS
7.30pm - 9.00pm

FOR CONFIDENTIAL HELP, ADVICE AND
INFORMATION



part time. We are concerned that the woman appointed should be someone who can communicate with the lesbian community and that we are allowed to sit on the interview panel.

The other issue is training- the Equal Opportunities officers have written a report on training schemes that will take place for City Council employees. These schemes will encourage them not to discriminate against people, whether black, lesbian, women, disabled, gay. We have written a report commenting on this report.

The sub committee meetings are challenging - getting ourselves organised about what we want to say and how to present it, exciting - the idea of changes happening and being strong as a group of lesbians, and frustrating - the council bureaucracy.

The sub committee meetings are held at the Council House in the Market Square. Anyone is welcome to come as an observer and join in the discussion at the end. The sub committee meetings are on the first Thursday of each month, meet outside the Council House at 7.20 pm. The open discussion meetings are the Thursday before and the Thursday after the sub committee meeting, the next is on the 30th May at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd. 7.30 pm everyone welcome.

For further information write to; Maggie, Char, Judy, Angie and Glenys, Lesbian reps, c/o The Women's Centre, 32a, Shakespeare St, Nottingham, or phone Lesbian Line Mon and Wed 7.30 - 9 pm
410652

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES UNIT

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER/S (LESBIAN/GAY ISSUES)

Ref: CE/5918 P01 £11,582 £12,645 or pro-rata


This post is a new initiative and is considered particularly suitable for Job Sharing.

The postholder/s will have general responsibility for the promotion, development and implementation of the City Council's Equal Opportunities Policy with a specialist responsibility for Lesbian and Gay Issues and Rights, which are an integral part of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy. Duties include research, a continuous review of Council policies, advising on Lesbian and Gay issues, contributing to the development of training programmes and representing the City Council as required.

No specialist qualifications are required. However, the successful applicant/s will have direct personal knowledge and experience of discrimination against Lesbians and Gays, and also experience of working directly with the Lesbian and Gay communities.



Knowledge of and a full commitment to the principles of Equal Opportunities will be considered an important pre-requisite for the post.

Application forms & further details from the Personnel Manager, City Secretary's Dept, The Guildhall, Nottingham NG1 4BT. Tel: (0602) 418571 ext. 4624. Closing date for applications: 31st May, 1985.

 **City of Nottingham**
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Applications are welcome from candidates regardless of race, culture, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation and physical disability.

Mother - Lu a lesbian

Don't be silly dear - you were born in June you're a Gemini.

Motherhood-- A Viewpoint

Women are the oppressed and undervalued majority of the world's population. Mothers within the Women's Peace Movement and the Women's Movement as a whole are the hidden and largely forgotten majority of an already discriminated against group.

Women's groups should become more aware that mothers are a part of all sections of society, and can often bridge the divisions we create amongst ourselves by their common experience. Mothers are old, young, black, white, disabled, fit, gay, straight, jobless, working, homeless, housed, single, married, widowed, divorced, all classes, castes and creeds.

For a long time, women as mothers have struggled to participate in broader society. Patriarchal structures create enormous difficulties for them - inadequate child-care, job discrimination, lack of finance and resources. Add to these the physical problems of transport, badly designed buildings, the vast number of places where children are discouraged or banned and the inevitable babysitting treadmill. No wonder for many women the effort to overcome the constant obstacles is often too great.

Under patriarchy, motherhood is devalued, and by association, the women themselves are also devalued. Even in the Women's Movement, it seems that women who are mothers are largely ignored. Creches are an afterthought to many groups, often badly organised. By this, I mean unsuitable space and equipment to deal with age ranges - older children are frequently not catered for. Creche workers themselves are usually very caring, capable people. We plan many meetings and socials making attendance by mothers complex. Sometimes, women are 'allowed' to bring their children, but all too often are conscious of other women being disturbed by the children's presence, exuberance or needs. Women wanting to become involved in issues are handicapped by all these things, and further, by the difficulty of constantly having to go to people to ask for help in looking after their children in order that they may participate.



To raise children by Spock was not easy, but it was a method, albeit flawed. Caretaking children in a different way - trying to combat sexism, racism, materialism, war and trying to promote ecology consciousness and a care for all living things is tough! Most of society is working against us, and we are creating new role models at the same time. Little, strong, caring people don't grow on trees - they need time and attention and not necessarily always from mothers.



All of us in the Women's Peace and wider movements recognise that we are working towards a safer, happier, equal environment - for women and all people with whom we share the planet. Many childless people see their work in the present as a legacy for future generations to both benefit from and carry forward. Women, to whom the job of child-rearing still mainly falls, can surely demand space to join in and help to be able to do so.



At Nottingham Women for Peace recently, we had a meeting devoted to this subject. We came up with some suggestions from our group. Other groups might like to discuss them and add a few of their own.

1. Creches - think about them early when planning - the type of space available, the equipment, the ages and range. Remember that small children are often alarmed by noisy, larger ones, so try to have at least a cordoned-off area so tinies feel safe. Use anti-sexist men's groups where possible, try to avoid mothers looking after other mothers' children.
2. Meetings - mother and non-mother could twin to attend alternate meetings and share the child care. Where children are present at meetings, try to raise your tolerance level and not allow yourselves to be distracted.
3. Conferences - as well as creches, remember that older children have probably outgrown Lego. We thought of workshops (e.g. music, drama, painting) - also the inclusion of children's books on the bookstall.
4. Summer - plan afternoon outdoor events like picnics, where all women can get together and children are welcomed. A good one for non-mothers to get the feel of being around children.
5. Babysitting - non-parents wishing to contribute could approach with an offer of their time (e.g. I am free _____ afternoon/evening) so that parents do not always have to ask.....

.... Continued

Why have I addressed this article mainly to women? The views in it are sometimes personal, and yes, it's male participation in cooperative childcare that we want to see. Men are capable and should be willing and we are working to encourage and promote that involvement. But, alongside that, we also want to see non-parents (women and men) beginning to recognise a responsibility towards the shaping of a new generation of people. If we can't get women to recognise the needs of other women, then we can't begin to enlist their help in raising the consciousness of men.

Pat



BECOME INVOLVED WITH A CHILD, INVEST IN THE WORLD'S FUTURE

If you have any views or insights that you would like to share on this or any topic, please write to us.

Group starting on Motherhood and Reproductive Technology See page 4.

Womens National Peace Conference 11-12 May Great Malvern



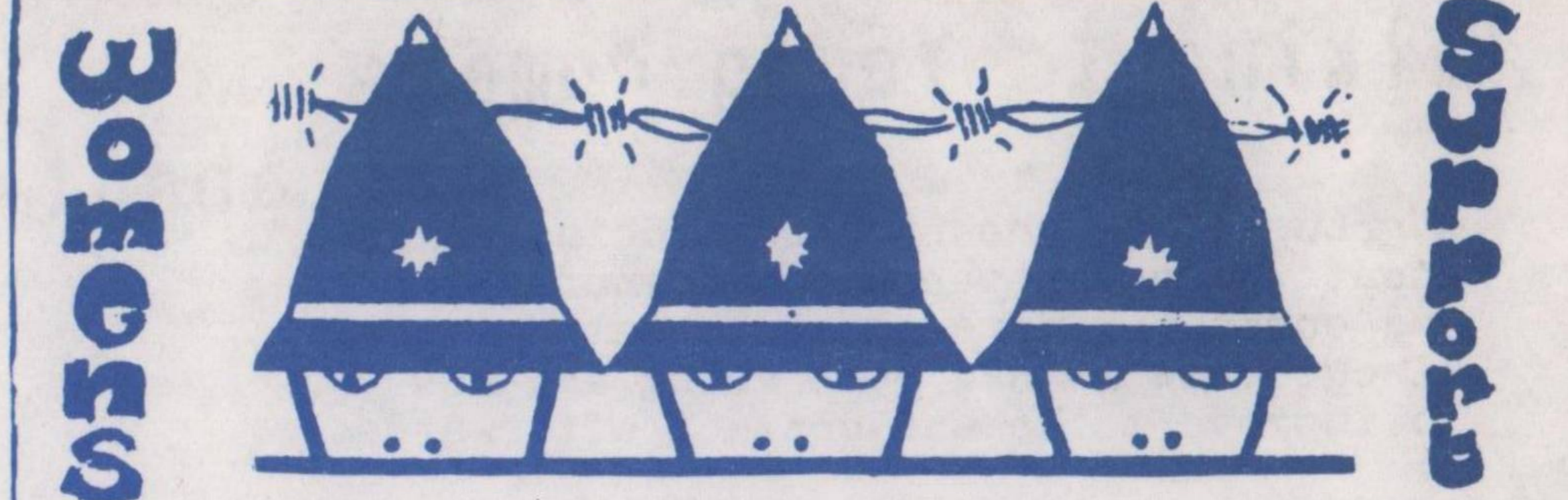
Basically it was wonderful! I arrived on Friday night and climbed up to St. Ann's Well to get some spring water. This must have had an effect because I enjoyed the whole conference. There was a large turnout for the voice workshop, which competed very well with the ballet class above us! Other workshops, such as earth magic, and the despair and empowerment session, got equally enthusiastic reactions. There was a good choice of more physical workshops to relax at, such as Tai Chi, and a kid's music workshop. The food was delicious, and well organised.

One point I noticed was the lack of thought for disabled women in the facilities chosen for the conference, as many workshops were upstairs, and there was no wheelchair access to the toilets or the main hall.

The social was really the highpoint for me, and I found out that I could sing in tune! The Fabulous Dirt Sisters set turned into an energetic music workshop, and after a good hour of dancing, I climbed up the hill again!

It's the first conference I've fully enjoyed for a long time.

Zeb.



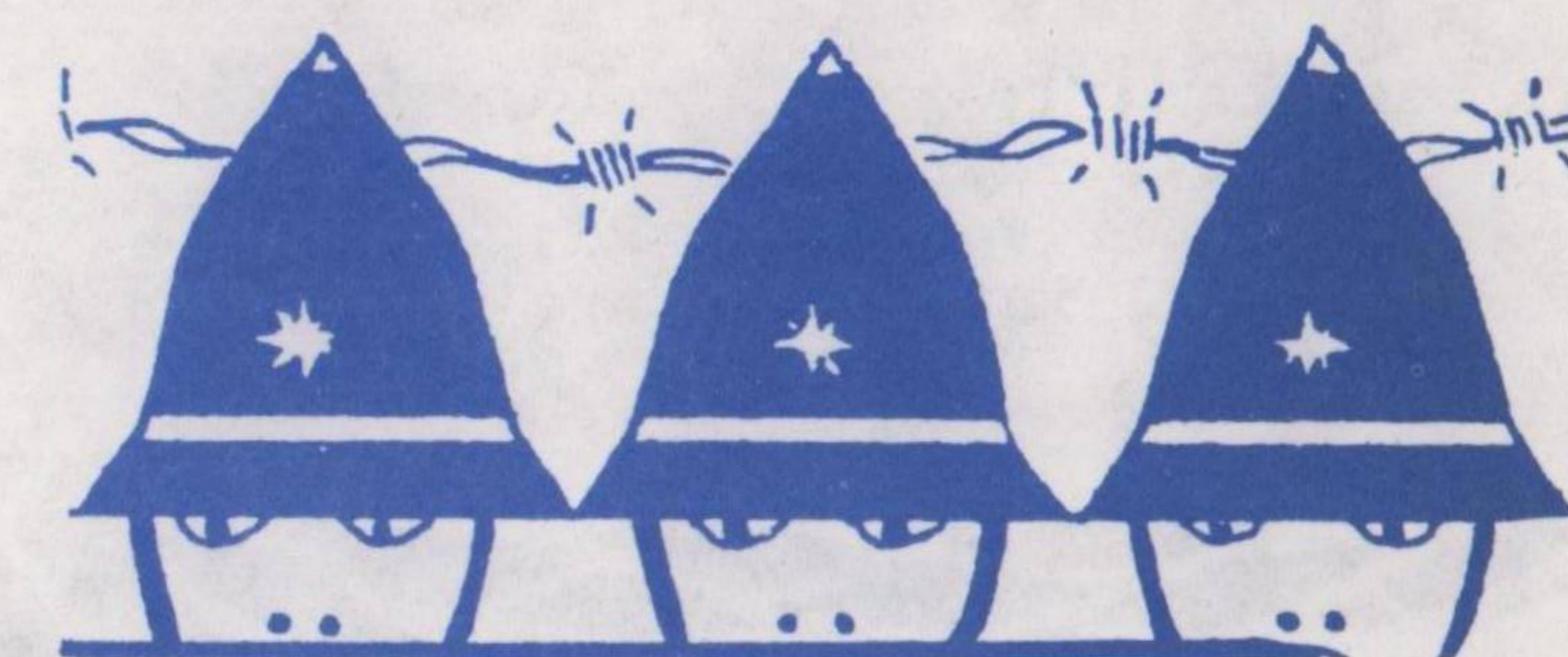
The miner's strike started in Yorkshire in early March 1984. Striking miners from Goldthorpe arrived at Blidworth on March 13th 1984 to seek the support of our husbands. My husband, father-in-law, & myself went up to Blidworth pit and made ourselves known to them; from then until this present time, my husband has been on strike. Before the strike started, I was a housewife and a mother, and not really politically minded at all. I believed all I read or watched on T.V., and thought there is nothing I can do about it but being involved in this dispute, and having faced all the policing and violence, I can now understand it more clearly.

South Africa means more to me now, because I can understand what the black people have gone through for many years, and I wasn't aware that I could do anything about it, but after the last eleven months of suffering we have had, it has made me realise I can fight for these people as well.

I have been to Greenham Common, after wanting to go for about two years, but never having the chance. I then met two women from Nottingham Women for Peace who I really could talk to, and who put over their views to me, which were vrey important. I have a family of my own, 3 sons, 1 daughter, and 2 grandsons and I believe it is up to me to see these children grow up in a better world than we have. I have to do what I believe is right to make it a better place.

At the moment my priority is the miners strike, but when we have a victory, I must then concentrate on fighting in every aspect for my family's future, whatever it may be.

Betty, Blidworth Miner's Wive's, Feb. 85.



NOTTINGHAM PEACE FESTIVAL JULY 1985

We have a Women's Marquee!... Anyone keen to help - contact 6 All Saint's Terrace or Tel: 411686

Talking to Young Women

about

A group of us who have been doing talks about women for peace to YTS nursery nurses and community care students met to discuss how it had been going and how to improve talks and contact afterwards.

Things we liked and felt was important included.

COMMUNICATION

Young women seeing connections with their own lives, talking to each other not just us

Talking about feelings as well as facts

Looking at powerlessness and ways to deal with it.

We talked about the ways we would structure meetings to include other than Peace issues. relationships with men, working on their course, male power, housing, male violence.

Young women have often been confused as to what they can/want to do next after talk. We talked about what we needed to do as support and alternatives for them. eg. young womens discussion group at college.

meeting someone from group and coming to women for peace.

giving information on other womens groups.

their needs: speakers for discussion groups, transport, to meetings/ Greenham, personal contact about events etc.

We decided to meet again with the further aims of talking more about powerlessness, not just in our/their lives, but in groups. Getting together an information leaflet on womens groups - services etc. for young women.

Seeing if any young women were into doing a leaflet on issues relevant to young women.

Next meeting 11-1pm June 20th
17, Thyra Grove
Off Woodboro Rd.
All interested are welcome.



Peace and Powerlessness

ANNE FRANCIS

We here reprint the letter many local people have already sent to their M.P.s. If you can distribute extra copies to sympathetic groups or individuals, ring Sylvia on 608719.

House of Commons,
London SW1.

Dear

Re: ANNE FRANCIS
Greenham Common Peace Campaign

As a voter in your constituency I wish to bring to your attention my feelings about the brutal prison sentence inflicted on Anne Francis. For two small-scale offences of criminal damage (estimated at £120 in total) together with the activation of a suspended sentence she has been sent to prison for twelve months.

Anne Francis is not a rampaging drunken vandal. She is a middle-aged caring woman committed to saving life by opposing nuclear arms, and convinced that the issue has to be kept in the public eye even if it means breaking the law at Greenham.

Whatever one's political persuasion or views on the Peace Campaign surely everyone would agree that a year in prison for doing £120 worth of damage is little short of scandalous? The punishment is out of all proportion in its severity. The whole incident has all the hallmarks of yet another 'establishment' attempt to crush opposition and stifle opinions which do not follow the party line. How can this possibly be described as justice?

I urge you whatever your views on the nuclear issue to use your authority to protest both inside and outside the House about this prison sentence and to join with MPs of all parties in supporting Anne Francis's appeal.

Please ensure that my views as your constituent are fully and fairly represented.

Yours sincerely,



Please do write to Anne Francis,
c/o HM Detention Centre,
Cookham Wood,
Rochester,
Kent.

All messages of support and solidarity are greatly appreciated.



Book Review: "Call Me Woman" Ellen Kuzwayo. Women's Press £5.95

Meeting Ellen Kuzwayo, when she came to Nottingham recently to promote this book, inspired us to attempt to review it. Ellen is a 70 year old black South African woman who has been working as a social worker in Soweto for a long time. She's especially been involved in enabling black women to set up self help cooperatives. She has also been involved in more formal organisations such as YWCA, the Committee of 10 Zanau Soweto Sisters Council, Maggie Magaba Trust and the Black Consumer Union.

Her Autobiography is telling her own personal and political story. She also speaks for and with the women with whom she lives and works. She does this in a simple, honest and creative way. She said to us that she, "wrote this book because it was the last task in my life that I had to do, to tell the world who the black women of my country are. I realised that if I didn't do this they would pass by unnoticed, faceless and unheard."

Despite the courage, integrity and determination of Ellen and her people portrayed throughout the book the expression of human suffering and humiliation is horrifying. Ellen tells us of the dispossession of her farm in the Orange Free State, the breakdown of her first marriage, the separation from her sons, and her period in detention under the so-called Terrorism Act for an offence that was never specified. Ellen also shares with us the suffering of her peoples especially the women under the apartheid system, the exploitation at work places, the separation of families through the migrant labour system, the restriction of movement due to the passlaws and influx controls, and the breaking down of some of the traditional moral codes and values.

But black women categorized as 'minors' have never surrendered to those oppressors without a challenge and Ellen in her book gives several examples of how they have done this, through resisting the passlaws, being involved in uprisings, being responsible for all the duties within their communities as men are lost to the mines, fighting for reasonable wages and working conditions in the towns, improving social and educational facilities, challenging their husband's behavior. 'Minors are heroines' and from the backbone of the black community. Ellen tells us also how despite her sufferings and losses she has grown politically as a black woman throughout her life especially since her first marriage broke down. As mentioned earlier she has been actively involved in several organizations and today is president of the Black Consumer Union and Maggie Magaba Trust. She has helped to make two films about her life in South Africa, 'Awake from Mourning' and 'Tsiamele: A Place of Goodness', both of international distribution. She, however, considers that her greatest challenge has come with the development of women's self help groups in Soweto since 1975, funded by the M. Magaba Trust.

In general Ellen's commitment to her community, determination and hope, shared by many other black women, are powerfully portrayed in this wonderful book. Her honest and sensitive style open up the everyday feelings and dilemmas of people struggling for freedom and justice.

We all share the opinion of Nadine Gardiner who writes in the preface, "this book is a true testimony by a wonderful woman. For myself she is one of those people who gives me faith in the new and different South Africa they will create." We really recommend you read this book.

Nottingham Women's Anti-apartheid Group.

Women's Festival Committee

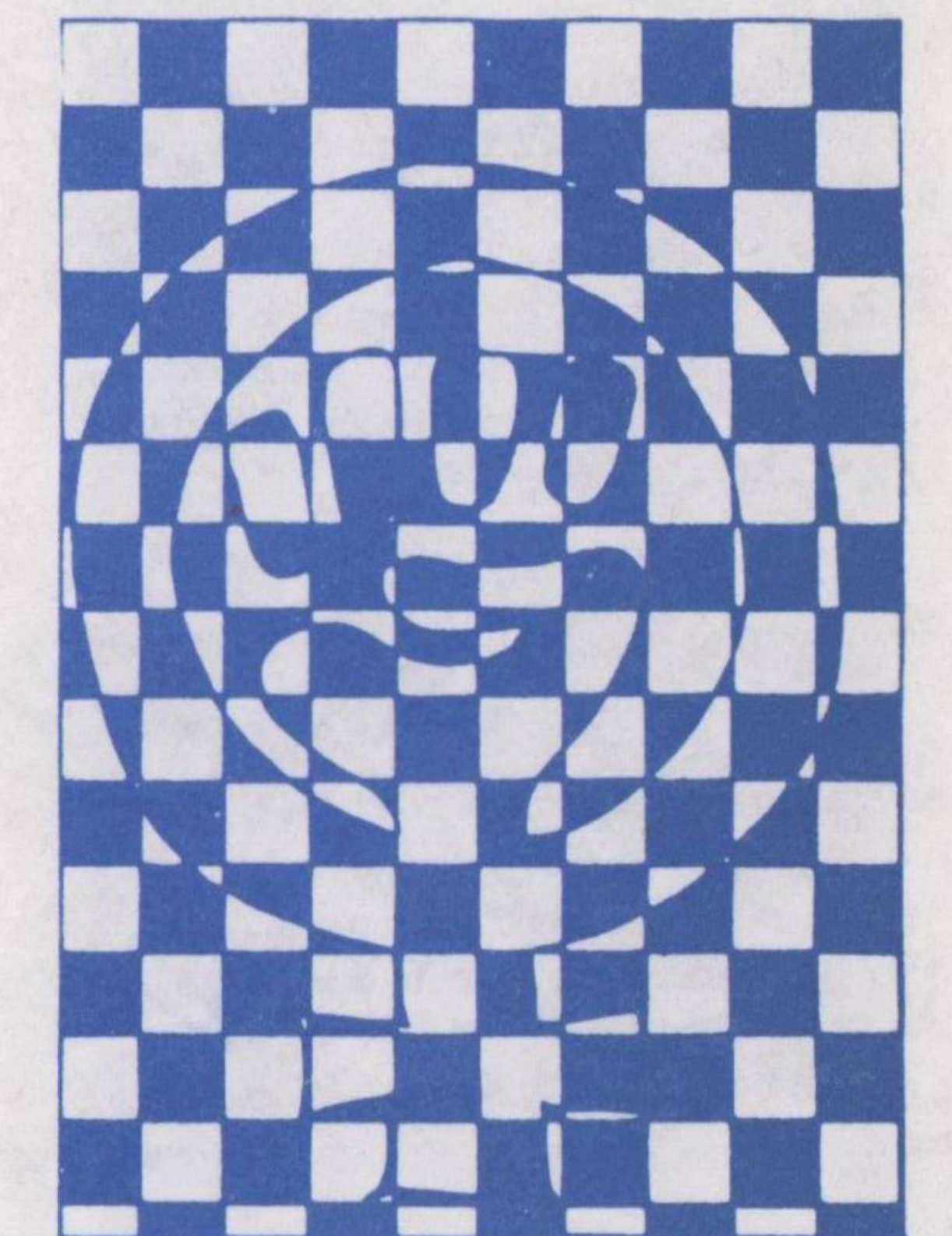


Nottingham Women's Festival Committee has already begun to plan for the fifth festival - March '86. It will be organised through small sub-groups working, well in advance, on a particular area, such as music, arts, sport, finance, outreach, workshops, publicity etc. This will allow more women to be involved without making unrealistic demands on their time.

Two concerns have been highlighted for next year; to reach a wider range of women; and to work for lasting provision and opportunities. Effort is to be made to gain funds for an administrator to support the festival group; and there are plans already underway to run an open day of training and information for women working in groups and on public events - watch out for publicity on that during June or contact Wendy Young at the Equal Opportunities Unit.

Meanwhile all women will be welcomed (and not overworked) at the next meeting NE Tuesday 21 May 7.30 pm International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd, Nottingham. Come along, your ideas and interests will help to shape the festival's achievements.

N.B Unfortunately the publication date will be too late for this meeting. Contact the Women's Festival Committee c/o Women's Centre, 32a, Shakespeare St, if you would like to get involved or know more.





Women for Peace

Why Women Only

1 Most women find it easier to be open and honest about their feelings and beliefs within a women's group which also encourages the development and sharing of knowledge. In mixed groups, men very often take over, which prevents women gaining confidence and new skills. Also, we work as a women only group because in a mixed group some women are influenced by what men expect of them and feel they need men's approval of their behaviour. Therefore, this can restrict their openness. As there are no men in our group, outsiders cannot assume that they are our leaders or our experts!

2 We feel that because of traditional patterns of upbringing, men are more likely to respond aggressively when confronted with authority, eg the Police or the Army. This is partly because they feel that they have to protect women in a mixed group and perhaps because they need to prove their power and strength. We are committed to non-violence and feel this is more easily achieved in an all women group. We are creating new and imaginative ways of protesting peacefully about the issues which concern our very existence on this planet. We have kept the issues alive and in the news internationally over a long period of time.

3 "In the past men have left home to go to war. Now women are leaving home for peace."



Beginnings

It began when a group called Women Opposed to Nuclear Technology (WONT) held a large public meeting during February 1983 at the Midland Group for all women interested in the issue of disarmament. A video about nuclear war produced by Dr Helen Caldicott was shown to a group of 80 women. We broke up into small groups to discuss our reactions and to decide upon the need for a permanent group in Nottingham. From this about thirty women decided to meet weekly. New women continue to join the group. Some of us attend weekly, others occasionally and many support us in actions and by various other means. Greenham has been and is a continual source of inspiration to us all.

Aims

Our main aim is to gather increasing support from other women in order to strengthen the peace movement and to influence public opinion.

Meetings

Each week two women offer to facilitate the meeting. This does not involve being a chairperson or a leader in the traditional sense, but rather to provide a loose framework, within which women can discuss ideas and actions. We meet as a large group at the beginning and end of the evening, but most of the work takes place within small groups, which make it easier for women to join in and have a say if they wish.

Examples of small group topics are:-

- Planning actions, eg in Nottingham, at Greenham and eventually globally!
- Publicity and media workshops.
- Self-education on related issues such as the Russian issue, Cruise, fears about nuclear war, answering questions from the public etc.
- Non-violence as a means of protest and as a way of life.
- Feminism and the peace movement.
- Street theatre and many others.

We also feel that it is important within the group to spend some time getting to know one another.

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ODDS AND ENDS

FEMINIST BOOK FORTNIGHT

June 5th - The Raving Beauties
8pm. Congregational Centre, Castlegate. Informal reading and discussion of their new book "No Holds Barred"

June 12th - Anne Dickson will talk on ASSERTIVENESS
2.00pm-4.00pm at the Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare St.

June 14th /3 authors- Anna Livia, Joan Riley & Aileen La Tourette, at 7.30pm. Adult Education Centre

For information on the above Tel. Mushroom Book Events Group on 582506

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WOMEN WRITING

Everywoman has a life to write about. If you are interested in writing creatively & feel you would benefit from the mutual support of other women like yourself, I would like to hear from you, with a view to starting a WOMEN WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP. Please call Michelle Hannon on 268 789

Lesbian Line

URGENT! We need more volunteers to help run the line on Mondays and Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm. (There are only three of us at present)
If you are interested, phone Lesbian Line at the above times, tel. no. 410652

NOTTS WOMENS TRAINING SCHEME

The new Nottinghamshire Women's Training Scheme was officially opened on April 29th by Glenys Kinnock. The scheme is for women aged 25+ who do not have qualifications, and would like to train in mechanical or electrical engineering, the building trades, or as a bus or lorry driver. Trainees get free child care and assistance with travel, as well as a small subsistence allowance. The premises are in the Old Shire Hall at High Pavement. 26 women will start the first course on May 13th, and the next one is in October.

If you want to know more, ring 586236.

WOMENS CENTRE /AGAIN?

The Department of the Environment has now given the go ahead for Inner Area Programme to grant money for the new Women's Centre- £50000 for building work and £26,000 for running costs. The proposed premises are part of the old Blind Institute in Chaucer Street. Contact Women's Aid via the Women's Centre for further information.