

ONE WORLD CONCERN



Things to pray about

Pray for deliverance of the countries of Central America from the scourge of warfare; pray that the Arias peace plan may be successful.

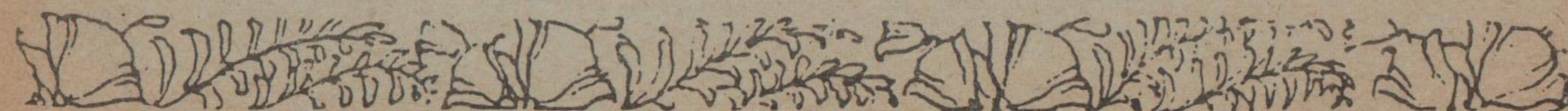
Pray for an end to the MNR raids in Mozambique. This country now has the highest infant mortality rate in the world largely as a result of MNR hostilities and the consequent disruption.

Give thanks for the present nuclear arms accord between the USA and USSR and ask that the superpowers may actively promote the cause of peace in the world.

Pray for success for Oxfam's drive to end the isolation of Kampuchea and that UN aid may be made available to this troubled country as from this year.

Pray for refugees the unwanted, the homeless whose lives are lived out in fear and desperation because no country will open its doors and offer them a permanent home. (Remember the child Jesus and His parents were refugees when they fled into Egypt.)

Pray for a change of heart in the rulers of South Africa, that the mounting pressure of terror and counter-terror may be halted, and a genuine effort be made to lighten the sufferings of the poor.



Please
Take One

FREE!

One for Justice & Peace




ONE WORLD CONCERNS in TELFORD

AUTUMN 1988


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The world holds enough for everyone's

 **NEED**

but not for everyone's

 **GREED**

Mahatma Gandhi

WHOSE RIGHTS?

It is generally assumed that we all have rights, and lately this has been extended to animals as well as homo sapiens. But why stop there? If humans, cows, sheep and pigs have rights, why don't turnips, wheat and cabbages?

Anyway, what are they? Usually, no attempt at definition is made, but it is felt that factory farming, vivisection, etc., are wrong. To stop these, therefore, must be right. If it is right, then this right must belong to the animals ... usually animals, I notice, of the warm, cuddly, mammalian variety. As yet, there has been no mention of Aphid Rights, Death-watch Beetle Rights or Oyster Rights. And surely plants have rights, too?

Or do they? Where do they come from, these rights? Do they really exist?

Well, no, they don't. Nothing and nobody has any rights, so far as I can see, but what we DO have (as humans, at any rate) are responsibilities, although, as we well know, these may be accepted or ignored.

We have responsibilities to our neighbours and to those weaker than ourselves, to the animals in our care, to the world in general. But notice it is OUR responsibility, not THEIR right.

But the concept of rights is dangerous, too, as well as wrong.

If you stand up for someone/something's rights, you see, that makes YOU right as well. Even more right in fact, since you are campaigning not for yourself but for those weaker who have no voice, no power.

Very laudable.

However, it may lead you into some ridiculous and stupid situations as when some Animal Rights campaigners recently broke into a mink farm (a criminal action, but that's OK when you're RIGHT) and released the inhabitants onto what remains of the hapless wildlife of these islands. Mink have a right to be free, you see.

Now a few facts. Mink do not belong here, they belong in North America and are Mustelines, a group of animals containing members noted for their savage hunting instincts. But mink are much larger and more vicious than our native species. They threaten their survival by wiping out their prey, to say nothing of the animals

that go to form that prey. So what became of the rights of stoats, weasels, badgers, foxes, otters, rabbits, hares, owls, ducks, etc? Presumably they have a perfect right to be eaten, or starve to death through lack of prey.

Fortunately, the killing will not go on for ever. Climatic conditions here are not the same as in North America, and anyway, the mink have been cossetted all their lives, well fed and disease-free.

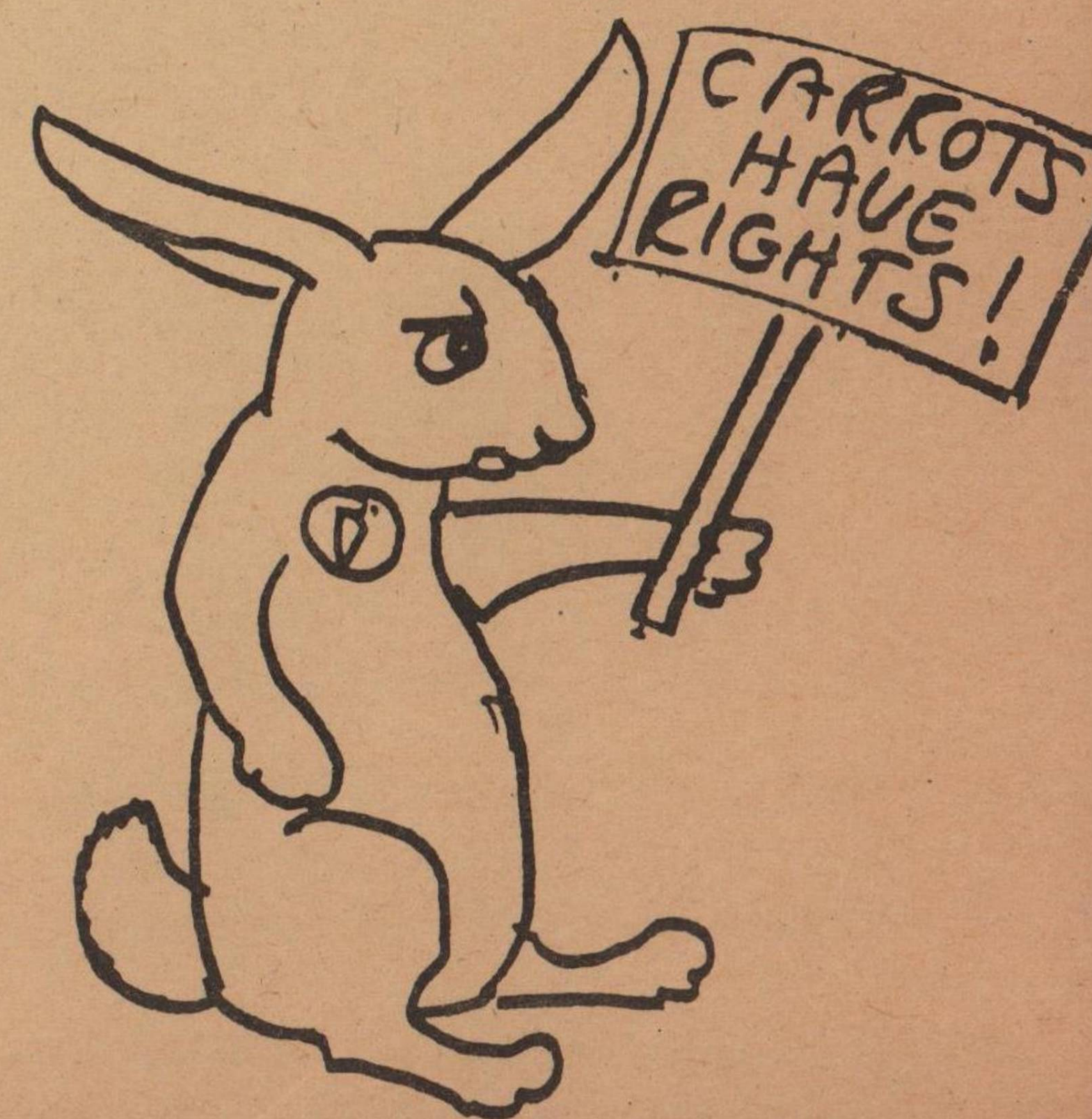
In the wild, having done untold damage to the fauna around them, they usually gradually succumb to disease, which is just as well, since they have no natural predators. If once they do survive and breed, however, the consequences for our wildlife could be disastrous.

Considering the matter from the point of view of rights may lead us to do stupid, even dangerous, things, but if we regard the matter from the point of view of responsibilities, it becomes clearer. Those Animal Rights campaigners had a responsibility to inform themselves of the facts, which they might have done had they not been so convinced of the rightness of their action.

Now that was an actual example, and in human terms perhaps not an important one, though that depends on how important you think the natural world to be.

So, let's transfer it to the human plane.

A man is in prison, a political prisoner, and Human Rights campaigners decide to free him by breaking into the gaol. They succeed, but in doing so kill several people. Did they have no rights? They were, after all, human. Perhaps too, some of them were innocent bystanders. Was it their right to be killed?

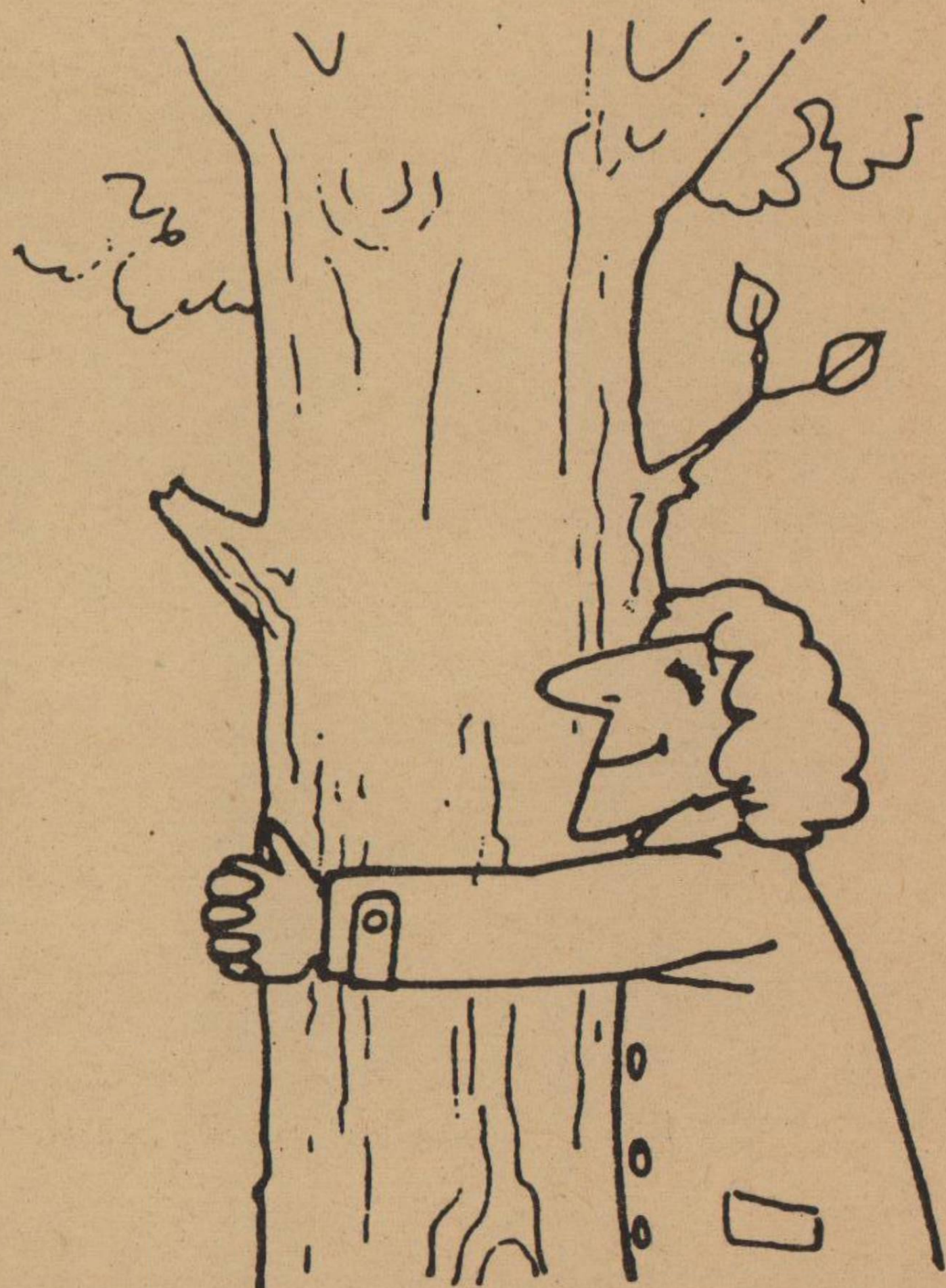


FOREST ALERT



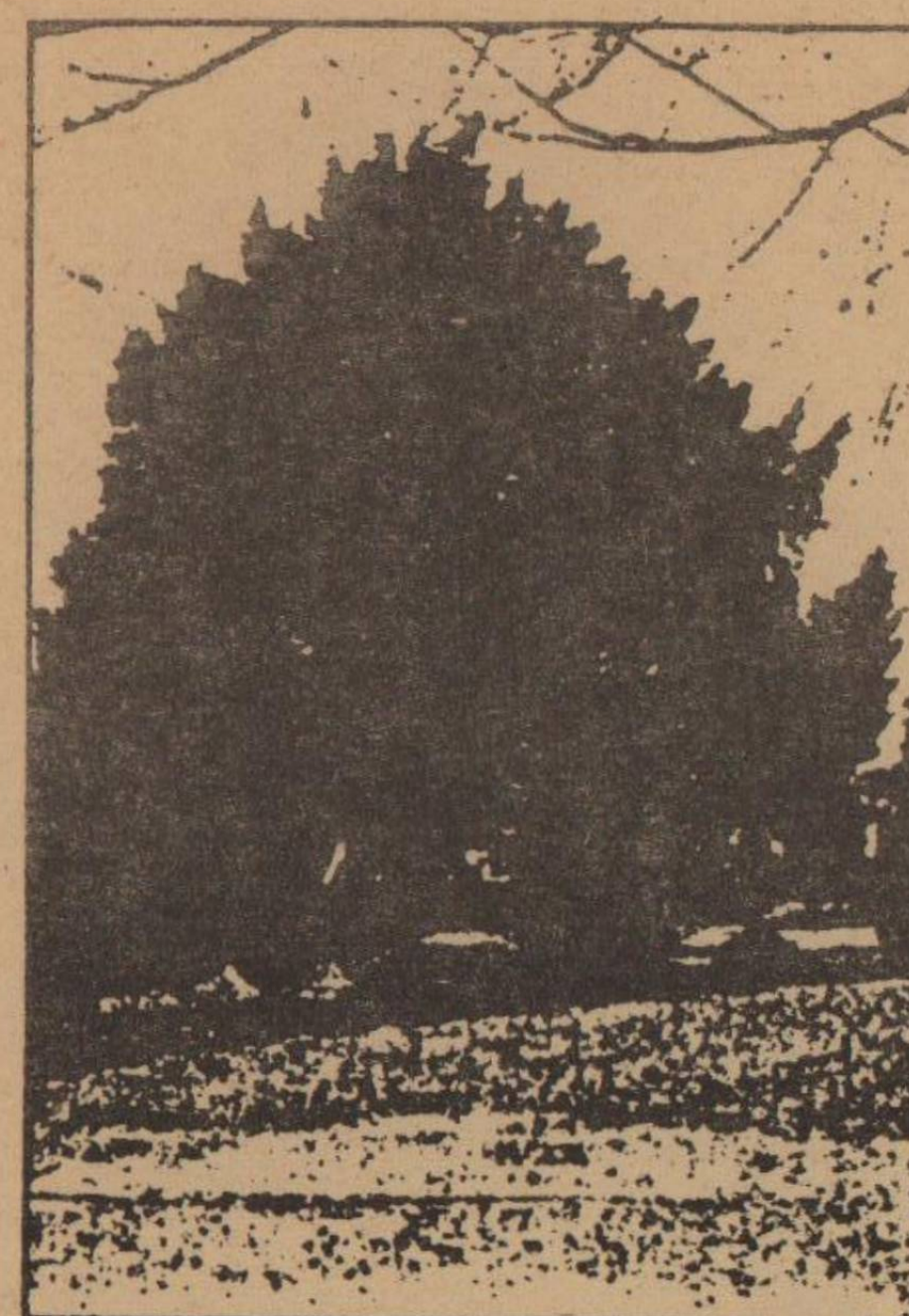
On Sunday 19th June Friends of the Earth local groups held over 140 guided walks all over Britain to promote an awareness of trees, looking at their present health and discussing possible future problems in the light of forest damage in Europe due to acid rain.

Trees provide protection for soils, habitats for many different flora and fauna, a green lung for the atmosphere and great beauty for us all. They must be preserved, so start looking at and monitoring the health of our trees! The tree species that were examined by Forest Alert were Beech, Norway Spruce, Scots Pine, Oak, Ash and Yew, because it is thought that these species will be the first to suffer stress from air pollution.



Beech because it is at the northernmost natural limit of its distribution in England and prefers chalky soils. The conifers because they retain their needles and therefore its thought the pollution too. Oak and Ash because of dieback in considerable numbers has been noted by the Forestry Commission. (FC Forest Health Survey 1987)

The things to look for when assessing the health of a tree are yellowing of needles and loss of needles in conifers (they should hold their needles for 6-8 yrs on N.Spruce & 2-4 yrs on S.Pine) You should not be able to see light through a healthy Yew tree.



A HEALTHY YEW, PHOTOGRAPHED IN HERTFORDSHIRE IN LATE APRIL, 1988.



SAME COUNTY, SAME DAY. BUT THIS YEW IS 30% DEFOLIATED. WHAT'S CAUSING THE DAMAGE? ACID RAIN?



70% DEFOLIATION! SIX OUT OF TEN OF BRITAIN'S YEW'S ARE ALREADY DAMAGED.

How healthy are the Yews in your church yard?

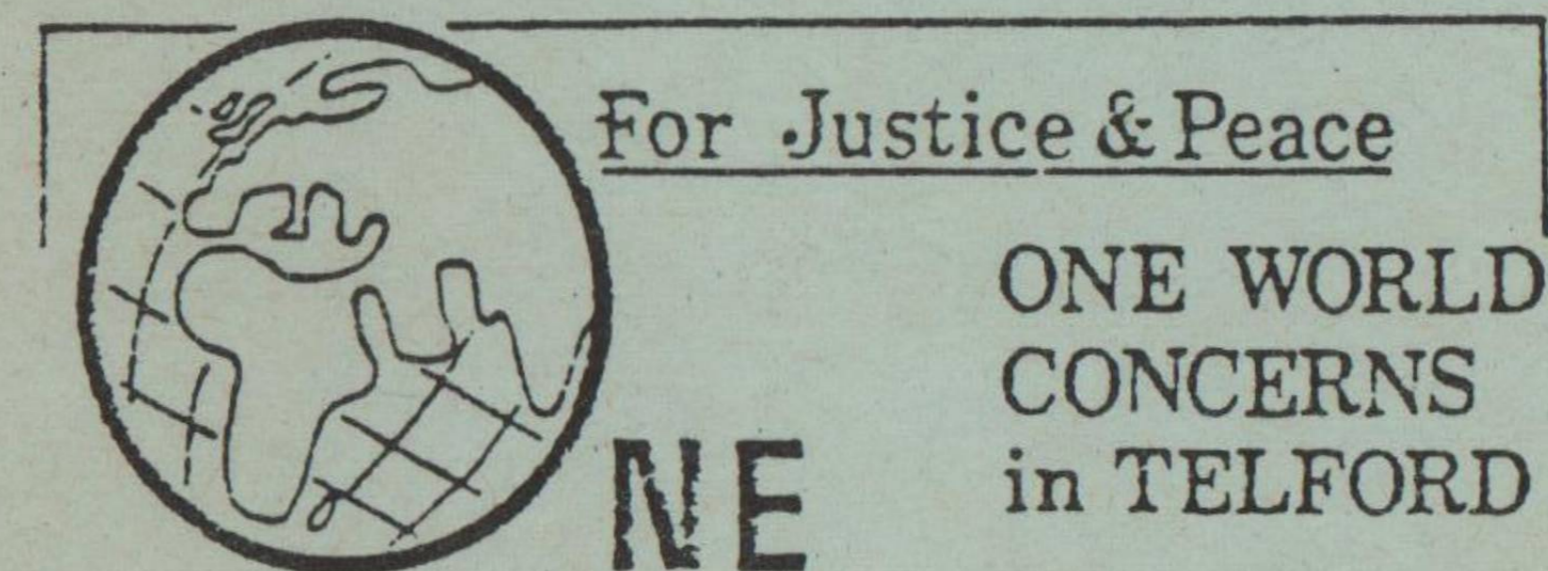
Oak, Ash and Beech look for thinning of canopy, and dead branches. Beeches suffering stress also alter their branching pattern, increasing the ratio of short shoots to long shoots, and produce long whip like extensions which break up the outline of the crown.

Other signs of acid rain damage have also been observed. Streams rivers and lakes in Wales and Scotland have become acidified, acid sensitive flora and fauna across Britain are in decline, and there is increasing erosion of our architectural heritage.

Acid Rain is caused by sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions from power stations as well as emissions from car exhausts. The EEC is attempting to limit both power station and vehicle emissions, but the reductions agreed in June by the British government are less than those other EEC countries will be making. And some scientists believe they may be too little too late to prevent further damage to our trees lakes and rivers.

A detailed 12 page "Tree Health Guide" produced by Friends of the Earth is available from Hilary Betts. Wilderness, Little Wenlock. (£1 inc. post)

- Sun. 18th Sept. Ark Day sponsored walk for Friends of the Earth in London. For details contact Robert Saunders Tel 53705.
- Sat. 1st Oct. Survival Saturday. The Square, Shrewsbury. Contact Xanthe Malekin Tel Shrewsbury 52575.
- Sat. 15th Oct. Make Your Mark For Peace. CND action at U.S.A.F. base Upper Heyford. Information from Mark Stokes; Tel 501263.
- Sun. 16th Oct. World Food Day (Day of Action against Mc Donalds)
- Thu. 20th Oct. CRY FREEDOM. Richard Attenboroughs film of Steve Biko who died at the hands of the South African police. Madeley Court Theatre.
7.30pm.
- Sun. 23rd Oct. One World Service on the theme (Making Peace with the Planet) Multi-faith celebration of creation through song, dance & drama. Meeting Point Trust, Telford Town Centre.
8.00pm.
- Fri. 28th Oct - Poster exhibition. The Mall, Telford
30th Oct Town Centre.
- Sat. 29th Oct. One World Fair. Belmont Hall, Wellington. Stalls from various local groups and charities. An opportunity to buy Christmas gifts
9.30am - 3.00pm.
- Fri. 28th Oct - Christian Ecology Group Annual
30th Conference. Details from Ken Wilkinson, 2, Curborough Rd, Lichfield, Staffs. WS1 7NG.
- Fri. 4th Nov - Oxfam Fast.
6th
- Sat. 5th Nov. Schumacher Lectures. Inner Ecology Outer Ecology. International speakers. Bristol Cathedral. Contact Mark Stokes Tel 501263.



ONE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE is produced by the Telford One World Group c/o 23 Saxon Court, Leegomery, Telford.

The views and opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the One World Group, or the editorial committee.

Articles, responses to articles, news of events, letters, etc., are always very welcome, and will be printed wherever possible, though the editors reserve the right to shorten them, or to make minor alterations where appropriate.

This newsletter is both published and delivered free. Any contributions towards the production costs will be most welcome, however small. (Make cheques and P.O.s payable to: One For Justice And Peace.

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