

DENNIS GOULD

Alphabets

...from anarchy to zymotic....

101 poems

This pamphlet is dedicated to pamphleteers: streethawkers: blues singers: song-writers: rock 'n' roll dancers: jellyrollers: footballers: chessplayers: subversive booksellers: anarchist printers: pacifist soldiers: jazzpoets and streetpoets: and especially to my daughters.

OR  
STREETSONG  
for ANARCHIST  
POETS



## DESOLATION ROW BLUES 1984

**STREETSONG FOR ANARCHIST POETS** celebrates some twenty years of pamphleteering. Publishing, editing, designing magazines; posterpoems, and pamphlets — including Henry Thoreau's **LIFE WITHOUT PRINCIPLE** and Alex Comfort's **WHAT ROUGH BEAST** and Kenneth Patchen's **LOVE & WAR POEMS**. Also in 1964 I put on my first poets' and jazz musicians' event — Whisper & Shout — at the White Horse, South End Green. Just as the very first pamphlet, **NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE** by Nicolas Walter, was published out of belief without money or previous knowledge; so the first poets' event was organised out of a desire to read and perform poems, and give an opportunity to other poets. The costs in both cases were largely covered — after the events. In other words anyone with sufficient interest could do it. The White Horse was crowded because of posters and local newspaper adverts, and because it sounded interesting.

Pamphlets continue to be important because they are relatively cheap compared to books, but more important because they reach out onto the street beyond the booksellers windows, and most important of all, because they contain ideas which may well be popular and radical but which few publishers will touch. From the English Civil War period when the Levellers, Ranters and Diggers issued pamphlets because their beliefs were of such strength they could do no other; to Thoreau and Tolstoy — whose pamphlets: **ON THE DUTY OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE** and **WHAT THEN MUST WE DO?** could be considered to be two of the most influential pamphlets, since the former inspired both Tolstoy and Ghandi; whilst the latter has probably inspired countless unknown individuals. William Morris and Peter Kropotkin have numerous pamphlets to their names; George Orwell and Alex Comfort several neglected but important contributions; and as can be seen in Housemans Bookshop and Freedom Press Bookshop, both **PEACE NEWS** and **FREEDOM** keep up the tradition. **FROM PROTEST TO RESISTANCE** (1981) I was involved with helping Chris Jones and Rose Bradshaw put together a 'collage' of photographs, articles, with actual leaflets and posters reproduced — as an important aid to understanding the ideas and actions of that time. The time of the Committee of 100 and Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War. Unfortunately space was too limited to allow more than a third of my Chronology of the Times — 1960s. This meant the names of those who were involved in the early actions got left out — a loss to everyone since individuals like Peter C Brown, author of **SMALLCREEPS DAY** (Picador), a unique and brilliant novel and today one of the British Isles finest potter's; were instrumental in creating ripples which ultimately involved countless small groups in towns and villages across the country. (**FROM PROTEST TO RESISTANCE** is PN/Mushroom Bookshop pamphlet no 2)

To my shame a projected pamphlet on the Burghfield Blockade: Easter 1983 — which I saw as a useful handbook for future nonviolent actions — never got past the printing stage. This illustrates the necessity for following a project through closely to the very end of the print run — since this pamphlet had been written by various people involved at Burghfield — the place left off the new ordnance survey map! The area now shows nothing but two tiny streams! However, anyone getting hold of the earlier edition will find it fully penned in — showing what a huge factory it is — as the twin establishment to Aldermaston AWRE nearby.

Of recent pamphlets, **THE GREENHAM FACTOR** (magazine size) and **IT'LL MAKE A MAN OF YOU** — Penny Strange (PN pamphlet no 4) are anti-militarist and feminist 'bestsellers' whilst **BREACHING THE PEACE** is an Only Women Press

pamphlet, critical of the obsession with barbed-wire-fenced Common Land! But nevertheless a popular pamphlet because it asks some very important questions. Poison Girls and Crass are two anarchist bands who issue pamphlets. Meanwhile in the world of poets, Christopher Logue's posterpoems and Adrian Mitchell's paperbacks have sold consistently because the poets have regularly given public readings and performances. Dinah Livingstone has given birth to some fine pamphlets (**Katabasis**, 10 Camden Close, NW1) since her poems erupted some sixteen years ago. Pat Van Twest has issued forth magazines, postcards, but why not a pamphlet, Eh? Jeff Cloves I first met through his lovely Football Special edition of **POETS-DOOS**. (Three of us met up in **RIFF RAFF POETS** performances!) His **BIG BANG** magazine can be had for 30p from 67 Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans. Pat Van Twest can be booked from 69 Lower Redland Road, Bristol 6.

Meanwhile if you have the confidence and courage to go ahead yourself, good luck. Remember you can always duplicate the first little pamphlet. You can always silkscreen your first posterpoem. You can always write out by hand — whoops! — your first postcardpoems. But also remember that poets like Walt Whitman and William Blake and Percy Bysshe Shelley have been pamphleteers — have controlled their own publishing and printing and content. As poets and pamphleteers always have!

Dennis Gould

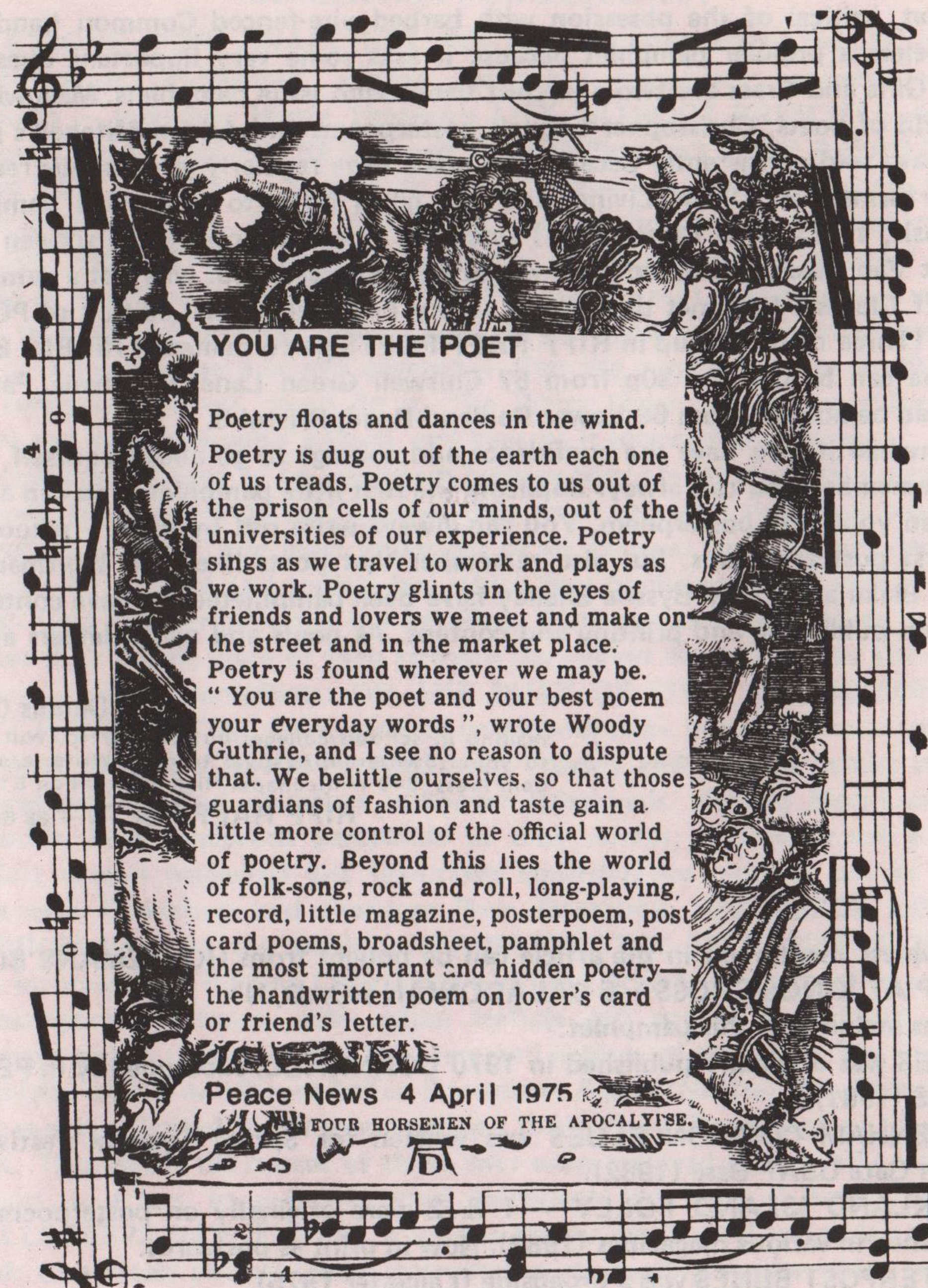
reading in schools/colleges/pubs/clubs/etc. Will travel to your town/group/festival to read. Write: c/o Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1.

**RIFF RAFF POETS** — as above.

## NOTES

1. Pamphlets mentioned in the article can be bought from **HOUSEMANS BOOKSHOP AT KINGS CROSS — 5 CALADONIAN ROAD, N1**.
2. Poems included in this pamphlet:-  
**BLUES** was originally published in 1970 **CORNWALL**; subsequently in **PEACE NEWS** (1981).  
**GREENHAM COMMON BLUES** was written for Spring Equinox Festival at Green Gate USAF Base (1982).  
**FALKLAND ISLAND FOLLY** — 1 & 2 were originally on posterpoem and published in various magazines (1982). Now in print as postcards.  
**LETTERPOST BLUES** was a broadside (Leicester 1975).  
**BURGHFIELD PEACE CAMP** was published with map (OS) which does show Royal Ordnance Factory! as a poster for setting-up of peace camp.  
**HENRY MILLER 1890-1982** was written as a tribute when I read of his death whilst in Durham.  
**MINGUS** was a celebration of the Underdog — more accurately a brilliant jazzman!  
**WORTHY FARM NAVAHO-BACK-ADJUSTMENT BLUES** was a song written for 1982 Green Gathering and printed in daily newspaper on site. (Illustration is three West African Juju men. 1812).  
**POETS MANIFESTO**, **SITTING ON THE FENCE** and **BOLTCUTTER BLUES** were written after taking the photos and supporting the womens' action of October 29th 1983. **PERFORMANCE** published two on letters page.  
**BLUES FOR FOR REDRUTH DAYS** was written in Redruth 1972.

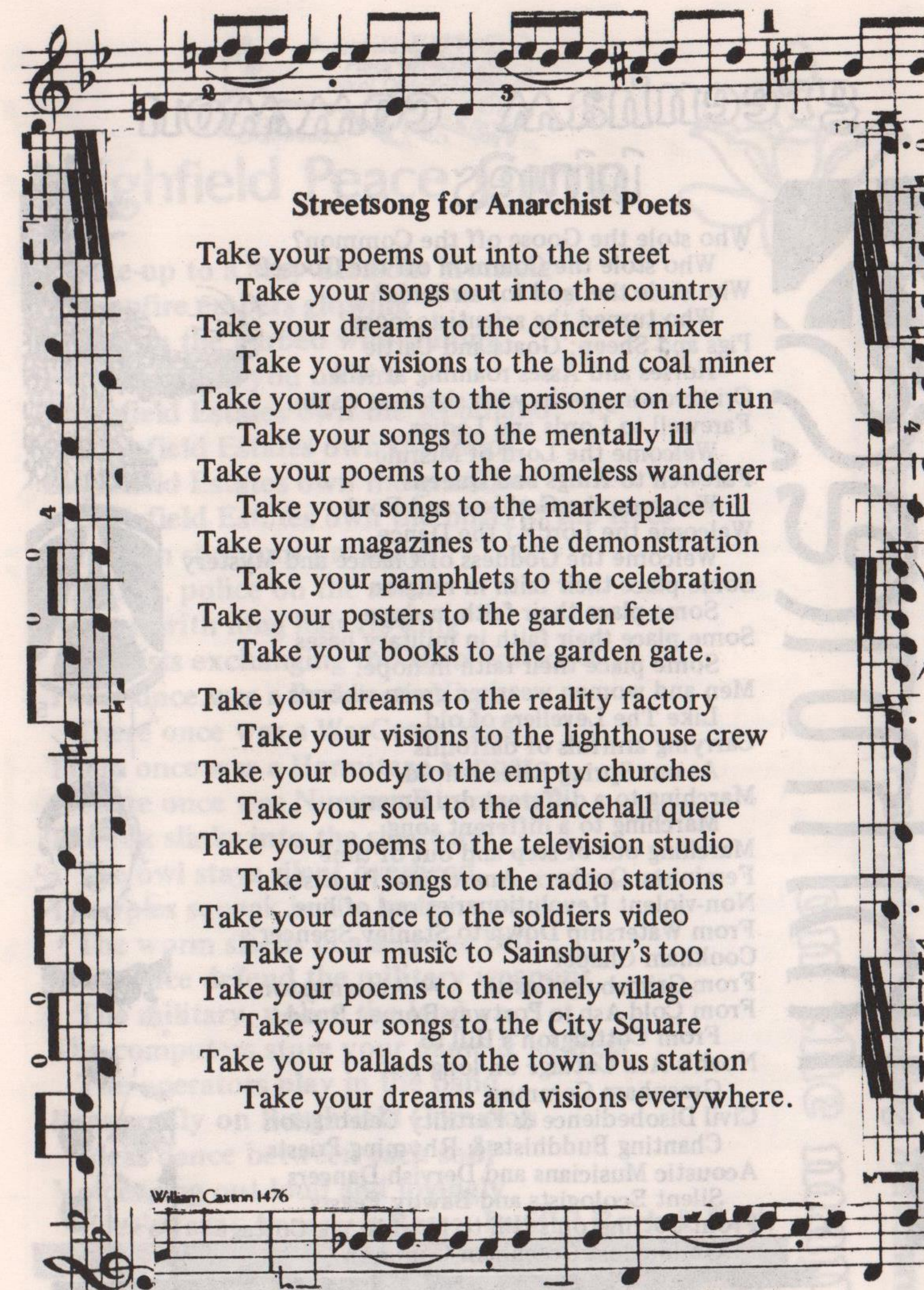




**YOU ARE THE POET**

Poetry floats and dances in the wind.  
Poetry is dug out of the earth each one of us treads. Poetry comes to us out of the prison cells of our minds, out of the universities of our experience. Poetry sings as we travel to work and plays as we work. Poetry glints in the eyes of friends and lovers we meet and make on the street and in the market place. Poetry is found wherever we may be. "You are the poet and your best poem your everyday words", wrote Woody Guthrie, and I see no reason to dispute that. We belittle ourselves, so that those guardians of fashion and taste gain a little more control of the official world of poetry. Beyond this lies the world of folk-song, rock and roll, long-playing, record, little magazine, posterpoem, post card poems, broadsheet, pamphlet and the most important and hidden poetry—the handwritten poem on lover's card or friend's letter.

Peace News 4 April 1975  
FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE.



**Streetsong for Anarchist Poets**

Take your poems out into the street  
Take your songs out into the country  
Take your dreams to the concrete mixer  
Take your visions to the blind coal miner  
Take your poems to the prisoner on the run  
Take your songs to the mentally ill  
Take your poems to the homeless wanderer  
Take your songs to the marketplace till  
Take your magazines to the demonstration  
Take your pamphlets to the celebration  
Take your posters to the garden fete  
Take your books to the garden gate.  
Take your dreams to the reality factory  
Take your visions to the lighthouse crew  
Take your body to the empty churches  
Take your soul to the dancehall queue  
Take your poems to the television studio  
Take your songs to the radio stations  
Take your dance to the soldiers video  
Take your music to Sainsbury's too  
Take your poems to the lonely village  
Take your songs to the City Square  
Take your ballads to the town bus station  
Take your dreams and visions everywhere.

William Carron 1476



本報



Burghfield Peace Camp R.O.F. Burghfield Reading Berkshire  
on the map

**April 30th 1982**



## HENRY MILLER 1892-1980

For "Stand Still Like The Humming Bird" and other books

Life spanning childhood before twentieth century began  
 leaves floating downstream river Wear  
 Petals drifting earthwards in Durham Cathedral Square  
 SanctuaryKnocker' tied & gagged on Cathedral door  
 Her Majesty's Prison just down the road  
 Medieval Maximum Security: Catholic theological ideologies  
 Medieval Maximum Security  
 College seminaries for insecure dreams  
 Industrial enterprises for money making schemes:  
 Inspirational Architecture and neighbourhood personality  
 Feminine attitude open intuitively  
 A thousand years official history contradicted by  
 unknown myths  
 of labourers and miners instinctive ability to survive:  
 Of childlabourers and Women Miners  
 instinctive ability to survive . . . all our lives suspended  
 by earthly threads: torn by fallout  
 2.4.5.T (Dioxin): Plutonium and individual fragility  
 He 'Always Merry & Bright' Henry Miller  
 Street Jestor of philosophy poured out his story  
 Fables of childhood: streets of city devils  
 Fulsome accounts of sexual strife & sensual delights  
 CopperPlate etchings of city landscape  
 "Colossus of Maroussi" created in words on paper  
 From a lover of a pretty and dirty world  
 This world in all its shame and glory: its wealth  
 and poverty: its love and hatred:  
 This world with its human heart of tears  
 its human heart of joys:  
 With its 'Red Alert' and 'Agent Orange': its Blind Militias:  
 This world with its lovers meetings: friendships blossoming..  
 Children kissing children kissing . . .

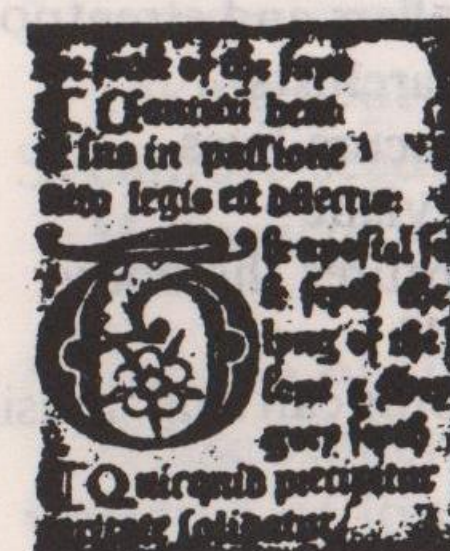
## LETTERPOST BLUES

if this reaches you as it leaves me  
 you'll know well how I'm feeling  
 a little bit sad a little bit blue  
 mind and body often reeling

from hidden blows  
 and lovers traumas  
 from housing needs  
 and money breeding violence

if this reaches you as it leaves me  
 you'll know well how I'm feeling  
 a little bit mad a little bit crazy  
 mind and body screaming

from lovers wounds  
 and brothers words  
 and sisters absurd dreaming  
 if this reaches you. . . .



William Caxton 1476



William Caxton 1476



William Caxton 1476

For Janet, Roshna, Sasha and Kate.



La Coronilla  
Rocha  
Unita del Este  
video

# falkland

NON MERCI

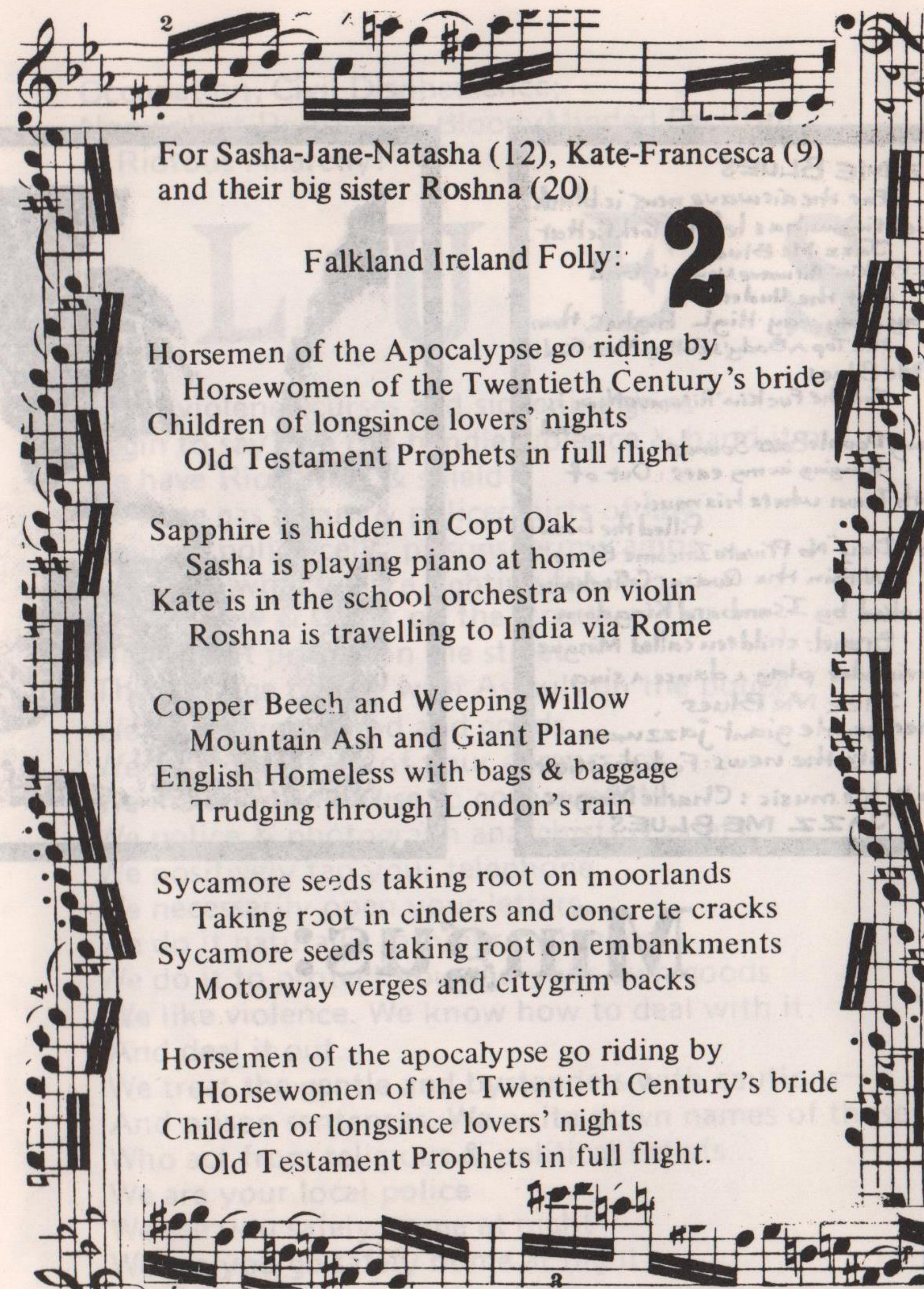
ANNI NIWCLAR  
DIM DIOLCH

Falkland Ireland Folly: For Kenneth Rexroth 1900-82

1

Sitting in the cafe reading of your death  
is surreal: with World Cup Soccer on colour TV.  
soldiers everywhere curtailing freedom  
politicians everywhere castrating language  
threats of distant fall-out  
whilst police, day by day, maim the spirit of liberty  
whilst soldiers' military presence maims the spirit of peace.  
Communist state and democratic state build up their arms  
computerize their police-records terrorize their own people  
few, very few, care about freedom and peace  
they are to be seen carrying black & red flags  
they are to be seen carrying green & white flags  
they are visible in prisons and mental hospitals  
they are to be seen among unemployed & unemployable  
they are to be seen in CND & WRI...RAP & MIND  
they are to be seen among Quakers & Feminists  
they are to be seen in among radical booksellers and streetpoets  
they are to be seen among Pacifists & Anarchists  
they are to be seen in many individualist obscure lives  
they are to be seen in citystreet & countrylane  
they are to be seen wherever the spirit recaptures the body  
wherever the person has discovered herself  
Pawns become Queens: the football rolls: words can sing: music dance!

# irelandfolly



For Sasha-Jane-Natasha (12), Kate-Francesca (9)  
and their big sister Roshna (20)

Falkland Ireland Folly: **2**

Horsemen of the Apocalypse go riding by  
Horsewomen of the Twentieth Century's bride  
Children of longsince lovers' nights  
Old Testament Prophets in full flight

Sapphire is hidden in Copt Oak  
Sasha is playing piano at home  
Kate is in the school orchestra on violin  
Roshna is travelling to India via Rome

Copper Beech and Weeping Willow  
Mountain Ash and Giant Plane  
English Homeless with bags & baggage  
Trudging through London's rain

Sycamore seeds taking root on moorlands  
Taking root in cinders and concrete cracks  
Sycamore seeds taking root on embankments  
Motorway verges and citygrim backs

Horsemen of the apocalypse go riding by  
Horsewomen of the Twentieth Century's bride  
Children of longsince lovers' nights  
Old Testament Prophets in full flight.



## JAZZ ME BLUES

For the airwave news is black  
Charlie Mingus has left his Pork Pie Hat  
Jazz Me Blues  
For the Fuckin' Airwave News is bad  
Not the Underdog  
But way, way, way High Higher than  
The Top a Body's Bottom Most Gods  
Jazz Me Blues  
For the Fuckin' Airwave News is  
bad  
Amazing Double Bass Sounds  
Ringing in my ears: Out of  
Redroth Town where his music  
filled the room  
Day by Day "No Private Income Blues"  
Within the Quasar Coffeehouse  
Overlooked by Isambard Kingdom  
Brunel: children called Mingus  
And Coriander play a dance a sing  
Jazz Me Blues  
Another gentle giant jazzman  
Hits the news: Fuck their views  
Listen to his music: Charlie Mingus  
JAZZ ME BLUES .....



# Mingus:

Occupation, Civil Disobedience;  
Nonviolent Resistance, Bloody Minded Pacifism  
& Riotous Anarchy!

# B L U E S

When violence curses and sickening grins  
Begin to say: We can handle violence & hand it out  
We have Riot-Stick & shield.  
We have gas & gun & police courts of law  
We have police-cells, prisons, army camps.  
We know what we are fighting for.  
We are Law & Order on the streets.  
We Assault people on the street  
Then charge people with Assault on the police.  
We police your good and goods  
We take good care of your democracy  
We make notes of use to governments  
We police & photograph anarchists & poets.  
We positively tap your telephone  
We necessarily open your letters  
We do it naturally for your own good  
We do it to protect you and your own goods  
We like violence. We know how to deal with it.  
And deal it out.  
We treat the gentle and bystanders with cautions—  
And prison sentences. We write down names of those  
Who act from religious & political beliefs...  
We are your local police  
We see you safely home at night  
We see you go safely home at night  
We threaten those on the street  
Who dare to question our morals & policies.  
We only use just sufficient force as necessary.  
We clear your streets. Day & Night We clear your streets

of You.

From the pages of Peace News & elm av. Nottingham





October 29th 1983, Greenham Common, Newbury, Berks.

RiffRaffPoets give performances/readings

Join Green CND:

RiffRaff Postcard Poems no 42 Boltcutter Blues

Freedom Bookshop, 84B Whitechapel, High St, London E1

### Boltcutter Blues

Instead of cutting clothes patterns  
the woman cuts military fences  
the helicopter-pilot observes her:  
inside the base soldiers stand idly by  
trapped within roll after roll of barbed wire  
whilst inside the silo area  
minders of missiles stand armed  
the fence comes down early  
thousands of women act together  
boltcutters used in unison successfully



Join Green CND: read Greenline &  
Freedom & RiffRaffPoets no 2.  
RiffRaff Postcard Poems no 43. **Sitting On the  
Fence Blues.** Dennis Gould will travel to your  
town to read poems. Also photographer &  
journalist. RiffRaffPoets give performances/

### Greenham Common

#### Sitting on the Fence Blues

It is a real form of political education  
We see our nuclear tomahawk missiles guarded by soldiers  
Who have seen service in the Falklands.  
Civilian Police hover in the background  
Ministry of Defence Police drink tea in their guardposts  
Paras play football just inside the wire.  
A barrage balloon drops trainee parachutists.  
U.S.A.F. military police chase round the base-perimeter  
In their wasteful cars and trucks.  
Nonviolent Resistance Grows!



RiffRaffPoets no 44 Poet's Manifesto  
 Dennis Gould will travel to your town to read  
 poems. Also photographer & journalist

Take back your roads and footpaths  
 Take back your roots and birthplace  
 Take back your time  
 Take back your space

**POET'S MANIFESTO**  
 For Noah's Ark Cottage on Greenham Common

Take back the land for our descendants  
 Take back the earth for our poor souls  
 Take back the Commons for our ancestors  
 Take back the soil for our wholeselves  
 Take back the empty property  
 Take back the empty officeblocks  
 Take back the empty factory floors  
 Take back the empty homes & shops  
 Take back the military training-grounds  
 Take back the army camps and barracks  
 Take back the airfields and shipyards  
 Take back the food & ordnance depots

RiffRaffPoets give performances/readings.  
 Dennis Gould For Janet, Roshna, Sasha and Kate.

Worthy Farm Navaho Back Adjustment Blues  
 — for Socrates & Falcao of Brazil  
 World Cup Squad: 1982

We wake-up in the morning with no shirt: no shoes: no socks:  
 Our bedroom's a tent with many varied shocks  
 Our friends are busy clowning with Planet Waves Band  
 We are busy lighting campfires on Michael Eavis land.  
 Peace Convoy Buses and Teepee SweatLodge Stones  
 Freedom Press Bookshop & Gobbledygook Theatre roams  
 Stained Stoats Cafe with Somerset cider freaks  
 Stoned stone-mason and Di the DaDaist!  
 Green CND: ecologists of peace: BlackFlag of anarchists & RiffRaff Poet feats  
 British Events StreetTheatre and Burghfield Peace Camp Squad  
 Alternative Technologists and Glastonbury Theatre of Gog.  
 St. Albans Big Bang magazine & Salisbury radiant Radiator  
 Cruising Dorset Coaster & Falkland Ireland Folly poster.  
 GreenLine Pilton special issue: Glastonbury Tor in distant vision.  
 Worthy Farm 20th Century Pyramid & Children's World the Future.



Ross'



Planet Waves are a magical acoustic Band. Featuring flute, guitar & violin & vocal harmonies, songs of love, peace, freedom and belief in man & woman & children. Book them via RiffRaffPoets

RiffRaffPoets

once more on the road. Invite us to your town or village. We will entertain. Be it for a fund-raising gig. Or for a party. Demonstration or wedding . . . in pub or college: school or prison: university or hospital: on the street or in the park.

Jeff Cloves edits Big Bang: Pat Van Twest performs feminist frolics: Dennis Gould issues postcardpoems & posterpoems—edits: Riff RaffPoets.

Write:

Jeff Cloves 67, Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans. Herts.

Pat Van Twest 69, Lower Redland Road, Bristol 6.

Dennis Gould c/o FREEDOM Press 84B Whitechapel High Street, London E1.

