



# Women's newsletter

WINTER 85/86



Greenham I

From our side our vision  
To distant horizons is  
Barred by impenetrable  
Patterns of overlaid  
Crisscross netting-the fences.  
It becomes a grey blur.

From their side their vision  
To distant horizons is  
Barred by impenetrable  
Patterns of dappled  
Dancing leaves - the trees.  
It becomes a green blur.

With such a view  
Why is it we  
Who hold to the  
Beauty of living,  
And not you?

*Anson Chippendale*

**WOMEN FOR PEACE. OPEN DISCUSSIONS,  
ALL WOMEN WELCOME.**  
JAN 7TH : NORTHERN IRELAND  
FEB 4TH : EMERGENCY POWERS BILL  
MARCH : ANTI-APARTHEID DISCUSSION

INSIDE: NEWS AND VIEWS  
BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN.  
FIND THE -ISM TO SUIT  
YOUR TASTE! ONLY 25p

## WOMANPOWER.

What makes us into "powerful" women? Can we overpower or overshadow other women when we feel confident in certain situations? What do we mean by "power"? As feminists, surely what we're trying to fight against are the aggressive forces of power and domination.

It was suggested in a Women for Peace meeting that we look critically at the dynamics of the group and discuss the ways in which power is used. As a non-hierarchical group, we aim to distribute the power to make decisions as fairly as possible. However, it is easy to overlook the problems which a woman coming to the group for the first time may face. It is important that we understand that she may be unfamiliar with our structure, where a different woman facilitates each week, instead of having the same chairwoman at each meeting. She will also be unaware of small cliques of friends which give added confidence to speak in the large group.

After a brainstorming session we came up with various situations in which we felt either more, or less confidence. Some situations were ambiguous in the way that one woman found a certain experience boosted confidence, whereas another woman in the same situation felt that it drained her confidence. Things like doing things we're

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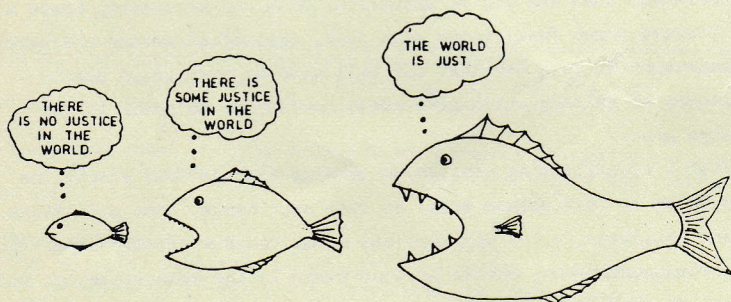
always being told we can't, learning new skills, being treated as capable human beings, having a secure childhood, being able to solve problems, doing so-called 'men's work' and making those in power look foolish were the kind of things that made women feel more confident. Loss of confidence came from experiences such as oppressive relationships, exclusion, isolation, illness, feeling aimless, being told we can't do something. It seemed that the ambiguous feelings came from the roles women found themselves in whilst experiencing; motherhood, prison, school, employment, college and so on.

As women and feminists we are trying to liberate ourselves from aggressive situations which stifle us and stop us from operating as free, creative human beings. There is a difference between the power which is used to manipulate other people and the power which comes from sharing feelings, experiences and skills.

Rather than a hierarchy, we are seeking a collective way of working together which values no skill more importantly than another.

In our everyday lives we may find ourselves having to confront authority and look within ourselves for the strength to stand our ground, and stick by our beliefs in confrontation without violence or aggression. It may not always be possible to contain our aggression, especially if we find ourselves being victimized.

When somebody comes to Women for Peace meetings it is hoped that she will not get feelings of alienation or isolation. We all feel oppressed in situations which are strange to us, and will continue to feel so until something makes us relax and trust the people we are with. We must continue to remind ourselves that it was like for us, the first time we went to a collective meeting. As women we have more to share than to argue about.

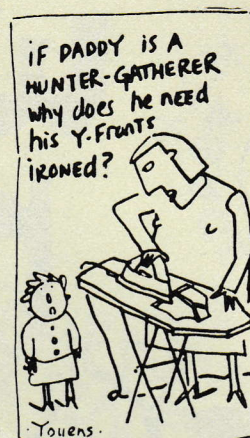


#### WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP

An opportunity to get together to discuss various issues and experiences that affect women's health and lives.

At All Saints Community Centre on Tuesdays  
1.30 - 3.30

Creche available.



## PHOENIX WEEKENDS AT GREENHAM

The concept of the Phoenix rising from the flames and the link with the renewal of energy, prompted some women to organise and spread the suggestion that the first weekend of every month would be a time for large numbers of women to come and camp at Greenham. Since then the idea of the Phoenix Weekend has really grown, and become a regular feature of many women's lives. It provides camp women with a much needed respite as they can count on there being sizable numbers of women around the base at least once a month. With winter once again looming and camp numbers low, this energy is very important and hopefully will encourage women to return more frequently, especially in the long, dark months ahead.

Nottingham Women for Peace have been participating in these weekends since the spring, organising mini buses, cars and a day coach during the summer. We hope to continue to do this and all women are very welcome to join us for a weekend. The weekends are a good opportunity for women visiting the camp for the first time because many others are in the same position and learning can be done together. It is necessary when we go to be self sufficient, so as well as tents and bedding we need to take food, wood and water, and hopefully an excess as camp women are constantly short of essentials. Though the whole point of the Phoenix action is simply to be there, women are free to do what they wish, including initiate actions, workshops, discussions or whatever options they choose.

The Phoenix is an ancient powerful symbol, Greenham is a modern one, however we must not forget that behind the symbol are real women getting harassed, tired and cold, they are not doing it for us, but are part of us and we of them. It is up to each woman who wishes to see Greenham continue to be a focus both for women; and for peace, to make herself physically and visibly present as often as she can, and not to leave the responsibility to others. Phoenix Weekends are a part of that, please contact us if you wish to be part of one.





## BE ACTIVE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE AND INDEPENDENT PACIFIC

### Dumping of nuclear waste in the Pacific

Two women of the Citizens Campaign against Nuclear Waste Dumping, from the US Commonwealth of the North Marianas Islands, South of Japan, came to Britain last month to attend the UN London Dumping Convention. They came to protest against a Japanese proposal to dump 5 - 10 thousand barrels of nuclear waste per year just 650 miles off the Marianas Islands.

Jacoba Seman and Maria Pengelinan were brought over by the NFIP women's network and invited by Friends of the Earth to join their observers delegation to the LDC, where over 30 countries debated whether to continue the current halt on dumping nuclear waste at sea. Their visit also highlighted the colonial repression by the USA on their lands, which means that the indigenous people are not heard and their land, food and culture are contaminated by nuclear testing and siting.

Even though it was decided to continue the halt of nuclear dumping at sea indefinitely until proven safe, the Marianas people are sceptical, Japan abstained and the USA voted against.

Women for Peace and the NFIP group locally were involved with:

- collecting 400 signatures for a petition protesting against the Japanese proposals for nuclear waste dumping.
- attending a national demonstration outside the LDC on it's opening day.
- doing a three day sponsored fast, from Hiroshima day to Nagasaki day, to raise money to help pay for Jacoba and Maria's visit to the LDC.

Jacoba and Maria expressed deep appreciation for the support that the British NFIP network was providing for the Pacific people. This must continue and increase!





## FORTHCOMING LESBIAN MEETINGS

All the meetings start at 7.30 pm and are held at the International Community Centre, 61b, Mansfield Rd, Nottingham.

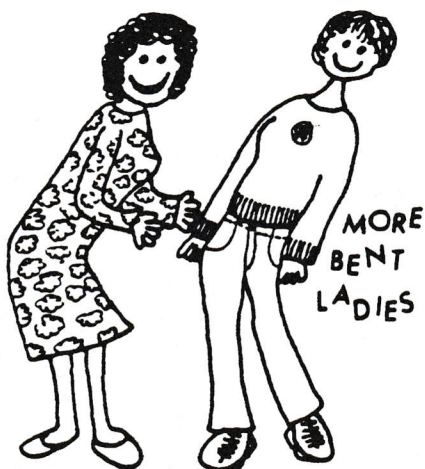
1. 14th November (Room 5) Housing for lesbians  
Have you had problems getting accomadation? Problems with neighbours? The lesbian reps on the sub-committee are preparing a report to submit to the Housing Department and would like to hear of your experience and view.
2. 19th December Xmas Drink  
Meet at the I.C.C first and then we will go on to a pub from there.
3. 16th January Nottingham Lesbian Centre  
A meeting for all lesbians interested in this project. Come along and find out what's in it. for you.
4. 23rd January The Social Scene  
A discussion on what's happening (or not) for lesbians.
5. 30th January Lesbians and Children  
Do you have children, would you like children, have you been through a custody case, how do you feel about being a lesbian and a mother, how do you feel about being a mother, how do you feel about not being a mother? Come along and share your feeling feelings and ideas.

Meetings are held every Thursday except when the sub-committee meets. Phone Jo Fraser on Nottingham 418571 for details of the topics of future meetings.



## LESBIAN AND GAY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Lesbian and Gay Sub-Committee meets at 7.30 pm in the Council House in the following dates. First Thursday of every month, next meetings; 5th December, 9th January, 6th February 1986. Lesbians meet by the left lion at 7.25 pm. Come along and see how the Council works. The last half hour of the meeting is opened out for public discussion. Free coffee and biscuits and a friendly atmosphere - tasteful decor and marble loos!



## Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Youth Movement

This group plans to hold a national winter festival over the weekend of 19th - 21st December in Nottingham. For further information contact Box 11, 118, Mansfield Rd, Nottingham.

## Nottingham Gay Peoples Centre Co-Operative Society

In order to raise money for this venture, regular fund-raising events will be held for lesbians and Gay men over the next few months, further details Box 11, 118, Mansfield Rd.



## OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Housing day

The Nottingham Housing Co-op is having an open meeting on Saturday 30th November, which is open to all lesbians who want to find out more about what a housing co-op is, how it is run by the tenants etc.

We particularly welcome the opportunity to discuss our 'Flats Expansion Project' and the possibility of buying small houses which is now in the pipeline. We are committed to taking into consideration the housing needs of lesbians with children, disabled lesbians and older lesbians.

For further information, Tel Trina - 506895 daytime





## ? EYESDROPPING!

Overheard at the bar, somewhere along the Mansfield Road, Tuesday at 10 pm.

"What's happening to Women for Peace these days? There weren't many women there again tonight."

"Oh, it's not that bad. Some of the regulars turn up most weeks and there are always new people coming and going. I think lots of women who've 'passed through' still feel they belong, even if they can't make it every Tuesday night. So and so has gone to Greenham, ~~thing~~ has an Evening Class, whatsername's had triplets you know how it is."

"I do know. Any excuse to avoid making an effort! It's so depressing. When we first started, the meetings were packed every week. There was so much energy and commitment, we hardly knew what to do with it all. Where's it all gone?"

"I've heard how wonderful it was in the early days - perhaps that does take the shine off what Women for Peace is into now. But isn't this just a natural ebb and flow which happens in most groups? After the first flush, they either fizzle out altogether or settle down to something less dramatic but still relevant. The point is that Women for Peace is still going strong after two and a half years - and plays an important part in many women's lives, even if they don't come every week."

"But why don't they come? Where are they?"

"Some of them have gone onto other groups, got involved with the Women's Centre and so on. I sometimes think of Women for Peace as a sort of training ground. Compared to some groups, it's fairly easy to get into. You hear about lots of different issues - feminism, racism and so on. Women share ideas, gain confidence and take it on to whatever they decide to do next. On the other hand, perhaps we frighten them away by being strident and powerful....."

"You must be joking! Bore them to tears more like - Sitting round intellectualising, doing nothing. If we really want to get more women involved from different backgrounds is this the right way to go about it?"

"Well, I suppose we can't hope to be all things to all women. Of course, the more one group can encompass different points of view, the richer the experiences for everyone. But being white and middle-class doesn't make our objections to nuclear arms any less serious does it? Come to that, I can think of lots of women in the group who wouldn't describe themselves as

middle-class."

"Speaking out in meetings, having the confidence to argue a case, to use words effectively - that seems very middle-class to me."

"But you talk as if some people are born confident and articulate and some aren't but never the twain shall meet. You've seen for yourself how women have gained confidence by coming to meetings. We learn from each other and make a point of trying to share power and responsibility."

"If it's so marvellous, why aren't half the women in Nottingham turning up every week?"

"I'm not saying it's marvellous - just that Women for Peace is there and that there are women involved with lots of issues. It's a place where women have made friends and enjoyed themselves too. It may sound corny but many of the women who have come would say that is has changed their lives, and that's something we mustn't lose sight of."

"But nobody hears about the group much anymore. There don't seem to be any big actions or public demonstrations....."

"Actually there is quite a lot going on. Women have been to conferences in Malvern and Manchester and one on emergency powers was held in Nottingham early in November. We mourned on Hiroshima Day and celebrated the Peace Festival. Women go out giving talks and get down to Greenham when they can. We've had various special meetings and more are planned for the future."

"I've even heard a rumour that Women for Peace have started a newsletter....."

"So we have! Wish us luck and tell all your friends."

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"Altogether Elsewhere" by Anna Wilson (1985)  
Onlywomen Press f2-95

A strange book! A stark exploration of women and violence; the ways in which a group of women come together, from very different backgrounds and viewpoints, to attempt some form of action in the face of the male violence they find all around them.

'Women? What sort of women are they?'

Elsie grimaces: 'A funny lot, really. Just like any other —'

'Most women don't roam the streets looking for trouble.'

'No,' Elsie says slowly, 'but there's nothing special about these because they do, exactly.'

'It makes no sense. What good does it do?'

'Sense?' No, it makes no sense that they're desperate enough to go out and do something futile and dangerous. But perhaps they don't see it like that. I can't provide sense, Marion, that's the last thing in the world I can give you.'

'The way down is shorter. Soon be back to the river.' Marion lightens her voice, eagerly, 'Still a passionate espouser of causes, I see.'

Elsie shrugs: 'I don't really think I have any passion left.'

'What, then?'

'I must make use of what there is to hand.'

The path takes them down steadily, to the river. They pause on the bridge to watch the slow flow of water, the river spreading across the valley floor.

'The house is in front of us, we've come almost full circle.'

Elsie looks at the water: 'Explanations aren't important. Understanding is not what matters any more.'

The ending is shocking, but somehow not surprising. It is hard to tell if the writer intends to give a warning, or just to illustrate what she sees as an inevitability. One thing this book does skilfully is to avoid moral judgement. My sense of the book was that of a relentless refusal to offer hope.

It took three attempts to get this book reviewed as it failed to engage the first two readers. Perhaps in itself, this book may be too much "altogether elsewhere" - too surreal, to work; but for anyone interested in the rapidly increasing scope of lesbian feminist fiction, Altogether Elsewhere offers an interesting example of possibly the furthest departure yet, both in style and morality, from the mainstream, such as it is.



from the Liberty Hall publicity pamphlet.

## B.P IS GOING NUCLEAR: B.P OUT OF ROXBYS DOWNS

Roxby Downs in S.Australia is potentially the world's largest uranium mine, of which 49% is owned by BP affiliated to RTZ. Roxby Downs is also on the traditional lands of the Kokatha people and includes a number of sacred sites, which are the backbone of their culture and religion. There has been widespread protest against this mine and others and for aboriginal land rights. We need to take the British responsibility, boycott BP petrol stations and inform the proprietors of our reasons, encourage others to do so by continuing our leaf-letting and picketing of BP stations. Write to BP opposing the Roxby Downs project -  
P.I Waters,  
BP Group,  
Britannic House, Moor Lane,  
London EC 2Y 9BU

### KICK THE MISSILE HABIT!



### *Waiting for Thelma's Laughter*

(for Thelma, my West Indian born Afro-American neighbour)

You wanna take the world  
in hand  
and fix-it-up  
the way you fix your living room

You wanna reach out and crush  
life's big and small injustices  
in the fire and honey  
of your hands

You wanna scream  
cause your head's too small  
for your dreams

and the children  
running round  
acting like lil clowns  
breaking the furniture down

while I sit through  
it all watching you  
knowing any time now  
your laughter's gonna come  
to drown and heal us all

*By Grace Nichols*



## LESBIAN CENTRE

Imagine a place for lesbians - a large, light room - comfortable chairs - tea and snacks - posters of famous lesbians on the walls - a stall with books about us, a pool table, a library and information on what's going on in the Midlands for lesbians. Open all day and every evening. This will be the new lesbian Centre which will be in the new Women's Centre on Chaucer Street (formerly the Blind Institute). It will also house the offices of Lesbian Line. It is planned to open in the Summer of 1986.

The Women's Centre as a whole will include a women's cafe, a playroom for children, offices of women's groups, workshop space, a large room with a bar and garden.

There is a lot of work to be done to make it happen - funding - decorating - furniture etc. If you are interested then come along to the lesbian meetings. See page 4



MUNDI is offering a Racism Awareness and Action Training Day for its members, (£1 to join), to be held on Saturday January 18th 1986. For more details write to :

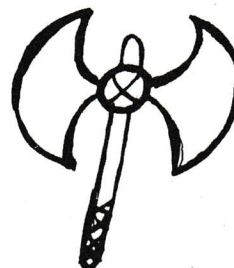
Sandie Maitland/Mary Middlemist  
16, Henry Road,  
West Brigford,  
Nottingham NG2 7NA.

Seven hours is an inadequate amount of time in which to undo the strength of our cultural heritage which reinforces and promotes racism in our society. Those who will gain from the course, are those who feel that learning continues throughout our lives, and comes as a result of being open-minded and questioning. The course should be seen as a gateway to unlearning racism, rather than a cure for racism.

### Active birth preparation with Pat Hubbard

These classes emphasise a positive approach to pregnancy and childbirth. through physical and mental preparation, we develop ways in which each woman can help herself to have the birth she wants. The more prepared she is, the more conscious and informed will be her choices and decisions. Sessions last two hours and consist of yoga-based stretching exercises, breathing, relaxation and information sharing. Classes are on Tuesday morning 9.30 - 11.30 at 17a Baker Gate, Nottingham. Cost £3.00 For more information please tel - 306644

### NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN LINE



410652

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

7.30pm - 9.00pm

FOR CONFIDENTIAL HELP, ADVICE AND  
INFORMATION





## MANY VISIONS, MANY HANDS.

There were about 700 women inside Manchester Town Hall during the 14th and 15th September for the 'Many visions, many hands' womens weekend for peace, justice and disarmament.

The surrounding stone, marble, stoic sculptures, and paintings

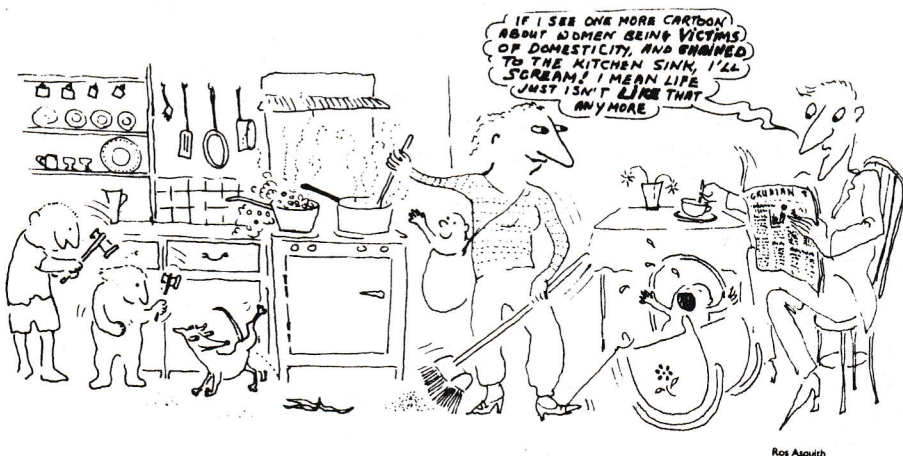
of 'important' men were reduced to banality, and in their place there quickly evolved an atmosphere buzzing with colourful and creative energy. The theme of the Conference was 'Where we are now: Pooling our experience, learning from each other'. Workshops covered a wide range of issues including Feminism and nonviolence Health and education cuts, Black women in the Peace movement, Religion, women in prison, Trade unions, Prostitution and militarism, and Building links with Pacific women and third world countries at war.

Saturday evenings social gave us a time to relax, sing and dance or generally go crazy until we dropped, which was helped along by feminist cabaret, the rich music of the Fabulous Dirt Sisters from Nottingham, and the late night disco.

As well as workshops for gathering information, there was time to explore practical activities such as Art and performance as political action, banner making, despair and empowerment work, nonviolent direct action, and assertiveness training.

In the midst of an infinite number of workshops, we stopped the Sunday afternoon traffic outside the Town Hall for a short time, whilst we held banners, sang, played music and danced, weaving our way around the cars and across the road.

The weekend provided a time to share knowledge, build the network stronger, and make personal experiences political. Notes were taken at each workshop to be put together as a pamphlet, which can be obtained obtained c/o Manchester CND, 61 Bloom street Manchester M1 3 LY, or phone Jane Barratt, 061 236 1588.



## Hey There Now!

By Grace Nichols

(for Lesley)

Hey there now  
my brownwater flower  
my sunchild branching  
from my mountain river  
hey there now!  
my young stream  
headlong  
rushing  
I love to watch you  
when you're  
sleeping  
blushing

WOMEN'S RECLAIM THE  
NIGHT MARCH.

MEETING DEC 2ND AT 7.00P.M.

AT: MANDELA LECTURE THEATRE,  
BYRON HOUSE,  
SHAKESPEARE ST, TRENT POLY.



## NOTTINGHAM PREGNANCY TESTING GROUP

The Nottingham Pregnancy Testing Group operates from the Women's Centre. We are a voluntary group of women who offer free, quick and confidential pregnancy testing to any woman who asks.

Our service is financed by our own fund-raising activities and contributions from individuals and groups. As you are doubtless aware, pregnancy tests are available from a number of sources e.g. doctors and chemists. However, we feel that our service is unique in that it is free, run entirely by women, and offers information and non-directional advice if wanted so that a woman would have the chance to talk informally with another woman about her situation.

We recommend that any woman whose test is positive consults her own doctor, and in addition, we will offer information such as phone numbers and addresses of other agencies relevant to her situation.

We meet as a group once a month to talk about different things that have arisen from doing the testing, our learning needs e.g. counselling, information etc. and to organise the rota. Testing is done in pairs by each woman, on average twice a month.

We really welcome new women to join the group; black women are especially welcome. It is a relatively easy group to join as we are friendly and open with a practical function. If you are interested, please contact the Women's Centre, Telephone 411475.

### PREGNANCY TESTING

Tuesday 6-8pm.

Saturday 10-12noon

Women's Centre, 32A, Shakespeare St.  
Nottingham



### LESBIAN SUNDAY SOCIAL 1-3 pm

We meet every Sunday at a community centre where there are facilities for badminton, volleyball, pool etc. and an area for board and card games. Tea and coffee available. Cost - 50p. All lesbians welcome, Tel - 781906 for details.

## NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP.

Nottingham Women's Anti-apartheid Group has been meeting since February 1985. We are a small group made up of black and white women. We always welcome new women to join the group. The main aims of the group include: educating ourselves and others about the situation and role of black women in the South African struggle and to campaign in support of the black women's political organisations in South Africa - the women's section of the A N C and S.W.A.P.O., also to support anti-racist campaigns locally, highlighting the links between black people's experience of racism in Britain and in South Africa.

The groups activities so far have included: organising events with speakers - Ellen Kuzwayo promoting her book, 'Call me Women' and Bience Gawanas from the S.W.A.P.O Women's Committee. Picketing and writing to shops as part of the boycott of Southern African goods campaign, supporting locally organised pickets of Barclay's Bank, attending and actions concerning anti-racism. We also have a stall at local festivals to increase our publicity and we organised an exhibition in a local library and radio coverage to commemorate South African Women's day (19th Aug) We would like to develop things further but we need more women to join us and to give the group more energy and ideas.

Future plans for the group include:

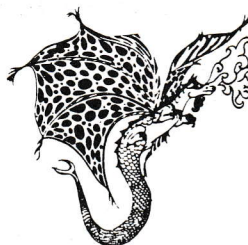
1. Continuing street collections of material aid, soap, toothpaste, brushes, sanitary towels etc.
2. A stall at Listergate on Sat 23rd Nov 12-3pm. To collect money for the S.W.A.P.O Women's Council landrover appeal which will be used for transporting medical supplies etc. to the various refugee camps in Namibia, which is illegally occupied by South Africa. To send Christmas cards to women political prisoners and their families.

If any women are interested in joining the group or just keeping in touch with what we're doing please contact:

Maria Tel - 708051 evenings  
Juanita Tel - 703473 evenings  
Val Tel - 472802 evenings

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## S.A.G.G

The Sexual Assault and Girls Group is meeting regularly again once a fortnight on a Thursday at 1-15 - 3 pm. at the Women's Centre (next meeting 5th. Dec.). We are still a very small group and for the present have decided that all we want to do is work towards finishing a fact pack for girls (16 yrs. plus) which was started last year. The fact pack tries to identify various problems around the issue of sexual assault/incest and look at some possible solutions. We hope eventually to give the pack to girls when we do talks in schools and youth clubs. We would welcome other women in the group.

If you would like to know more about SAGG, 'phone Kim on 410440 (Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays)



### WOMEN'S SWIMMING

FRI 1-3 p.m JOHN CARROL LEISURE CENTRE  
SAT 7-9 p.m PORTLAND LEISURE CENTRE



### Polarity therapy with Pat Hubbard and McTimony chiropractic with David Hubbard

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Clinics at: Gothic House, Barker Gate, Nottingham  
and ; 31 East St, Ilkeston, Derbys

## BRISTOL CONFERENCE - NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC.

About 80 women met one weekend in early November in Bristol to talk about the colonialisation and militarisation of the Pacific and what we can do to help bring about a nuclear free and independent Pacific. I went to Bristol knowing a little about the horrors that have happened and still are happening, to the indigenous peoples of the Pacific..The workshops I attended were informative factual and quite mind-shattering. Things were brought home in an uncomfortable way as I learnt of the things our history books fail to mention. In Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and numerous Pacific islands, it was often the British who took away land, who raped, controlled and ruled indigenous people in the name of "civilisation"-totally ignoring the civilisation already existing which was far more respectful of the environment, land and life. And that process of colonialisation continues today in the name of the Commonwealth, the military and big business. Britain is not alone. The U.S. pollutes the Pacific with low-level radiation. The U.S. military takes indigenous peoples' lands, their food and sea resources, their air their children and their future to run the nuclear cycle. "There are only 90,000 people out there. Who gives a damn?" said Henry Kissinger. Well I care. And many other women too. At the conference we looked at aborigines' land Rights, Aotearoa, the Philippines, RTZ in the Pacific, the militarisation of the Pacific, French nuclear testing, racism, non-violence. Loads and loads of videos were shown continuously. Unfortunately I had to leave before the end so I'm unsure about what actions and campaigns are being planned. However there were discussions about actions for Waitangi Day, February 6th and nuclear-free and independent Pacific week in March, as well as possibilities of campaigns about Rongelap, medical aid to the Marshall Islands, B.P.s' involvement in Roxby Downs (a uranium mine in Australia). Full details will appear in the next Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Newsletter, c/o Penny, 32 Marshall Rd, Levenshulme, Manchester 19.

\*\*\*The Rongelap people are slowly dying of radiation as their island was used for American testing of the hydrogen bomb 31 years ago. Because of disease, sickness and deaths of their people and the slow destruction of their environment, they decided to move to an island free of contamination. The U.S. ignored their appeal for help. Greenpeace helped them move to Mejato Island. They now urgently need money to enable them to buy tools required to rebuild their lives and re-create the independence and self-sufficiency that was once theirs. Send money to; Rongelap Resettlement fund, Account

Number 11701244, and send to Williams and Glyns Bank, 464 Wilbraham Rd, Charlton, Manchester 21.

WE CAN BEST HELP YOU PREVENT  
WAR NOT BY REPEATING YOUR  
WORDS AND FOLLOWING YOUR  
METHODS BUT BY FINDING NEW  
WORDS AND CREATING NEW  
METHODS.

Virginia Woolf



## GREENHAM NOW

I recently went to Greenham to find out what's going on there. I had heard that the situation is really bad, and I found that the rumours are true. Evictions are continuing - 4 or 5 times a week - with bailiffs lashing out at women, snatching food and bedding and destroying them in the muncher. The women there are mentally and physically exhausted. They can no longer wait for women to visit. They are tired and they are going home.

The rise in numbers that was expected after the 'Ten Days' never came. The women who survived this year are still there and are trying to prepare for the coming winter, and we all know how bad that will be.

Wood is always essential, it's very depressing when you can't even make a cup of tea. The fire is their only source of heat and light now that the evenings are drawing in so fast. If you are going down, take some wood, and ready made food is a good idea, you can imagine how difficult it is to cook in the dark.

In the past, you could expect at least 10 women at each gate, making roughly 60 in all at camp, but now that total's down to about 20 trying to keep all the gates open. It's very hard, with so few at each gate, to cope with evictions, the harassment from the police and vigilantes, not to mention actually living there.

And yet, women still go in and out of the base all the time. The orthodox media has a D notice on the camp, as far as they are concerned it isn't news.

After all, we didn't stop Cruise coming in so what's the point? Well, I think that everyone knows the women's peace camp is not only campaigning against the nuclear issue but is also a major inspiration to thousands of women world-wide. The women at Greenham need support, despite everything they are still there - just! If what it stands for is important to you, and you want to go, contact Nottingham Women for Peace. It's up to us to show the Government and the media that there are more women than ever opposed to this nuclear madness.



# WIDENING THE WEB

14-15 december 1985

WHAT STARTED OUT AS A SINGLE THREAD OF RESISTANCE TO CRUISE HAS DEVELOPED INTO A MULTI-COLOURED WEB AS CONNECTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH OTHER WOMEN'S ACTIONS AROUND RACISM, SEXISM, CLASSISM, IMPERIALISM AND POVERTY...

*Greenham is calling all women everywhere to join together to extend the web of women's action*

*a weekend of  
bridge building and  
idea sharing*

### PROGRAMME:

SATURDAY 14 DEC 2PM:-

IN SILENCE WE WILL JOIN HANDS AND TURN OUR BACKS ON THE BASE LOOKING OUTWARDS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. BY TURNING AWAY FROM THE NEGATIVE WE CAN LOOK OUT INTO THE POSITIVE FUTURE.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND SUNDAY:-

WORKSHOPS AT THE VARIOUS GATES WITH DIFFERENT THEMES, E.G. FOOD MOUNTAINS, NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC... AS WOMEN'S ACTION IS USUALLY IGNORED BY THE MEDIA, IF YOU CAN, BRING NEWS OR A WORKSHOP FROM YOUR AREA TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.

Embrace the base - Greenham Common 1985.  
National action Saturday December 14th.  
Coaches leave the Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way at 8.30 a.m., arrive back at 9.00 p.m.  
Tickets from Ouroboros, Mushroom, Hiziki from Nov 20th, £3-£5.  
Also minibus for whole weekend, phone Liz 473145 to book seats.  
ALL WOMEN WELCOME.

Local details  
NOTTINGHAM WOMEN FOR PEACE

### FUTURE:-

OTHER MASS ACTIONS HAVE FINISHED ON THE SUNDAY WITH ALL THE WEEKEND WOMEN LEAVING. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW DEPRESSING IT CAN BE TO SIT AT THE FIRE AND HEAR HUNDREDS OF WOMEN ONE BY ONE SAYING "GOODBYE" KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK", LEAVING THE SAME HALF DOZEN TIRED WOMEN TO COPE WITH EVICTIONS AND CONVOYS.

SO:- IF EVERY WOMAN WHO COMES TO THIS ACTION WOULD MAKE A COMMITMENT TO COME TO GREENHAM FOR TWO DAYS MIDWINTER EVEN ONCE DURING THE COMING YEAR, IT WOULD MAKE AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE TO THE NUMBERS OF WOMEN HERE, AND GIVE STRENGTH AND SUPPORT.





## NICARAGUA

The Nicaraguan people want peace, to be allowed to fight the poverty and social conditions which are the legacy of over fifty years working as a "factory farm" in the "backyard" of the United States for the multinationals.

Instead of peace the Nicaraguan people are on the receiving end of U.S. aggression, both military and economic. The collective nature of the revolution and of the new society has radically changed the conditions of peasants and workers. The of the Nicaraguan people is a major threat to the U.S. establishment and an enormously hopeful example for workers and peasants through the world.

Nicaragua is a poor and underdeveloped country about the size of England and Wales with a pop of approx 3 million. Since the revolution in 1979 the Nicaraguan approach to development is based on the needs of the poor majority and the active participation of ordinary people. Today the social gains of Nicaragua's population are threatened by war - a war massively financed by the U.S. Even if we already know the facts we can greatly benefit by knowing these people - their great strength and optimism and their humanity. If we have doubts about the justice of armed revolution we must speak with people who are armed, but see themselves as part of the world peace movement, standing small, isolated and vulnerable against world powers. As do the peace campers. The Nicaraguans feel the unit of this struggle. Too often we protect ourselves from the emotions of this dilemma and from knowing the people who have lived in extreme oppression. The Nicaraguan visitors will be strengthened if we demonstrate our affection and political solidarity with them.

For more information

, contact Charlie Cattell, Notts Co-Operative Development Agency. 705700, or John Truscott, 118 Workshop, 118 Mansfield Rd, 582369.

## BOOK REVIEW

The Needle on Full by Caroline Forbes  
Onlywomen Press £3.95

This collection of science fiction short stories ably demonstrates a contemporary dilemma of women writers : how to reconcile a dream (of women taking their lives into their own hands, seizing opportunities and changing the world) with a profound loss of faith in the possibility of any brave new world arising from new technology.

The quality is a little uneven, ranging from the longest (and best) story called 'The Comet's Tail' through some interesting thoughts about husband-vanishing and choosing lesbianism, down to the rather nonsensical title story.

Caroline Forbes brings a lesbian feminist perspective to the arena of science fiction speculation, and provides her readers with an enjoyable and thought-provoking experience.

**OUROBOROS**  
37a MANSFIELD ROAD  
(OPPOSITE YORK HOUSE)

**WHOLEFOOD COLLECTIVE**  
TELEPHONE  
MUTTINGHAM 419016

WHOLEWHEAT PASTA  
VEGETABLE OILS  
PORRIDGE OATS  
HONEY  
BROWN RICE  
NUTS AND SEEDS  
WHOLEWHEAT FLOUR

**BALANCED EATING**

WHOLEWHEAT BREAD  
PEANUT BUTTER  
DRIED FRUIT  
MUESLI  
SEA VEGETABLES  
ORGANIC VEGETABLES  
RENNET-FREE CHEESE

PLUS A WIDE SELECTION OF HONEY IN JARS, HERBS & SPICES, BREWING MATERIALS AND COOKING UTENSILS.

**WORKERS' CONTROL NOT CONTROLLED WORKERS**

## NEW WOMEN'S CENTRE

Negotiations are being completed for taking possession of the new building . The hard work is just beginning ! Now we have to convert it, improve it, decorate it. To help us we have got £105,000 for the building costs, but we do need lots of input to work out the running of the centre on a day to day basis.

The building is on four levels and will contain rooms for groups to operate from, a cafe, creche, workshops for crafts and trade women, space for a disco, a library etc. There is room for new groups and enormous potential for new projects, campaigns etc. A lot of women are already giving their time and ideas but we would welcome more; especially disabled women, black women, working class women and lesbians. Meetings to discuss progress and make decisions take place every first and third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm at the Women's Training Centre, High Pavement, next to Shire Hall.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME





## NOTTINGHAM WOMEN FOR PEACE

We have been meeting for over three years now. The number coming has varied dramatically as has the emphasis on different issues. We have a strong connection with the women at Greenham, as a lot of women have lived there and quite a few women from camp have moved to Nottingham. Women from Nottingham are still going down regularly. As the group has become established so the issues for which it stands have widened. Recently this has meant hearing women talking about their struggle for a nuclear free and independent Pacific, demonstrating against the dumping of nuclear waste and organising a day conference on the Emergency Powers Bill.

Once a month we spend the whole meeting discussing one issue, women and conflict, bringing up boy children, struggles in South and Central America etc.

We meet every Tuesday at the International Community Centre on Mansfield Rd at 7.45. There is a basic outline for the regular meetings but sometimes it is hard to find!

Theoretically two women are supposed to volunteer to be facilitators - this does not involve being a chairperson or leader in the traditional sense but to provide a loose frame work within which women can discuss ideas and actions, usually their job is to remind us not to 'rabbit on' or we won't get anything done.

Once we've established what we've got to sort out that evening we split into small groups where most of the work takes place. We then come back into the large group and report on all the jobs we have completed. Then we go to the pub!

So why not come along ?

For me, Nottingham Women for Peace has been a stepping stone and an open door to the other women's/political groups in Nott'm. Working within such a group has made me feel much more confident and assertive as a women.

Do you feel you want to do something about this nuclear fiasco before it's too late ?

Want to go Greenham but don't know how to ?

Want to go to a women's group where feelings are acknowledged as well as facts ?

Do you feel that as a women you are not really heard ?

Pissed off with your local peace group ?

Are you new to Nottingham and want to find out what's happening ?

Whatever the reason, come along and see if you like it.



## LESBIAN AND GAY SUB-COMMITTEE.

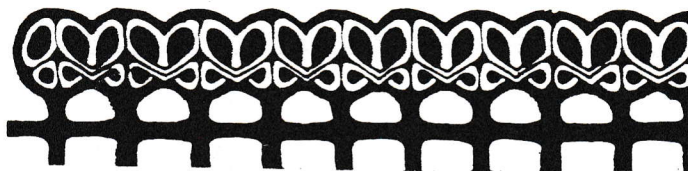
Nottingham City Council is committed to combating discrimination against disadvantaged groups i.e women, blacks, the disabled, ex-offenders and lesbians and gay men. This means that the Council is looking at its own policies and practices as an employer and at the public services it provides e.g housing, leisure, transport and how they can be improved for lesbians and gay men.

There is a lesbian and gay sub-committee which is a way of letting the Councillors know our needs and feelings. There are Councillors on the committee, workers from the Equal Opportunities Unit and five lesbians and five gay men. The Committee meets once a month on the first Thursday of the month at the Council House. Anyone can attend the meetings and there is a time at the end of the meetings for general discussion.

Any lesbian who wants to can be a rep. So, if you are interested come along to any of the meetings for lesbians (see page ) or ring Jo Fraser, Tel 418571. If there is anything that you think should

be talked about at the sub-committee or you would like to discuss anything with other lesbians, come along to the lesbian meetings.—

—SEE PAGE 4



### POLARITY THERAPY

Health is based on the balanced free flow of vital energy in the body's energy fields, blockage can cause discomfort and disease. Polarity therapy is a holistic health system which was developed by Dr Randolph Stone. It blends elements of Western and Eastern healing techniques with an understanding of the dynamics of these energy systems. As a practitioner, I evaluate the ways in which the individual's energy system is imbalanced and release energy through a variety of techniques.

The Practitioner may also need to look at a person's diet and life style, for in order to achieve optimum health, we need to work in harmony with nature and the elements within our body. Exercise is another important aspect of helping energy flow, and there are specific polarity exercises designed to this end.

Finally polarity therapy works with emotional distress, emotions and thoughts are subtle but powerful energies which can cause imbalances and physical illness. When we bring these patterns into awareness we can redirect our lives in more constructive ways.

Pat Hubbard





## NOTTINGHAM RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

The Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre was set up in 1978 by a group of women concerned about the incidence and image of rape in this country, and who wanted to help themselves and reach out to other women in Nottinghamshire. It is one of about 40 centres situated in cities throughout Britain, all operating independently of each other. All the centres are run for the benefit of women who have been raped or suffered any kind of assault or sexual harassment, whether it be recently or in the past.

At present, NRCC is a collective of six women - four unpaid and two paid workers who are prepared to take telephone calls between 10am and 4pm Tues to Friday and from 10am to 1pm. on Saturday from women who want to make contact with us. All calls remain confidential and information is shared only among members of the closed group. We are in the process of training new women and hope to increase the size of the group.

Telephone 410440 if you would like to talk.

### Why there's a need for us

For the most part, rape is not taken seriously. It is fodder for the daily cartoon strips and joke pages. It is romanticised at every level of film, literature, entertainment, and is used as a selling point in advertising.

The common reaction to rape is disbelief, distrust, blame and hostility. There are people who believe that rape is physically impossible - 'you can't thread a moving needle' - and that women provoke rape, enjoy rape or deserve rape. These opinions, along with 'nice girls don't get raped' and 'all rapists are sex-starved maniacs', are held by many people - men and women alike - many of them in the professions a woman is most likely to encounter i.e. police, doctors and courts.

Women who have been raped need to know there are sympathetic, understanding, well-informed women here who are not going to be judgemental, who are not going to censor their actions or compound their feelings of guilt and putting themselves down.

With the common attitude towards rape carrying the strong message that the raped woman bears some responsibility for it, breaking through the silence and isolation that women find themselves facing can be extremely difficult. The view that sexual harassment is acceptable and that women should take some forms of sexual harassment e.g. wolf whistles and bottom pinching, as a compliment, makes many women feel uncertain as to whether they even have the right to complain. The confusion facing girls and young women is likely to be more imprisoning. When a sexual attack is by a family member or trusted adult, the difficulties in speaking out are enormous.

NRCC aims to provide emotional and practical support for women and girls who have been raped or sexually assaulted and to educate the public on the reality of rape and other forms of sexual assault by countering popular myths about sexual violence. We realise the enormity of this task because in challenging myths about rape, we challenge so many other aspects of this patriarchal society and the male violence which is so evident, leading to its ultimate form - nuclear destruction.

In our different ways, we are all struggling together towards the same end - a world free from violence.

In sisterhood,

NRCC



sisterhood is angry!

Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre is desperately short of money. Any donations would be very gratefully received.

C/O 37A Mansfield Road, Nottingham.



COURSES FOR WOMEN AT THE HYSON GREEN  
COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE GREGORY BOULEVARD.

### Basic screen printing

Tuesdays 2-4 p.m. 12th Nov - 3rd Dec

### Basic Drawing

Thursdays 10 - 2 p.m. 14th Nov - 12th Dec

### Screen Printing

Setting up the equipment and building a vacuum bed. 4th Dec

### Layout and Design for Printing

Two whole day workshops

Fri 22nd and Fri 29th Nov

### Offset Printing

Various dates phone for details

### Women in Media

Wednesdays 20th Nov - 11th Dec

and Saturday 30th Nov and 14th Dec

### Open Photography Workshop

Tuesdays 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.

### Photomontage

Thursdays 7-9 p.m. 14th Nov onwards

Cost varies depending on course length.

Unwaged £1 Waged various

For more details phone Helen 782463



## WOMEN'S SPORTS

ALL SAINTS CHURCHHALL RALEIGH ST

### WOMEN'S SPORTS

Monday 1.30 - 3.30 Cost 25p Creche 10p

### CRECHE AVAILABLE

MON 9.30 - 11.30

TUES 9.30 - 11.30

TUES 1.30 - 3.30

MON AND TUES MORNINGS COST 35p and TUES AFTERNOON IS FREE

Any women who would like a course on any of the following subjects - woodwork, welfare rights or silkscreen printing phone Jan on Nottingham 705910.

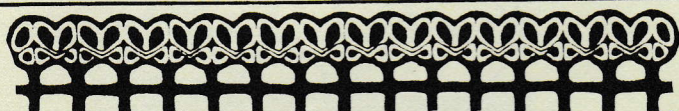


## ASIAN WOMEN'S GROUP

### ASIAN WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP MEETINGS

Nottingham City Council Women's sub-committee working party.

1. Wednesday November 20th at 6 pm  
Forestfields Neighbourhood Centre  
On the needs of young Asian women.
2. Wednesday December 4th at 6 pm  
Sneinton Hermitage Community Centre, Sneinton Dale.  
On Asian women and employment.



## WHAT'S ON FOR LESBIANS IN NOTTINGHAM.

### 1. PUBS

- a. Admiral Duncan
- b. The Foresters, St Ann Street
- c. Gatsbys, Huntingdon Street

### 2. DISCOS

- a. The Manor, Albert Rd, West Bridgford. Every Sat 8 - 12 pm.
- b. The Astoria, Greyfriars Gate, Broadmarsh. First Mon of every month
- c. The Palais. Second Thurs of every month.

### 3. BOOKSHOPS

- a. Mushroom bookshop, Heathcoat St. Books about and for lesbians.

### 4. FEMINIST GROUPS

Lesbians also go to the various feminist groups who have advertisements and articles elsewhere in this newsletter.



*When I give food to the poor they call me a Saint. When I ask why the poor have no food they call me a communist.*

*Helder Camara.*



### NOTTINGHAM INCEST SELF-HELP GROUP

We are a group of women who were sexually abused, either physically or mentally, as girls. If this happened to you and you feel that you need someone to talk to, a small group of us meet twice a week for an informal chat together with mutual support and help. For more details please 'phone Rape Crisis on Nottingham 410440, Tues - Friday, 10am to 4pm. or Saturday morning between 10 am - 1 pm.

## POETRY

### FINDING OUR VOICES

An evening of women's poetry read by Alison Chippindale, who has been writing her own and wants to share it, and Lorna Dexter who will read other women's poetry. We invite you to come and listen, to hear how they came to be written, and to share with us your feelings about what you hear.

WOMEN'S VOICES OUT OF THE SILENCE in January

An evening at the I.C.C, Mansfield Rd.

Watch the noticeboard for details of time and date.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME.

NOTTINGHAM WOMENS TRAINING SCHEME,  
HIGH PAVEMENT,  
NOTTINGHAM NG11HA.

FREE TRAINING FOR UNQUALIFIED WOMEN OVER 25

Courses include Building trades, Car Mechanics, Electronic Engineering, Bus and Lorry Driving.

FREE CHILD CARE

FREE TRAVEL.

OUR NEXT COURSE STARTS ON 13th JANUARY 1986.

For further information telephone 586236.



## BACK PAGE

This newsletter has been put together by Ann, Helen, Sue, Sylvia, Maggie, Elaine, Liz and Viv from Women for Peace.

This is the third newsletter we've produced. We hope you enjoy it and find it interesting and useful. It started off being very much 'Women for Peace' orientated, now it's becoming more of a women's/feminist newsletter as we've asked lots of different groups to contribute. It's been a bit haphazard - we're sorry if we haven't included your group - let us know for next time (probably the end of Feb). Copies will be on sale at Coroborus, Hudsons, Mushroom and Hiziki as well as at most women's events.

What do you think of the newsletter ?

What do you think of life ?

Have you some thoughts and feelings you want other women to know about ?

Do you feel angry/frustrated ?

Do you want to advertise a meeting ? A disco ?

Offer to babysit ? Need a babysitter ?

Have you done some drawings ? Written a poem ?

A short story ?

Do you want to join a consciousness raising group, find a creche, start a revolution ?

Write it down and send it to us !

We are an open group and women are welcome to join. Come along to Women for Peace, meetings every Tuesday at 7.45 - 9.30 at the International Community Centre, 61b, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Special discussion meetings on the first Tuesday of each month.



### SHORT STORY

Once upon a time there was a land which was common to all. The grass grew strong and the flowers sang with brilliant colours. A place where the beasts ran wild and free. A land that rejoiced with the moon.

But gradually it became tamed and trapped, the moon could not reach it or feel it's growth. The land was no longer free, but restricted and frightened.

For man had intervened. He had damaged it. He continued to rupture the sore ground with cement. Soon concrete was laid and tarmac flattened the once flourishing land. The trees gave way to brick and mortar, the flowers to engines and pipes.

At this, man was pleased and said that this is the true defence. We must continue to protect the land like this. We must break up the common and tear down the growth to contain this deterrent.

The moon saw all this and was deeply saddened. Now there was no one to sing in the deep, still night. But one day she lit up and shone with full force, for she saw thousands of women clambering onto the trapped land. They were cutting the fence, breaking the torque so that the life - force could flow back into the wound. The moon saw that these women cared for life and were reclaiming the land.

The barrier between man-made and common ground was broken and soon man would realise that and prevent anymore deadening of the land.

That night, the women and the moon fought to keep the land free. The deep aching wound was stilled, the scar on the ground was healing. At this, the moon was pleased. She saw that the fence was gone, there were no barriers, no segregation, once again the common was free. A place where beasts could run free, grass and trees could grow tall and strong. The land raced with the sun and the women danced with the moon and all was at peace.

### Epilogue

I have crossed an ocean  
I have lost my tongue  
from the root of the old one  
a new one has sprung

*Grace Nichols*

Graphics on pages 2+3 taken from Women Draw 1984, 'Sixty six women women draw bodies, babies, breadwinning, the bomb and life in general.....Published by the Women's Press

Graphics on page 4 from a Good Bitch Cartoons by Angela Martin 'A feast of cartoons about dogs, people, arch angels and other species'.

Poems on pages 6,8,10 taken from The Fat Black Woman's Poems by Grace Nichols, published by Virago. 'She writes in a language that is wonderfully vivid yet economical, of the pleasures and sadness of memory, of living, of the 'power to be what I am, a woman, charting my own future'.

Graphics on pages 1,4,11 taken from Wonder Wimbin 'everyday stories of feminist folk' by Cath Jackson. Great, really funny cartoons, a must - buy it.

Thanks to Glenys and Helen for doing the typing (that's okay - anytime)

### WOMEN'S CAFE

If any women are interested in getting involved with setting up the women's cafe in the new Women's Centre please get in touch with either, Jan - 609307 or, Lani - 703545. We would really like a lot of women to get involved however little or large amount of experience or time you have.