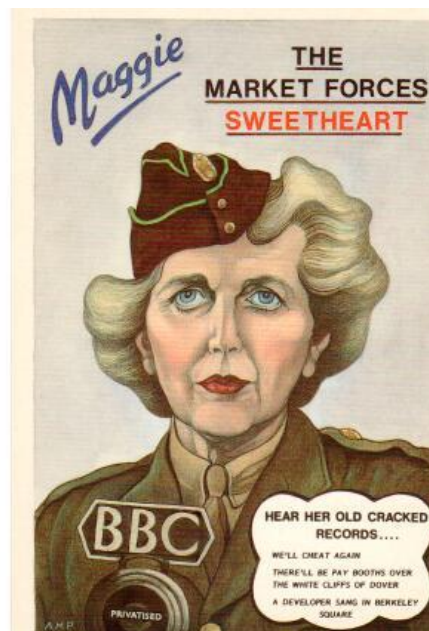
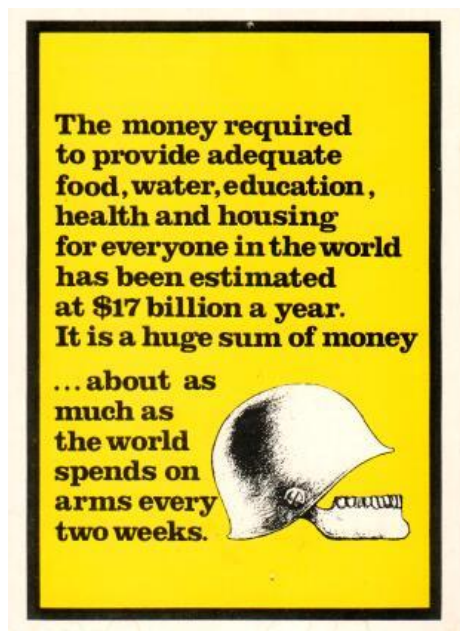


Exeter Women's Peace Group Timeline



Many women were members of CND. Following the Embrace the Base in 1982, it was increasingly felt that there needed to be a women's only action group to develop links with the women at Greenham Common and to initiate local actions in the spirit of 'Bringing Greenham Home'. This was the origins of the Exeter Women's Peace Group, which became active in organising International Women's Day for Peace in May 1983.

1982



21st March: Greenham Protest. Mixed action. 100 people from Exeter CND attended



12th December: 'Embrace the Base'
First mass circling of the base.
Women only; men attended to help
e.g. with creche. 30,000 women
present.

(Acme postcard)

1983

Easter: Women's Blockade at Greenham.



31st March: Exeter women at Greenham and stay at Violet Gate.

1st April: Mixed action linking Greenham, Aldermaston and Burghfield

24th May: International Women's Day for Peace:

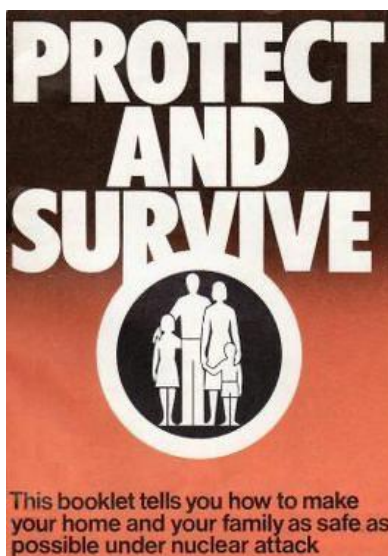
Morning: 7.30-9.00.a.m & 4-6.00.p.m: Demonstration and leafletting at level crossing at Exeter St. Davids against trains passing through with nuclear waste.



12-2.00pm: Peace Picnic in Cathedral Green.

Afternoon:

2.30.p.m. Street theatre. Building a shelter in Princesshay following the Government guidelines. One member with a megaphone called out instructions following the Government 'Protect and Survive' guidelines, while others tried to build a shelter. It demonstrated the uselessness of the government's nuclear war planning and to protest against the proposal to build a second government bunker in the Civic Centre.



<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/1500124311> for full view of the leaflet

Evening 8.30 pm: Gathering at Bull Meadow for a candlelight procession through town.



4th June: Stall at CND Fair, Bury Meadow to raise funds.

July: Week's blockade at Greenham



Green gate. Early morning. Helicopters fly low to create dust storm and wake people up.



A Walk around the Perimeter:



School Buildings for US Service Personnel children

The soldiers that day were from a Scottish regiment. Most said they had only joined the army because there was no work and the army was better than going on the dole. Several said that privately they supported what Greenham women were doing and to "keep up the good work".



Ready for action

06-09/08:
Hiroshima/Nagasaki
days. Continuous
readings from
Hiroshima by John
Hersey and
Nagasaki 1945.
Some members fast
for the three days.





2nd September: Group screening of Helen Caldicott film: 'If You Love This Planet' at Roberts Road Church Hall.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0084118/>

October: Fence down. CND demo October 22nd.

01/11: Dancing on the silos

08-09/11: Mixed action at Morwenstow.

Greenham women take Reagan to court.
National demonstrations against all US bases

08/12: Action at Poltimore?



12-13th December: Greenham Action: Sound around. Fence brought down. "Chant Greenham Down" "Reflecting the base".

4 members of Exeter Women's Peace Group making some noise

1984

4th January: SH (group member) appears in court in Newbury and pleads 'Not Guilty'

13th February: SH in Court. Sent down for 7 days.

24th February: Morwenstowe: 'Cleaning the Dishes'. Women infiltrate the base as 'Mrs. Mops' to clean the satellite dishes. Ten women taken to court.





Morning News

JARY 25, 1984

EXETER, SOMERSET
E. DEVON EDITION

14p

**Farmers—
Don't miss
WESTCOUNTRY
FARMING**
Every Wednesday in The
Western Morning News



Ten peace women outside Launceston Court yesterday.



ARE YOU sitting comfortably? — Then we'll begin. Police officers clear peace women from outside the gates of the Morwenstow listening station.



Women's demo ends in court

MORE THAN 40
women peace protes-
ters yesterday stormed
a top-secret intelli-
gence base on the
Devon-Cornwall
border.

The women, from
Exeter, Tiverton, the
Bude area and other

By SIMON STRONG

Dishes — referring to the
massive transmission sau-
ces.

Several police cars and
officers arrived from Bude
and Launceston to cut the
chains on the gates and clear
the way for the long line of
cars.

"We also wanted to high-
light the protest against the
banning of unions at Chel-
tenham," said Mrs Penhale,
of Tisbury St Mary. The
demonstrators, who blocked
the entrance for about an
hour, distributed leaflets
detailing the role of the base.
They claim the dishes tap
commercial communications

08/05: South West Women's walk for peace arrives in Exeter.

June: Reagan visit. Mixed action. Trudie, Glendyr, Sandie, Sally and Anne-Marie from EWPG attend.

06-09/08: CND Hiroshima/ Nagasaki. CND petition collection.

20-30th September: Women's Strike: 10 million women for 10 days.

PEACE WOMEN!
YOUR SUPPORT
IS URGENTLY
NEEDED FOR THE
WOMEN'S STRIKE
20th-30th SEPT
AND EXETER
WOMEN'S ACTION
20th SEPT.

ANY WOMAN WHO WOULD
 LIKE TO GIVE SUPPORT BUT
 IS UNSURE OF WHAT SHE CAN
 DO IS INVITED TO AN
INFORMAL
MEETING
 AT 8.00 PM
 22 CULVERLAND ROAD MONDAY
 10th SEPT CHILDREN WELCOME

WOMEN'S STRIKE

Women do 2/3 of the world's work... receive 5% world's income and own less than 1% world's assets!!
 Women produce 100% of world's workers...!

WOMEN'S WORK COUNTS

Are we tired of:
 working until we're exhausted and getting nothing in return...
 having to fight for welfare...
 having to fight for tenants rights...
 having to fight for decent health care & child care...
 grovelling to keep our jobs...
 being sexually harassed in the streets & in the home...
 living with nuclear destruction
 being told how to live...

Can you imagine if we all withdrew our labour...
 for 10 days September 20th-30th - we'll show how important we are..!

We have to cross the divisions between us...
 Together we can help each other to join the strike as we are able.

YEH, LET'S STRIKE

Any action a women chooses to make her work visible is part of this strike.
 Any way we find to support each other is a step to having control over our lives...!!
 SPEAK THE WORD!!!

20th September: Line of women along Exeter High Street

WOMEN'S STRIKE 20th - 30th SEPTEMBER

Women in Exeter are organising a day of action in the city on Thursday 20th September to draw attention to the Strike and explain what it is about. Some of us have approached our unions to obtain their support if we do not work on this day. We intend to form a continuous line of women stretching along the High Street at peak times during the day. Our aim is to draw attention to ourselves by a silent presence, by wearing badges, by banners and by leafletting. The Cathedral Green will be our meeting point before we form the line. The times are: 8.30am-10am (meeting at 8), 12pm-2pm and 4.30pm-6pm. We would be very grateful for any support that women from other places can give us, as clearly the more women in our line the more effective will be the action. If you can come for any of the times please bring chalk and banners. Please tell your friends.

TELEPHONE BLOCKADES - W'S STRIKE

FOR MEN + WOMEN

20th SEPT: 2.00p.m. → Hertford's Secretary 01-218-2111
 : 2.30p.m. → M.O.D. 01-218-9000

21st SEPT: 11a.m. }
 2p.m. } U.S. EMBASSY 01-499-9000
 3.30p.m. }

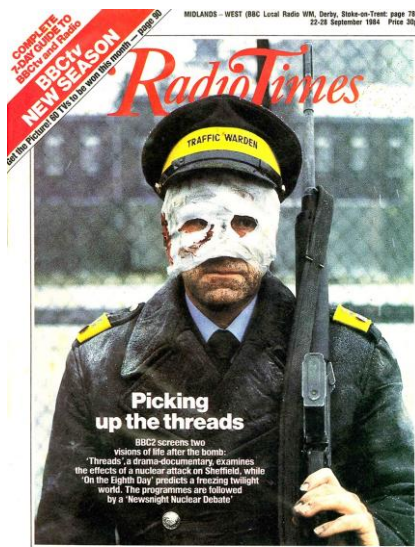
24th SEPT: 11a.m. }
 2p.m. } GREENHAM 0635-46263
 3.30p.m. }

26th SEPT: 11a.m. }
 2p.m. } BBC - LONDON - 01-580-4468
 3.30p.m. } + M.O.D. 01-218-9000

IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD A CALL, REVERSE CHARGES OR JUST KEEP "PIPPING" FROM A PHONE BOX.

Phone Blockades

23rd September: "Threads" shown on BBC



29/09: Group visit to Greenham.



07th November: Visit by SG (group member) to the Emergency Control Room at County Hall with Lt. Col. Ken Reynolds. Aim was to plan an action but arrangements were so farcical it was not felt necessary. Dad's Army for the nuclear age.

09/12: Group Day trip to Greenham.
'Decorating the Fence'



1985

21st January: Court cases following the 10 day strike at Greenham dismissed.



VISIT TO GREENHAM COMMON, 2 FEBRUARY

On arrival at Green Gate the coach was cheered on by obviously bored but friendly soldiers. The women also seemed in good spirits.

By the middle of the week numbers get down to as low as 50, but there are many more at weekends. As usual the plea was for anyone to take the night watch, particularly during the middle of the week.

The day of our visit was Candlemas, which the women at Green Gate started to celebrate that afternoon with the building of a "magic maze" marked out with stones on the ground. That evening they were planning to break into the base and light candles on one of the silos.

Searchlights have now been placed around at least part of the fence so that the women's activities can be seen but they cannot see what is happening inside the fence. However, there is still no difficulty in getting in, as the fence is in such a bad state of repair. Indeed, several Exeter women on that visit found places where they could get through without the help of wirecutters.

- Jill

COACH TO GREENHAM

The next daytrip to Greenham will be on Saturday, 2 March. The coach will leave Exeter coach station at 8.30am and leave Greenham at approx. 6.00-7.00pm, arriving in Exeter between 9.00 and 10.00pm. Tickets are £5 w/eapd, £4 unw/eapd. Please get your tickets early from the CND Shop. This coach will set out from Totnes, so there may not be many seats available for us if we leave buying our tickets late.

For any further information contact Liz, Exeter 77032.

COURT CASE

We were arrested and charged with criminal damage during the women's ten day strike back in September. Having pleaded "not guilty" we were in court at Newbury on 21 January.

The case was dismissed through lack of evidence - which was surprising - you don't expect to "win" when the police call seven witnesses for the prosecution: including several M.O.D. police, an M.O.D. detective, who questioned us inside the base on the night and a man from the Department of the Environment, whose job, it appears, is to examine "holes" in the fence - against three women peace protestors.

It was a relief to leave the court without having to think of fund-raising for fines or, alternatively, prison sentences, but mainly I think we all felt good about having defended ourselves and growing more confident as we cross-questioned witnesses who stood in the box and said they'd seen things they hadn't. We also managed to put over strongly our personal reasons for protest against nuclear weapons. They've heard similar voices over and over in the courts at Newbury - but it can never be enough and maybe some of it is getting through somewhere.

This is just a very brief account. There were other women in the court who came to support us, who recorded what was said, etc - so if anyone's interested in a more detailed account, we've had this copied out - as it may be useful to other people anticipating court appearances for similar actions.

- Sandie, Yvonne and Charlotte

For account of court case telephone Sandie on Longdown 605.

USE YOUR CRUISE CARD

Exeter CND Newsletter February/March 1985

11/03: NVDA training day at Victory Centre

28/04: NVDA CND Dean Clarke House

04/05: CND monthly coach to Greenham

20-26th May: Bread not Bombs week

24/05: Action at Lympstone. Leafletting in Exeter High Street

06-09/08: Hiroshima/Nagasaki. Making paper cranes.

13th December: War Toy leaflet. Leafletting outside Exeter Pram and Toy Shop

