

# Powerful Poems

People sometimes write poetry as a way of understanding their experiences and emotions, particularly during and after significant moments in their life.

Some of the Greenham Women wrote poems about their experiences.

## Penny

Penny was a member of the West Hampstead peace group, and after attending a conference on nuclear power she sought out women's groups and anti-nuclear groups on moving to Reading. She had one small baby when the women arrived at Greenham and had another child soon after. She brought her daughter to Embrace the Base.

She remembers Greenham as a romantic place, falling in love there. 'Much poetry was written' she says. Penny did night watch regularly at Blue Gate to allow the women to sleep, and was arrested once for breaking into the base. She now lives in Newbury with her partner and is involved in Buddhism, which she was led to after the death of a Greenham Woman.

At 39 minutes, Penny reads an anti-nuclear poem she wrote at the time, 'Herrings are Radioactive, Dear.'

<https://greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk/penny/>

***Can you write your own poem about Greenham Common based on your research? Or perhaps you could write a poem about the causes you believe in?***

## Avryl & Tembre de Carteret

Avryl, her mum Marlene, her daughter Tembre, her sister, niece, neighbour's kids and friends all traveled to Embrace the Base from Dorset after hearing about Greenham through a women's consciousness raising group and CND. Avryl remembers Greenham being very welcoming, feeling at home and safe sitting drinking tea and chatting to women.

She recalls putting ribbon and children's toys on the fence, the holding of hands and the power that came from that. The community of women Tembre grew up with had a powerful impression on her. She is now a circle song leader; gathering women to sing, and feels she must have absorbed Embrace the Base as a child.

Avryl reads some of her mother, Marlene's poems about Greenham which feature in her book of poems and writings.

At 51 minutes, Tembre reads one of her grandma's poems, 'I will walk with my hand in yours', who she says found her tribe at Greenham.

<https://greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk/avryl-tembre-de-carteret/>



Image by Maggie Sully

## Submit your poems to our archive

You could send us a digital copy of your poem or a recording of you reading your poem. Don't forget to ensure that we have the correct permission forms for any recordings to enable us to add them to our archive.

All submissions should be sent to [hannah@greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk](mailto:hannah@greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk) by December 15th 2023.