

I have lived in Norway since I was 22, 1976. I became aware of Greenham in the 80s, when I lived in a small town 40 km west of Oslo. I was already active in the women's movement in Norway so primed, in a way. I was kept informed by the Guardian Women's Pages, clipped out and sent in batches from my wonderful Godmother in London. Plus the Observer, which arrived days late each week, kept me in touch.

Staying in London in the summer of 1984 with 2 small kids, I saw a notice on a Camden lamp post. There was to be a bus to Greenham for anyone interested, a Saturday. I leapt at the chance. It was a lovely summer day and I met an amazing Kiwi, who is now a big shot lawyer in Toronto, I think. We walked the 12 km perimeter and talked to anyone who would talk to us. I took a lot of photos and remember every minute, especially Green gate.

I was buzzing on my return. I got the women's groups in Drammen to finance a Greenham woman as main speaker for our 8th March celebration, 1985. I phoned around to find someone. Simone Wilkinson came, then Helen John's partner (HJ has sadly passed on, now). Simone electrified the women there and after the Drammen meeting was over we jumped on the train to Oslo and stormed the far larger arrangement there. I just rushed onto the stage and told the person running the whole shebang (Rita Westvik) that we had a Greenham woman here, and she wanted to speak. OK....

This was a very big deal. Simone told them the story of Greenham. The New Year's dance on the roof of the cruise missiles' bunker. The jailings. Police involvement. The New York trial, confronting Reagan regarding who really was breaching the peace. Off the cuff, as she had done in my small town. But here were several hundred women. The stage was lined with flowers, which were swept up into a huge bouquet and presented to SW after she'd spoken and taken questions.

That year I arranged a demonstration on the Drammen market place. I had spread the word about surrounding the base with cloths, decorated with eyes facing in, and flowers facing out. All the women's groups and several nursery schools decorated pillow cases. We had 36. So we sat sewing them together into a long strip, on a Saturday morning, and people asked what we were doing! This became an ad hoc information hub.

We took these contributions to Greenham and hung it up along the fence. Have photos.....some of which were used by the film shown on TV last year to celebrate the 40th anniversary.

So now I was well primed. We had a sabbatical in USA. I decided to study Black studies, women's studies, and feminist theory. My then husband, an accountant, did business studies. So a slight rift in our mutuality began to show. I had until then not been to uni, but had worked as a radiographer. Now I wanted to study. Greenham taught me not to be afraid of anything. That has been its lasting legacy for me. I got all As and started at the more conservative Oslo Uni English dept. (which is now more diverse, due to other women moving in) on our return. I started getting scholarships and ended up researching Milton's Eve in *Paradise Lost* for my doctorate, then later, 17th C woman writers. Was in on the meetings at Oxford Uni when they were planning the new M Stud in Women's Studies, 1994-5. We had a year there so I could start work on the thesis in an excellent place. Now there were 3 kids, all in school there for the year.

While doing a teaching diploma for secondary school level I negotiated to take lessons from other teachers at my practice school so I could have a whole day teaching Greenham. Of course the topic was civil disobedience. I had a pile of excellent brochures, and the day was eye opening for the kids. We also had a whole day on the film *Dead Poet's Society*. Same theme. With a dose of tyranny baked in.

Later in my career I started a dept. English for Academic Purposes for researchers, not students, at my institution, Oslo Met, a uni of applied sciences in Oslo. I was given carte blanche to set it up. I was in there guns blazing, supported by a colleague at Oslo uni who had done necessary background research on the national needs. He had collected quantitative data on government ministers, academics and CEOs ie industrial leaders. There is a well -documented need in this country, so people can represent their institutions and research professionally in international settings. Of course there's some resistance, but the folks who come to our range of courses, which are all needs- analysed and participant centred, find the workshops directly relevant and useful.

Now the EAP dept has 3 full time staff. 2 associate profs and one full prof. I am thrilled and eternally grateful- to Greenham for firing me up. It has always been a source of strength to me.

I have retired. I know a main impetus of my life has been the effect of Greenham. If you believe in something, go for it, never mind what. It will succeed if it is right. Some of the impact of Greenham has also influenced my parenting: I have two daughters..confident, creative professionals.

I have a few precious old paperbacks,

Greenham Common: Women at the Wire ed Harford and Hopkins (London: Women's Press, 1984)

On the Perimeter by Caroline Blackwood at Greenham Common (Heinemann, Flamingo 1984)

and a brochure: Breaching the Peace, a collection of radical feminist papers (Only women Press, 1983)

my copy of Who Killed Hilda Murrell is loaned away but retrievable.

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