

Armored Weston

That's how I've always been with activism tell the truth. I've always been sort of like, there when you want me.

Yeah.

That sort of attitude. I mean, you know, when I think of all, you know, all the demonstrations back in the '50s with CND marches and demonstrations and the awful, scary missile thing that happened, you know, with America, you know, demonstrating outside Grosvenor House, you know, absolute thinking that this is the end of the world where they were all about to bomb Cuba. You know, it's just like, I don't know, it's just been a long period of always just being on the front line somewhere.

Well, going into that, could we, could I go into asking you what brought you to Greenham?

Erm, solidarity really. I mean, I, you know, I didn't... I mean, you know, it was just, it was er, I mean, they were just such heroes. And, you know, I had girlfriends, I had a girlfriend actually down in Berkshire at um, down in, where was it? Was it - not, not Pusey, but something like that. Sounds like that anyway. And, and then I have a German girlfriend who sort of was driving a sort of community bus in London at the time, and who was very active in all sorts of things like homelessness, and all the rest of it. And she just literally said to me, you know, sort of 'Armored, we've got to go and support them.' And I went, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah yeah.' So it was like, we went down to Berkshire to stay with Norma and, and then we were sort of making all our banners and all the rest of it and there we were all of a sudden. It was just like, I was so, you know, I was actually in a state of quite shocked, because I'd just actually left my husband and run off with a very young poet. So I was sort of like, a, you know, my - everything was just like, wow, you know. You know, I was sort of taking on a new world, a completely new world. And erm, and it was and everything from that point you know, I think I'm, in fact, I was demonstrating of course, to stop - I was up in the Lake District, actually, when I met John. And he erm, yeah, he, we were in the shadow of Sellafield at the time. So we, you know, when they were sort of wanting to expand Sellafield, you know, there was a lot of work to be done in advertising and trying to get them to stop it. But of course, you know, they have ten thousand workers, it was a no go area. I mean, however much money we tried to get against the government to erm, to put a law case, they had twice the amount of money. So, you know, it was all lost. But it was a, you know. So, you know, in many ways, I get thrown into things. And er, I think that, you know, basically, I've always been a musician, and always been a singer. So, you know, I sort of tried to keep, I try and keep that, that side of my head focused on continuing that, you know. And so, I think Greenham was something that I really felt very strongly about and of course, it sort of overlapped with CND, which I've always been a very avid sort of, you know, sort of defender and er, subscriber to, you know, so.

So what do you remember from when you arrived at Greenham?

Well erm, that time, that time um, I just remember the um, the amount of people just milling around. And er, you know, it was er, and I remember the, the, all the little things, which were tied on to all the - and the fences.

Yeah.

All these beautiful little things, and the things that children had done, and the little posters, and, you know, you know, it was just like an installation of art. It was so beautiful. And it was just like, you know, and it was so heartfelt. I was just overcome, you might say, I was very overcome. I mean, I didn't actually see the camp, in a sense. Because the camp was, you know, a bit further away. I just, you know, there was a lot of people, and there was a lot to take in, and we came with lots of food, (Laughs) to give to people, you know. And this is exactly how I was in, during the Extinction Rebellion. You know, I sort of like, you know, being on the doorstep, but I was just like, cooking food and taking it up there, you know, up to Westminster. So, um, yeah, that was really you know, I was only a day-tripper.

Yeah.

But erm, the second time I went, I went by coach from London, there again with Elsa and, and some girlfriends. And erm yeah, and that was er, that was the, that was the actual time when we all circled the base.

Embrace the Base?

Yeah, Embrace the Base. Yeah. That was extraordinarily moving and the whole, the whole thing was you know, those women -

Yeah.

Absolutely.

And so when you were - did music come into your first visit? Or was it just on your second visit? Where did, kind of the singing come into it, or was that?

Well, the song that, you know, we wrote which you have up on your site.

Yeah.

We realised of course after the second visit.

Right.

And, you know, and it didn't happen straightaway, it never does, you know, sort of erm, songs tend to sort of like, you know, sort of sit, sit inside you for quite a while until they just sort of pop out. And that was, you know, The Base was that one, it was one of those songs that literally sort of took a - I suppose it took it, a sort of what crustacean or whatever two, it was in, within the two years afterwards. Anyway, within the two years, it was being sort of like - but I mean, you know, we've actually produced seven, eight albums. So we've got you know, that, you know, there was always work going on.

Yeah, with The Children?

Yeah. So there was always work going on, but, and The Base, and once we'd done that, it was almost like, right now we've got our political album. So we, you know we had this wonderful one called Poison Ball, and we have Democracy. And we've got, you know, we've got some beautiful political songs, which we, you know, had on two albums, and then we've actually sort of we mixed it into one album. But yeah, it started, it was one of the things that really sort of erm, brought the political side out of me and John who's the poet.

Yeah.

But sadly, he died five years ago, so.

And er, was there lots of singing when you were at Greenham? Not just as a performer, as a songwriter, but do you remember music around the camp and women singing together?

Well, I did notice groups of people sitting around playing, just like they would do at a festival.

Yeah.

And erm, yeah. It's not as much as I was, you know, in thinking about it, it's not as much as it could have, could have been. Because of course, there were no, very few men. And it often is, unfortunately, it is very much, you know, I mean how, it was wonderful that er, you know, Joni Mitchell turned up once. But I mean, very few women at that time were singer songwriters, I think. There are many more singer songwriters now. And erm, so yeah, there was, there was quite a few drummers, which was nice. But er, yeah. And of course, there was a few lovely anthems that mothers and children were, were singing, which was, which was lovely.

Yeah.

I can't remember which - the one, there was one, which I really, erm god I wish I could recap those years. In fact, Elsa said that she's got some photographs. Because I was, because I was talking to my friend, my German friend in

London. And I said, 'Look, we've got to talk, we've got to talk about this, because I can't remember exactly all the dates. And do you remember what our posters were like, and all the rest of it?' And she said, 'I've got photographs somewhere.' And then she said, she said, 'You're not going to ask me to go looking for them are you?'

(Laughs).

You know, go through twenty or thirty years of erm, you know, photographs. And I said, 'Well, you know, I might do one day, you know, because you know that all these are very important.'

Yeah, absolutely.

Yeah.

Yeah. Any photographs that you've got copies off or anything we would love to put in the archive.

Yeah.

Just anything to preserve, like all the elements of the history.

Yes. And, you know, I think that the black and white because, you know, both she and I were taking, we, you know, we had a darkroom. I had a darkroom and she, I encouraged her to set up a darkroom. So they're all beautiful black and white photographs. And there's something about black and white, which is very, very sort of atmospheric, I think. There is something, I mean, you know, when you see those marches and the people with all their baggage coming from that demonstration or any of the demonstrations that I've been to, I've always, you know, sort of the black and white is just like, really, really - you get the feeling of England, mud, winter, you know, sort of like hardship.

Absolutely.

No gloss. You know it's not glossed out or anything by...

It's a lot more powerful in a way.

That's right. That's right. In fact one of the time - I think it was the second time, was it? Do you remember whether - when we did the circle, it was very muddy. It had been very rainy.

Yeah, it was December, wasn't it, Embrace the Base.

Right! That's right. Yeah. So erm, you know, it wasn't, there was great seriousness about it, as well as being you know, there was a great deal of passion there. And I was quite a serious like, young thing. When people sort

of say, well, you, you must be one of the hippies. And I went, 'No, no, no.' Actually, I was very much with that beat generation. I was going to Paris and places to listen to jazz and find out where the, you know, what was happening over in Europe. And, and went and lived in Denmark and things like that. You know, sort of following music and stuff like that. So yeah, I was very serious. I wasn't, I wasn't a flower power girl, I'm afraid. You know, I was very sort of like, you know.

I don't think you need to be afraid of that! I think that's, that's fair enough, everyone's different.

Yeah, yeah.

Everyone brings, yeah, brings their activism to it in different ways.

That's right. Yeah. Yeah, I was always a, 'Ban the bomber!' I think, I think when you, you know, that Cuban Crisis, really put people on the spot, and about, you know, sort of the responsibility. And you realise how much irresponsibility there was out there. I was sad, though, that, you know, that the women started banning men. Because like, my poet John, he was such a, you know, he was both, so ying yang. He was just so you know, there was so much ying in him. And, and being a poet, he was just like, he really wanted to embrace and feel all the things that everybody was feeling. So he was sort of like, a little bit like, yeah. I felt a bit cross, very cross about that one, which was a shame. But you know, they had their reasons.

Yeah. I mean, did you stop going at that point, or did you continue going, but without John?

Um, well, I went both times without John tell the truth. No, I didn't. I think John came along, I think - yeah, I think John came along the second time, when we embraced the base.

Yeah.

Yeah, I think, I think he must have done, yeah. But it, no didn't really sort of stop me. I just had to get on with my life and do other things. Because, you know, as I say, I'd left, I'd left a marriage. I was penniless. And I had to pick up my life. You know, I was living in a one bedroom flat and my two kids were sleeping in the kitchen in bunk beds. We were absolutely penniless. So I had to sort of, you know, get, get some menial work, because I couldn't make any money as a singer. So, er yeah. Yeah, it was just circumstances really.

What do you think politicised you in the first place to even get you to, to being an activist and being engaged with these things that were going on in the world?

Oh it was the Cuban crisis. Definitely.

How old were you - if you don't mind me asking, around how old were you at that time?

Um, well, I came to London when I was 16. And I'm now 76. So I must, it must have been about ... it was about '57, was it, the Cuban Crisis? Do you remember? I mean, I think it was very early on and I was, you know, living with students, and I'd been up in up in north London at the time. And, yeah, it really, there was a, there was a complete power cut at that time too. It was very uncanny. There was a complete blackout in London, at the same time, and it really felt scary. It really, really felt scary. And it woke me up and it woke all the friends of mine who, of my generation, you know, up. And that's, that's in many ways was the core of so much of the CND people, you know, the sort of erm - and I'm sure I mean, I'm sure you know, very much because you've, you know, you've been interviewing all the people from Greenham Common that they must have woken up at about the same time if they're my age.

Yeah, well, people all from different different things. You know, someone said that they were very politicised from very young, you know, if they grew up in in families that were particularly socialist or anything, and some came from completely the opposite. And some, it was just with Greenham and meeting people. You know, some of the women we've interviewed went to Greenham not really knowing a huge amount about the nuclear missiles or anything, but just going along and then being woken up to it while they were there and understanding it all. So yeah, people coming from very, very different places to it really.

Yeah. Yeah. Well, I certainly think that the Cuban crisis, which was literally, you know, it was, it was about missiles, it was about bombing smaller powers, who were standing up, standing up for their rights. And I think that erm, you know, it er, I've always, since then I've always been sort of on the verge of something, but trying to keep my music going too which is, (Laughs), and my garden and my kids and keeping them all on the straight and narrow or whatever, they, you know. So - and myself on the straight and narrow too, cos, you know, so, yeah.

Do you think, um, are your kids quite political, are they, you know, politically engaged?

Oh, yes. Yes. Yes, they are. I mean erm, they're sometimes, you know, my, my son is a little bit scep - he's sceptical. I mean, he will he'll, you know, he'll certainly go on demonstrations, he will certainly go on demonstrations. But he's much more sceptical about erm, change. Which, of course, you know, is so such an easy thing to become sceptical about change, because change is so slow. And, you know, just like with Greenham, you know, it's just like, all of a sudden, you know, the government wanting to spend, you know, another, you know, forty percent more on arms and more missiles. And er, you know, and you think to yourself, you know, have we got to start all over again? Are we starting this all over again? Did you not, have you not heard what? You

know. So, and then, of course, you know, what with the um, the other law, which is, you know, to try and stop us demonstrating...

Yeah.

It's just, too, unbelievable, of course, and he's become a little bit cynical. You know, he's been, you know, he's sort of like almost throwing up his arms and saying, you know, sort of, 'Mother, I'll demonstrate, but, we won't make much difference, you know.'

It's hard isn't it getting in - because, you know, he's not wrong, in a way, and I think we all feel like that sometimes. But erm, yeah, maybe pointing back to Greenham and say, 'Look, they made a difference!'

Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's right.

You may not want to camp out somewhere, (Laughs), for several years in order to do it. But...

That's right. Actually that's really interesting, because my grandson, who came to see me on Sunday, he's sort of living, he's been furloughed out in Devon. And, but he's wanted to come back, and he has this lovely Iranian girlfriend, who really wants to get into permaculture and all that sort of stuff. And so I, you know, as soon as I found out about how, okay, she's sort of like, you know, she's, she's somebody I can maybe target. I've been sending little messages via Isaac to say, 'You know, there's this thing going on, and I'm also being interviewed by Greenham! Have you ever heard it?' I'm sending her whole things from Wikipedia about Greenham Common and she's only very young so this is all going through my grandson.

That's good. So it's widening the web still.

Oh, yeah. Let me just see what's happening here, it says something I've got to do. I don't want to install anything. Okay. Okay. It's gone. Yeah. So and, um, my, my daughter lived in New York for a long time, and she was sort of like, pretty active over there. Since she's been back, she hasn't really been very active. It's interesting. Maybe she just hasn't found her, her you know, her thing, her cause. She's a yoga teacher, so she should do. I mean, she should certainly get there in the end, but erm, you know, she's been actually her - she's got a blind son. And, and another son so she I think she's also had an awful lot of fight on her hands to try and get the best education for the one who's been blind. So erm yeah, I forgive her for her lack of involvement of things. But she, you know, she, she just thinks I'm a little bit of a weirdo because I'm sort of, (Laughs), but at the same time, I think she's quite proud. Like you with your mother, you know, that she's going off boxing and things like that. She's keeping herself on the front line in a sense. And so, yeah, it sometimes it misses generations too.

Yeah. Do you think young people today know about Greenham?

Well... that's interesting. They certainly don't on my estate. Because it's a, it's about ninety percent black, and they're lovely. It's a wonderful community. But I mean, if you've got any Greenham Common posters that I can stick up in the community hall, or in the library, then they will know! Because you know, sort of, you know. And er, yeah, so...

What activism do you think they are aware of on your estate? Are they aware of activism, do you think?

Oh, well, only, erm black activism yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah, black - of course, you know, Black Lives Matter. You know, it's, it's very strong. And, of course, in South London and Brixton and places like that, you know. It is - and women are very strong. I mean, you know, I'm in a minority. I mean, in the summertime, I went on a coach trip to Southend with a community. There was three white people and there were one hundred and twenty odd, you know, little kids and mums, mostly mums and little kids. And it was really funny, because I was with these little kids. You know, I had loads of little kids examining me. They hadn't been quite so close up next door to me, and, you know, sort of saying, 'Why have you got so many wrinkles?' you know, and I'm saying, 'I work very hard, you know!' You know, so, but I do find because I bicycle, you know, I don't have a car, they all wave at me, and I take, you know, I've taken them down to my allotment to sort of show them, you know, how to, you know, to grow vegetables and things like that. So, they know, I mean, that, you know, they're very responsive. If I go in there and start slamming up Greenham Common posters or whatever, or photographs. I mean, if you ever get a lovely poster with all lots of photographs of the demonstrations and things, it would be wonderful to put it up, and when you have a festival, when you have your festival one -

Yeah.

Then, you know, it's a big community there are, we have, about twenty-nine thousand people on our estate, four schools.

Wow!

If you look it up the Kingswood Estate, yeah.

All right.

Yeah. It's big!

Do you think activists today, like Black Lives Matter, like Extinction Rebellion have learnt things from Greenham?

Yeah.

What do you think - what do you think they're doing that's similar or that, you know, that they've gained from the Greenham protests?

I think certainly the solidarity, the solidarity. And I think that that solidarity that went on for such, you know, so many years of suffering, and, and persecution, and, you know, man handling by police, and er, you know, that whole ethos that they use, that the Greenham Women had, of, you know, like a dog with a bone, not letting go, was extraordinary! And that must have really sort of, like, you know, sort of got into the psyche, of a lot of people. And, and it's something that ought to be, you know, as I say, refreshed, really refreshed. And erm, in people's minds, the actual suffering that you have to go through to, to create change. And er, you know, it's erm, and of course, you know, the Black Lives Matter in America and all the rest of it has proved that over the '60s and the '70s and it's an interesting that erm, this this movie, that you know, that erm the trial of the Chicago Seven.

Yeah.

I mean, there should be, you should get what's his name, the wonderful one who did the erm, the filmmaker - they should, I mean, you know, if they, you know, might be a good idea very much to actually, you know - well, you will, hopefully, in your anniversary, get sort of coverage from the BBC and the archives and, you know, bring all this stuff to the front and erm, you know, all the musicians who've, you know, who have written songs about Greenham, you know, it's just like, you know, if you had a site that literally you could actually sort of target and how influential it was, you know, to erm, to political singing and rapping and all that sort of stuff. I mean, you could cross over so many things, couldn't you really.

Yes, definitely.

It's very, it's very important. And it should be, you know, highlighted. I know, you've got such a great opportunity, I think, to highlight it. And er, you know, as I say, in my little square here that I'll do what I can!

(Both Laugh).

You talked briefly earlier about making banners. Can you remember what was on the banners that you made?

Well this is what I was saying to Elsa actually. I was saying, 'What did we put on the banners?' And she says, 'God, I can't remember, but I'll dig out the photographs.' You know, it's like, when you when you're preparing for a

demonstration, I mean, you're, I'm sure you're well organised. But when you've got children literally hanging on to the side of your, you know, coat hungry always, so you're like, you know, one hand is literally feeding them and on the other hand is like, you know, creating something and all the rest of it. So it's a, I don't really remember. And I unless that's why I want Elsa to dig out these, these, these these photographs of our banners. Because apparently, we spent the whole day making them before we left! And it was really, you know, and when I phoned her yesterday, and I suppose she said, 'You don't want me to go through my photographs...' 'Elsa, I would love you to! But of course, I'm not going to get you to do it right now.' But yeah. I might try and get her to do it so that I can send them to you. Yeah.

Did you, you mentioned also briefly earlier, the police. Did you have anything to do with the police while you were there? Did you come across them and how, you know, how they dealt with the protesters?

No.

Didn't see them at all? No.

No. I mean, it's interesting that they certainly, I mean, you know, there were lots of pictures in the papers. There were lots of pictures in the papers of what was happening and that's why it was included. You know, the sort of the verse about the, you know, the, the erm, 'The police always act like gents. Haul them off of the fence. Maybe broke a few arms, but they meant no harm. They were just trying to make you see sense.' I mean that verse is literally, because of the, you know, sort of we knew what was happening.

Yeah.

You know, couldn't be there all the time and it was going on for years! And we, you know, we saw that, you know, they were breaking in, they were, you know, they were putting that their, you know - and of course they were, you know, having, you know, there were, the police were being very confrontational. But, I mean, unfortunately, it was a missile base, wasn't it? It was a missile base, and they, you know, that was their job. But, I wouldn't have liked to have actually, you know, gone through what they went through.

Did you take part in any non-violent direct action apart - I mean, obviously, you did by surrounding the base and things. Was that, was there anything else that you took part in while you were there?

Not while I was there, no. No. Other than the, just the sort of the solidarity of everything, and erm, bringing food to the camp. So yeah.

That's a very valuable thing, bringing food to the camp.

Yeah, that's right.

Yeah, definitely.

Yeah. And I suppose in a sense, always going, going back and, and talking to other people, you know, about the experience. And just, just that process, I think really, sort of er, people are very sort of, it's like spreading the word, when things are really, really sort of, like, you know, it's a bit like creating the song, you know, it's it, I sing that song quite often. And when I'm performing, I sing a lot of my political songs nowadays, much more so than I used to tell the truth. When John was alive, you know, I choose, I choose sort of set lists of songs and erm, and I think, there certainly is, you know, as I grow older, I sort of realised that erm, you know, I'm leaving behind my generation, my kids, my grandchildren, and er, and I want to sort of put a mark, put a grandmother mark in the world, you know, and so yeah.

Yeah. Why do you think that is important? I suppose, you know, to, to carry Greenham home really, but also to pass it on to future generations?

I think yes. It's the importance of erm, of solidarity and getting out there. And I mean, Greta, Greta's been fantastic as a young person. It's interesting how many sorts of like middle aged people who say, 'Oh, she's a complete lunatic.' And I just, you know, and of course, the young people know, damn well, that she's not a lunatic. She has everything, you know, at heart of anybody who's demonstrated knows that she's not a - she really actually cuts, cuts, cuts those people in half. Those who think that, have never gone on demonstrations, I reckon, I reckon. And the ones who -

I reckon too.

Yeah. And the ones who say, 'Yeah, yes, she's she's amazing.' It's just like, yes, this is exactly what we've been, you know, sort of like we've been doing for the last, you know... how many years since my first demonstration against the nuclear missiles outside Grosvenor house. And that went on too, we were there, we were camping out there until you know. But anyway.

You camped out there did you?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah, we just, we just literally took sleeping bags and slept on the steps and wouldn't move. I mean, we couldn't move. There was nowhere to go. It was like, as if it was going to be the end of the world. It was really weird.

Yeah.

If you can imagine that.

Yeah, I think that is, it's hard to get across to younger people how that, you know, that, that fear. You know, there's the - it's that immediacy of it, wasn't it? That, you know, people genuinely did think the world is going to end! That they are going to blow up, you know, this is going to happen this, so many, and so many people did die from, you know, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And I don't think, I don't know how much younger people now really understand that, the, the terror that people felt, and that's why they were protesting.

Yeah, absolutely. And the amount of people who died from the leakages up at Sellafield and Windscale, you know, up at - you know, these, these erm, these figures. I mean, John's mother, mother died when he was twenty one of cancer, living in the shadows, you know. I was sort of feeding my kids with um, what I thought was, you know, things that I collected, because I was, you know, I love foraging, and it could have been... yeah, and when I think about it afterwards, I think to myself, we would, you know, it's, it's er, absolutely tragic the amount of people who, who died of just the radioactivity that got into the soil, and you know, the leakages. Yeah, and it's a bit, it's a terrible thing, that ostrich, you know, burying your head in the sand sort of attitude towards erm our world.

Yeah, if it's not directly affecting people immediately people tend to - or some people...

I think it's changing, though, don't you think so? I think it is changing amongst the young. I mean, if we can just get rid of that, that sort of, like awful generation of rich - sorry, I shouldn't say this, because I'm being interviewed.

You can say whatever you like Armored!

Rich conservatives in the middle belt of England. But, I mean, it's not just the middle belt of England, it's, you know, it's the Welsh, you know, in Wales, and it's and in the north, as you must know, yourself, you know. There is of course a real, sort of anti, anybody who demonstrates, isn't there?

Yeah, there is there is. I think it's that fear as well, because, you know, like it was the case with Greenham with, you know, the amount of people that the RAF base employed, it often comes down to employment, doesn't it?

It does.

I think that, you know, people who, you know, are in those jobs, well they're like, well, we need the work and yes, it may not, not be work that saving the planet, but I can't get a job saving the planet. And these people are offering me work. So it's so difficult, isn't it?

Oh, it's so difficult.

It's not an easy, it's not black and white to just go, 'Well, oh why are you doing that?' It is, you know, we understand why some people have, you know, feel they have to do that. That they have to support their families. I think, I think that's what's really difficult to break. Some people would you know, say, 'Well, I'd love to be an activist, but I can't afford to be.'

Yeah.

And that's it. It is, it is cracking that, the higher up the rich, you know, providing jobs that aren't damaging the planet.

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. No, it's a, it's a hard one.

So what do you think, to finish off, is the legacy of Greenham? What do you think, you know...

Have I not actually said that the legacy of Greenham was their, their fight?

Yes.

And their solidarity. They've, you know, their dedication and their and also the way that they, that they all tied together with such, well, such solidarity really and, and, and, and also, you know, of course a bit like what they say about football at the moment, unfortunately, you know. They say, you know, because we haven't got the fans, we don't play so well. So you need to have the supporters. You need, you need the supporters, you know, however much you demonstrate, you need to have the support, so that you can erm, feel it's a worthy and you're doing it for everybody else, you're doing it for the world. You're not just doing it for yourself, you know, that's, that, that's really, really quite, quite important. And erm, you know, yeah.

Absolutely. Solidarity has definitely been a key word. That's brilliant. Thank you so much Armored.

Well, that's my pleasure, Vanessa. And you will take me up on it won't you about posters?

Yeah, no, I've written that down. Because we are, we're, we've just, we're in the middle of a Crowdfunder at the moment so that we can create merchandise to, to get people talking about Greenham which is, you know, tote bags and tea towels and things like that as talking points, you know, to start getting people talking. But I think posters is a brilliant idea. There's so much beautiful artwork, isn't there around Greenham.

Oh, yes.

I mean just recreation of you know, some of the posters that we've got digital copies of from Greenham are absolutely stunning some of them, it's just beautiful.

I mean, if you, if you, if you know, especially for us, you know, this whole thing about Black Lives Matter, if you could just sort of say, if you could almost like have pinch one, their logo and just sort of say, Lives Matter, you know, and that's, it's just like, Lives Matter Lives Matter. And Greenham, you know, they, they, they were there to save the lives of, of another generation by, you know, sort of putting their mark against these things, which kill thousands of people.

It was, it was Women For Life on Earth who started the March in Cardiff, so...

That's right. Yeah. So gosh, good luck!

Thank you. Well hopefully you may be able to join us on part of the walk if you're if you're able to.

Yeah. Well, Elsa said that exactly yesterday, she said, 'Oh, she said, can I come? Can we go?' I said, 'Yeah, oh, let's do it. Come on. I'll book you for September! We'll go, we'll do we'll sort of...' So we've got three old crones lined up.

I went to my first croning the other week, it was wonderful to go to a croning I've never had a croning before.

Oh really, what happened?

It's, you know, welcoming the woman into, as an elder, and celebrating the wisdom that comes with it. So I just thought it's the most wonderful thing and you get presented with a crown, but it was all on Zoom. So she made her own crown, and crowned herself as a crone. And lots of people sang and did poetry and it was just the most wonderful event. It was amazing. I've never come across a croning before.

No, no, no. Well, my girlfriend as I say, Helen, she's a, she's an eco poet living down in Frome, she's really really good. She's really, really, really good. And she's, she's all, you know, she's sort of - I'm getting used to this title of being a crone. I always thought of it as being a little bit sort of like, 'Oh god, Am I really a crone? And she said 'But it's wonderful Armored! You didn't realise that you know...' And I went when talking about this commune you know, because it's quite a few young people and she sort of said, 'You will be the elder! You'll be the crone!'

Yeah cos it's got quite a negative, with a lot of people a crone sounds negative, but yes, it is. It's supposed to be a wise woman it's, it's a very powerful position.

That's right. So I'm good to be sitting in the tipi playing my, playing my guitar.

Sounds wonderful.

Being a crone for the last parts of my life and talking about demonstrations...

Somebody mentioned, at Greenham Common for the anniversary having like a mass croning, so anyone who's gone over into being a crone during the anniversary year, could all be presented with a Greenham crown.

Yes!

What would it be would it be made out of? Bits of the fence or something? I don't know but, (Laughs).

You could actually, you could certainly, you know, have a collage of all the all the erm, you know, the, the banners and er, and just as you, because of because infact there's a wonderful photograph of erm, actually on the CND site that I came across the other day. And there's this guy, he's got badges. He's got, he's got a hat. He just got his hat there and he's just got badges of all the demonstrations he's been on. And it's like a crown. Again, I sent that to my grandson. I just sort of said, 'Look!' You know, this is like, I mean, all those badges now are worth sort of thousands of pounds I expect. You know. But no, I mean, you know, not, not to do with that, but it's just that, it was just like a crown. Yeah, I guess, you know, he's, he's, he's... that's what, that's what you have to do. Just to sort of make this wonderful crown of er...

Yeah, so I'll hopefully meet you for maybe for a mass croning.

Wouldn't it be nice. Anyway, yes, that's unfortunately what we're all going through losing our, losing our loved ones.

Yeah. Very hard definitely.

Yeah.

So all the more need for solidarity, as you say. Well thank you so much for speaking to me Armored. It's been an absolute pleasure meeting you. Thank you.