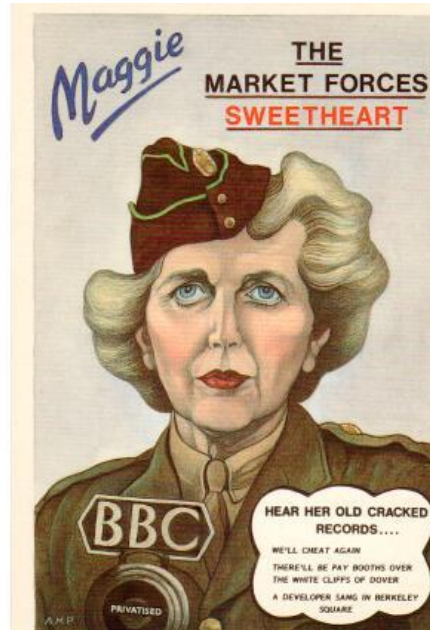
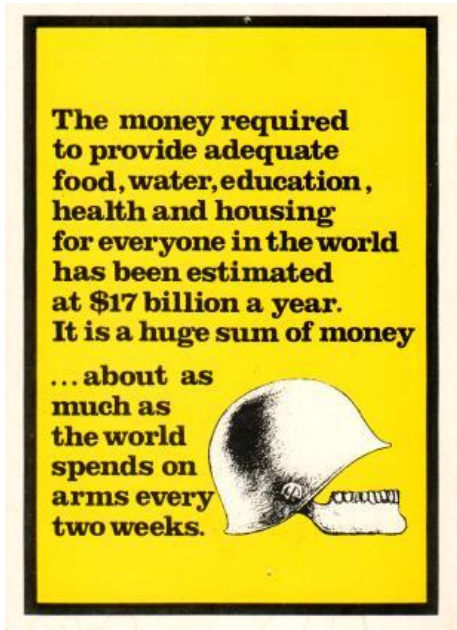


Exeter Women's Peace Group Timeline



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

Page 5 Flying Post April 1982

Resisting the nuclear state

Between 5,000 and 10,000 people attended the Spring Festival at RAF Greenham Common on the 21st March, including 100 who travelled up by coach from Exeter.

The 'Green' Gate in particular hosted a spectacularly festive occasion, with the spontaneity and feeling of community that has become the hallmark of all gatherings of the green movement.

Following the Festival itself, a woman-only blockade of the base was set up for 24 hours. BSGC

The positive atmosphere generated during the day carried through into the evening when the base was blocked by a total of 200 women who sat down across all six gates. A pedestrian gate, which was opened during the evening and used to ferry people back and forth by bus, was also successfully blocked at short notice. The blockade was sustained for 24 hours.

During the night a party atmosphere was created at the gates, with the women and their supporters singing and singing together, and passing round food and drink. The police on duty at the gates also enjoyed themselves.

In the morning, work on the silo construction site was delayed for 2 hours before a section of the security fence was removed on the advice of the base, and workers brought in by helicopter. 30 women were arrested in an unsuccessful attempt to block this gate in the fence, but were quickly released by others. Eventually the police got fed up with arresting the women, and merely shoved them out of the way whenever necessary.

Those arrested were handcuffed quite severely, and later charged with obstruction. They were released on Monday afternoon after a special magistrates hearing held on the local associate, and will appear in court next month. The police on duty at the site were not from the local Mendbury constabulary, but a squad specially brought in from Dorset.

Despite the arrests, the action continued until 6 o'clock on the Monday evening. Messages of support should be sent to: Women's Peace Camp, RAF Greenham Common, Mendbury, Wiltshire.

Women from RAF Greenham Common, a proposed site for US Cruise missiles. Clockwise from the left: the Survival Sisters outside one of the protest plantings for the future; Jacky Hawks on inner grounds where construction of new silos is taking place; and finally, the ubiquitous Special Branch photographer.

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.

Welcome to
THE GREENHAM COMMON
BLOCKADE

A nonviolent direct action EASTER 1983

The invitation to join this blockade stressed the commitment to non-violent direct action, this means using creative ideas and methods for closing this factory where nuclear warheads are built without threatening or abusing the workforce or the police. We believe that for the peace movement any act of violence (or acts provoking violent reactions) can only be self-destructive. Please help us by remembering why we are here, and by preserving our dignity and responsibility. Violence would only show what Martin Luther King called the angry mourning of the defeated and we are not defeated. We will win our cause if we keep our hearts and heads clear in the struggle ahead.

To ensure that the blockade is as positive, as enjoyable and as safe as possible for everyone involved, please read the following notes very carefully.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- When you have set up camp etc, please go to the NVDA Training tent. If you are already in an affinity group you will be briefed together about this action. If you are not already in a group you will be able to form into groups there.
- Everyone should therefore be in an affinity group before taking part in the blockade, this is so you can receive and give support to others.
- During the briefing session you will be given the emergency phone number in Newbury. Make sure it is written clearly on your arm so you cannot lose it.
- Then register together as a group. One of your support people should register for the whole group. There is a separate sheet describing the role of the support people in full, but briefly their role is to act as observers, and to report to the main support area any arrests or incidents. They will not get directly involved in the blockade themselves.
- At the Registration tent you will find out which gate you should go to, and when.
- Don't forget that you may be sitting down at the gates for a long time. Make sure you have eaten and been to the loo before you go, facilities at the gates will be very limited. Take food and drink with you. Take warm and waterproof clothing with you too.
- Don't carry any non-prescription drugs, or anything that could be classified as an offensive weapon. This includes even the smallest penknife.
- Carry some form of positive identification. This may help you get released quicker if you are arrested.

ON THE BLOCKADE

- Some of the gates have limited milling about space so we need to be self-disciplined in our approach. It is not our intention to block public roads, this only causes a great deal of local frustration and ill-will, and you are more likely to get arrested.
- Remember that there are people living along Bar's Bank Road who will want to get in and out of their homes. We must always try to ensure that they are not obstructed.
- If people are arriving at the gates without having registered ask them to go to the campsite first. This is in your interest and theirs.
- Look out for people who appear not to be in groups, and ask them to join yours if possible, make them feel welcome, sometimes affinity groups can be a bit exclusive.
- Please stay together in your affinity group.
- Please don't hassle the people on the walkie-talkies too much. We hope that messages over the walkie-talkies will be kept to a minimum to allow vital information to get through quickly.
- Keep each other feeling good with songs, games, etc.
- Don't run. This quickly raises the temperature and increases the likelihood of aggression.
- Don't be disappointed if there is no confrontation with the police, that is not why we're here. The base may be 'closed' for the day in which case we will have achieved what we set out to do. Talk over any feelings of 'letdown'.
- Remember that this blockade is one of three actions planned during these two days which are intended to complement and promote one another. Please consider the possible effect of your actions in this context.

If you are arrested without anyone acting as legal observer for you, ring Newbury 35108. Write this number on your arm where you cannot lose it. This number is for emergencies only. Use it only if you have not heard from our lawyers after three hours.

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:

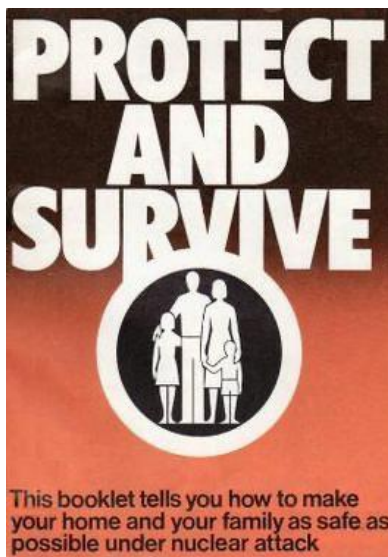
Morning: 7.30-9.00.a.m & 4-6.00.p.m: Demonstration and leafletting at level crossing at Exeter St. Davids against trains passing through with nuclear waste.



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

JANUARY 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 protesters yesterday stormed a top-secret intelligence base on the Devon-Cornwall border.

The women, from Exeter, Tiverton, the Dade...

By **SIMON STRONG**

Dishes — referring to the massive transmission saucers.

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

"We also wanted to highlight the protest against the banning of unions at Cheltenham," said Mrs Penhale, of Tordou 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.

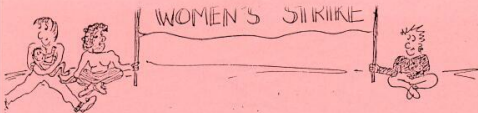
20-30th September: Women's Strike: 10 million women for 10 days.

PEACE
WOMEN
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.



Any action a woman 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...!!
 SPREAD 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.

Phone Blockades

TELEPHONE BLOCKADES - ♀'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

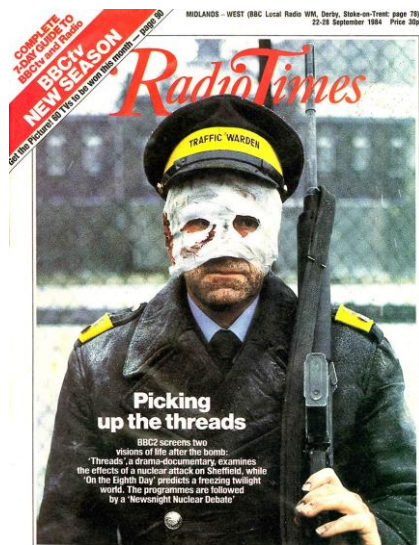
21st SEPT : 11 A.M. }
 : 2 P.M. } U.S. EMBASSY 01-499-9000
 : 3.30p.m. }

24th SEPT : 11 A.M. } GREENHAM 0635-46263
24th : 2 P.M. }
 : 3.30p.m. }

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

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

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 Candelmas, 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/e, £4 unw/e. 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 protesters.

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 get 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.

1986

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

WHAT DO YOU BUY -
WHEN YOU BUY A WAR-TOY?

CHILDREN LEARN THROUGH PLAY. IT'S NOT ALWAYS JUST FUN..... THEY ARE PRATISING FOR ADULT LIFE.

ELECTRONIC MICROPHONE CHANGES YOUR VOICE INTO

WHEN CHILDREN PLAY WITH WAR-TOYS THEY LEARN THAT AN EASY ANSWER TO PROBLEMS IS TO USE VIOLENCE

THE VIOLENCE THEY LEARN IN PLAY, THEY CAN MAKE A REALITY WHEN THEY ARE ADULT.

WHEN A LITTLE CHILD PLAYS AT WAR, IT MAY SEEM HARMLESS, UNTIL YOU REMEMBER THAT THAT CHILD IS LEARNING AS THEY PLAY.

CHRISTMAS IS MEANT TO BE A TIME OF PEACE AND GOODWILL...

THINK BEFORE YOU BUY A WAR-TOY!

RAMBO

RAMBO M40 Gun and Target Set. The Rambo combat rifle is two guns in one. It shoots soft and safe darts or converts to a sound pistol with a machine gun sound and a rotating ammo belt. It has a folding light and a swiveling carrying handle. Set includes a folding blade, Rambo headband and soft darts. No batteries required. Rifle length: 21cm. RW 24 33 £14.99 20 who 75p

RAMBO M40 COMBAT RIFLE TARGET GAME SET

RAMBO M40 COMBAT RIFLE TARGET GAME SET

- RAPID FIRE MACHINE GUN SOUND
- ROTATING AMMO BELT
- SHOOTSOFT™ SAFE DARTS

RAMBO M40 COMBAT RIFLE TARGET GAME SET

RAMBO M40 COMBAT RIFLE TARGET GAME SET

RAMBO M40 COMBAT RIFLE TARGET GAME SET

