

The Green Collective

GREEN COLLECTIVE MAILING

MAILED BI-MONTHLY TO GREEN COLLECTIVE SUBSCRIBERS

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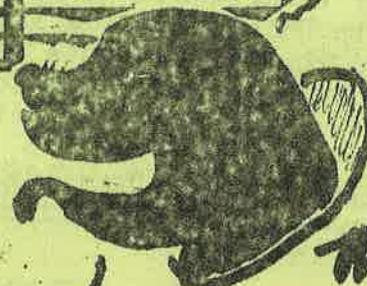
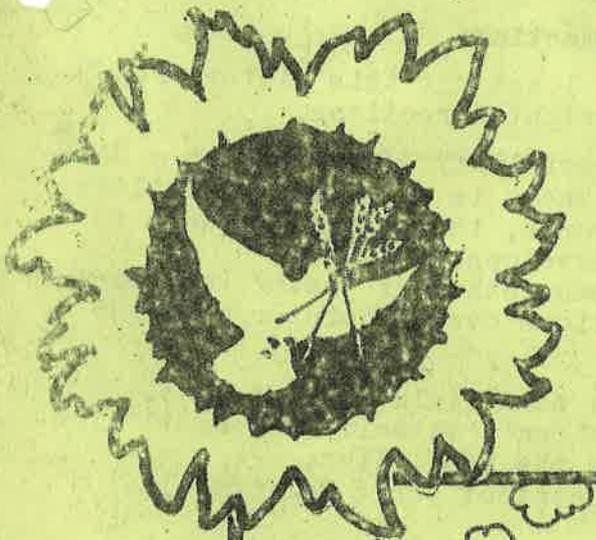
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1984

MOLESWORTH:

RAINBOW

FIELDS

VILLAGE



The Molesworth

Rainbow Fields Village
Peace Corner
Old Weston Road
Brington
Nr Huntingdon
Cambs.

Rather late in November

Hello:

The Mailing's late, for which many apologies to everyone who's been waiting (especially all our new subscribers, of whom there have been quite a number recently). The reason's simple: I'm living at Molesworth, where there's lots of mud and no more than rudimentary office/duplicating facilities. Normal brisk efficiency is not possible here. But we are getting things together: the village is slowly taking shape and, as part of that, Green CND's newsletter (similarly late) has already gone out from here.

A short Collective meeting - business only - was held (in David Taylor's tipi) at Molesworth on October 21st. The next one is at Tim Abbott's near Salisbury on December 1st/2nd - by which time this mailing might be in the post but probably won't have arrived. If you'd like to come to Collective meetings but haven't done before and hence don't get minutes etc, the best thing to do is get in touch with Kim McGavin (Hillview, Yeolands Lane, Swymbridge, Barnstaple, Devon; 0271 830332) to discover the latest situation/info.

To get things up to date from the October 21st meeting:

The Green Congress probably won't be happening, at least not this winter. Peoples' energies have been diverted in too many other important directions.

1985 Green Gatherings. We are investigating the possibility of putting on a Gathering on the site at Milton Keynes (Green Town). There is also the possibility of a major International Green Gathering at Molesworth, though that depends to a large extent on how the political situation here develops. There will certainly be a Rainbow Gathering at Molesworth next Easter (coinciding with CND's national march and rally), and celebrations over midwinter/new year (see leaflet elsewhere in this mailing).

1985 Glastonbury Green Field is going ahead in the same field as last year. The totem pole is still standing, although the field doesn't actually belong to Michael Eavis of Worthy Farm and there may be problems the year after. Anyone wanting to get involved next summer should contact Chris Walford (166 Lyndhurst Road, Worthing, Sussex; 0903 202664).

The Green Roadshow is plotting and planning for a bigger and better show next year; see the article further on in the mailing. Anyone wanting to put their energies into this one should contact Richie Cotterill (Waterleat, Ashburton, Newton Abbott, South Devon; possibly via 0364 53026).

Finances are reasonably sound for a change. We can afford to print a postcard of the beautiful Collective banner which some will have seen at Molesworth last August; and there is also room for some sort of contribution to the Rainbow Village and/or next year's Roadshow. The Land Fund is slowly getting bigger.

There were other things discussed, including a Green pamphlet, the Collective's relationship with Rainbow Fields Village, the possible future emergence of a Green Party, and the Collective's stocks and resources - no change from before except Richard Oldfield now has a computer installed and should be getting a data base together over the next few months.

The next mailing should be ready early January. If not, it'll be because of the mud etc or else the MoD deciding to try evicting us at last. But whatever happens we'll be in touch.

Best wishes,

Bruce (Garrard).

PS. A copy of the Green Collective leaflet is included with this mailing. If you would like copies to hand, around please get in touch with Richard Oldfield (0480 63054).

MISCELLANEOUS INFO ETC (in no particular order).

The Green Gathering Advice Pack is still available, telling you all you could ever wish to know about putting on Green Gatherings, price £4 inc postage (£2.50 to subscribers). Available now from: Anne Waterhouse, 55 Stuart Close, Emmer Green, Reading, Berks.

Yellow Thunder Camp was established by the Dakota American Indian movement on US Forest Service land in the Black Hills outside of Rapid City, South Dakota, in April 1981. It is still going, in spite of official attempts to remove them and discredit them. The UK supporters' group is a small bunch of people who are interested in hearing the developments of Yellow Thunder Camp, and sending donations, support etc. It is co-ordinated by Anne Crompton, 74 Parkfield, Crossfield estate, Eccles, Manchester M30 7SJ

The Sacred Tree Trust is dedicated to creating and renewing sacred groves of indigenous British trees, and teaching people about trees generally. It costs £5 to join and they send out interesting pamphlets etc and also organises a Voluntary Corps to plant trees. Contact: 31 Kings Avenue, Leeds LS6 1QP, West Yorks.

Green Bikers Group. The following motion was passed at the Autumn Ecology Party conference at Southport:

"The Ecology Party believes that there should be a positive reassessment of attitudes towards motorcycling, and that legislation should be altered accordingly".

We have since formed the Green Bikers Group, independent of the Ecology Party, which aims to promote green awareness amongst the biking movement, whilst demonstrating to the greens the ecological effectiveness of motorcycles and the ideology of their owners. Please send ideas etc to: Cathy Ashley, 16F Williams Avenue, Rixme Prince Rock, Plymouth, Devon (0752 672633).

Group on Lifestyles and Action on Development (GLAD)

"Community living very simply seeks women members. We are working to challenge the injustices we cause others both individually and as part of a rich country exploiting the poor. Contact Jim, John, Karen, 20A Blurton Road, London E5".
GLAD is a group which tries to combine personal and political change in working towards a world society where every person has enough to live healthily and where every person has the opportunity to fulfil their own potential. Leaflets and newsletters from the address above; donations welcome.

Green Promotions are booking bigger and better bands for bigger and better gigs. Haven't heard from them lately, but contact: Dean Holden, 37 Parkers Way, Totnes, South Devon. (0803 864568).

Crownhill Village (Green Town) 'The development of a new village community in Milton Keynes' has been struggling with red tape, finances, planning applications, Development Associations etc for years, but is now getting somewhere near ready to start building. For leaflets, info etc contact the Greentown Group at: 9 Hadrian's Drive, Bancroft, Milton Keynes (0908 317892).

Quest has been published each quarter since March 1970 and contains articles on magic, witchcraft, divination, ritual and all aspects of modern, practical western occult matters. Available by subscription only from: Marian Green, BCM-SCL Quest, London WCLN 3XX. Single issue £1, 4 issues £3.50.

'How to Save the World', edited by Nicholas Albery and Mark Kinzley is a collection of over 50 short essays on different aspects of social and political change. Interesting stuff at first glance, but turns out to be mostly theoretical and put together to promote one particular trip, viz the 'Fourth World' - as developed by former 'Resurgence' editor John Papworth. In his introductory piece, Papworth seems to think that all the significant milestones on the way to saving the world have been conferences and the publication of books. Not very impressive when you're living in a muddy field on a cruise missile base trying to save the world that way. Available from Thorson's Publishing Group Ltd, Denington Estate, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2RQ. Price £6.95.

ORTH: HARVEST FOR THE HUNGRY

RAF Molesworth, on the Cambs/Northants border, is to be the next site for cruise missiles. Two projects - the planting of 'Wheat for the Starving' and the erection of 'Eirene', an all faiths peace chapel, have been under way inside the (unfenced) base perimeter all year. As a further addition to the development of positive alternatives as the focus for the campaign at Molesworth, a Green Gathering was held at the end of August - which subsequently led to the formation of the Rainbow Fields community. HELEN GLOVER was there.

THE APPEAL OF A GREEN GATHERING on a USAF base was what drew me, together with the inspirational new factor of the wheat planting and the chapel building. Going to Molesworth seemed to offer me the chance of drawing together, in myself, two elements that had seemed to be acting separately: the one, of political protest, and the other, my intuitive sense of belonging to the green.

What I have observed at Molesworth is a drawing together of threads even more diverse than those I felt I saw the ferment and struggle from which the basis of a free society will in time evolve. High-flown talk, no doubt; for the camp also is, and appears as, a kind of scarecrow collection of ragged shelters flapping in the eastern gales. Black leather and tattoos meet sports shirts, punk clothes, and no clothes at all; veggieburgers meet Mars bar cakes; university educations meet the lore of the road and of the tinker's wagon; Quakerism meets Tarot and the occult. Anarchy meets organisation (or vice versa); 'pagan' and 'Christian' begin what is to be a volcanic dialogue; and meditation meets drugs (and again, vice versa).

I enjoyed working toward the chapel building. This and the ploughed fields gave me a sense of permanence and stability. But I also recognise, and relate to, the culture of the fair-goers, and its pagan foundations not dependent on any dedication ceremony such as the chapel received; and I ask myself whether such deep and invisible roots cannot also be a basis for a permanent community.

What I personally had the most difficulty in co-existing with was the loud electric music, and not only because of the noise. Every night from my tent I felt a huge dome of artificial sound, shielding the gathering from what to me would be its true sense of connection with the cosmos. Only on the 'acoustic only' nights did I feel I could exhale the day and contact the dome of the night sky and stars. I don't fear the night, nor its awe-bringing sense of my own smallness. To me, the unnatural amplification of the human voice, the bright lights till dawn, give us illusions of grandeur, and are ways of pretending that the night side of life doesn't exist. I loved the people of the fairground night and I don't deny their present need for drugs, electric lights and colours; but dependence is pure illusion, and makes you as helpless as a moth fluttering about a lamp. The solution lies with the minstrels, troubadours, and travelling players, eventually!

What is green? Among other things, it has to do with self-motivation, and learning to act independently of any authority other than one's own. One day at Molesworth, the small boy who accidentally set fire to the haystack was brought before the site meeting by his mother to own up - as he bravely did. I was surprised to see that there were people who, shocked by the flames and fire engines perhaps, suggested dragging him round the camp to proclaim his guilt. The same freedom-loving revellers! In my view no-one has the right to set him or herself up as a judge over another in such a way, especially not over a child. However, to develop a truer sense of authority is a slow process which needs safe surroundings free from the old social forms. Can the 'Albion FreeState' offer that safe environment?

As I learnt, the threat to the gathering is not the MoD police, nor any eviction order, but the old forms and the illusions that we take there with us unconsciously.

(This article has been reproduced from 'Greenwave', Cambridge Regional Green mag. Available @ 40p from Mike Bell & Rosie Stanning, 69 Cambridge Road, Oakington, Cambs.)

MOLESWORTH: RAINBOW FIELDS VILLAGE

31st October ... It's misty this morning, and the grass is wet with dew: it looks like we'll have another dry day, and maybe some sunshine. After a week, the ground is still muddy from the wet weather that came before; and there will be more rain due before long. We had a sweat lodge last night, and the biggest of the logs are still smouldering out there across the grass; the Rainbow Cafe was open for regular business last night for the first time as well - the old free food kitchen kept going for nearly two months before the kitchen crew finally gave up through exhaustion and the cafe was privatised (and it's been looking a lot more together since then).

In the early morning it's mostly the children who are up and about first; but early morning coughs and calls for morning tea and even an alarm clock are going on too. Someone will likely start up the chain saw soon. The old grey tractor is still parked where it broke down, over by the wheat field in the mist; and Dharma Raj the (massive) bullock is standing around outside his makeshift shed and watching the morning carefully.

Rainbow Fields: the bright sign is propped up over by the entrance near the peace garden and the half-built chapel; the other way, across the open air base, the massive hangers and the water tower of RAF Molesworth like new-age archaeological bits, still tended by those from the past who believe that cruise missiles can be an answer to the world's problems. When I first arrived I heard plant a neighbour's strawberry patch just up the way: I had music from his battery-powered stereo coming in one ear, and machine-gun fire from the firing range coming in the other. They're going to build the missile silo's somewhere over that way near the firing range.

The village is a string of tipis, tents, vans, buses and benders, mostly pitched along the hedge which forms a natural windbreak down one side of the village field. The strip of land ploughed and sown with wheat is on the other side of this field; and the food kitchen, wood pile, storage spaces etcetera along the muddy roadway at the bottom end. The other end is open, a clear walk to the base itself if you want to go there (and be turned away by MoD police if you get too close); we could do with some more trees and shrubs to screen off this end, and form another wind break.

In the middle of the field is Dharma Raj, and a couple of goats, and the sweat lodge bender, and three poles flying rainbow flags which were brought here on October 20th in honour of Caroline Taylor, and one or two vehicles. Beyond all this and the wheat field is the rough road used by the MoD police and the breakdown trucks which every day bring in scrap vehicles for the military breakers yard on the base; and beyond that more wheat, planted behind the chapel, and the gipsy encampment over by the woods, with their ponies grazing on the grass every day.

Between all these things, the gaps; filled with possibilities. If only we had more building materials, wood and tarpaulins mostly, but also bricks and mortar to finish the chapel, plants and trees, materials for the kids' play structure, any amount of things. If only we could afford a truck, to go out fetching scrap and donated gear, to lay hardcore on the mud road, to cart the rubbish to the tip. Our needs are very basic, but at the same time there's no limit to what we can use and make. The ecology party have paid for a small windmill, which is up now and providing a bit of power; charging batteries, for vehicles or music and lighting.

The police here keep a low profile. They used to patrol round the village in their transit, but when they were asked, they backed off. So far we've caused them few problems, and mostly they've left us to get on with it. How long that will last nobody knows; but it feels OK, at least until Christmas. When will the MoD start trying to build their fence? It could be any day, but building work's not due to start till February. A firm of surveyors came on site shortly after the US Congress had agreed the money for construction to go ahead; people from here have been giving them some gentle harrassment and one guy, Adge, persisted in obstructing their line

of sight till he was arrested. He was back that same evening, grinning as ever. The day before he'd run off with one of their theodolites, and only got a warning; but since then there's been lots of policemen guarding the surveyors - so the policing bill for Molesworth has already started mounting up - and the other day Brig was arrested too, in similar circumstances.

In the mean time, events are being planned. CND are marching here for a rally at Easter, but thoughts are focussed for now on midwinter. The solstice is followed by Christmas is followed by the third birthday of Molesworth Peace Camp is followed by New Year. So celebrations will last for 12 days (December 20th to January 1st) interspersed with periods of fasting for those who are into it. So we need decorations, Christmas puddings, plenty of food and drink: come and join us, bring a bottle.

The village is slowly growing and changing (and if you want to join us, what we need most is more settlers). There's about 80 of us here now - travellers, peace campers, greens, tipi-dwellers. The name was changed from Green Village to Rainbow Fields when people got tired of having political connotations hanging round the place. The name is right, for all the ragged appearance of the village at first sight. Some are here to oppose cruise missiles, some to build a new free community and some just to live here for the winter or for longer. The village functions as a base - from which people can go out to do political actions both here and at USAF Alconbury - rather than as a peace camp. We're a community, living on the MoD's land which is intended as part of the next cruise missile base; and the most important thing about this village is that it exists.

Donations, messages and visits are to be encouraged, and can come to: Rainbow Fields Village, Old Weston Road, Brington, Near Huntingdon, Cambs (just past Brington, off the A604 Huntingdon to Kettering road).

Chronology

- Aug 25: 'Harvest For The Hungry' Green Gathering begins.
- Aug 31: Blockade of USAF Alconbury. Over 100 arrests, including many from the Gathering.
- Sen 2: Peace Chapel dedicated by the Bishop of Huntingdon.
- Sen 3: First Village meeting: Molesworth Green Village set up.
- Oct 10: Name changed to Rainbow Fields.
- Oct 20: Winter wheat planting. Consignment of grain sent to Eritrea.
Tree planting and memorial celebration for Caroline Taylor, who was killed in a road accident on September 7th.
- Oct 26: First arrest on site, for 'conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace' in obstructing surveying work.

HEPI INDIAN PROPHECY

"1984: Those who have taught partial truths, who have taught deliberate lies ... to gain control of people ... are going to be very threatened by the awakening of the consciousness of the Rainbow People, because the Rainbow People exist in every country, in every nation, in every land ..."

"Grace Walking Stick is the head seer and visionary of the Black Widow Society. She said there will be a major crisis to put us on the brink of nuclear war and the only thing that will stop it ... is that we must exert the influence, the Sun Dancers, the Rainbow People, by smoking our pipes, by gathering together and sharing our medicine ..."

"1985: The year of human to human communication. The year when the human finally becomes a human, if we can get through 1984 ..."

MOLESWORTH TWELVE-DAY MIDWINTER CELEBRATION

Molesworth Rainbow Fields Village invites the whole Peace Movement to celebrate with us throughout the period

DECEMBER 21st to JANUARY 1st

From the longest night of Winter to the start of the New Year, it is time to celebrate the turning of the seasons, and the Christmas message of Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All. Here at Molesworth, planned site of America's second cruise missile base in Britain, we have the chance to make this a turning-point in our struggle for life on earth and against the forces of death and destruction.

Please join us, as we see out the last days of 1984 and dedicate our energies to making 1985 "Molesworth Year" — the year for stopping cruise at Molesworth.

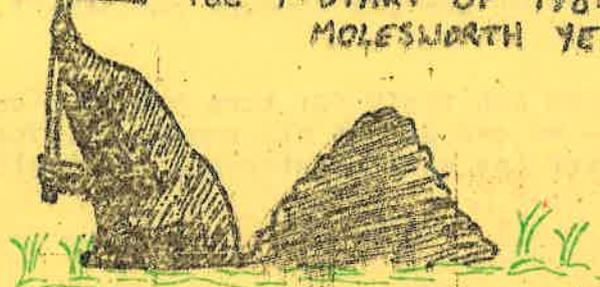
FAST FOR LIFE

MOLESWORTH WENT TO THE STARVING CAMPAIGN HAS HELPED TO HIGHLIGHT THE DROUGHT & FAMINE IN EAST AFRICA, WHILST MILLIONS IN THE RICH NATIONS STUFF THEMSELVES WITH YULETIDE FARE, PEOPLE IN ETHIOPIA AND ELSEWHERE WILL BE STARVING TO DEATH. IF YOU COME TO MOLESWORTH DURING THIS PERIOD, WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONSIDER JOINING US FOR AT LEAST ONE DAY IN FASTING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE THIRD WORLD, SO THAT WE CAN KEEP A 'CHAIN FAST' GOING FOR THE FULL 12 DAYS. ON DEC. 25th WE PLAN TO FAST OUTSIDE THE GATES OF U.S.A.F. ALCONBURY.



Molesworth Midwinter Diary

- Fri 21 SOLSTICE EVE
- Sat 22 SOLSTICE DAY
- Sun 23 CAROL SERVICE (+ CND)
- Mon 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
- Tue 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
- Wed 26 BOXING DAY
- Thu 27 RECOVERY DAY!
- Fri 28 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF MOLESWORTH PEACE CAMP
- Sat 29 } CHILDREN'S WEEKEND
- Sun 30 }
- Mon 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE
- Tue 1 START OF 1985 — MOLESWORTH YEAR!



Latest news from Molesworth ...

FIRST VILLAGER JAILED FOR PEACE PROTEST

Aige Hobbs, the first person from the Rainbow Fields Village at Molesworth to be arrested for obstructing survey work on site, appeared at Huntingdon magistrates court on Monday November 19th. Aige had been arrested by the MoD police, but the case was brought as civil proceedings. Although no evidence was produced to show that his conduct had in fact been likely to cause a breach of the peace, the court required him to be bound over in the sum of £50 to keep the peace for 12 months.

This he refused, and he was immediately sent to prison for 5 days.

In addition, the prosecution asked for nearly £200 in costs, which were awarded against him. The bulk of this was for witnesses' travelling expenses (two surveyors travelled from Surrey in a very expensive car), even though none of the evidence they gave was in dispute. It had been made clear to Aige before the case that these costs would not be requested if he agreed to be bound over; so that their imposition was in fact a punitive measure.

The survey work, preliminary to the construction of Britain's second cruise missile base, is being carried out by Engineering Surveys Ltd of West Byfleet, Surrey.

To date, four similar cases are now outstanding, the next three (including David Taylor) to be heard in Huntingdon on December 6th.

PUBLIC MEETING IN BRINGTON

24/11/84: John Major, the local MP (and government chief whip) addressed a meeting in the local school to reassure local people over 'environmental problems' concerning Molesworth cruise base and its forthcoming construction. The meeting's main interest was in what was going to be done about the 'protesters', and a sizeable section of the population showed itself to have something near to a pathological hatred of 'peace campers'.

Major repeatedly wriggled out of answering the question as to what was to be 'done' about us; but from what he did say it seems clear that the authorities are relying on a new law, due to be passed by parliament shortly, which will make trespass on military land a criminal offence 'per se'. For the time being they're happy to treat us nicely, to avoid attracting thousands of supporters. When the time comes, they will probably arrest us all with little or no warning, and then attempt to put up the perimeter fence (or a temporary one) very quickly.

GND's 'Pledge' campaign will of course bring thousands of people to Molesworth as soon as the fence starts to go up; in the mean time, if anyone can monitor the passage of the new law through parliament, it would be very helpful.

PLEASE COME AND VISIT US: turn out your cupboards, sheds and attics, bring your old tat - we can use it all somewhere. Together we can build utopia out of junk and rubbish (as well as stopping the bomb).

ONAWAY



“There can never be peace between nations until there is first known that true peace which is within the souls of men. This comes when men realise their oneness with the universe and all its Powers, and when they know that the Great Spirit is at its centre, that all things are his works, and that this centre is really everywhere, it is within each of us. He watches over and sustains all life. His breath is life; it is from him and to him that all generations come and go.

Every step we take upon the Earth Mother should be done in a sacred manner; each step should be as a prayer. The power of a pure and good soul is planted as a seed and will grow in a man's heart as he walks in a holy manner. The Spirit is anxious to aid all who seek him with a pure heart.

We are two-legged as the birds are because the birds leave the world with their wings, and we one day leave it in the spirit. This is one of the things we learn from the holy birds.

The breath of the Spirit is seen in the corn, since when the wind blows the pollen falls from the tassel onto the silk surface surrounding the ear, through which the fruit becomes mature and fertile. We should all remember how merciful the Great Spirit is in providing for our wants and, in the same manner, provide them for our children.”

(from Black Elk Speaks, Sioux Indian medicine Man)

The ONAWAY TRUST was formed to assist native peoples to restore and preserve their cultural heritage and to prevent their total absorption into the mainstream of western industrial patterns.

Today, when the ethics of technology and science are being seriously questioned, even by the people they are said to benefit, it is important that we do not permit the further destruction of other and possibly alternative cultures, some of which, especially the North American Indians', have existed for untold centuries.

Reports from the early explorers of America described the Indians as splendid people: dignified, courteous, handsome and highly intelligent. They were practically free from disease and lived to a great age. Today, after being 'civilised' for the past hundred years and more, the Indians suffer the highest rates for infant mortality, premature death and suicide, than any other ethnic group in America. Yet, before the white man's advent they knew the secret of living in total harmony with their natural world. They practised birth control, conservation, physical and spiritual healing (which included psychotherapy). Many of our modern drugs have their source in Indian medicine. Indian corn, pumpkins, potatoes, tomatoes and beans, are but a few of the food plants which were unknown in England until the 'new world' was discovered. And far from being 'savages' they possessed so democratic a political system that the founding fathers of white America promptly adopted its main features into the American Government's constitution.

The aims of the ONAWAY TRUST is to render all possible aid to the proud remnants of the Indian nations who are desperately struggling for both spiritual and physical survival in their own land. We believe that many of the answers to the white world's problems are inherent in the beliefs and cultures of the Indian people. If we do not take the trouble to preserve and study their way of life then vital answers will be lost forever and our children's heritage will be all that we subconsciously fear.

If you wish to know more of the American Indian, past and present, and of his traditional spiritual beliefs and ways of life, send 75p for a specimen copy of the Onaway Magazine which is sent free to all its subscribers. Annual subscription is £3. Write: The Sec. Onaway Trust, 275 Main Street, Shadwell, Leeds LS17 8LH, Yorkshire, England.

Name _____

Address _____

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THE GREEN ROADSHOW

Given the experiences of the first year of the Roadshow and the conception which I have formed for its possible continuation into next year, I feel compelled to lay down the premises as I see them at present and to ask for feedback.

Venues

The events to which we are likely to be invited are the Festivals and Fairs, with a probable increase in the number of Peace Festivals - which combine purposeful action with celebration, and draw a wider section of people together within the movement. In parallel, the increased presence of the Green/Peace movement at "straight/freak" festivals encourages the same cross-fertilisation. Green is not a static doctrine, it is about the will to share and understand. It is about Peace, and I feel a great sense of the need to say and show to those who are seemingly so close to saying it themselves that that is the choice we have made, to communicate our strength and encourage others to practical action.

There is a possibility of more decentralised Green Gatherings - but we can't rely on this, only encourage it to happen. The Roadshow is still a facility which can be used by small events as a basis to start from, and the Collective can help with its experience and advice (we still have the Advice Pack). There is the possibility of the Roadshow/Collective setting up its own events in towns and cities in the future, also taking it to village greens etc; but I feel it is still in its early days in the life of the Roadshow, and it will continue to grow and adapt to the changing needs of the time. We need to develop a more solid working group before we can be really effective on our own for Joe Public; but any ideas would be very welcome.

Make-up of the Roadshow

At all the events we visited last year, the attraction (and now the reputation) of the Roadshow was our work with children: the processions, the music, theatre and puppets. This is what I am looking to expand for next year, with the people who work with the kids also producing the theatre and music for the evening shows (specialists should be a rare commodity on the road, I believe). This is what the events will pay for, and I would like to see far more financial recognition for it from the organisers (last year I only made charge for the fuel from gig to gig for all the vehicles in the group). All the other things which have come with the Roadshow have been allowed in free - because of sympathy with the movement, and because it was part of what kept our overall price down with free pitches for stalls and cafe.

There are a lot of groups who may be interested in joining up with the Roadshow (bad choice of words that!). Some may already be doing it, but would benefit from the support and sense of solidarity which is also projected. 'Suitable' outfits (who defines suitable?) will be able to get free pitches, and therefore free exposure to a pretty large number of receptive people (great sales talk eh?)

Most important to me personally was the sense of sharing, of family, of tribe, of movement and development. I am therefore interested to hear from anybody who feels they have a viable, attractive, useful concern which they would like to take on the Roadshow next summer; especially a cafe (we may well have access to the Roadshow's cooking gear - please enquire of Marijke), healing (yoga, reflexology, ~~massage~~ massage, homeopathy, diet etc), education, A.T., anti-nuclear, peace and Peace Camps, nuclear chain, Interhelp, C?N?D? (Freudian slip), Ecology Party (or not?) (I think Yes), Green Deserts, Greenpeace, Green CND? (that was on purpose after the last newsletter), Communities Network, Women's and Men's movement, spiritual, animal rights, etc

Getting it together

We definitely have some of these areas covered, but their commitment in time and energy to (and needs from) the Roadshow will vary. Anyone who takes on the cafe should be thinking of travelling with the Roadshow (can everybody handle the name for another year?) to all its gigs, provide some share of the profits (which

could be in the form of free food during events), create a social focus, and work very hard (at least @ 4 people). I feel that all other stalls should try to be as financially independent as possible, either by means of sales profits (plus S.S.?) and sponsorship or outside funding.

I don't know how feasible that sort of independence is, or even how desirable, but fundraising organisations such as CND, Eco, Green Collective etc should be convinced by last year's performance that we are a viable concern; maybe we could manage without, but I know last year was pretty unrealistic as it put a short-sighted burden on individual finances. I would like written ideas sent to me a.s.a.p and I in my turn will get in touch with various of the organisations to gauge their interest in making this thing work. Previously, all my leaflets and mass mailings have got virtually no response, so I will attempt individual letters to most of them. It would be a good move for individuals with a special area to contact their group, be it ALF, Eco, E.O. or whatever, to get support.

I am looking for a permanent committed core for at least 4 months, May to September, to focus around the kids. Any other attractive, together scenes - such as cafe, cinema, stalls, displays etc - would need to let me know by January if they are going to need funding from events to make them viable. We found it was supportive and creative, and the running costs were minimised, when the group travelled almost permanently together (ask a Tibetan); it meant that ideas and relationships could be developed within the family-sharing situation, as well as developing our sense of commitment to the gigs and to each other.

RICHIE COTTERILL, Waterleat, Ashburton, Newton Abbott, South Devon.

THE TRAVELLING SKOOL

After my first summer 'on the road', travelling the festivals and fairs, working mostly with children, I became much more aware of the number of children on the road in a permanent way, not only with the convoy and Tibet but with many other travellers, performers and stall holders. It was apparent that there were a large number of kids at the same events as the Roadshow.

Part of my frustration with working with the festival kids was the transience of the situation (which was also a lesson in Zen). There is often only enough time to establish the beginnings of a relationship with a child that got beyond the more superficial or set-up aspects of our work, and there is so much more that could be done given a continuum. Events like Gatherings which last for several days are far more productive in this way, giving a glimpse of the possibility for developing more creative relationships and sharing between adults and kids.

I came into this whole Green thing because I wanted to attempt to improve the situation for children at festivals. I've been working at Alternative Education since I trained as a music teacher, frustrated by the institutionalised attitudes of the kids in schools, a desire to work with their buried potential beyond the limitation of bells, authority and conditioning ... like the children of Summerhill, or White Lion ... like the children of my dreams with unbridled motivation, to learn through their doing ... I want to experiment with child-centred learning ... all the way ... with family and community interdependence.

In 1982 this little piggy stayed at home, positively avoiding going to the festivals with the other little piggies who I saw getting out of it; I didn't want to go ... Nyah! ... but people came back to see me saying "Hey, the kids at the Green Gathering got given a bus, you should be there, be their teacher person"; but I wasn't. Instead I kind of shook with the energy of its potential, the challenge, the doubt as to whether I was up to it, having no real experience to draw on.

In the Autumn of that year I took a very auspicious trio to Wales and visited Talley Valley very briefly, but it struck me very strongly how free the kids I met there were, a sense of more realism in their relationships and ideas, perhaps equally restricted by their situation as the straights are in theirs, but I saw it as a ready-made living community with virtually no educational provision. I nearly moved in there and then ...

Then I was asked if I'd like to get involved with organising the '83 Green Gathering, went to a meeting and aired my ideas for much more involvement for kids. There was a great deal of support from the Glastonbury Green Gathering Collective, and it was decided to make the event a Child-centred Green Gathering. It was quite successful, though it fell well short of its original aims; I learned a great deal and was enthused to take it further. Then out of the Collective Unconscious came the idea for a Green Roadshow, which I set about organising, especially the kids bit... it worked but again left me feeling frustrated by its shortcomings but inspired with the possibility of making it even better in the light of experience.

Now I see the possibility for a further step which draws this whole scenario of mine together; the same step as was initiated at the '82 Gathering, where the kids were donated a bus won in a raffle as their own to use as they wished, but which was lunched out by a few nasty minded, tough kids. I'd like to see a kids' bus, a school bus if they like, for the festival kids, possibly as an extension of the Roadshow kids' stuff, which can be used by the travelling kids as a permanent facility of their own.

It could be a place to keep work and equipment, work surfaces, a library, and a focus for energies between gigs. I've spoken with a number of parents and kids on the road about this (notably Prof. Panic and family), identifying the need for a more formalised and positive learning space, especially for work in literacy.

Many of the travelling kids do not go to school in the winter either, and though they are often shy to admit it, they confide that they want more teaching... I see this as wanting help in finding out how to do what they want... There are certainly plenty of people with a wide range of enthusiasms and skills which they would like to share with the kids, and the bus and maybe myself could be the focus for that happening.

I would like to help facilitate this Bus Skool to follow the festival children over the summer (maybe it could be used by a Peace Camp, Village or Community over the winter, perhaps drawing more of the travellers into closer continuous creative ongoing deschooled/communal situation... my dream and the Dream of many). It could be a Peace School bus (perhaps CND would be into supporting it), because ultimately self-directed co-operative learning is about peaceful relationships.

There has been an attempt in the past to get some kind of government recognition for the educational needs of the travellers' kids, but not successfully yet. I will try to find out more about this from Sid Rawles and from Penny at FWS, as well as following up on many educational contacts I have made myself over the years (are you there Marty?). But whatever happens with that approach, I still see the desire for such a facility as easily resolvable amongst ourselves: all we need is a coach to work on and a driver/overseer type teacher person caretaker (I'm trying to get a driver's license together this winter honest!), and we'll be away.

I can offer music workshops as my special subject, but to do this I need a good set of xylophones; I may spend some of this winter on converting a 4-foot section of 400-year-old oak beam into these instruments. Really though the whole thing will rely upon the efforts of all the parents of the kids involved, in encouraging their children to it, offering classes themselves, and supporting each other in the myriad of questions and conflicts which are bound to arise when people invest in a shared situation. It will also need some co-ordinating and encouraging and this is...

WHAT I WANT TO DO

I felt a little frustrated this summer by the shortage of people around to take on what I see as very important work. I didn't get as much time as I would have liked to be able to rush around sites doing what I actually feel best at which is... Identifying a need (be it either to receive or to give), and finding who to connect with who or what to fulfil it (it may simply be someone trying to find the glue, which I had hidden to keep it safe); a run-around facilitator getting people to do things, offering workshops, sharing equipment, and encouraging ideas out of the kids.

I spent more time actually organising the tour, the kids space, and initiating workshops, cooking food and dealing with the myriad (yes, I like that word) of major and minor problems which we experience as a group. There wasn't enough time

to deal properly with the needs of the friends travelling together as personal dilemmas were raised by the whole show. There were also a lot of frustrated enquiries into the phenomena, wanting to talk with me, and there never really being the space to do so.

Therefore I am prepared to take on organising the tour for the Roadshow for next summer, and co-ordinating the people who wish to work on it; but in many ways I would like to have it that everything which the Roadshow does on the road be done independent of me, so that I can be freer to give more time to the job of 'vibe-watcher' and to 'public relations'.

With the kids and the skool I feel there is a need for someone (probably me) to get more people working together on projects, and keep track of the kids and watch over its development. I realise that this may be impractical in '85, but I just felt like saying it and throwing out the idea.

It may turn out that I am doing a great deal of work with the kids and so much facilitation within the group. If this is the case then I would encourage the whole group to meet more regularly, to air doubts and encourage working out the differences in our concepts and styles. We should also encourage each other to draw people into our projects, whether it be yoga or a theatre show, massage or a more formal co-counselling set-up, timing of events or the image we can project, Identity ...

WHO ARE WE ?

Love to all,

Richie

Halloween 1984.

GREEN CND

Green CND is a Specialist Section of CND with a seat on its National Council. As a part of CND, Green CND has no party political allegiance, though individual members belong to a variety of parties and to none.

We are working to build links within the wider Green movement - environmental and conservation groups, animal rights, anti-nuclear power, libertarian activists, women's groups - and to persuade people within the movement to CND's aims.

We oppose the whole nuclear chain from uranium mining to power stations, re-processing plants, and nuclear weapons; and we support the use of Non-Violent Direct Action to promote nuclear disarmament.

Green CND holds general meetings every other month, which are open to all supporters; and issues a bi-monthly newsletter which is currently being produced and distributed from the Rainbow Fields Village at Molesworth. Subscription to the newsletter costs £5 (waged) or £2 (unwaged), which should be sent to the membership secretary: Pete Whiting, 59 Whitwell Way, Coton, Cambs. CB3 7PW.

EMBRACE THE EARTH - A Green view of Peace

Green CND's pamphlet, edited by Jonathan Porritt, argues that "nuclear weapons are not a nasty mistake in an otherwise healthy world. They are the logical outcome of the kind of society that we have created for ourselves".

Whilst arguing for unilateral disarmament, the pamphlet comments that unaccompanied by changes in attitudes and policy, unilateralism may be seen as more of a risk than hanging on to the old illusions; and that for such a policy to work, it must be set in a framework which allows for the possibility of lasting peace to become a reality. Unilateral disarmament can be no more than a first step, not an end in itself.

The pamphlet concludes by saying that "in the end, the concern with nuclear weapons and with 'peace' will become swallowed up or integrated within a larger movement to transform the conditions of our lives, and to build a nuclear-free society".

'Embrace the Earth' is available from Jenny Carpenter, 14 Alexandra Road, Oxford OX2 0DB; price @ £1 including postage & packing.

LETTERS

Green Thoughts

Dear Friends,

Riding home in the coach from the Ecology Party Conference in Southport, I was thinking of the many friends there I wouldn't see for another six months, and of the Molesworth Green Village, the Greenham women, and the coming winter and so on ... I also reflected upon the sudden, extra, attunement we had observed when the debate on the change of name was getting a little fraught ...

And the great and simple idea hit me ... how we could all keep in touch although physically out of touch. At 8 o'clock each morning I shall think specifically of all my Green friends for 1 minute ... sometimes individuals, sometimes the Peace Camps ...

So I thought at first. Then it was pointed out to me that a lot of people aren't awake at 8 o'clock in the morning, and what I saw as an attunement to start the day was seen by others more as a group meditation at the end of the day. So there will now be two things ... a short attunement at 8 in the morning and a group meditation for half an hour between 6 and 6.30 in the evening ... and if the Peace/Green movement countrywide joins in we shall know, however separate and in whatever circumstances, that we are all for those moments joined as one great family. I think it could be a powerful corporate thought that could blanket the country at those times; and would set us up for the day, giving us courage and calm, or moments to pause and think of the other sorts of day spent by our scattered friends.

The Peace Camp people, especially, would be aware that we're not all mindlessly sipping coffee in our warm houses, but are with them in spirit and thanking them for their efforts and sacrifices on behalf of us all.

The attunement could be a prayer, a meditation, even just a smile at the thought of some friend's humour ... anything that drew us together in our common cause.

Will you try it? It will be a thing about which I shall never know the result, probably, but I am sending this letter to as many Green publications as I can think of and trust that very many will respond.

So, at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning, and/or 6 o'clock tomorrow evening, make a start ... tune in to the great Green attunement ... I, for one, will be thinking of you.

Yours in love and peace,

Cynthia Warth, 6 Fairlight Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9JP.

The 'Green Grail'

Dear Bruce,

About the 'Green Grail' as you call it, the Bavarian milk jug brought by 2 Die Grunen women to the 1981 Glastonbury Ecology Party Summer Gathering.

My information comes from Margaret Wright, who says it was brought from the women of Die Grunen for their opposite numbers in the UK, and not for 'the Gathering' or the 'Ecology Party/Movement' as a whole. She believes that it was she who originally received it when it was handed over - not as any special woman, but there again, having no worse title to receive it than any other women present - and certainly having a better title to it than some men of the Green Collective into whose hands it then eventually fell and who were incorporating it into a Green mystique/cultus which Margaret distrusts (and certainly it is male-majoritarian, that group).

Margaret took the jug (which has two handles) back on behalf of all Green/Eco/Greenham women. She is happy to discuss the question of the jug's history and future with any woman or group of women who approach her. But meanwhile she won't stand for any more hassling from men.

So please, brothers, end of subject for the time being, eh?

Miri Mirr, Keith Motherson.

Sunflower Goods

- T-shirts, 'The Greens Are Gathering' and sunflower motif, printed yellow or green cotton - £3.50 each, or £2.75 in bulk for re-sale. Please state size - small, medium or large.
- Envelope re-sealers, 'The Greens Are Gathering' (green, gold and black) - £2 per pack of 100, £1.85 per pack for 5 packs or more.
- 1 1/2" badges, 'The Greens Are Gathering', 'Friends of the Earth' - 25p each or 15p each for orders of 10 or more.
- 1 1/2" peel-off stickers, 'The Greens Are Gathering' - 50p for a sheet of 20, or 40p per sheet for 10 sheets or more.
- 4 1/2" peel-off stickers, 'The Greens Are Gathering', 'Animal Liberation', 'Women's Liberation' - all 30p each or 15p each for orders of 10 or more.
- A5 leaflets, 'The Greens Are Gathering' - £1.50 per hundred.

Other items

- Green star reflector badges (metallic, 3/4" diameter) - 50p each, or 40p each for orders of 5 or more.
- 'Daughters of Creation' by Manitonquat (story leaflet) - 5p each.

Please include 15% with all orders to cover postage and packing.

Make cheques payable to 'Sunflowers' and send to: 'SUNFLOWERS', c/o Ann Gunn, 8 Wordsworth Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 5SX (0376 21184).

Arrangements for sale-or-return can be made with people who wish to run a Green Collective stall at their local event.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE GREEN COLLECTIVE

The Green Collective Mailing is available to subscribers only. Annual subscription costs £5, which includes a £1 stake in the Land Fund as well as a contribution to the various projects now in hand.

Subscribers will also receive names & addresses of other subscribers in their areas, details of meetings of the Collective, and an opportunity to buy publications from the Green Resources Group at a reduced price; they will be subscribing to the Collective as a whole, rather than just to the mailing.

Please make cheques payable to 'The Green Collective' and send to: Green Collective (subs), c/o 4 Bridge House, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.

NAME

ADDRESS

ENCLOSED: £ ... (£5), £ ... (donation?)

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

Are you involved in any other organisation(s)? If so, we'd be pleased to hear about it. As a subscriber, you have the opportunity to distribute your own publicity material via the mailing.

Do you know anyone who would appreciate a sample copy of the mailing? If so, please fill in their name and address below:

NAME

ADDRESS