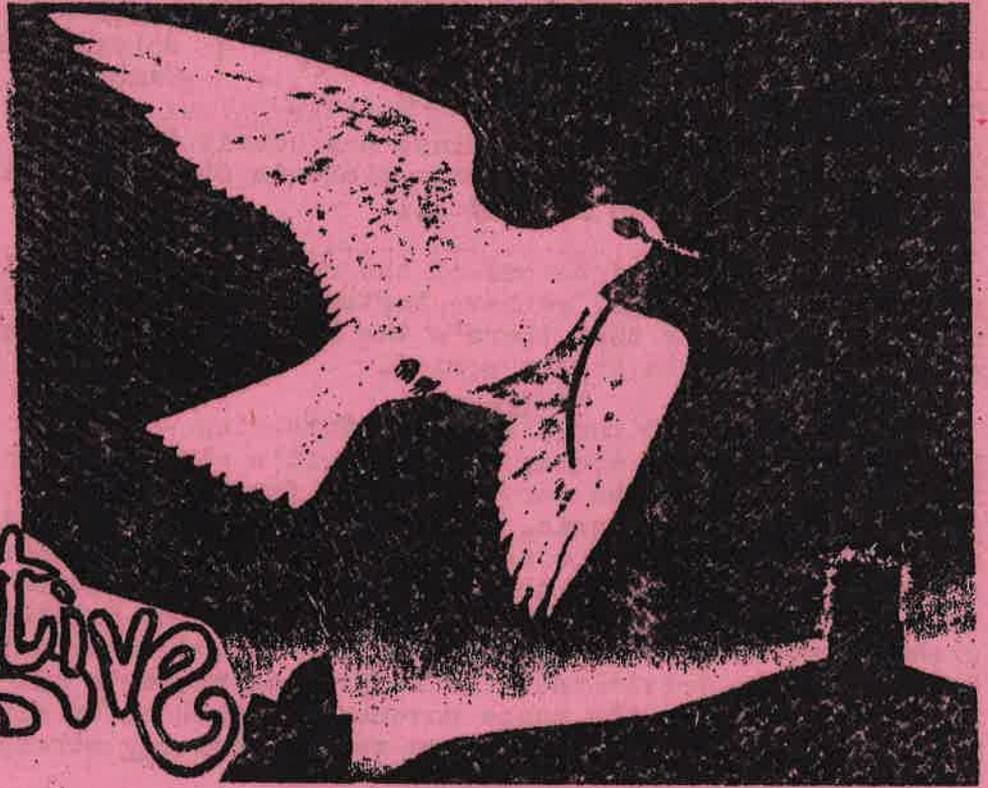


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The Green Collective

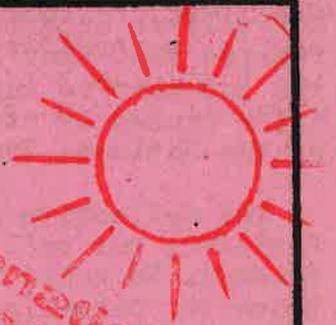


BI-MONTHLY MAILING FOR GREEN COLLECTIVE
SUBSCRIBERS

JAN-FEB 1985



Molesworth
Year



International
Youth
Year

THE SPIRIT OF '85

The Year of
Human to Human
Communication



The Year of
the Buffalo



N.B. This was written before the eviction. As much as possible will still go ahead at Molesworth over Easter. Do come!

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

Late again - but lots of things are coming together, and getting newsletters organised from a tent in a muddy field is still no easier than it ever was. Spring is (surely) on its way ...

This summer should be one of the most interesting since records began, so be prepared. First of all we have Easter at Molesworth: CND are holding a march and rally, but besides that there's the Rainbow Gathering going on here over the whole 4 days of the Easter period.

We had hoped CND would fund the Gathering - in fact they strung us along and let us believe they would, until now it's almost too late to do anything about it. So please pass the word around as far and as quickly as possible: we need people, performers, music, stalls, energy, fortune-tellers, face-painters, children, anarchy, fun & confusion in general. Expenses will only amount to what we can get from passing the hat around, but it will be a most memorable event: it's time to make Molesworth our space, for the Rainbow Tribe of anarchists, greens, travellers, punks, rastas, freaks and fabuloso's - all of us who've been put down, trivialised and ignored as wierdo's and unreliable wasters - often by people in the peace movement as much as by anyone else - for years and years. Come to Molesworth so we can feel our strength.

At Easter there will be a lot of talk about Stonehenge. After years of talking about it, this year it seems the authorities will be making a concerted effort to stop the midsummer festival. If they were to succeed, no doubt they'd turn their attention next to Glastonbury. But they won't succeed; what they'll probably do is to politicise the 50,000+ free festival goers who will arrive there anyway. The National Trust have threatened to issue court injunctions against any welfare organisations which turn up; Festival Welfare Services for one have replied that they'll take no notice, but will go to Stonehenge as usual to do the job they're supposed to do - and that the blame for any trouble or confrontation caused by attempts to block the festival will be laid firmly at the feet of the National Trust.

The Collective remains committed to doing the Green Field at Glastonbury festival; but we'll also have a presence at Stonehenge, via the Roadshow and friends. We could have an important role to play in making connections between those who normally celebrate midsummer at Glastonbury and those who go to Stonehenge (a process which has already started at Rainbow Fields).

Then in August comes the International Green Gathering back at Molesworth. This will go ahead whether or not the Ministry of Defence has built a fence for us to remove.

There's a feeling of optimism and strength around. Thousands of people will be on the move this summer. We'll all look back and remember the Spirit of '85.

Lots of Love, Bruce.

I've managed to get together up-to-date lists of subscribers in different regions to send out with this mailing. We should soon have the system computerised so that that job can be done more efficiently.

Also, for recent subscribers, an information sheet on the Collective's history and ethos, and a reprinted version of the 'Green Collective Draft Constitution' (which so far has remained a draft. There's no suggestion it should be anything else). If anyone would like extra copies of either of these astonishingly wonderful documents, please send me a stamped addressed envelope here at Rainbow Fields.

NEWS & INFO

DUE TO PROBLEMS BEYOND THE EDITOR'S CONTROL the Green Collective Mailing is no longer being produced from Rainbow Fields. Please send copy for the next issue, letters of encouragement, overdue Valentine cards etc to Bruce Garrard, c/o The White Field, Dove Centre, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset. The next issue should be out by Easter. Subs can still be sent c/o 4 Bridge House, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.

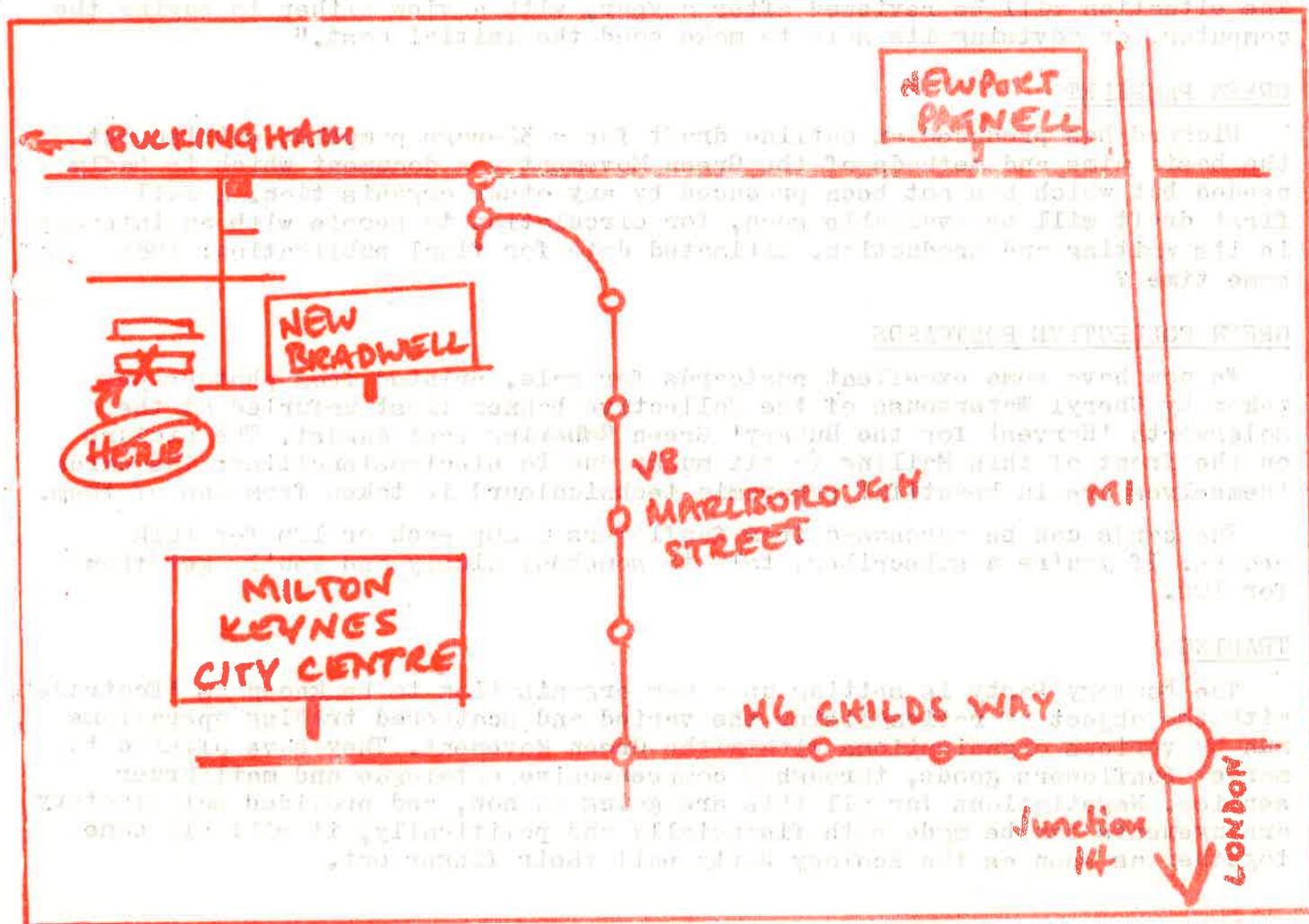
A SPECIAL MINI-GATHERING cum extended Collective Meeting will be held for Collective members/subscribers and friends in the heart of the forest near Salisbury at the beginning of May. More details in the next Mailing.

NEXT COLLECTIVE MEETING: I thought I'd been very together just for a change and could let everyone have details of the next meeting in good time ~~FOR~~ ~~AT~~ ~~CHANGE~~. However, the Ministry of Defence bugged that one up.

Nevertheless, here are the details (~ bit late) of the meeting to be held in Milton Keynes over the weekend February 23/24: It will be held in the Community House, 9 Spencer Street, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes. To get there, leave the M1 at Junction 14 and then follow the map very carefully. If you get hopelessly lost phone Milton Keynes (0908) 316921.

Bring a sleeping bag etc, food or money for food, and if possible musical instruments. Items for discussion will include Milton Keynes & the Greentown Group (see article elsewhere in this Mailing for background information), Molesworth and whether/what we can now do there, and updates on plans for Green Field, Roadshow etc.

How to get there:



NEWS & INFO

THE LAST GREEN COLLECTIVE MEETING took place at Harewarren Cottage, Somewhere-in-the-woods, near Salisbury, Wilts on the 1st December 1984. There was a beautiful hearthside to sit by, and lots of space outside which will be lovely in the Spring. This is where the Collective will be gathering for May Day (which this year lasts nearly a week - from May 1st through to the Bank Holiday the following Monday - put it in your diary if you think you can make it).

There was something of a fracas when the local hunt came crashing through the forest at about lunchtime, and a bunch of hunt sabs dashed out from the meeting to confront the hunters. This upset Tim (whose house it is), who has spent some time living with the situation and who does his best to get on with his neighbours. The problem should not arise in May, since Tim will have the chance to do a bit of quiet diplomacy beforehand - the hunt only comes through a couple of times a year anyway, and it doesn't have to be that weekend.

GREENBASE

The Collective has been given the use of a computer, which is intended for the benefit of the Green/Peace Movements in general. It is in the care of Richard Oldfield at Bridge House, who is currently building up a data-base, developing the mailing list facility, and looking into the possibilities of computer networking. Anyone interested in this project should contact him.

The Collective's responsibility for the computer was formalised as follows:

"The Green Collective has been offered the use of a computer, which needs to be paid for (£926) within approximately 12-18 months. We will:

1. Set up a special group ('Greenbase') to operate and administer the computer.
2. Seek funds, in the form of charges for services, donations, and fees for access to the facility, from groups using it. Such funds will be set aside towards the computer's purchase.
3. Open a bank account and deposit an initial small amount.
4. Underwrite any difference still owing for its purchase after 18 months.

The situation will be reviewed after a year, with a view either to buying the computer, or advising its sale to make good the initial cost."

GREEN PAMPHLET

Richard has produced an outline draft for a 32-page pamphlet setting out the basic aims and methods of the Green Movement - a document which is badly needed but which has not been produced by any other organisation. A full first draft will be available soon, for circulation to people with an interest in its writing and production. Estimated date for final publication: 1986 some time ?

GREEN COLLECTIVE POSTCARDS

We now have some excellent postcards for sale, printed from photographs taken by Cheryl Waterhouse of the Collective banner first unfurled at the Molesworth 'Harvest for the Hungry' Green Gathering last August. The picture on the front of this Mailing (a bit mucky due to electrostenciling; the cards themselves are in beautiful panoramic technicolour) is taken from one of them.

The cards can be purchased from Sunflowers @ 20p each or 12p for bulk orders. If you're a subscriber, talk to somebody nicely and you'll get them for 10p.

TRADING

The Ecology Party is setting up a new organisation to be known as 'Ecotrade', with the object of rationalising the varied and scattered trading operations run by various organisations within the Green Movement. They have offered to market Sunflowers goods, through a comprehensive catalogue and mail order service. Negotiations for all this are going on now, and provided satisfactory arrangements can be made both financially and politically, it will all come together as soon as the Ecology Party pull their finger out.

MOLESWORTH - RAINBOW FIELDS VILLAGE was evicted by nearly 3000 police and soldiers on the night of February 5th/6th, whilst this mailing was in the middle of being typed. The following two articles give an idea of what was going on there in the weeks immediately before the eviction; the full story of the eviction itself will be told in due course.

For up-to-date information from Molesworth phone St Ives (0480) 63054; Peterborough (0733) 235335; or Clopton (08015) 257.

January. The mud has frozen and the snows have come - oh what fun it is to trudge to one another's homes, yeah. Especially in the moonlight; last night a rainbow halo around the moon. And in the daytime a steady flow of energy, maintaining dwellings, fetching water, fetching wood. Numbers are still swelling and there has been a one-third increase in the size of the camp since November.

Our thanks to the hundreds of friends who came here during the Midwinter celebrations (including the group of 40 from Holland). On Winter Solstice a torchlit procession followed by games and singing and some wonderful music by Dibjak set the wheels turning. Then over the week there were feasts and fasts, a carol service, kids' party, performance by a theatre group "Subculture", and last but not least the kids' show "Wind in the Willows" starring Molesworth Mole.

Earlier in December we were visited by the Fall-Out Marching Band who very kindly and supportively came to entertain us. We were also honoured with a visit by an Indian storyteller, Floating Eagle Feather, who told us tales of peace and fearlessness in troubled times. Then we told him a few of our own legends! ... of which we already have a few, woven into the Molesworth folklore that is happening all the time. Life is very intense with so many people living so close together without the usual boundaries or norms - which makes it an excellent testing ground for peace. And even the bad things that have happened have been a huge learning experience, making us feel stronger as a community and more able to deal with trouble in the future. Especially the realisation that being non-violent doesn't always mean being weak and passive and letting people walk all over us; with a united community we should be able to actively oppose any disruptive element before a crisis erupts. Just as we're here to actively oppose cruise.

We would like to thank all concerned for the wonderful response to our list of needs and to all visitors who have braved it into the wilds bearing welcome and appropriate gifts. We look forward to seeing many more of you in 1985. And we would still like to see more groups set up their own base here; another idea is for groups to come and put up their own flag or banner. At present help is needed with building work and with painting the inside of the school in preparation for the "new term". Two people who have joined us, Dave and Vicky, are involved in Education Otherwise, so their arrival and experience is very timely and welcome. Our needs for this month are down to old carpets and gas stoves and tarpaulins (and always firewood), though some of the things on the last list (wheelbarrows/nails/paints/tin baths/plastic sheeting/theatrical props & costumes/camera/old caravans/bicycles/woodburning stoves or equipment to make them (milk churns, gas bottles, oil drums etc)/children's chairs/educational books and material/linguaphone cassettes/cassette player/blankets/loan of video equipment/building tools/building materials/musical instruments/duplicating paper/etc etc) still apply. Also, we're putting out a call for maternity wear (preferably "effnik") for our many pregnant women!

Wishing you a bright and clear new year - Molesworth Moles.

This piece was reprinted from the 'Molesworth Bulletin', which is published from Rainbow Fields on behalf of all the groups involved in the Molesworth campaign, and which keeps readers informed about the Pledge Campaign, the Elrene (Peace Chapel) project, Molesworth Ploughshares (formerly Wheat to the Starving), Molesworth Peoples' Peace Camp, and events at Alconbury, as well as general information. To get on the mailing list, please send a donation (min £2 to cover postage) to: Molesworth Bulletin, Rainbow-Fields, Peace-Corner, Old-Weston-Road, Brington, Near-Huntingdon, Cambs c/o 4 Bridge House, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs - latest issue out very soon.

RAINBOW FIELDS VILLAGERS GO OUT FOR A SATURDAY EVENING DRINK

ANARCHY AND OUTRAGE IN CORBY CIVIC CENTRE

LOCAL CND GROUP CULTURE-SHOCKED BUT APPRECIATIVE

Last Saturday evening (Jan 19th) the local CND group in Corby invited us out for a 'social' in their civic centre. They hired a couple of buses and took about 70 of us over there, supposedly to meet their people and for us all to get to know each other. Loads of people wanted to go, because it was rumoured that there would be a disco and plenty of free food. By the time we got there the joints and chillums had already been passing round the bus all the way, and the staff at the Civic Centre looked somewhat alarmed at the arrival of dozens of hairy outlandish anarchists piling into their plush new concrete building.

The room that had been booked for us was square and overheated with plastic lighting and tables & chairs set out in straight lines. There was one table set apart at one end with a microphone on it, and behind it someone had gone to a lot of trouble to make a huge arrangement of greenery and foliage, but in the lighting that looked plastic too. The microphone soon disappeared after the kids who came with us had taken it over for a while singing raucous songs and telling jokes. After that we had piped muzak for a while, the kind of stuff that sounds like it's being squeezed out of a toothpaste tube. There was a bar that sold fizzy beer and a 'buffet' which amounted to a few plates of sausage rolls and some crisps but not much more (I think there were some home-made flapjacks but I never saw anyx).

I don't know what was expected of us - make speeches or something I suppose - and certainly none of us knew what to do in that environment. A couple of dozen Corby CNDers came along; some of them poked their noses round the door and disappeared again straight away, but most of them came in, even if they looked a bit uncomfortable - and generally found someone to talk to in a reasonably sane fashion, though around them the place was beginning to turn into more and more of a madhouse.

There was a whole bunch of people from the convoy who'd arrived at Molesworth just a day or two before, sitting round a table looking like a crew of pirates. Groups of people were sitting, talking, milling about, wondering what to do next. The local press came and left very rapidly. Someone soon got the chillum going again with a huge shout of 'Ali Boom', and David Taylor arrived from St Ives with some friends who'd been out to Eritrea, bringing two or three hand drums. A group of us started drumming and chanting and gradually the whole room joined in with banging on the tables and making lots of noise.

At that point the microphone reappeared because someone from Corby - apparently not a regular member of the CND group but I think from the Socialist Workers' Party - got up and told us to 'behave' and that we had a serious message which we should be putting across seriously etc etc. Of course all he got was jeers and cat-calls but then the piped muzak came back on again so the drumming and chanting came to a stop. Around about then someone tried to open the windows because it was getting so hot but they wouldn't open; and we'd just been living under canvas through a spell when the temperatures dropped some nights to around -15°C.

Julie from the Brown Doubledecker appeared wearing a leopardskin leotard and carrying a flaming brand, so the lights went down and she juggled with this stick which was burning at both ends for a while, which was a useful diversion, and by now the Corby people had realised that what we wanted was a good night out and if there was no entertainment provided it would be best to help us make our own before the whole place dissolved into chaos. So some musical instruments appeared, and a woman from Corby played some really nice Irish jigs on a fiddle, and lots of people joined in singing and dancing and leaping around. One guy who'd always been called 'Quiet Martin' because he'd seemed so shy and rarely says very much and then in a muted voice, was flailing around with hardly any clothes on and he's been known as Manic Martin since then.

Meanwhile down in the foyer, right inside the big glass entrance to the Civic Centre, Chaos Dave was busy abusing a CNDer who'd got over-earnest with him and David Taylor was standing playing his flute, all at the same time. Then at 11 o'clock they closed the bar and we all got back on the buses to go back home, leaving behind us drifts of crisp packets and ash trays empty glasses and disorganised chairs & tables.

Somebody said when we got back to Rainbow Fields, people just don't understand what forces they're unleashing when they invite us out for a drink on a Saturday night. We imagined that Corby would never be quite the same again; but all the same the Corby people didn't seem to mind the outrage and anarchy - one person said how nice it was to have people with such lively energy, and another, a member of the Labour Party, said it was really good that we were at Molesworth and being such a thorn in the flesh of the authorities. Mostly they felt that they'd let us down by providing so little and getting so few of their own people to come along. As far as we were concerned, the evening had been so appalling that it had turned out wonderful - we'd all reacted to being in that strange environment by turning into utter anarchists, all of us, and all of the bullshit about 'greens' and 'convoy' was rapidly disappearing. It did us real good to be all together outside of the Village, and everyone came home feeling really fine. Many thanks to Corby CND.

The next day was Sunday and we had nearly 200 visitors at Rainbow Fields (and I was secretly pleased that our Food Kitchen could cater for them better than Corby Civic Centre could for us), and they all seemed to accept our quaint and ritual ways. And also there's been a spate of speaking engagements booked for us to talk with local peace groups around the country, and at these we've given up all pretense that we're anything but what we are. Some people have expectations of us as a 'Peace Camp' (which is something we've never called ourselves), and those expectations may not be fulfilled; but overall we've discovered that we are acceptable to the peace movement (or at least to most people in it, if not to some of its leaders) which is a great source of strength. Living here, for me at least, has started to become 'empowering' in much the same way as it must be for the women in their space at Greenham. BG.

*****STOP PRESS*****

Tuesday February 5th: Full Moon

Hundreds of police have just surrounded Rainbow Fields and have told us all to leave within the hour. Those who don't will be left till the morning when a coach will be here for women and children and the rest of us removed with 'minimum force'. The army are waiting on the other side of the base: we saw the lights of a huge convoy moving around the road. We saw it from the fireside after the sweat lodge.

I don't know if I'll manage to get this printed but I'll try to find a duplicator tomorrow. Some bits of the mailing (like the bits about the Collective's own activities !) haven't been typed yet.

I feel sad and hurt and powerless. There's hundreds of them, and roadblocks outside, and the phones dead. Goodbye Rainbow Fields (I think) ... long live the Rainbow Tribe.

February 16th: Scattered wits have just been gathered sufficiently for this mailing to be printed. Thanks to Rainbow Fields and its grossly over-the-top eviction, the campaign to prevent cruise deployment at Molesworth has got off to a flying start. But please don't forget the Rainbow Villagers: most of them are still together, and urgently need support and help to get their vehicles in order. Donations can be made direct to the 'Molesworth Village Account' at Huntingdon Trustee Savings Bank, account number 77-72-09 11897968. Cheques and messages of support can be sent c/o Catworth Post Office, Catworth, Huntingdon, Cambs.

GLASTONBURY GREEN FIELD 1985.

Last year, 1984, in a manner that would make working on a shoestring seem luxurious, we of the Green Collective responded to Michael Eavis's invitation to participate in the Glastonbury Festival. And the Green Field flowered and grew in the swelter of June's heat. Many of you reading this will remember - others will have heard tell - Many problems overcome and others not, we managed to some extent at least to create a mini-Green Gathering under the huge spreading wings of Michael's massive CND Festival. The rest is history (herstory).

And now, looking forward to a further participation, our awareness sharpened through experience and our desire to be effective, to make a difference fairly intact, we begin to cobble together a framework of ideas, plans and ideals, and to start attaching money figures to them (which Anne Waterhouse and I will approach Michael Eavis with in the near future). We know that we can do a great deal with high energy and enthusiasm and many of us working lots for very little. Just what might be possible if we can negotiate a 'proper' budget this year?

And so, after a couple of our meetings, I phoned him up ... a welcoming start ... "Glad you're thinking about it, no hurry, let's let the snow melt, have your baby then come on over ..."

We talked over stall rents, inclusion in the programme, access, marquees, the generator, and other topics. And now that someone took the snow away and our baby boy was born last Sunday morn, I'll soon be picking up the phone again ...

IT IS TIME NOW FOR EVERYONE WHO READS THIS TO MAKE A MENTAL NOTE THAT LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE NEEDED TO HELP IN ALL SORTS OF WAYS. With Molesworth, especially, taking lots of our Collective energy, and others of us more committed to Stonehenge, we could easily find ourselves under-personed. At least TWENTY PEOPLE ARE NEEDED TO BE THERE, TO TAKE AND HOLD DIFFERENT RESPONSIBILITIES, AND TO COPE WITH A VARIETY OF REALITIES. All good fun stuff in a mutually supportive, co-operative atmosphere. But please, now is the time to get in touch and to get it into your diaries.

We are especially committed to inviting healers, bodyworkers, and therapists. Please let us know of people or ask them to contact us. We also need a group of people to organise our field kitchen to feed our hungry workers and their children.

We also hope to offer our usual and unusual range of workshops, teach-ins, music sessions, act-ins, processions, circle dances, political hot-beds, gardeners' question-times, totem carvings, hot shows/saunas/sweat lodges, chanting circles, healing circles, liberation sessions, bread bakes, storytimes, games playing, meditations, and Apocalypso Music Making !!!

Please get in touch * Please come * Please tell your friends.

Bring your music and songs, dances and chants, body paint and healing hands, your uncles and aunts, children and grandchildren ...

K. McG

Kim McGavin (Co-ordinator and workshops convener), Hillview, Yeolands Lane, Swymbridge, Barnstaple, Devon. (0271) 830332.

Bobby Bazalgette (Alternative Tech and Water Palace), Yeotown Farm, Snapper, Barnstaple, Devon. (0271) 44773.

Richie Cotterill (Creche, Roadshow, Entertainments), Waterleat, Ashburton, Newton Abbott, South Devon.

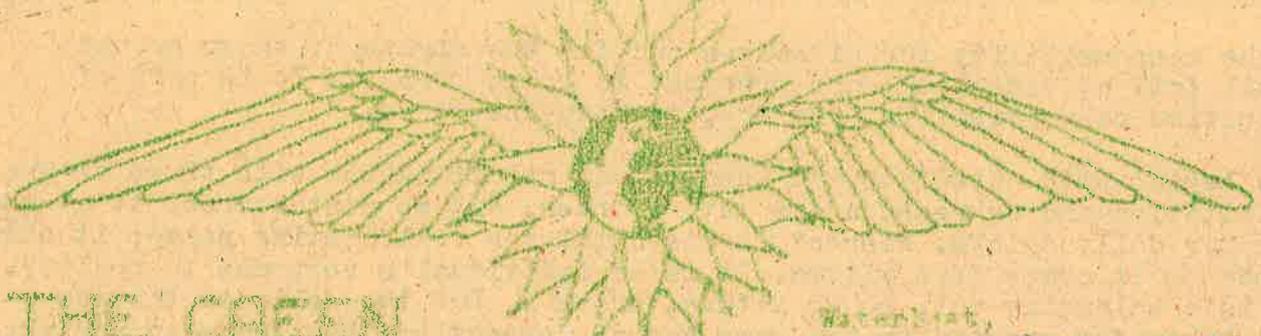
Anne Waterhouse (Stalls), 55 Stuart Close, Emmer Green, Reading, Berks. (0734) 478297.

Pete & Suzie (Site Management, site crew etc), 59 Whitwell Way, Coton, Cambs.

Sigrid Shayer (Women's Space), 3 The Polygon, Bristol 8 (0272) 697089.

Bruce Garrard (Information stall), No Fixed Abode - in the immediate future try c/o The White Field, Dove Centre, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset.

*** Give us a buzz if you'd like to get involved this year - see you soon ***



THE GREEN ROADSHOW

Waterloot,
Ainslie, Newton Abbott,
South Devon.

Festivals are celebrations where people come together to share the sense of unity through a common focus ... e.g. music.

Demonstrations are statements about particular issues which arise through common concerns ... e.g. nuclear disarmament.

Green Gatherings combine these areas and encourage the sharing of skills and ideas which make it possible to achieve the aims ... e.g. anti-sexism.

Peace Festivals are a more recent phenomenon and they combine the movements of CND towards acting on the full implications of Peace, and the free festivals' awareness of the Collective Unconscious ... the melting pot.

These events are all changing and beginning to merge into a conscious whole. Events of a similar nature are being organised around a variety of focuses.

The Green Roadshow was set up in 1984 as part of the broadening of the Green Gathering Collective's activities; we wanted to take the Gatherings to the people. How naive ! The Gathering is the people; but we did take ourselves. We've entered into the melting pot, and through meeting with people changes/exchanges of ideas and attitudes take place, mostly informally. At Gatherings we use workshops to focus this exchange, but the people of the festivals are reluctant to accept the organised or artificial nature of such activities ('we should be having fun not meetings') and the onus is on us to make them more direct and accessible. We also acknowledge the coming of age of the movement and try to cater for the children of this generation by arranging activities for them. These we found were extremely welcome.

We found that the Art of children at festivals very often reflects the focus - for example the profusion of doves and other symbols of the Peace Movement at Coventry CND rally and Boscombe Down Peace Festival. At other events it was the freedom and closeness to nature and to friends which was reflected.

In our children's workshop marquee we have lots of useful things like paint, paper, glue, and scissors, with a variety of other things, mostly scrap. We sometimes run a particular workshop like kite-making, or offer face painting, but often the ideas come from the kids themselves and we help them to find what they need to do it. We are only 'Teachers' in that we may have more experience of the tools than they.

Once they have become used to the new environment and have accepted us, they can be free to come and go as they please; we don't tell anyone what to do unless they want us to, and we learn from and about each other through being and doing together. Often parents and friends get involved, caught up in the exploration, and we encourage this too. The only times when we do tell people what to do are when we see that one person is interfering with another - i.e. being inconsiderate. Stop reading and think about

CONSIDERATION

Consider co-operation. Mutual agreement to help each other. We all have the right to our freedom, and if we find that one is infringing on another, and that the victim is not into it, then we may try for some form of compromise. Consideration leads to peaceful co-existence or even co-operation. No one gets trodden on, especially not us. It is real and anything can happen, we individ-

usually take responsibility for ourselves and for the rights of those around us. We all fail at times, but are prepared to learn from it. It is part of our collective responsibility, you too, to keep the peace.

Peace begins with ourselves and then to our relationships with those around us. Exploitation and aggression are out of order, and we must correct it at the root, in our daily doings. Respect is essential for real lasting peace; it cannot be imposed as it comes from within. It is an individual's response to reality. Reality is a balancing act, so is nature, so am I. But the delicate balance has been taken for granted in the same way as respect has been made an unconscious habit. The Earth and its people have been exploited, under-mined, through mindless, disrespectful, inconsiderate greed. We must make the effort, take responsibility for the peace in our own lives, listen to the earth and each other and build ... Teaching by example.

STOP ? THINK ? Maybe you could take it in turns with the scissors, they're the only pair we've got left; that way you'll both get a turn instead of neither.

Peace through non-authoritarian education ... Please ! ... LOVE.

Anyone can do this sort of work with kids if they want to. We find it most rewarding when the event lasts for several days so that there is time to develop the relationships more fully. It takes us a while to adapt to new situations, and it is not until we have passed over the initial nervousness that they (and we) can see beyond to the possibilities. The longer the event the more real interaction is able to take place.

Working with children, ourselves and each other are fundamental Green activities.

We wish to encourage events to provide for this interaction in positive ways, and if possible to get local groups and individuals to put on the workshops and set up the space for children (play their own music). If this happens then there won't be any need for a Green Roadshow unless it is really developed with effective and clear techniques and knowledge. Then we would not be us but perhaps them ... Teachers ... Teach us ... it is we who must learn.

Perhaps then we would be able to take the workshops into schools and colleges, as well as integrating the understanding of our own lives into our homes and places of work ... all in good time ... I pray that we have time.

So for now the Roadshow is learning and growing as part of the festival scene and of the Peace Movement. We ask that we be recognised and supported in this by the organisers of the events, and by the participation of those who come to the events to share.

More tails of great growth in the history of the Roadshow, Part II.

Further info from Richie Cotterill, Waterleat, Ashburton, Newton Abbott, South Devon.

GREEN GATHERINGS AND SIMILAR EVENTS, 1985 (planned so far)

- March 2-16: Norwich Festival of Nonviolence. Details: Shantum Seth, University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk.
- April 5-8: Molesworth - CND rally, and Rainbow Gathering. Details: CND - 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ; other events phone St Ives (0480) 63054, or Clopton (08015) 257.
- May 25: Cambridge - Strawberry Fayre. Details Martin Price, Cambridge 316211.
- June 15-16: Leamington Festival of International Peace and Understanding. Details: Rosemary Jackson, 24 Clarendon Ave, Leamington Spa. (0926) 39079.
- June 21-23: Glastonbury CND Festival. Details of Green Field: Kim McGavin, Hillview, Yeolands Lane, Swymbridge, Barnstaple, Deven. (0271) 830332.
- Midsummer: Stonehenge Free Festival - definitely on in spite of pressure from authorities.
- Summer: ~~Swymbridge~~ Peaceful Green Fair. Details: Tiger Lily, 26 Cambridge St, Norwich. (060 381) 4555.

WOMEN'S SPACE IN GATHERINGS

(The Women's Space is a relatively recent but increasingly important feature of Green Gatherings and similar events. Stephanie Leland and Sigrid Shayer have written this piece for inclusion in a possible second edition of the Green Gathering Advice Pack, and it is printed here as a guide for anyone wishing to put together a Women's Space at a national or local event this summer).

It may come as a surprise to some of you, as it did to us, to learn that even within the radical alternative consciousness of the green movement, and indeed the Green Collective itself - which in all its statements embraces feminism as an integral part of the green perspective - even within this atmosphere there is an underlying resistance to the creation of a women's space.

Perhaps it would be helpful to discuss why we feel a women's space to be a vital part of a gathering before we deal with the practical aspects involved in its organisation.

Why a Women's Space is necessary and important

It is unfortunate that it is still necessary for us to justify the existence of a women's space. A constant criticism is that it is divisive, sexist, and further aggravates the separation between men and women. This seems to reflect misunderstanding; the divisions and sexism are already there. What a women's space does is to provide a supportive environment where women can speak more openly, and strength may be gained so that we may then have the confidence and ability to work on equal terms with other men and women.

It's a healing and a growing process. We need to have the opportunity at times to meet separately, in order for us to discover more of our true natures which have been suppressed for generations; we can develop new ways of relating and organising without the constraints of gender roles imposed by the society that we are seeking to change. Otherwise we just perpetuate the same old patterns of relationships, intrinsic to the maintenance of the current structural patterns of society, which reinforce our spiritual and physical divorce from the earth. An intellectual understanding emerges from the careful attention paid to expressed emotions and feelings.

Though many men are working very hard to overcome this conditioning (reflected in behaviour, attitudes and expectancies), as so many women are working to overcome theirs, we still have a very long way to go before we can truly consider ourselves free of the layers and layers of patriarchal clothing. This shedding process is a painful and difficult one. The challenging of the traditional role relationships based on sex threatens the patriarchal power-base of men. One can understand therefore the resistance, because for change to come about men will have to relinquish that power over women; likewise women have to become less dependent on men, and many women find it frightening to become more responsible for their own lives. Women also need to regain their strengths and unlearn their conditioning, so they can challenge male oppression in a non-confrontational way.

A men's space would serve a similar function. With men asking more of each other emotionally, perhaps they would be able to regain more contact with their so far unexpressed feelings which would encourage more caring and sensitive attitudes.

Greenham has shown the strength and the new dimension arising when women get together. Those who have experienced Greenham and the women's space created there know the empowerment that results from it. But women's space also needs to be else-where.

Challenging the conditioned behaviour and attitudes of men and women in relation to each other underpins all the other alternative approaches to life represented within the holistic perspective at Green Gatherings. Women's space can be used for different things by different women, reflecting our different

needs and personalities; the fact that it's there is all-important. Maybe it's something that will always be needed.

And now to the practicalities: much relevant advice can be found in the other workshop and information sheets of the Green Gathering Advice Pack. But specifically for the Women's Space:

A marquee as the focus needs to be complemented with an area set aside for women's camping for those who want it. The choice needs to be there. In order to avoid misunderstanding and possible aggravation caused by men walking through the site, the camping space should occupy an area that is quiet and off any main throughfare - possibly behind the marquee.

We have found that roping off the area causes bad will both ways. Some women feel as if they are some special breed of animal being kept in a pen. Also there is the additional hazard of tripping over the string during the darker hours! The idea of building fences between people is not very green anyway. Friendly notices stating that it is a women's camping area and asking that people respect that space should be enough. Roping off the area hopefully won't be necessary.

The marquee can be used for exhibitions as well as workshops. These can reflect the whole range of issues within the green movement (creative as well as discussion-oriented ones), but with more of a feminist perspective. Liaise with other workshop organisers beforehand so that there can be an opportunity to have mixed workshops on the subjects that have been included in the women's tent. Not all women facilitators will want to do this though.

Publicise the women's space and workshops widely in the relevant publications and newsletters well beforehand, to draw as many women to the gathering as possible, as well as making the concept more visible. Likewise publicise well at the gathering itself.

Stalls can be arranged outside the front of the marquee, depending of course on the weather. As there are usually a few women who use the marquee to sleep in at night, the stalls can be taken into the marquee overnight.

A daily women's meeting on site can be used to draw ideas about the next day's activities, to air any grievances, and also as a tool for developing the essence of a women's space. If there are exhibitions you may want to decide whether to open the space to all at certain times - or not. The marquee can also be used for women to camp in - it certainly does give it a homely lived-in feeling.

As more and more people are learning to embrace the concept of women's space rather than feeling threatened by it, the co-operation resulting should make it easier to organise. We have found that although we've had to put a tremendous amount of energy into it, the positive energy emanating from the area, and the links and connections which were forged, made it more than worth the effort. We hope a women's space will continue to be an integral and creative part of Gatherings to come.

Anyone who would like to be involved in the women's space at this year's Glastonbury Green Field can contact Sigrid Shayer at 3, The Polygon, Bristol 8; Tel Bristol (0272) 277527.

MILTON KEYNES: THE 'GREENTOWN' PROJECT

(The plan to establish an ecologically sound village-scale community within the new 'city' of Milton Keynes has now been bogged down in bureaucratic red tape for 5 years, and some sections of the Green movement are beginning to think in terms of taking a direct involvement in order to force the authorities' hands. Here David Olivier of the Greentown group describes the project and what has happened to it).

Summary

Milton Keynes Development Corporation (MKDC) recently issued a formal Planning Brief to the Greentown Group. The Group wish to build a cooperatively-run, ecologically sound village community in the new city, and have been discussing their plans with MKDC since 1989. MKDC submitted its proposals to the Department of the Environment (DoE); approval by the DoE would amount to outline planning permission for the whole scheme.

However, the Group faces further bureaucratic hurdles. It has asked the DoE to help the project by setting up a 'Steering Group' of all the parties involved, like the one already forging ahead with the Lightmoor Village project in Telford. It is pressing MKDC to commit itself clearly to Greentown's long-standing aims and objectives.

Historical Background

In 1978, the then Chairperson of MKDC, Lord Campbell, challenged the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) to help to create a new 'garden city' in keeping with the innovative and progressive atmosphere then present in the new city. The TCPA produced its 'Outline Prospectus for a Third Garden City'. The Greentown Group was formed in August 1979 at the Comtek Festival, with the aim of negotiating for, planning and building its own village-scale community. Soon after this, MKDC offered the group a 15 ha (36 acre) site in the Crownhill grid square, on the city's western edge, and members have been meeting regularly and discussing plans with MKDC ever since then. In 5 years, many members have come and gone, but there definitely is a huge latent demand from people to create their own community along these lines, both in Milton Keynes and elsewhere.

Back in 1979, MKDC seemed to acknowledge that the Greentown Group was offering to design and develop a community of largely self-build housing, but mainly for low and modest income residents. This combination has not been demonstrated before in the UK. While owner-builders are a major force in most industrial countries, the few self-build housing associations in the UK incline towards a middle or high income membership, building correspondingly large houses. However, even though Greentown appears unique in a UK context, MKDC has increasingly treated the project like any other speculative development. This is leading to growing difficulties for the Group.

Aims and Objectives

A basic principle of Greentown is community land ownership. To develop the land, the Group formed Crownhill Village Association Ltd (CVA). CVA will acquire the freehold of the land in stages; in turn, it will make the land available on long leases to Self-Build Housing Associations, Housing Cooperatives building for rent, or other groups. This results in a 'two-tiered' ownership structure for the village - CVA and the individual clusters. All adult members of CVA will have one share and be able to play a full part in running the village, and it should be possible for people with almost no capital to live there.

A basic premise of Greentown has always been for the residents themselves to plan the village, in consultation with MKDC, Milton Keynes Borough Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and the public utilities, and for all decisions affecting the community and its immediate environment to be made democratically. The Group believe that all members have ideas to contribute to the design of the village, and that the built environment can only benefit by incorporating the best ideas of all, agreed by all.

The basic planning principle is of phased organic growth. Residents themselves will decide the exact location of specific public buildings, housing clusters, footpaths, etc, as the need arises. Although it has submitted drawings to MKDC, the Group emphasised that the details therein were illustrative, not definitive. Rather, the basic form of the village will follow generally agreed 'patterns', many of which are set out in the book by C. Alexander et al, "A Pattern Language", and its companion volumes. These are the basic rules which, until quite modern times, governed the basic design of buildings, outdoor spaces etc, and helped to create some of the richest, most pleasing surroundings in which to live.

Greentown will be designed and run on ecologically-sound lines. Buildings will be very well-insulated and weatherstripped, often to the standards common in Scandinavia and North America, which are much better than British practice - so good that houses can stay warm and comfortable mainly on internal gain from people etc, plus solar gains through the windows. A community reuse and recycling system is planned for domestic refuse. Eventually, the village aims to treat its own sewage (with methane as a by-product) and generate most of its energy (except perhaps transport fuels) from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, and biomass.

The first three housing clusters are already at an early design stage, although more potential residents are welcome. The first cluster of dwellings is likely to comprise twin terraces, each of 6-8 houses, and including a collective dwelling with such facilities as laundry, a workshop, library, food processing equipment and storage space, and a dining room for group meals. Built to the same energy efficiency standards as the recent 'superinsulated' houses of Scandinavia and North America, which now number 20-30,000, they should likewise stay warm and comfortable on trivial amounts of space heating energy.

The people so far involved in the first cluster - being registered as 'Sunrise Housing Cooperative' - favour building with fairly conventional materials; i.e. concrete, brick etc, in order to get things off to an early start. There would be ample opportunities for later housing clusters to use alternatives, ranging, e.g., from walls of soil-cement blocks to the use of natural insulation materials. Many of these more unusual techniques are well-tried in other developed and developing countries.

EEC support has just been confirmed for a renewable energy demonstration project in the first dwelling cluster, to involve a combined photovoltaic/wind electricity generation system. The equipment would be manufactured by UK companies; this would be the first domestic application in the UK of such an electricity generating system.

Present Difficulties

However, despite a record of 5 years of reports, development proposals, etc, Greentown still faces bureaucratic hurdles. After strong pressure from Milton Keynes Borough Council (the Borough), which has long alleged excessive secrecy by MKDC, MKDC is expected to amend the planning application which it made to the DoE for the entire Crownhill area. This will now only allow residential development. Applying for an amendment could delay plans for a year or more. Ironically, the Greentown Group shares the Borough's concern, and wants to see much more openness in planning decisions. However, the danger now is that further delays could prove fatal to morale among the Greentown Group's all-voluntary membership.

The Group have requested the Secretary of State for the Environment to bring together the parties now and establish a 'Steering Group' to guide the project forward. This would give MKDC a clear opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the principles of Greentown, and for the Borough to obtain the further information it desires.

The TCPA - a long-standing supporter of the Greentown project - reports strong interest and support for such new communities from the Secretary of State, whom it recently briefed on the Lightmoor Village project in Telford,

Shropshire. This may be because the self-help, self-governing aspects of the village were stressed above all ! The TCPA began Lightmoor after Greentown but, unlike the bureaucratic problems faced in Milton Keynes, a Steering Group is already meeting successfully to push the Lightmoor scheme ahead.

To make progress, MKDC will apparently have to change its recent policy of treating CVA as "any other developer". The Group would want MKDC to acknowledge the following ways in which CVA differs radically from a normal speculative developer:

- (1) The fact that public/commercial buildings, horticultural land, Woodland, recreational and children's play areas, etc, would form an integral part of the village. Apart from the buildings, such areas would constitute a 'greenbelt' (to borrow a term from elsewhere), which would be non-residential land in perpetuity. It justifies a corresponding land valuation;
- (2) The planning principle of phased organic growth, which is the way that most communities in the past developed;
- (3) The need for a constant exchange of information between the Greentown Group's most active workers and its other members, and a need to attract new members, by publicising day-to-day developments in the negotiation process. In no other way can key decisions be made as democratically as possible.

MKDC has come under strong political pressure in recent years simply to sell land at the highest possible prices - i.e. to the Wimpeys and Barratts of the world. Yet, without some rethink by MKDC, Greentown will apparently be pushed in this very same direction - forced to build at higher density, with much less space for food production and natural features such as woodland on the site, or forced to build which, including land, are too expensive for low income people to afford, or a combination of these. These are a contradiction of the basic principles of the Greentown Group, which has always opposed any moves in this direction.

In the immediate future, Green Collective members could help by writing to the DoE, stressing that a Steering Group of ourselves, the planning authorities and the TCPA must now be set up to push the long-prepared plans for Greentown forward (see Editorial note below). We are determined to continue the present process to a firm conclusion, one way or another. If this patient, reasonable attempt to negotiate for land with the authorities fails, it would not be for lack of effort, and would suggest that they do not take seriously the demand for such new communities.

By around 1990, if planning permission is given, Greentown will be complete. 500 people, some 180 dwellings, public buildings, children's playspaces, workshops, public open space, woodland, gardens and orchards will occupy the 15 ha Crownhill site. However, for this to happen, the Greentown group needs a reasonably sympathetic attitude from the planning authorities.

For further information, please contact: Greentown Group, 109 Church Street, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK12 5LD. (0908) 317892.

Editorial note: David Olivier is a Green Collective subscriber but has not (yet ?) taken an active part in any of the Collective's meetings or projects, and his suggestion that we write letters to the DoE must be seen in that light. The Green Collective has never advocated political action in the manner of a political party or pressure group; nor has there been any meeting with the Greentown Group at which it could be judged whether this approach and the implied confidence in planning authorities is worthwhile.

KIM MCGAVIN WORKS WITH VOLUNTARY, CO-OP, COMMUNITY, CAMPAIGN AND GREEN GROUPS. WORKSHOP SESSIONS, BY ARRANGEMENT, ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPATORY, DYNAMIC AND EVALUATIVE OCCASIONS. HELPS TO IMPROVE GROUP AWARENESS AND INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS. CHALLENGES OUT-MODED ASSUMPTIONS, ENCOURAGES UNIFICATION, UNDERSTANDING, DIVERSITY, FLUIDITY, CHANGE & FLOW. HELPS GROUPS DEAL WITH CONFLICT IN A CREATIVE, LOVING, SYMPATHETIC WAY, AND TO WORK MORE HAPPILY/HARMONIOUSLY. PLEASE WRITE OR PHONE: HILLVIEW, YEOLANDS LANE, SWIMBRIDGE, BARNSTAPLE, NORTH DEVON. (0271) 830332.

LETTERS AND CONTROVERSIES: THE GREEN GRAIL

Dear Keith,

I'm afraid your letter in the December mailing has upset me as you appear to be writing out of ignorance with regard to the 'Green Grail'. You say that your information comes from Margaret Wright. This explains the reason for your ignorance of the full saga behind the bitterness which many of us feel towards Margaret.

The 'grail' or jug (whichever you choose to call it) was given by Die Grunen to the Green Gathering in 1981. This can be corroborated by Anne Waterhouse who arranged the handing over of the jug with the German women. The jug was left in my care at the end of the Gathering as no one else had taken responsibility for it. I then asked Anne if she would like to take care of it, which she did for about a year. Responsibility for it then transferred to Stephanie Beland who kept it at Glastonbury until last Spring. During the time that these women looked after the jug/grail it was regularly taken to Green Gatherings and Green Collective meetings. Although not giving the jug powerful spiritual significance we have loved it and treasured it. It seemed right that an object given to the Gathering should be held in trust by the Collective and taken to each of the Gatherings, where it has been admired and enjoyed by many.

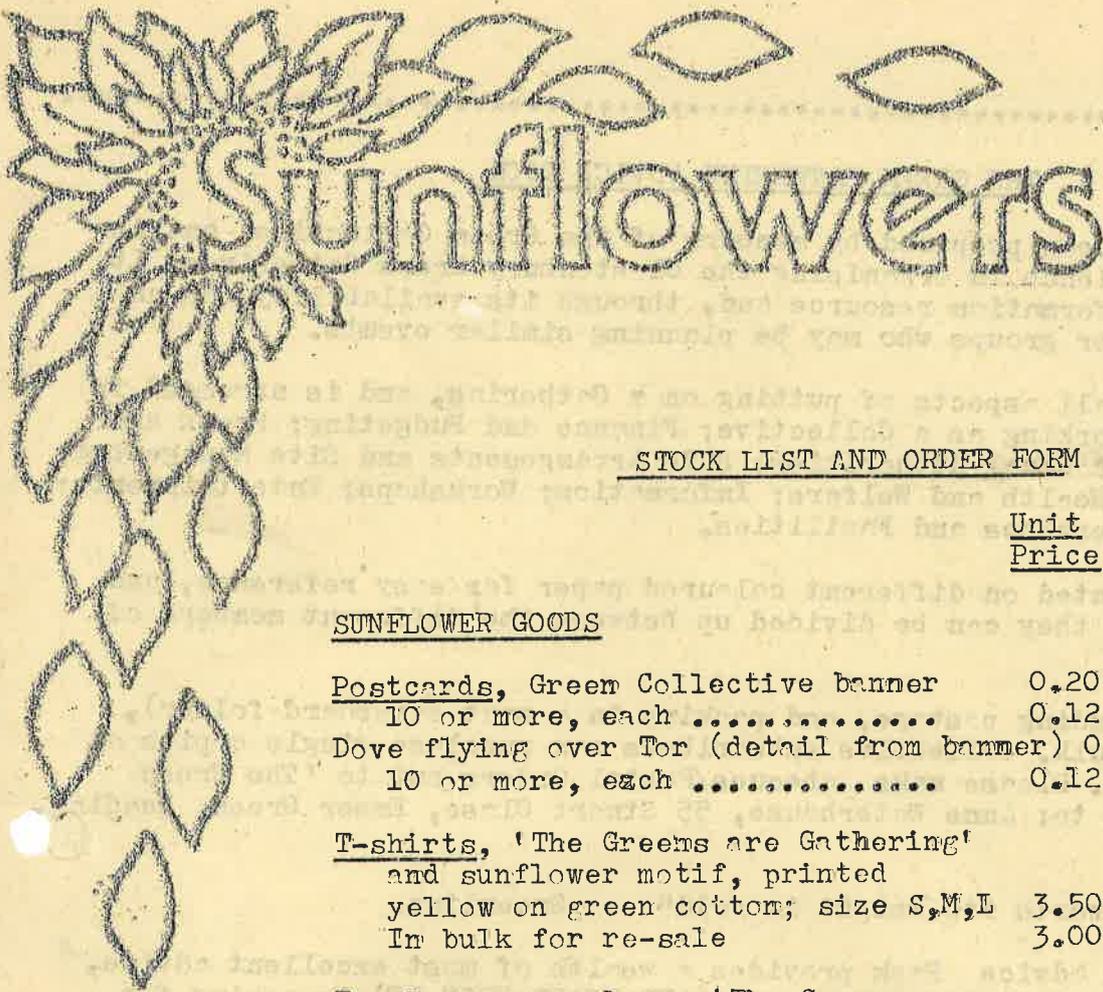
When Stephanie dropped out of the Collective we needed someone else to look after the 'grail'. After the Collective meeting where this was discussed I brought it back with me to St Ives. Shortly afterwards the Green Roadshow visited St Ives for a gig and the jug was brought out. It was while the jug was on display that Margaret took it. Imagine my consternation when I found that it had disappeared; I didn't know who had taken it or why. It was only through a third party that I discovered that Margaret had taken it.

When eventually I ran into Margaret we discussed the jug at length. Margaret agreed that she would return the jug in time for the Green Field at Glastonbury. She did not, nor did she produce it for the Green Gathering which took place at Molesworth, just down the road from her home. She has kept the jug hidden and out of circulation for nearly a year now. There is no single other person who will verify her story that the jug was given to women. She showed no interest in the jug for the first two years that we had it. Her very heavy and hostile manner has put off people who would otherwise be very happy to discuss it with her. She will not accept that anyone has another interpretation of the events surrounding the jug, or that many of us are attached to it, will treasure it, use it, and share it.

She has surrounded the jug with bitterness and anger where before there was love and openness. She has already given her word that she will return it to the care of the Green Collective. It's about time she was true to her word and did just that. I suggest, Keith, that in future you find out the facts before you jump in on things you apparently know very little about.

For communication, honesty and sharing, David (Taylor).

Footnote: from Anne Waterhouse: Gertrude Schilling and Bunny, the two women from Die Grunen who brought the jug to the Gathering first showed it to me (as I had made the arrangements for their workshops, and had done the liaison with Die Grunen before the event). We all agreed it should be formally presented to the Gathering and it was decided to do so at a women's meeting. It was given into Margaret's hands as she was convenor of that meeting. This perhaps is where the confusion has arisen. It certainly wasn't my impression that it had been given exclusively to women - I thought it was from German Greens to British Greens - with love !



8 Wardsworth Road,
Braintree,
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Feb '85

	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Quantity Required</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
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<u>Postcards, Green Collective banner</u>	0.20
10 or more, each	0.12
<u>Dove flying over Tor (detail from banner)</u>	0.20
10 or more, each	0.12
<u>T-shirts, 'The Greens are Gathering'</u> and sunflower motif, printed yellow on green cotton; size S,M,L	3.50	S..... M.....
In bulk for re-sale	3.00	L.....
<u>Envelope re-sealers, 'The Greens are Gathering', green gold & black</u>			
per pack of 100	2.00
5 packs or more, per pack	1.85
<u>Badges, 1½" 'The Greens are Gathering'</u>	25
10 or more, each	15
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per sheet of 20	50
10 sheets or more, per sheet	40
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'The Greens are Gathering'	30
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<u>Please include 15% to cover postage and packing</u>			
<u>Cheque payable to 'SUNFLOWERS' enclosed</u>			

THE GREEN GATHERING ADVICE PACK

The Advice Pack has been prepared by members of the Green Collective, and is based on their experience in organising the Glastonbury Green Gatherings. It is intended as an information resource and, through its availability, as an encouragement to other groups who may be planning similar events.

The material covers all aspects of putting on a Gathering, and is arranged in sections covering: Working as a Collective; Finance and Budgeting; Press and Publicity; Police and Local Authorities; Site Arrangements and Site Management; Site Kitchen; Gate; Health and Welfare; Information; Workshops; Entertainments; Kidz; Stalls; Site Services and Facilities.

The sections are printed on different coloured paper for easy reference, and are designed so that they can be divided up between the different members of an organising group.

The cost is £4 (including postage, and packing in a neat cardboard folder), or @ £2.50 each in bulk. Collective subscribers can purchase single copies at the bulk order price. Please make cheques/Postal Orders out to 'The Green Collective' and send to: Anne Waterhouse, 55 Stuart Close, Emmer Green, Reading, Berks.

"The information is worth its weight in gold" - Greemline.

"The Green Gathering Advice Pack provides a wealth of most excellent advice, and any organiser who fails to get a copy (AND LEARN FROM IT) is asking for disaster".
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Please make cheques payable to 'The Green Collective' and send to: Green Collective (subs), c/o 4 Bridge House, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.

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