

Pixie Taylor

Pixie hi.

This is a new tablet, I'm still trying to figure it out.

You did it!

Yeah. Hello. Hello.

It's lovely to meet you.

Lovely to meet you. You're Vanessa, are you?

I am Vanessa. Yes.

Okay.

Yeah. Thank you so much for agreeing to give up your time to chat to me today. Really.

I'm furloughed at the moment. So it's, it's good. Right?

What do you do in normal times, if you can remember that is?

Well, I'm a forest school leader. So basic, basically, all the years at Greenham kind of rubbed off on me so that I am - basically I like fires in the woods with kids without without the missiles being there. So we build shelters and do all outdoorsy stuff. And funnily enough, the organisation that I work for, we're a charity and it was set up by my good friend Arwi, who was at Greenham at the same time as me. And she actually set up this organisation. And - but yeah, so I think she was a teacher and then didn't want to go back into teaching and yeah, got into forest school back in 2000, just when it was kind of kicking off in this country and yeah. So our forest schools had quite a big Greenham influence as well.

Absolutely .

I'm still getting smelly and smoky, and muddy. But obviously, not right now.

Oh no what a shame.

I know we were working up until Christmas, and then things have just gone particularly bad haven't they. So we're hoping, hoping to get back to it in February, but we'll see.

Yeah, fingers crossed. Yeah we're the same cos obviously a lot of our events especially this year with the 40th anniversary, are trying to recreate Greenham and have people around campfires and things like that.

Its such a shame isn't it? It's just oh, yeah. So I mean, it's lucky, lucky, we can do it like this. Because obviously back in the day, um, I was looking through lots of my old Greenham bits and bobs, because I've got some photos and I actually found, I actually found a newsletter that we put out when we, when we closed up camp at Blue Gate we, we put this newsletter together. And it's got a little bit that I wrote about leaving about packing up Blue Gate, and when

Would you be able to scan it and send it?

Definitely. And of course it was, it was nice because everything was just handmade, wasn't it?

All the newsletters were quite beautiful.

It's got a whole article on on leaving Blue Gate, the end of an era and beyond. And it's just a nice little piece about how we, how we decided it was time to leave and well, we It was kind of forced upon us and how do you want to do this? Do you want us to just, have you got questions or do we just chat?

Yes I've got some questions, but happy to hear whatever you want to tell me as well. I suppose Yes. We could do an official start couldn't we. So Pixie Taylor, thank you so much for joining me today to talk about your time at Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp. Could you start them by telling me what took you there? Initially?

Okay, so my time at Greenham, there's two episodes, there's two - two periods of my life where I was at Greenham and the first time around was when I was pretty young. I was I was 18. And I was living in Scotland where I'm from, and I'd gotten involved in youth CND and anti-nuclear stuff and feminism and all that and I guess while I was still at school, and I'd been aware of Greenham on the news, a lot. I remember coming in from school one day and the Greenham Women were on the TV and I just stood there with my mouth open going oh my god, I want - I need to go there, you know? So the first time I actually went to Greenham I went down on a coach overnight from Dundee all the way down to Newbury with with a friend. And, you know, my Mum and Dad saying 'You're not going.' And me saying, 'Yes I am.' And off I went, so probably like a lot of women did. Yeah. And so yeah, so then I ended up not quite then but a few months later, having had a brief episode living at Faslane Peace Camp before that - and then I decided I wanted to be involved in women only thing really so. So I, I headed to Greenham having visited and thinking it was amazing. And then ended up living there from '85 to '86. So that was the first time and it was very different to the second time because back then there was lots of gates still open. And, you know, there was, it was

quite a lot of obviously, there was quite a lot of comings and goings of women. And you know, it was very well supported at that time. And yeah, so it was nice to have that experience. I mean - also there was full on evictions and all that sort of stuff going on. So it was, it was - and I lived and I mainly lived at Green Gate at that point. Because I've always liked being in nature. So I guess I gravitated towards the green tree area. But um, but yeah. And I had friends round at Blue Gate as well. So under the gates, obviously, but um, so then I moved away. I think after about a year, there I met a Dutch woman and I moved to Holland with her. And, yeah, so, so I had about six months where I lived in Holland. And then yeah - and I'm still in touch with that woman Joti actually she lives in Belgium. Just gonna turn the sound up a little bit. See if it's, yeah, so and then. So then I, I came back to London - we both moved back to London. And we spent quite a lot of time squatting in London and being part of sort of, radical, sort of, you know, squatting, women's movement. And, and, and I was coming - I never, I never completely stopped going to Greenham I used to visit I used to go up there and I still kept in touch with various friends over the years. And then it was coming up to the 10th birthday, which was 1990, September '91. And I thought and I was in between housing, you know, I'd been house sitting for somebody who needed to move. And I thought, you know what, I'm sick of living in London. I'm just going to move back to Greenham and see how it goes. So I turned up, you know, with just my tent and rucksack. And, and, and I knew some of the women because I've been keeping in touch. So it was, it... Yeah, so I just moved back then. And at that point, it was Blue Gate, because there was only at that point, Yellow Gate, Blue Gate and Green Gate - and Yellow Gate had split off from the rest of Greenham. And you know, we did try and chat to them at times, but it was very much they were separate and blah, blah, blah. So. So we had, we had Green Gate and Blue Gate were kind of together, really, but some women, Green Gate was more of a smaller group of women. And then there was more women, at Blue Gate. So yeah, so I lived there from '91 until January '94.

How different was it in the two eras being there - what was the difference?

I think one of the main differences was, well, one, there was less women, generally. And we still got quite a lot of visitors - I guess there was less financial support. There wasn't the hot food runs and all that but then we didn't need it as much because we weren't being overpowered and evicted all the time. You know, compared to when I was there the first time where the evictions were daily and especially Blue Gate used to get evicted really badly, and sometimes twice a day or more. And by the time I'd moved back there the second time, the evictions were, you know, maybe once every couple of weeks. And then they come they take our rubbish away and leave us some new bags. It was more like a rubbish service really. And it stopped us from becoming hoarders, you know, made sure that no rodents could settle in you know. So, so they still made us move tents and whatnot, but it was really low key on the whole. Sometimes they got a bit nasty, but, um, and the police were coming with the bailiffs at that point because of stuff that the bailiffs

have done in the past. The police used to come to make sure that the bailiffs didn't do anything wrong, not that we didn't. And the police were really friendly, they used to play with our dogs and everything, throw the ball for our dogs. And, you know, it was all like that it was very different and the bailiffs at that point were the common wardens and we knew them quite well. And those, occasionally they'd pick up a piece of furniture on the common or something, they'd bring it to us and say, 'Do you want a new sofa?' or 'Do you want a chair?' you know, so that was very, very different from the first time where really they just wanted to grab everything, shove it in the muncher and were quite a bit, you know, very abusive and violent. So, so there was a change in tolerance. And I think from local people as well, there was a - I think the council had gone from conservative to liberal. So there was a slight change of less hostility. And maybe because we were less in people's faces, because there was less of us. And maybe also at that point, people had started to hate hippie travellers. So we were almost accepted because we weren't the new thing, you know. So, because at one point - this is just an aside, but after we left, we came back for my friend Arwi's 40th birthday at the time - we decided to go back to Greenham and have a weekend up at Green Gate. And the bailiffs came up the road, you know, common wardens as they went back to being and they stopped and looked, and they went, 'Oh, it's you lot. Okay.' You know, had a little chat. And then they went away, you know, oh, we thought you were travellers, you know. So it's just funny, isn't it? So, um, yeah, so the second time around at Blue Gate anyway, there was probably - I don't know, probably between 6 and 10 of us there anytime, most of the time - sometimes more. But it wasn't huge numbers, you know, but it was just consistent. And obviously, we were still doing actions, we were still breaking into the base. And by that point, as well, the the bylaws had been challenged in the House of Lords, by Georgina and various other women and so you could actually go into the base and not be arrested. So that was quite a big difference as well. So we used to go in regularly, I just skateboarded its nice to skateboard down the runway, for example - which was really nice. So we, we did lots of fun things like that. I suppose the second time around, it was, yeah, we were still doing quite a lot of break ins and actions. And, and of course, because the, because the missiles had gone a while before that, the silos were still there. So we used to go into the silos sometimes. And we could get into the control room there. And we realised the electricity was still switched on. So we used to go in there to plug in our hair clippers and give each other haircuts. Inside the control room of the missile silo, we used to leave little piles the pair as a little calling card. So yeah, there's all the funny stories you remember, isn't it? So...

Definitely.

So yeah, on a daily basis, if it was like, 'Oh, we're bored, what should we do now?' And somebody, somebody had acquired a dog handler suit, from one time they got into the base and got paint on them, you know, somehow. And so they'd been given a dog handler suit. And so we kept this dog handler suit. So it was just like a black overall thing. And we had this this policeman's hat.

So we used to sometimes dress up in that and go in with our dogs and pretend we were dog handlers. We just used to do things to - I think at that point as well, then - because it was the MOD rather than the military on the perimeter we did, we did like to wind them up quite a lot. But yeah, just, just, just sort of keeping a presence. And yeah, so I think the second time round, it was more. It was a lot more relaxing in some ways in terms of stress, but we were still being evicted. And we did also still get quite a lot of abuse from locals. You know, we used to get stones - it was a whole phase where we were getting stones thrown out our tents and benders, just after pub closing time. And you'd be lying in bed, you'd hear the car door slam, and then you'd hear the rocks. And so, you know, I think what I realised when I left was that I'd always been sleeping with one eye open. You know, it's that thing - isn't it? I'm not quite ever relaxing. And I think that's probably still affected my sleep to this day, because I don't - I'm not a deep sleeper. Yeah, so though, you know, there was always stuff like that going on.

That's interesting.

Yeah.

How else did it, like so - you said like, long term you think that it's affected your sleep? How else did it affect your personal life? Whether it be positive or negative - going and being at Greenham?

Yeah, um, well - I mean, in a positive sense, mainly, um, I've still got a lot of friends that I made at Greenham, or in connection with Greenham. And some of those women, you know, like, like Hina and Rebecca Johnson, for example, that - I'm still in touch with them now. And you know, just I think we all went on, on different directions. But there's something that's holding us together. And, you know, it's something that I wrote in this newsletter when I left but I didn't know I couldn't project how it was going to be and I think I wrote something about - something I've come to realise is that, oh, don't worry - oh I've said something about brown van, which was one of the vans that was famous at Blue Gate. I said [reading her writing] 'Brown van was gone. But don't worry, she lives on. And in fact, so do we, and so does Greenham. And that's something I've come to realise, which helps to soften the blow - the common blessing will always remain with or without us. And we continue to weave and transform, to lead our lives. And we're still networking as women realising and making use of our strength in many, many ways. Spinning and weaving those webs each fine thread will trip and tie patriarchy into its own knots.' So that was my 27 year old writing that - but it was just that thing of, you know, there was a sense that we were still out there. And I can say for sure, you know, I've got friends all over the country and beyond. And now with Facebook, I've reconnected with some friends, like from America or from you know, from Green Gate first time around and, you know - so I think that's one positive thing is that I think that time cemented those bonds.

So the bonds remain intact.

Yeah, yeah. And even though you didn't know it was there, it was there, because there's women that I've seen or talked to for ages, and then when you do link up, it's like you'd never been apart. So I think there was definitely some magic glue that was holding everyone - or some shared experience, which becomes even more poignant, as time goes on I suppose. And lots of Greenham Women are no longer with us. So I think it makes us really value - certainly for myself, I really value that time. It was, it was it was like being given a chance to live in a different type of society, I suppose.

So what most specifically, the difference really - because you mentioned earlier on about it, you wanted to go to a women only space? What difference did that make - it being women only?

Okay, so. So I guess for me, there was a few issues. And as I said, I went and lived at a mixed peace camp in Scotland, Faslane. And, you know, I had a good time there on the whole, but I am a lesbian. And I felt at that point that there wasn't many lesbians there and it was still quite blokey. And even some of the women there were very focused on the men, you know, and it was, you know, the men were always the ones doing everything. And, you know - not, not always - but there was a general sense of, you know, it wasn't necessarily a place where everybody would go and get empowered. I mean, there were some men there at times who were quite abusive to women, for example, that I found disturbing. And I think over time, I just thought, you know, I want to really - because I was a feminist, and I consider myself you know - everything was very passionate and young. And, you know, I thought I really want to go and be immersed in this culture of women, you know, so as soon as I got there, it just felt like coming home, you know. It was - I suppose I grew up in Dundee. I got, you know, my Mum was in the Tory party. You know, I had one radical friend at school, who was the one I went to Greenham with, and she's, you know, had vegetarian parents and all this, but it was kind of weird then. So, you know, it just felt like breaking away from - I left Dundee, because I knew it was kind of suffocating me. I left school a term early, because I just thought, I can't be myself. And I remember writing to a Greenham woman and sending Christmas cards, you know, just to Greenham. And this woman answered me. And I was like - I went to school and it was on Dennis the Menace paper. And I was like, 'I got this Greenham', and it was like, this piece of treasure. I got a card or letter from somebody at Greenham, you know, and it was, it was amazing, you know, so anything - as a young sort of like schoolgirl, I was just, I just knew I had to go there. So I think once I did get there, that just, just the connection that you can have with women is just so different. And the power, you know, the power, not over but what but - but the power we all had together was just incredible. And I suppose I'm lucky because I feel like it taught me to value my body, to not be ashamed of myself, to accept myself. You know, we used to walk around topless. I remember the American squaddies came to the fence once around the Emerald gate, between Green and Blue, and they had their binoculars out and we were - it was a hot day. So we had our tops out, tops off. And they were

like - we thought 'oh god they're looking at us.' So we walked straight up to the fence and said here have a better look then. And they were mortified, you know, because it's only exciting because they were spying on us. As soon as we you know, and that sort of thing... It was just really empowering to do that. And, you know, it was just one little example but and just, just, just the love that women have, you know, just, just the sisterhood and the love and the connection and, and the real sense of you know. I mean, obviously there were disagreements and it wasn't all rose tinted glasses, but I am always amazed looking back even now just how well everyone did get on, because we were all under duress. We all had very different personalities and different reasons for being there, I suppose. And yet there was this thing that was this invisible, you know, thing that held us all together. And yeah, it was the power of women and I still got that in my life today. And I live with my partner now on the Gower and, and we built our own house, which was mainly built by women. Yeah, and in fact - was it you that interviewed Sally and, um... who live on the Gower?

It wasn't me personally. But yes.

Yes. They, they live around the corner. And it's interesting, because I never knew they were at Greenham before me, and they were Orange Gate. And so when we we moved here from Greenham, which was part of the leaving story - ended up on Gower. And we met Sally and Ann who were Greenham Women. So it's like, we, we didn't know that they were here, but it's like, you know, I just talked to Sally this morning, actually, and said 'Oh I have my Greenham interview.' She was like, 'Oh, say hi, for me.' And, you know, so even when I landed here, there was Greenham Women sort of waiting to welcome us, you know, in a way, which we didn't know about. So they've been together, you know, they're both about 60-ish. And they've been together since Greenham in the '80s.

They met at Greenham, didn't they?

Yeah. That's right. So you know, you know, they've got an adopted son and everything. So it's yeah, it's amazing. So their house was built by a woman building team as well. And the same woman who project managed their build helped us a lot on ours, and she's our neighbour on the other side. So, so yeah, so it's just yeah,

We've had builders, like, needed some building work done recently with leaks and stuff. And I was - I'm based in Leeds, and trying to find female builders is so hard, and I know, like, Stopcocks have set up, Mica May and things, you know, setting up that kind of thing. But there's still there's no female network, you know, that I can find and I'm sure there must be some female builders around here. But I found,

You'd think there would be, wouldn't you, you know? I mean, there was loads of, I remember meeting lots of women from Leeds to do with Greenham, you know, it says, but, you know, it's hard to because they don't always advertise

themselves, or stick their head above the parapet, do they? Because, yeah, there was one, at one of our neighbours and she used to be director of manual trades in London, for women in manual trades. Sorry. And, of course, she knew a network of everybody. But yeah, there must be women out there. Yeah.

Yeah. You know, not everyone always agreed, but you were still a collective? How did that work with the kind of collective decision making? In both - probably more so early on the first time you were there, how did that work?

Um, okay. So the first time because there was - we used to, we used to have meetings. We used to have inter-gate meetings, you know, like money meetings, for example, which always were quite argumentative. I seem to remember that, you know, because it's bound to be - get a lot of women talking as well, or anybody talking about money, isn't it? It's just, you know, but when we were in a smaller group, it was obviously more easy because there was less of you to decide on something. But I think it was generally that when we would decide major decisions, we'd sit and just thrash it out and talk about it. And I think there was times, obviously, because everybody was acting independently, so I'm sure there was times - I can't think of a specific example. But I know, I know there's been times when some women will have gone off and done something and not everyone will have approved of it, but that's just the way it was because everyone was taking responsibility for themselves. However, I think a lot of bigger decisions that affected Greenham as a whole, it was just a case of sitting down and talking and, and trying to find a common ground or way through.

So just taking the time to hear everybody out.

Yeah, basically, so it just meant everything, I suppose. Yeah, everything was quite long winded, I suppose at times, you know, I remember some I do remember some cracking argumentative meetings. But you know, you're bound to be - isn't it? You know, so and, and of course, everybody was just kind of living - especially when everyone was living at separate gates, you might not see certain women much at all, you know, so obviously, when it was just Blue Gate and Green Gate, we had, we had a bank account that we put money in for, mainly for things like newsletters and stuff. It wasn't like mega bucks, but if we got donations, it would be for things like that, really. And so we just chat among ourselves. And you know, usually we managed to work it out. So I think we were all pretty good at we're probably understanding each other and we had, and we always had, there was many, many diaries that went round at Greenham and I'm sure you've heard of

Yeah, yeah.

So, yeah, I think a lot of stuff would be written in the book. And then somebody else would write, you know, probably there was a few arguments got thrashed out on paper as well, because it was a way to,

Yeah, right.

You know, not, obviously, not all women would be there at the same time, necessarily. So, yeah. I do remember one time we had a, we had a bit of an emergency, we had a bit of a fire. And I don't mean a fire. I mean, it was an out of control fire, at Blue Gate. And this has happened, because normally, we were just round the fire, and we'd got a plastic shelter, etc. And then somebody donated a caravan to us. So we thought, well, this is great, you know, so we made a little burner and put it in the caravan. And we'd still mainly hang out around the fire, but when it was really cold, or whatever we'd be - it was quite a novelty. So we were spending some time in the caravan in the evening. And it was one, one particular night it was windy and wet. So we covered everything up with plastic, tucked it all in, you know, covered the sofas up, tucked everything in and there was still a few embers on the fire. And we looked out and the flames were like 20 foot high shooting up because obviously caught fire onto the sofa. And we came running out. And I remember the first thing we grabbed, Emma actually grabbed the diary, which was stuffed under the sofa. And the dosh pot we called it where we had our money, you know, we'd all put in 10 quid a week or whatever, to communal funds. So she grabbed the diary, grabbed that. And we were like, careful, you could get plastic, molten plastic on you. She goes, 'I've got to get these.' And then everything else burnt down. And I think the neighbour actually from across the road phoned the fire brigade because we didn't have phones or anything. And the fire engine turned up and they put the fire out. And I just remember the next day we got up and everything was just burnt and we were sat there on the lawn and we were sat on a pallet going oh my god, you know. And then lo and behold, I think later on that day, the bailiffs turned up with a three piece suite for us.

Wow.

'Well, we just found this dumped. And we hear you needed some furniture. Do you want this?' So we were like 'Yes, please.' So less - you know, compared to being in a house, which would have burnt down and you would have been devastated. By the evening we were sat on another sofa again. So yeah, it's quite remarkable.

Probably quite a good advert for not having loads of possessions isn't it?

Well, do you know? Yeah, totally. That's what I'm thinking back to now as I'm trying to find places to put things in this house. We're still still not 100% finished it but we've been building it, started it in 2016. And I've been - previous to that I've been living in a house that I've rented for over 20 years, just around the corner.

Yeah.

And there's so much stuff in there. And you know, when you think that was a nice thing about Greenham I suppose was the simple life and you had a rucksack of possessions, and you didn't need anything else really. So, erm - and if you needed it, it would sort of turn up, you know. So yeah, yes, that's a good lesson in not over, over hoarding things.

You talked a little bit about non-violent direct action that you took part in breaking into the base and things. Were you ever arrested for those earlier on?

Hmm, yes. I've been arrested a few times. And at Greenham, we used to use false names quite a lot. So when I was in Scotland at Faslane I got arrested under my real name, because it was kind of harder to get away with in Scotland at that point, because they were fingerprinting and photographing everyone and, but at Greenham, at Greenham we went by false names. So and I went to Holloway once under a false name when I was quite young, and that, that came about as well because we handed ourselves in because we had a warrant out for an action we'd done. And a few, couple of friends we went to Newbury police station and handed ourselves in when it was horrible winter, wintery weather we thought we'll hand ourselves in now, because - also it meant that every time you sat around the fire, police turned up. You were a bit on edge, because it's like 'Have they come to collect us?' And so we bought, so a lot of women used to do that they'd hand themselves in when it was, you know, when it was a better time, should we say, you know. And then the police were then forced to drive us all the way to London, and then I remember them getting lost trying to find Holloway. Yeah, I mean, I'm only, I only did one week in Holloway because amazingly, apart from that I managed to somehow either not be charged or, I can't remember now, we must have got some charges that we either got off or got fined or whatever. But, but we didn't used to pay fines generally.

Yeah.

I think I'd paid a couple of fines in Scotland initially. And I also won a couple of court cases in Scotland by defending myself, which was great. And that was, that was stopping the Polaris convoy, which was before, before Trident was Polaris was there. So, but somehow it seemed more easy to get a fair trial in the Scottish court system, it just felt like, if you're going to be in court for Greenham stuff, the odds were stacked against you anyway, you know? What was? Yeah, so yeah. Sorry?

What was it like Holloway?

Um, well, I mean, I'm sure everyone's experience was different. My experience was just boring, to be quite honest because I was stuck in a cell. I went in there with a friend, and then they separated us. So the first night we were together. And then the second night, she got put in the cell with some other women and had a really great time, apparently, where they made her do all these, you know, moving the boots, spinning the broom, and doing, they did

all these sort of welcome rituals, you know, come into our (inaudible), they had radio, and you know, they were having fun, and I was put in a cell on my own. And I think at that point, it was very overcrowded. So we were locked up for 23 hours of the day. So I remember just thinking, I don't really want to repeat this, because it's just boring. And I think, yeah, and I think even the book that I took in, they wouldn't let me read - I can't remember what it was but they used to censor things, so. They took away my steel toe cap boots and gave me those little jelly shoes to wear. I remember that thinking hmm (laughs). You weren't allowed to have steel. But the bath was nice. I remember one of the reasons we thought let's go and have a nice hot bath at Holloway. So you know, that was a novelty.

Yeah.

But I did meet some women who were in there, you know, met quite a few women just in the time I was there at mealtimes who'd been, a lot of women who are on remand for either mans - we met somebody who was in for manslaughter. And it's because she'd fought back against an abusive partner. And quite a few women, you know, were all basically in for fighting back against abuse, or petty, petty theft or crime or credit card fraud and things like that, you know, to try - and prostitution. So there was a part of me at the time I remember feeling like a bit of a fraud, because I thought I'm going to be in and out of here and it was my choosing, and you're here, through no fault of your own, really, because of, you know, the society we live in. So I think that was a bit of a, at a young age, that was a bit of a wake up, call for me, you know, you know, because we, it's a bit of a laugh when you're at Greenham and you decide to go and do an action, even if it's for a serious reason. Yeah, it's not to steal food to survive, or, you know, do prostitution or whatever, it's very different, isn't it? So. So there was that sense of privilege in a way that we were able to do that, you know, so not everybody is in a position to even do that. So we, yeah,

Were you aware of any women who were in prison, and then came to Greenham? So they hadn't been to Greenham initially, but had met Greenham Women in prison, and then ended up at the camp?

I haven't I don't think I personally met anyone. Although I do know some women who were in Greenham, who were sorry, who were in Holloway for longer did make friendships with women. I'm not, I can't say for sure whether they came to camp or not, but I'm sure it happened. Yeah.

And what, so you talked about um, being in court? So court cases for Greenham what were they like, was there a lot of support? A lot of other Greenham Women there?

Um, it depends on the time, but yeah, usually, there'd be other women there. And, you know, it was that was one of the good things about Greenham is that they always, everyone supported each other. So yeah, it was usually

quite a presence. So if it was, especially if it was a, you know, a mass action or something, or there was more women in - I think women were just popping in and out of court, quite, quite often anyway. So you know, and then in the later days, of course, this is the difference again, so after, after the bylaws were rescinded, or whatever, and it wasn't illegal to go in the base, it meant that we'd get apprehended by the police, but they wouldn't charge us. So that happened many times. Because obviously the first time around I wasn't there as long - second time around being there for nearly three years. We used to bob in and out of the base frequently and unless they caught you doing criminal damage or something, they couldn't really do a lot so, and of course there was a time they used to process people in porter cabins in the base. And when it was, when there was a lot of break ins, a lot of action going on, they couldn't take everybody to Newbury nick all the time. So, I remember being processed in the porter cabins and sometimes they charge you and sometimes they just put you out. So I think again, it probably depended on how many women they'd had to deal with. But yeah, so later on we did. And there's one particular action that, that I should tell you about, which was, it was when, it was the American leaving ceremony. So I'm trying to think what year that was now - it might have been in '93. It wasn't that long. So it's when the Americans were officially leaving. And they had a, they had a ceremony that was being filmed on the news as well. The cameras were in there. And we decided we had to be there. So and it was, I think it was during, so it was the Gulf, the Gulf War, second Gulf War going on. And so we decided to go in with banners and everything, but we decided to drive in. So we went in - I think we must have got in near Violet Gate, so drove, you know, turn out Blue Gate, turn right went down the road. And I'm trying to remember how we got in now. Either the gate was open, it must have been open. Somehow we got in with this, with this car. And there was four of us in the car. And it was, it was a borrowed car. It was somebodys Fiesta, that didn't even belong to us. It was just on loan to one of the women that was driving and went - so we got in the base. And then suddenly, we see all these police sherpa vans chasing us. So we ended up doing all these donuts, like trying to get away from them. And it was it was just quite mad and quite fun. And we thought we've got to get to the parade because they were taking the flag down and we had the people going and all the rest of it. And then we got there, slam the brakes on, put down the lock so they couldn't get us out and think we had the banner hanging out just a crack in the window. Yeah. And they were saying open the car. All the all the cameras swung round on to us. I've never seen the footage because obviously I was living there at the time. But my brother did say he saw it. So. But yeah, they were all, everyone suddenly filming us. And we were shouting various things about you know, anti, anti-war slogans and stuff. And um, and then the police were like 'Get out, open the car.' We're like, 'No, no, no.' So because it was a Ford Fiesta, it didn't take them that long to pick the lock and get us out. They probably opened it with um another key or something. They dragged us out. And then they put us in a van and they took us out. They didn't arrest us. They just took us out. But they confiscated the car. And we were like, 'Oh no, you can't do that. This is not our car!' You know. And then they said 'Tough.' You know. So they took the car away. And

then we kept going to them and saying, you know, 'Can we have the car back now?' And I think the next day, Leslie, the woman who was borrowing the car, she, she went to ask if the car was ready yet and they gave her it and couldn't believe her eyes. The Americans had spray painted all over it. It was just like they'd had their last laugh. So they'D written God Bless USA all over the bonnet. They spray painted out the windows, the doors, you know. So they had the last laugh, managed to graffiti a Greenham car. And then I think we spent about two days trying to clean all the paint. That was kind of funny, you know, looking back on it now. And luckily it was a bit of a tin can of a car you know - we did manage to clean it up it was just like 'Oh no! This isn't our car!' So the Americans must have loved that. We gotta give them that. Really it was it was quite funny, really.

Yeah. Were you aware of the camp being infiltrated at any point, whether it be by, you know, undercover police or journalists trying to find things out?

Well, there were suspicions. I mean, in the time I was there, there was always talk. And I wasn't aware of any. I know there was individuals - I think there was definitely undercover police. And the journalists, they usually made themselves known, but there might have been undercover journalists, but they probably, they were probably the ones that were asking too many questions. I think everyone was a bit paranoid at times. So we'd go that's the spy, that's the spy, you know. It became a bit of a joke. So it was hard to separate out what was real and what wasn't. You know, but I'm pretty sure there was numerous you know, undercover women - there must have been. I mean, there's also been situations where there was, there's been a couple of times where as military people like squaddies from the base, and one particular MOD policeman actually came over to the other side and either had relationships with women or through talking to women decided to leave their job so that, that definitely has happened as well. There's a woman that I know who lived at Blue Gate who did have a relationship with an MOD policeman. And I think he ended up getting a VW campervan. So, yeah, so it did happen that way.

What do you think the portrayal of Greenham was like in the media?

Ehm, it's funny because we didn't read everything unless there was anything really big, like, you know, like, breaking into Buckingham Palace and stuff like that it was all over the papers. And, but I think, I think obviously in the beginning it was more negative and it used to focus a lot on, you know how dirty we were, and you know, things like that. There was rats everywhere and which, which wasn't true actually, I never saw rats - might have seen a mouse once or twice, but, but you know there was that real sense of oh, they're just, you know, dirty and grubby and it's like yes, because we're banned from the laundrette, we were banned from everywhere. And of course, it was the Quaker meeting house that set up washing facilities for us, you know, so you know, those reasons why, if you're living outside, you're going to be dirty -

aren't you? But yeah, so there was a lot of that kind of using derogatory language. I think.

Rather than focusing on what you were all trying to achieve?

Well, yeah, I think, I think and I think that was partly as well, because we were women only there was some sort of - I think there was a misogyny that was perva, pervasive in the media anyway. You get the feeling if it wasn't a women only thing, it wouldn't have been talked about in quite that way. But it felt, it was always focusing on, you know, the, the lesbians or, you know, as if that was a bad thing, or smelly, or, you know, they haven't got jobs, and you know, all this sort of stuff. So, it was always the negative thing, rather - but I say always, I mean, I think there was some good media coverage as well, especially in the later years, I think. As I say, the tide turned a little bit and, and it was a bit of a softer feeling, I guess, because it wasn't everyday news, you know? And of course, if anything, what happened was, they didn't really report on a lot of stuff that was happening. And so, yeah, a lot of people probably thought we'd gone away, even when we hadn't. You can get a lot of negative feedback from the media or, or they can choose to ignore you completely. So

Yeah, yeah.

I think all the time, you know, there was a few good, I did an article, there was a few of us got interviewed for a Mary Claire magazine, for example, which was quite funny. And they did a full colour spread of a few of us being interviewed. And that was quite funny, because my brother saw that as well. I think his girlfriend had the magazine. And he was like, 'Oh, that is my sister.' And I think, I think I'd said something about how I made my own sanitary towels out of cloth or something. And they put - fixated on this in the article and went on about how I'd use the same one for 10 years, and they made it sound really disgusting. We've still got the article somewhere because I thought it was just quite funny.

I thought you were going to say you've still got the sanitary towel! (laughing)

No I don't need that anymore!

What about breaking into Buckingham Palace? I'm not, I'm not aware of that - was that a Greenham action?

There was a couple of yeah. I mean, I wasn't on those. So it's probably not - I can't go into great detail. But there was, there was an action where when I was there, there was an action with a few women where they went over the wall to try and make make the Queen aware of - it had to do with the fact there was nuclear testing happening on Western Shoshone land and - which is Native American land in America where they were doing a lot of desert tests and stuff. So because basically, it was like appeal to the Queen as, as the

sovereign you know, she can overrule anything. So it was, it was a symbolic action. And a lot of women basically took a load of ladders climbed over and got into Buckingham Palace grounds and took quite a long time to be found because they all went in different directions, and caused quite a hoo ha but I wasn't one of those women. Julie Howard was one of the women you know. She's written, she wrote a book about it recently where she mentioned that action. But yeah, I wasn't on that action. But I was one of the women, we, I stayed back at camp, there was a few of us that stayed at camp and I was looking after the dogs. And one of my, one of my friends had a dog, who moved down here actually after as well. She was one, there was a, must have been about five or six now probably more than that. Some of them met up in London, and some of them came directly from Greenham. And the only way we could find out - I think we must have been the last ones to know, walk down to the local newsagent and looked at all the tabloids and it was all over the front pages. Maybe, I can't remember when was it might have been '92 or '93 or something like that. But it was just a funny moment of oh, we don't really know what's going on because nobody's got phones. You can't just text or Email. So it's like, basically was like walk down and see if it's in the news. And it was. So in that case, the media was really useful because we knew they'd done it. So yeah, and they couldn't ignore that, obviously. So. Yeah. But as I say, I can't comment on what actually went on, because I wasn't one of the women there. So, but I was living at camp at the time. So yeah,

Why do you think that a lot of people don't know about Greenham? Because, you know, so many people that you speak to now, not just young people, you know, even people in their 40s who were young, but around,

Yeah.

Yet they're not aware of it.

Well, I mean, I suppose, I suppose, people in their 40s when Greenham first started, so that would have been, yeah, Greenham started in '81. So I suppose by the time they were 10 years old, or whatever, maybe interested or hearing things. That's probably the second time I was there. And like I say, the media had gone quite quiet. And if anything, it was just like, oh, you're still here what are you doing still here? And, and so maybe there was less relevance attached to it by the '90s. I mean, for women who were coming there, there was total relevance, I think, because Greenham was always about more than just - might have started off against cruise missiles. But it was a place where women came to tackle all sorts of injustices and to focus on all sorts of campaigns. So you know - but there was a big link with Aldermaston that's still going the Aldermaston peace camp, and there was former, er, Women's Aid to Former Yugoslavia. And so during the Yugoslavia, wars, clash, conflict, there was a lot of women involved with Greenham and who were living at Greenham, who went over and actually delivered aid in truck convoys. And supported women and we networked with peace groups over there - we actually had women from Yugoslavia come over and do a talk for us at Blue

Gate, I've got photos of that somewhere, they were talking about, they were all rape survivors and had a lot of abuse during during the war. So that sort of thing. I think generally, it just wasn't sort of talked about, even though we were doing all these things. There wasn't really a media interest, I suppose. So I guess unless you were particularly interested, as a young person, it could have just gone over your head. And I'm guessing that's the main reason. I do know some younger people who have heard of it but you know, I suppose it's because if you are interested in, in, in protest, or the history of it. You know, you can study it - can't you?

Yeah,

So I think it's really important to keep telling your story?

I suppose whether you are interested in it or not, everybody knows about the suffragettes.

Exactly, and I remember - um, so I went, we used to go to women's music camp called Women In Tune. I don't know if you ever heard of it, it was running in, in Mid Wales for about 20 odd years. It just stopped a few years back, but there was, there was one year we decided to do an activism theme, you know, just as a loose theme, and we did a recreation of Greenham - there was quite a few Greenham, Greenham Women at the camp that year. And so we got an old sofa from, from somebody who worked in the local dump at Lampeter, we've got the sofa, we got, we - and I did a bender building workshop, and which was quite funny. We had, we made a little Greenham museum so we had our memorabilia like bolt cutters. One woman, Chris she brought all her charge sheets and, you know, bits of the fence. And we made a little mini exhibition. And then we also, as part of that we, we showed, we film - we screened the Carry Greenham Home film. And that was actually really interesting, because there was quite a lot of young women there and some girls. And so there was a lot of women that have been there and we were like ooh look, there's so and so (inaudible) women that were like completely, you know, in, in the experience, and then other women who were looking at it for the first time going, oh my god, you know. And then there was all these girls, and it was just such an empowering thing to be in the situation of, you know, old, old Greenham Women and girls who'd never heard of it and everyone was cheering and, you know, it was a really empowering sort of little screening of it in this field in the middle of Wales, you know. So, yeah, I think it's really important that that the stories keep, keep getting told and, you know, the stories I'm telling you now, you know, tomorrow I probably remember different things - isn't it? There's so many layers of it, and everyone's got their own story which is, which is what's so amazing about Greenham.

Yeah, definitely so many different stories from different people, and, you know, 100 women now, but still, we're hearing stories that we've not heard before. And it's amazing.

I mean, maybe I should tell you - do you want me to say a little bit about why we decided to pack up and how it happened? Because obviously, you know, that was our home. I mean, some women had other homes, but like, I didn't have any other home, that was my home. So it wasn't just a protest camp or whatever it was my, my home, my everything. And, but it got to a point where, as I say, the numbers had gone down, obviously, because, you know, the Americans had left, the missiles had gone before that, and, and it was still a military base, but it was, it was less intense than it had been. So I guess the numbers had started to dwindle, and Blue Gate and Green Gate, as I say, we were all living together at Blue. And, and then a couple of women from Blue Gate, decided they were going to buy a sailing boat and sail across the Atlantic, you know, for the next challenge, as you do. And at that point, we thought, okay, that's going to mean, there's only like, four of us that are here all the time. And the thing about Greenham was it was never that safe to be there with too few women at any time. And so there was a real sense of, you know, you couldn't, we didn't generally leave one woman there alone, even to go into the town shop, didn't want to leave something alone, because it's like being on a shift, you can't really leave, you know, and anyone could come up and do anything to you, especially because we didn't have mobiles or anything. So we used to always try to have a minimum of three there at any time, or at least two. And it was becoming less able - we were less able to do that, you know. We'd often say, 'Is it okay if I go into town this afternoon?' And you know, you know, you felt like - so in the beginning, I think there was a lot of freedom at Greenham. It was something magical about the fact you'd come and go, you could be yourself, you could be free. And then the opposite kind of started to happen. And in a way, we were a tight knit community, but there was not enough of us. And although we had women that used to come and, come and visit regularly, none of them wanted, or couldn't come to live there. So back in November we, of '93, we call the meeting. We put it out onto - through our networks and said we're having a meeting to discuss the future. Because we, we either need to recruit women to come and live here or commit to that, or we're going to have to look at closing down. So we have this lovely big meeting. And we made a steamed pudding, got a photo of it, actually, you can see that, that was a steamed pudding that fed 50. Custard too. And that's, that's Arwi the one with the hat on there, the grubby hands, that's Arwi, who was known as June then and she, she's the one who set up, she became director of the forest school. So we built, we built this, we had this, this water boiler. And we made this bit of steam pudding in this giant gampan. And so everyone came and had pudding, you know, we had all these discussions and talks and - but the long and short of it was that nobody felt they could commit to coming to stay. So we said okay, well, we're going to pack up. And we're going to aim to leave in January. Just to give ourselves time to wind everything down, and, and find somewhere to live basically as well. So, so we ended up, we ended up deciding we were - one woman went to London and three of us decided we were going to move to the Gower, because we knew a friend who'd said that we could come and stay in her cabin. So we thought, okay, let's do that. And we literally didn't know them

very well at the time, but it was the start of getting, getting to live here. So we thought, okay, now we've decided to leave we need to get on with basically restoring the common because we didn't want to just leave it in a mess. So even though - there was a lot of plastic, there was a lot of stuff. So we spent, we spent quite a lot of time getting rid of things because even though we were living outside, we realised when we were getting rid of things that we did have quite a lot because by that point, like, say the bailiffs had reduced their duties and we had this chariot on wheels on pram wheels, and it was covered over and it was called Maria and Maria - because everything has to be mobile, so you could wheel it away if the bailiffs came. So we thought the hardest thing was we've got to get rid of Maria. So um, so I remember the moment we threw over, it was this big drop here to throw everything into this big concrete pit below down at Newbury dump. So it was like literally throwing bits of Greenham away you know, and it was, it was, it was, it was very, very erm - it was very heartbreaking. And it was, it was very difficult emotionally. I think, I think I say in, in here, 'And I felt as if I was letting go of a huge part of me, unsure of what will be there to fill the gap, to leave the place where I and 1000s of other women had shared learn, challenged, laughed, cried and learned to be ourselves was one of the hardest things I've had to face up to. It seemed to take such a long time from making that initial decision to finally getting down to the physical ground of clearing the common, packing our things knowing we have somewhere to move to. But perhaps a transformation such as this is almost a rite of passage, it was not to be rushed. We had lots of help from wonderful women who spent time and energy to get things done to boost our morale, and help us have a few laughs right up to the last. One of the most perplexing things was it, no matter how much clutter we cleared, threw out, Blue Gate still looked unchanged. We worked solidly for two days to clear every last scrap from the land. And only in the last few hours, did it look like something was happening. Naturally, the turning point was when our beloved brown van was gone.' And then that's when I said 'But don't worry, she lives on.' In fact we sold it to the pet shop people in Newbury, who were VW collectors. So I don't know what happened after that. But she was a very iconic brand. She started off at Orange Gate and lots of women used to sleep in her over the years. And we mainly used her for storage and sleeping space. And she hadn't started for about two years and we turned the engine and she started amazingly - VWs are great. So I don't know if she's still living on in some form. But yeah, so that was, that was a, you know, it felt like a big responsibility because that was camp as we knew it. And we told Yellow Gate we said, 'Look, we're leaving.' You know, we were, like things were a bit less argumentative by that point. But we still didn't really want to have anything to do with anybody else. So, so yeah, at that point we, we kind of the final moment was when we got in our cars, there was a car and a van all packed up with our stuff and our dogs and and we were driving down Pile Hill into Newbury and the woman who lives in the house opposite us came out with her dog under her arm. And she went 'Oh are you going?' And we said, 'Yeah, yeah, we're leaving Bye!' And we waved and she sort of waved back. And she was always having a, you know, bad

things to say about us. But it's like she was kind of bonded with us in a weird way. So we were like 'Goodbye!'

What was she going to do now she didn't have you to complain about?

I know. Yeah. And also there was funny times like her dog once was on the common and got spooked by a hot air balloon. And it came running out. And it was about to get run over and one of - Emma who lived there grabbed, grabbed the dog, and stopped them from getting run over. And she came running out of the woods and 'You got my dog!' And she was so pleased that she turned up later that day with bottles of wine and boxes of chocolates. And she was really not - I think she was not against us as individuals. She just didn't like that we were there and that we were ruining her view. And really, I think she knew that we were - basically if anybody tried to break into her house, we'd have seen you know, so we were kind of - she knew that we weren't really harmful to her. It was just more like an inconvenience that we were there. But you know, once when we were leaving - I think it was it was a shock. So yeah, it felt good to - I remember I cut off, I had long, long plaits and I, I cut them off and I buried them in the site where my Bender had been and left them there and left that, and that of course they have been dug up because I think that bit's a carpark now. But, you know, there was bits of us got left there, as well as a bits of our heart, you know, and another nice thing that happened was we, when we went back on that time that I told you for my friend's 40th a few months later, and we took a couple of little birch saplings from the, from the clearing in Green Gate. And I brought them back here and the house that I was living in up the road, we planted them. And one of them survived and one of them didn't. And it's up there now it's literally five minutes away. So there's a Greenham tree that's about 30 years old, and also some - what's it called? Oh, my mind's gone blank... Mental brain. Oh, what's it called? Honeysuckle? Honeysuckle. Yeah, we got some honeysuckle as well. And that's growing up there. So every time I go on a walk now past there, it's like the Greenham birch tree is actually there. And we've got bits and bobs like Arwi said she has the post box because we used to get posts delivered every day. And because we had our own postcode, you know, we had a post box, which was just a big plastic box with a lid and had 'Post' written on it. And I was chatting to her yesterday and she said 'I've still got the post box' and I was like yeah, and so sometimes we go camping together and she, she takes it. We put bits of food and stuff and it's still got 'Post' written on it (laughs). So, as I say, I've still got a big pair of bolt cutters. And there's all this memorabilia that's floating around. Yeah.

It needs needs to be preserved.

Yeah, I know. Should make provision for it in my will really.

Yeah don't let all that stuff get thrown away. Yeah definitely.

I know what looks like a load of rubbish - it's got such a lot of memories in it and value. So, yeah, yeah. So yeah, I mean, there's so many stories, but I don't know, that's - I've talked quite a long time. I don't know what else you want to know.

What do you think the legacy is of Greenham is?

The legacy? Ooh, it's hard to sum it up. But I think, I think one of the legacies is the fact that Greenham Women pioneered this type of direct action of non-violent direct action. And I think that's rippled on and you see it now. And, like, I've got a friend who's very active in Extinction Rebellion, and also in the HS2 two protests and, and she didn't go to Greenham she was a work colleague of mine, but she lives but she said, Oh, the two women that she's been hanging out with, and working with and doing actions with are all from Greenham, and I know them. And one of them has set up as, she, she runs a kitchen where she's feeding all the protesters, and she's a Greenham woman who I've just linked with recently, she actually lived at Faslane the same time as me, she's a Scottish woman. And she goes around, she's been to Crackley Woods, she's been to all the different - she drives around all the different camps, feeding, feeding protesters. And, you know, it's just really nice that - it's almost like there's women from Greenham, who are like veteran protesters, who are now giving something or teaching. And this - another generation, you know. And also they're doing it themselves, but I think the legacy is that it actually became non - the whole thing of, of, you know, going, going floppy and doing NVDA and all that sort of thing. I know it existed before Greenham, but I think Greenham, Greenham is where it became known to the world, I think, you know, because - and the fact that women came to Greenham from literally all over the planet, you know, and put an input into it, and then went away and so Greenham's living on, like, as, as a little web all over the planet. And you know, and it's only through things like, social media and Facebook, that I realised that, that, you know, there's women that I've connected with, and then seeing what they're doing, and doing their own little, you know, whether it's mindful living or growing their own food or, you know, building their own homes or working to protect the Earth in some way you realise that women are still doing, what, the essence of what we set out to do at Greenham has now expanded out into this global. It's like - I don't know, it sounds a bit twee. But it feels like we're, there's caretakers of the earth all over that have been seeded by Greenham, you know, and then maybe even second or third generation, you know, from that, you know, as women I know, it feels like that. And to me, because - I mean, I was a young adult when I first went there, and it was the most, you know, the most significant part of my life, I think, and then going back again, almost reinforced it and gave another layer to it - another depth to that. Just, just, just a difference of a few years. And so, yeah, and it is, you know, if this - there's nothing about Greenham that I regret. I just think this, you know, I know, my parents, I left school and I went into protesting, and because everyone thought they were gonna be blown up by nuclear war. So it's like, I should have gone to university and I didn't go to university. It was expected I

would go to University. Like everyone else in my family. And I thought, no, this is more important. So I do say to people, I went to the University of Greenham Common, because I learned so much there. And, you know, we continue to learn from each other. And it was it was like a University of life, really. So I think that's one of the legacies.

That time people genuinely thought that they weren't going to survive.

Yeah, they, you know,

It was a serious threat.

Yeah, yeah. I mean, it was like, you know, waking up having those mushroom cloud dreams and, you know, thinking someone's going to press the button, you know, a bit like it was a couple of years ago, when Trump and Kim were playing games, you know, it's just, it's just - but that thing it was, it was very real. And, you know, I do think also that Greenham did play a massive part in - I know, we've still got Trident, but I think that whole thing of having these mobile nuclear weapons that they could drive around the countryside, it was - we just showed how ludicrous it was. And the fact was, a lot of the things we did was silly, actions. But it was to kind of undermine the seriousness of the secrecy around it. And Greenham, I remember, Greenham had the longest runway of any base in Europe, any air field in Europe, so they could fly anything out of there. But, you know, they couldn't do anything without being spotted by us. So that in the end, that's one of the reasons I think they had to close it was because it was just - if you said Greenham Common, everyone, just would think of us and, you know, the peace camp. And, you know, and the fact that it was so easy to break into, you know, that became a bit of a joke, really, so. And I think that's what they didn't understand - there's something that women can particularly do well, and that way is undermining the seriousness of the military and the patriarchy by not - that we are not serious about it, but by doing it in a humorous way, it disarms people as well. It disarms those men because they don't know how to respond. And it's not like somebody going out there and being violent, and then they can, they know what to do about that and it can be violent back. But you know, when you're, when you're supergluing, you know, ducks to the runway, or going in the base in a in a bunny suit, or, you know, skateboarding down the runway, or whatever it is - yeah, they don't know how to respond. So - and I think that was the power of it. I think Greenham wouldn't survive without humour, and laughter and, and crazy ideas. So I think that that's a legacy as well is that, you know, that, and also the other thing yeah, the other thing is just the empowerment of women. So many women I know, that have been to Greenham found themselves, you know, and became who they who they were meant to be, I suppose.

And wouldn't necessarily if they hadn't,

And I include myself in that really, you know, so I feel really fortunate to have been born when I was and being able to be part of all that. So I'll be forever grateful. And I do miss it a lot. So it's, and it's great being able to talk about it.

So well, finally, then why do you think it's so important that future generations know about Greenham?

Ehm, well, I think it's really important that we don't forget what happened, because it might seem that certain things are taken for granted now. I mean, even, even the fact that, you know, even, even from a feminist or women's point of view, you know, back when Greenham started, the society we lived in was still a hell of a lot more sexist than it is now. And I think there's a lot of things that have happened, not just from Greenham, but that Greenham was part of a big, a big platform where women were able to, actually, you know, reclaim power. I think it's really important that that doesn't get forgotten, but also just realising that if you believe in something strongly enough, and that you don't agree with what's going on, like, say, for example, with HS2, I think, you know, the fact that you can actually go out there as one person and you become many people and that you can actually make a change... I think that's one of the legacies of Greenham because those women that left in Cardiff and marched to Greenham had no idea what it was going to turn into. You know, but you've got to believe strongly enough in something if - I guess that is the message. If you believe strongly in something, act on it, don't be afraid to act on it. And don't be afraid to speak out. Because otherwise, something amazing might never happen. So and it does feel a little bit symbolic that I didn't know many of those women who marched from Cardiff because obviously I was up in Scotland being a schoolgirl. But we've come back to Wales. So there's that Wales, full circle connection back to Wales again, for me anyway, it's a - which is interesting. And I've actually realised that it's, it was 27 years ago, this month that I left Greenham because it was the 24th of January 1994 that we packed up. And that'll be half my life, because I'll be 54 this month. Yeah. So I left left Greenham just before I was 27. And it's, it's 27 years on so. So yeah. Mind blowing. I have actually quite a lot of photos and this thing. So if you want anything scanning...

Anything you've got if you could email it, that would be absolutely amazing. Yes, thank, for our digital archive. And if you're happy for us to upload any of them onto there, that'd be wonderful.

Yeah. Okay. Obviously, if they've got other people in them - I'll have to check. But there's some that I know, there's some that I can get ahold of that - yeah, that was, that was my that was my dog. And can you see that picture? That was my dog Kale, who lived at Greenham and this was taken by a photographer actually (inaudible). And it's a very sad picture of trying to get the fire going on a rainy day. Trying to waft it and it's looking a bit grim. And Kale's sitting there going oh my god. That was, that was me and Kale and they put - the council put all these blocks at Blue Gate to stop us parking. So

we painted them all. So I've done a picture of Kale. And then we were standing there posing.

Oh, wow, that's amazing.

Yeah. All right. Well, I'll have a look through and see. I can scan you some stuff. Definitely.

I'd really appreciate that. Thank you so much.

So yeah. Okay. Um, yeah - if there's anything else?

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak to me today, Pixie. I'm really really, you know,

We've been great. It's been great. You know, I mean, it's just nice that we can do this on zoom. Because, you know, otherwise it would be - it's not the same as real life. But it's, you know,

Yeah. Well, in September, our plan is to walk from Cardiff to Greenham.

Oh god, that'd be fantastic.

And so, but obviously, it's all Covid dependent. So we're in the planning stages. And then we've, we've organised with Greenham Common, that we're gonna have a big event, we're going to set up to the gates and have, you know I ...

I'd really like to be there.

So, but yeah, so obviously, we we'll keep you updated.

I mean, there has to be some hope that things will be better by then. You know.

Yes please! So, yes, it'd be lovely if I actually get to meet you properly. And we can walk to Greenham!

That'd be fantastic. Yeah. It's so nice to go back there and see that the fences down and ...

Lovely, just the animals grazing and it's so nice

And there's actually a little bit in this newsletter that talks about that process. This was written by Evelyn, who was - Evelyn Parker, I don't know if you her?

Yes, yeah.

So I wrote this, on her behalf because of course, this is how we did it. We just wrote everything down. Yeah, so there's a little bit in here - I'll scan that through to you. It's on the same page anyway, and it's news on the common and she's talking about the process of the MOD coming under pressure to de-register Greenham Common, so - because she was, obviously part of Commons Again. So that's quite - it's just a little bit saying, I'm updating on that and saying that the pressure, the pressure's still on for the removal of the fence, so it's quite good to know that Commons Again, are ready to fight an attempt to de-register the common, common the Greenham Common rights. They were putting in for the removal of the fence through the courts. So it's quite nice to know that then it happened.

Yeah.

And before we left it says here, before we left the fence came down to knee height and a message appeared on the gate 'Greenham Women Everywhere.' I don't know if you can see that, so we cut all the fence down at Blue Gate and left that message just...

Lovely. Yeah, there is still a little bit of graffiti at Blue Gate.

What's been amazing is that I mean, I haven't been there for a few years, actually. But um, it's great to know that they left it because it's um, you know, it's a part of ...

You can, you can because those pillars that you know, the concrete pillars that that still last - there's still all bits of

Yeah, they've left them there deliberately which is great, isn't it? Because really, it's all stock fencing, isn't it? It's all - is that right? It's all like, hip height or something the fence elsewhere?

Yeah, pretty much.

That bit was near the silos, that's all still full size fence - isn't it?

I think so. Yeah. I think so.

I was surprised the last time, I went up to Green Gate and saw the same thing. It was a heritage site or something and that it was a, it was it was a national monument or something. And if you defaced it you could get fined 1000 pounds. And I thought, god when we were there, it was a 30 pound fine, but because we've been there, it's now - they can get fined 1000 pounds if you touch it or damage it. Yeah, okay. So have you got other interviews to do today or?

Not today, no, no, we're just
We have a few planned for 2021 and that, no, not today. Just

Okay. You can have a have a rest now.

Well, we're still, you know, compiling the archive, and we're, you know, doing a book and so many other events. So we're very grateful to be very busy. So,

Um, you know, I'm really grateful that you're doing this as well. It's great. It's just so important - isn't it?

It really is. It really is. So, yeah, thank you so much again, and I look forward to meeting you properly.

Okay. Right bye then. I'll see if I can sign off of this now without anything happening.