

Jane Griffiths and Judy Harris

This is Jane and Judy together - who've been listening to each other talking so far. And did you meet each other at Greenham?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah. I um, I think I must have met you going round to Orange Gate. I don't think I remember you in summer when I went '83 - July '83, I think - I didn't meet you. But soon after that I did.

I can't really - I can remember seeing you over the other side of the fire, and people saying 'Hello Jane', so they obviously knew you.

Okay. (Laughs). Um, and I think you had set up Orange Gate, hadn't you? And I went to join.

Okay.

Orange Gate - so I remember you being there. And um, being very creative, remember just making up songs, you and Annie making up songs a lot.

What, what was the character of Orange Gate? Because they all had a bit of a different vibe to them?

Well, it was the furthest one away from everywhere. So people made up anything about Orange Gate - got told 'Oh, you're the musical gate. Oh, you're the whatever..' can't remember - quite a lot of different things people used to say about Orange Gate, but I think...

It was music-y.

Maybe. Yeah, maybe.

There was a lot of space there, wasn't there - to mess about in?

Yeah.

I can remember there, like in rabbit meadow there was often things - nice things happening.

Yeah.

And you could go for a really nice walk back woods into...

Into the woods, yeah.

Which you couldn't really do - well, suppose you could...

Yeah. Yeah, you definitely couldn't in places like Indigo. (Laughs).
Little bit of a...

Bit of fence marked against your head!

Yeah. Although sometimes it was, sometimes the woods were a bit scary, weren't they? There were some times vigilantes in the woods. I don't know - mostly I just remember....

There was the horrible stuff in the water there, that was all kind of orange.

Oh, yeah. On the way around towards Yellow. Yeah.

But you, you used to go off and go swimming in places.

Oh, yeah. I did quite a lot of swimming. Yeah. In fact, I did find a picture. I'll show you in a minute. Shall I get it now? I don't know if this can go into an archive, it's a bit rude!

(Laughs).

Had another - I had another look while you were talking Judy, and I found - these are not all the photos, but there is one - so this is (laughs)...

Where's that?

(Laughs). Thatcham canal.

Oh, right.

So there were people dog walking.

That's a very good photo.

There were people dog walking by us. But...

So this is a photograph of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 - I think Greenham women...

Note the bands - the wrist ankle.

Sky clad. (Laughs). In the niff, having a splash of their feet in the canal.

Yeah, well, we'd all just been in, I think - it was...

Having a swim?

Yeah.

It's a great photograph. And that was by a woman called Isa?

Issia.

Issia - from Italy?

Italian.

That's a lovely photo.

Yeah.

And there was the locals walking past. (Laughs).

Horrified by Greenham nymphs!

And maidens!

We didn't really care. There were a few good swimming spots. There was the ford down by Orange Gate - used to go there. But then I did land on a metal pole, ended up on crutches. Actually, that was an experience because went to Reading hospital to get it stitched up. And they were fine - they were lovely. But they - and I was in a wheelchair to the door, and then they said they couldn't give me crutches because they didn't believe I would bring them back, because I was from Greenham. So they left me. Luckily, being from Greenham, there were about six people, six women with me. And Anne's pink car. And they carried me to the car, and then Anne made me some crutches out of (laughs) - looked like something out of Charles Dickens! They were the most uncomfortable crutches ever, but (laughs), I couldn't walk otherwise. I mean god - I couldn't, I wasn't allowed to weight bear, and they left - the hospital wouldn't give me anything. God - hope they don't do that with homeless people.

It's probably illegal.

Probably was.

There were a lot of things like that where you could have actually just done somebody for something. But you couldn't be arsed with it.

It's ridiculous. That is completely terrible.

Really bad.

Um, yeah, I remember going up to London to sign-on, because we signed-on and on these crutches. And that was, that was interesting actually because people were saying (puts on loud voice) 'Hello dear ...' - I'm on crutches, I don't have a hearing impairment. That opened my eyes a little bit.

It does.

And I had a couple of other incidents that happened, that put me in that position. So it made me think about the way people with disabilities are treated.

So there's a lot of things like the way benefits worked in those days - squatting, that made Greenham possible?

Yeah.

Although it's very hard to imagine....

Yeah, no, I just found we worked out there were so many unemployed people in Brixton, you only had to sign-on once every 3 months, so I went and signed-on in Brixton. But before I signed on, initially in Islington, because that was once a month. But postal signing - I mean, I remember going up to the north of Scotland, phoning the Job Centre and saying 'I'm looking for work'. (Laughs). And they accepted it - couldn't now.

No, you bloody couldn't.

Hitchhiked - again that's another contact, you know - friendships with people all over the place.

Yeah.

Lovely experience.

That's completely different now, isn't it? That means something completely different. I'd be really scared if (inaudible) wanted to hitchhike now.

Yeah. I mean, I did - I do once, I remember hitting on my own. And I was in some very, some guy in a very fancy car picked me up. And he was a bit creepy. And then I think he didn't like what I was saying about where I'd come from - didn't like Greenham, or he thought the better of whatever bad thing he was thinking of, and he just said 'Right, get out.' And I was on a motorway junction. It was nowhere - I was allowed to - police, police picked me out. And they were alright, took me somewhere I could hitch safely. But mostly didn't have any problems hitchhiking.

But I think there was so many women - and people generally - did it, that it was just...

Much more possible then than it is now. Yeah.

So how did, did you just leave around the same kind of time or were you..?

Well, we did talk about that the other day, but I can't - I went to that - I kind of went to Wales to the miner's strike, and then went to London. You did kind of leave at the same-ish time, but you you were better at keeping in contact, I think.

Yeah. So I, I went up, I got a place to do carpentry in London. One of those Tops courses that don't exist anymore. And, but it was due to start, I think, beginning of October or something. So I was gonna - so the 10 million women for 10 days things was happening. And it was a bit unbearable, and I had had enough I think, of that side of things. And I realised that I was getting a bit jaded when I was making up stupid songs about diarrhoea, and hiding in the bushes when visitors came,

and things like that - which I hadn't before. So when the 10 million woman thing happened, I stayed for a couple of days, and then went to Brawdy. Um, because I just couldn't cope with it the - and there obviously wasn't anywhere near 10 million woman, thank goodness, but there was vast numbers. There were thousands and thousands of women. And it worked incredibly well. And it was, it was a great, you know, it wasn't bad. Apart from it was a starting point for Kings Cross Women's Centre splitting the camp. And you know, amazingly that they did it, because nothing else had worked. And it only - they only split it, they didn't destroy it. Whereas everything else that - Wages for Housework or whatever has been done has been - they've destroyed. Somebody did some research about 50 black women's groups or lesbian groups that have been destroyed but them. Anyway, but they did split the camp. So - I'm drifting off. So I left anyway, so I left, I lived in, I lived in a squat in London. But I went back to Greenham just about every weekend for about another year or so. And I carried on doing actions, like we went down to South Wales to work out what they were doing with microwave radiation.

I suppose there was a kind of loose group of women that was quite big, wasn't there in London, that knew people that knew people, and there were a load of us in Bollington Square, and what was that place where you and Sally and Fiona and Gail...?

Oh yeah, in Kennington, we were in Kennington. Before that was in um, err...

Were you at Rebecca's?

No, but in - not - just up from Camden, what's it called?

Kentish Town.

Kentish Town. Thank you. Squat there. So it was all women, like we were still connected with most of the women that I went - well they

weren't all, but a lot connected to Greenham in some way. I remember I was going...

And there were quite a lot of political actions, where you kind of easily slid into that thing that where you did it, like Stop the City and stuff.

Yeah.

And we kind of went together to things.

And they were trying to keep open the South London Women's Hospital. So I was there - I was staying over the night there, we were sleeping in there to try and keep it open, and then going to my joinery course, the other side of town. Um...

And did you get, just as - you know, like the frequently asked questions, you know, get just as kind of bored of having to answer the same questions when you were at Greenham? Would have been handy to have had a worksheet!

Um, well, I think it was kind of a sign of the general exhaustion, really. I mean, I think it just was like, I don't think I could do it - because you're young, you could kind of cope with it. That thing of not really - you know, just having to be doing the same thing with the evictions, and not really getting a lot of sleep necessarily, because cars would go past in the middle of the night. And all that, and I don't think I recognised how knackered I was with it all. And then the getting fed up of visitors is just a kind of symptom, isn't it? Because visitors is what you need.

Yeah.

I mean, the whole thing needed more women to make it work. But by that point, probably you weren't even particularly welcoming when women came. (Laughs).

But I think I noticed that in myself. It made me think that you know, I need a break at-least, I need to go away, and other women need to be doing this because I can't do it as well anymore.

Yeah. And there's also, there's kind of weird thing about who'd been there longest, and stuff like that, which wasn't particularly useful. It would be better if there was more of a kind of throughput, I think.

What do you mean? What, you mean visitors would ask who'd been there longest?

Yeah. And wanted to know that kind of stuff.

The kind of celebrity type, almost?

Yeah.

But it didn't work terribly well, did it? There weren't very many women who played to that, I don't think.

No, I don't think..

Like, 'Who's your leader? Who's your spokesperson?' things.

No, I don't think there were, but I think it would kind of sometimes felt like in spite of yourself that would happen.

Yeah, yeah.

Because you knew where stuff was, I mean, unless it - you know, that kind of thing, or what needed to happen.

How many women actually from Wages for Housework moved in?

Well, they took over Yellow Gate, basically. So Wages for Housework took over Yellow Gate, and the women, many of the women who'd been there a long time, and I think had been there too long, got very jaded...

Yeah.

...joined them, so that was the - I shouldn't say, you know, they, they had an analysis about race and gender, and class and sexuality that, you know, made a lot of sense, but it was all about guilt tripping and power and control, rather than making anything better. I don't know how many were there - twenty? I don't know how many were at Yellow Gate. They had, it became quite difficult at the other gates because we still needed to go to, to, to get the water. The post still went there, so we ended up having two different postal addresses. Um, the Yellow Gate tried to hide the standpipe, you know - became all this ridiculous thing about that they would try and control resources. And I remember witnessing - being shocked - because I was going back at weekends, and seeing this - woman from the main gate driving around and shouting abuse at the other gates. And you think whoa, what's this? This is like RAGE - it was the Residents Against the - an organisation called RAGE in Newbury called Residents Against the Greenham Encampment - RAGE. And there were some quite nasty cartoons in the local press, I seem to remember about Greenham women. So we'd get all of that from them. And then there'd be Greenham woman driving around and shouting abuse.

Oh, god!

It was absolutely unbelievable!

I wasn't there then, and I don't know...

You couldn't go to get down about - you could get down about it, but it was like (laughs), this is farcical, you know. So they did manage to, and I, it's hard not to think that it was a deliberate ploy on behalf of somebody or other, to try and disrupt various radical groups, including

Greenham. And to an extent it was successful - to an extent and some very good women, I think, got a bit brainwashed, you know. But that's not their perspective, presumably. So, I did try, you know, some good friends, some - couple of women from Orange Gate that I really liked, and I remember going to meetings with them, because they wanted me to go, and um, listening and thinking about it. And but because I was like, yeah, that's fine, yeah, go for it. But I also think this and I'm going to do that they, because I was, I was a bit too multifaceted in the approach.

Which is the way the whole thing had worked 'til then. And now it was...

So when they realised I wasn't going to join them, they stopped talking to me.

Um, I know it was all pre internet, but it is quite interesting if you Google - Wilmet is not one for photographs. There's very little presence of any sort.

No.

Which kind of - if you want to do the conspiracy theory thing...

Yeah. I know, but we just think you can't worry about, you know, there was always the possibility that there were people infiltrating from anywhere in what we were doing, and you just have to take responsibility for yourself, and do what you think's right and not worry. If they want to get involved with an action then fair enough! (Laughs).

There was a thing that was very powerful about it, because it wasn't possible for - I mean, presumably, there were police women who came and sat in on meetings.

But what would they get out of it?

It was irrelevant, because all they go away thinking, oh god, well what the hell did they decide there? (Laughs).

And you're just as likely to spontaneously decide that it would be a good idea to go in through Violet tonight, and see what was happening at the silos, you know, whatever. You know, just do whatever came to mind at the time - there wasn't, you couldn't sort of control it in that way. So I think it did have quite a negative effect, though.

What the Wages for Housework?

Yeah.

Oh, god, yeah. I mean, that was already happening before I went, like that thing of - those very intense meetings, where it was all about whether you had the politics right, or wrong.

They were very shaming as well, it was suddenly a totally different sort of meeting that they were - it wasn't, wasn't a kind of, you know, discuss, argue, put your point of view - but we're all equal. It was...

This is the correct?

Like, this is the right way and you can't speak because you're this that or the other.

It's like the shadow Greenham isn't it?

Yeah. But you know, then you just - I joined in one of those meetings, thought I don't like this and walked away. I mean, I mean, you can't, it's not even in a room is it? So you can't, there's no doorway, and they can't really control you, unless you choose to go with them. But there were some women who you know, you know, Katrina may still be at Greenham for all I know! Because a traveller gave some land to Greenham - between Green Gate and Yellow. And the last time I went, which must have been - well, it was probably 15 years after I left Greenham, she was there in a bender on this land, but didn't see her.

So some land that was owned by a traveller was given to the Greenham camp, and presumably still belongs to the Greenham camp?

Yeah, yeah. And for all I know, there's a couple of women still there. But...

I like the idea that the undercover police woman would leave going 'I don't know what happened'!

(Laughs).

Like I was there for the full 4 hours, but I don't know what the final conclusion was!

(Laughs). Yeah. And we didn't do things by meeting - I mean, I know there was there was a meeting at-least once a week, wasn't there, but it wasn't like that was the main driver, actually.

No.

So it wasn't like an organisation where you have to go to the meeting to make the decision to make it happen. It was like, it was mainly about money, wasn't it - I think those meetings, was it?

There did seem to be very long money meetings.

(Laughs).

Wasn't there a money meeting, and then there were random other meetings?

Yeah, probably.

Something like that.

Whilst not deciding what was going to happen at those meetings, it did rebound you, even if to the point of like, I can't stand - I still can't stand you.

Yeah.

But it was still a way that you all got together. And...

Yeah, and you also found out what other people were doing, because you didn't read about in the paper and things, so someone might have done some really great thing. And you didn't know anything about it, did you until people might say 'Oh, you know'. It was partly the social thing, wasn't it?

Yeah. And people would share ideas. And yeah 'Yeah, you want to do that? Anyone want to come to Wales?' 'Somebody has offered - somebody really wants us to go and speak this thing or that thing, or go to Iceland or go to France...'

Where did you go, then? Where did you go on those visits? Did you go to Iceland?

I didn't - I wanted to, but I um, I wasn't assertive enough to go to Iceland. (Laughs). I went to Paris, um, because nobody else wanted to go, basically. I think I got the phone call, and so the Young Communist Congress of France got me - and they produced these enormous posters with my name on. (Laughs).

Were you like the main speaker?

No, well, I don't know. There were lots of speakers. It was very, it was actually very interesting, because we're meeting people from all over the world. So I only found out about things like the New Jewel movement in Grenada, and what had been happening with the United States there, through going to that - I wouldn't have found out about that otherwise. There were people from all over the world there. Um,

but I do remember getting a standing ovation - it was really bizarre, really bizarre! I think, you know, if I'd just not said anything, it would have been perfect. But then I do remember (whispers) 'Sol Sol Sol Solidarity, Sol Sol Sol...' - two thousand people. Oh my god!

Fantastic.

But then when - we had a workshop with a few hundred people in it, can't do workshop with a few hundred people. And I said 'Oh, no, I did French at school, I don't need a translator'. (Laughs).

To what extent do you think going to Greenham created unrealistic ambitions among women?

Oh god! I obviously - I probably did - I did really. But anyway, they weren't very happy with what I said. Because on the one hand, I was against the American nuclear presence, but I was just as equally against the Russian nuclear presence, and I had quite a few questions about 'But how could that be? Surely they're, they're just defending?' - anyway. But it was interesting. It was an interesting experience.

Did you get to do any of those kind of...

I never went on any foreign things. I did some talks like roundabout, but it's like as Jane said, I mean really, you could have just said anything and people would have just gone (claps) 'Yeah!' You know, because you just was like flavour of the moment really. CND meetings and things - they were like big in those days, like, yeah, you could 50 people easily. Yeah.

So we've just been having a bit of a chat about what, what the Greenham legacy is - what, what do you think is...?

Very difficult to know that kind of thing, isn't it? Because movements are of their time, and then threads come from that, and from other things, and then things fade out and come in again. I was talking to Affa about Me Too the other day.

Oh, yeah.

'Cause when that first started, I was thinking, what, that's totally fucking obvious, isn't it? You know, why? What is?

Why is such a big deal? I mean, why is it...Yeah.

Yeah, but actually, I think it has been a real thing for loads of young women. And it's that re-finding out isn't it? But you kind of didn't realise that wasn't...

It's not acceptable to be treated like that.

Yeah. But but that somehow that had been forgotten. Well, was there a point when most people thought that, and then it was forgotten? I don't know whether I've got a warped idea about feminism and how far it went because of where I was.

I also think that with the best will in the world, the older women, however old they are - getting on doing what they're doing, and they somehow think that by osmosis or telepathy or something, the things that they learned have been passed on to the next lot. And we're learning that maybe we have a job to do, because actually, they didn't get passed on. And, and then I wonder if the younger ones go 'Well, you must think it's okay. Else, you'd have done something about it.'

Yeah.

And so maybe there's a bit of a um, just because - there aren't organisations that are - there isn't a party that you join, and you pass this information...

And there's always that, that, I suppose, the pressure from this - I haven't even used the word patriarchy for years - but from that, that you are alright now, you know, you don't need to do anything now. It's all

alright. You've actually, you know, you've got equality now, there there, go back into your houses or whatever. Go back and do the dishes, because you've got it all now.

Well go out and have a great career as - making pornography. You know, because because that's all okay now, because we've done feminism. And so this is...

There's almost a pressure coming back the other way to, to sweep women's power away, I think. And I mean, I'd like I was saying, when you weren't in the room that I remember feminism becoming like a dirty word - that it was hard to say you were feminist. Whereas it feels like it's come back into use again now.

Quite recently. Well, yeah, it does seem like there's more of an awareness of gender politics than there has been for a while. But I don't really know - I mean, in terms of the, the legacy of Greenham, I don't know how that relates to that. I suppose I think that um, there's - oh I don't know, I mean, for me, I think I've sort of thought from that - oh, that can be for me, that can be a really positive thing to work with a group of women that I've done in loads of different places in my life.

Yeah.

And I - but then that also is women's movement stuff wasn't it - happening at the same time.

Or before Greenham.

Before.

Yeah.

All those consciousness raising groups. Greenham kind of came out of that in one way.

And was a massive consciousness raising group.

Oh constantly, yeah.

But not about everything.

No. I mean, you were saying not about everything.

Sorry - I didn't finish my sentence, but I was gonna say, but not just about sexual politics about consciousness raising around how everything interconnected, really.

Yeah, it was - I think it's interesting you said that because I used to have this thing that I was too young for the conscious - I used to feel really pissed off that I'd missed all of that. But actually, I probably didn't! (Laughs). I just had it very intensely around the fire - constantly. Remember reading you know, the sort of feminist, anti feminist stuff that - because I was just a child when all that was going on.

I think maybe there's some sort of stuff that is maybe more known in whatever, lefty community or something about humour and creativity.

Yes

Blatantly being a useful tool.

Yes.

I mean, I don't really know. Because I don't - I wasn't involved in that loads of stuff beforehand, but it feels to me like that's true.

It's very different from the kind of - because I was a Shop Steward a few times, and it's very different from that sort of movement towards change. Because it was very creative, and you couldn't kind of clamp down on it, or fix it or anything, there was always somebody having

another idea to, to look at things in another way, or get people to look at things another way, or just to get attention, really.

Very irreverent?

Irreverent, funny, creative, using community and connection, and not, you know, not one person standing out there being a hero or anything. Yeah, you're right, I think that is something that I would take on now in things that I'm doing, that you could, you could do something quite creative and make make a change.

Somebody else has talked about, like anti-fracking, and just any of the environmental protests that involve, I mean, people used to sit-in in buildings, but they didn't use to kind of take over a tree or that, that seems to be you know, they seem to think that's part...

Yeah, maybe. I mean, that was some of that was going on. Not, not fracking, but I do remember there being various bypass protests at the same time as Greenham with people in trees, but it always seemed, it seemed to be that when there were men involved in the protests, there was a lot more violence. And I don't know, at the time, I thought it was because the male protesters couldn't keep it together to act in a non-violent way, but it may just be that clash of men, and how the police responded to men - don't know. A mixture of both probably.

If you were just to have a little image of Greenham - like a moment, do you have a - something that sums it up for you? Like your time there or just...

It's difficult, it's probably sitting around the fire. Just talking and drinking and eating and singing. But I can do that anywhere, I don't know why that's Greenham. Fence - the fence in the background. (Laughs). Blockading, a lot of sitting linked arms in front of a gate was a bit of it as well.

Yeah. There wasn't, there isn't a lot of other times in my life when I can think when I just have the leisure to sit and talk for all day if it happened to be that the conversation carried on. I can't think of any other times, really.

Very free.

And just thinking, just that thing of thinking well what are they going to do? There's nothing they can actually - they can't make you think differently.

As the song says! (Laughs). (Sings 'They can't forbid you to think!' Sorry!

So what about the singing then? (Laughs).

I don't know. Do you want some recording? We could...

Up to you.

We could record some singing if you want?

Go on!

What do you want to do? Got one of your mischief pieces?

There is a whole sheet of lyrics here - of various sorts. There's a cat joining in by sliding about on the photographs.

So that's one of the song sheets from some demonstration.

That's very nice. Who did that?

I don't know.

Yeah, this is pre pre clipart design, isn't it?

(Laughs).

Yeah, absolutely.

Everything was hand drawn

We used to do a newsletter that we hand drew and hand wrote, and then sent out in the post. And...

I know!

Remember the post!

I would so love to read one of those, and see what it was like, because it used to be a real labour of love doing that.

Silver Moon wrote this one, which is the dragon cries her tears in the night, and I loved it, but I can't remember the tune.

I don't think I know that one.

My sister gets people singing as her job - that's a legacy of Greenham, and I would love to have those lyrics to give it to her.

**Well there's a bit of a paper from South London Women's Hospital!
(Laughs). Nicked! Sorry, I'm just trying to find...**

(Sings to tune of 'Rock around the clock') 'One, two, three o'clock, four o'clock, snip, five six, seven o'clock eight o'clock snip, nine ten eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock snip, we're gonna snip around the base tonight'

(Laughs). I'm trying to... (sound of papers ruffling).

That one's good. That one had a sort of harmony to it, (Sings) 'We don't want your laws, we don't like your cause. We won't fight your cause, (inaudible) Greenham'. And there were some kind of...

Yeah, can't remember.

Can't remember.

Now there's some things...

I'll just read these out while you're looking. 'Down at Greenham on a spree, financed by the KGB'.

Oh yeah, that's quite good that one. (Sings). 'Down at Greenham on a spree, financed by the KGB. Dirty women squatters in the mud, da-na-na-na-na. Mostly vegetarian, when we're not devouring men, (inaudible) and other forms of scum. In the bushes where.... du du duh duh.'

We haven't got that bit.

(Sings) 'With copies of Karl Marx in plastic bags, duh duh duh duh'. Probably got that..

(Sings). 'Mr (inaudible) supplies us with our vodka. Mr. Castro makes sure we're kept in doors - wish he would. Most of us are outside agitators, who can't say Ronald Reagan brings us home. Brings us home!'

The shameless hussies, but that's not a Greenham song, really. Um, (sound of papers ruffling).

This collection was bought together by the Hackney Greenham Drummers Affinity Group.

(Laughs). Isn't that lovely!

I suppose, had to be Greenham. Double bass and things!

A contribution to sound around the base.

Sound around the base?

Please make copies and give them to others, printed by North Star...
(inaudible). Ooh, it's a different world.

(Sings) 'This is a song about the bent ladies. (Inaudible).

That's Rebecca's?

That's Rebecca's.

(Sound of papers rustling.)

(Muffled sound of various lyrics being mumbled).

(Sings) 'Men call us names, they're nasty and rude lesbian....half of it's true'.

(Sings to tune of Big Spender). 'The minute you came to the base, I could see you were the men of destruction, the real big spenders. '

Just trying to find some of the uniquely Orange Gate songs that I remember. Oh yeah, that's the epic from Brawdy peace camp.

(Laughs).

Oh, there's Annie - knitting and picketing.

Oh yes. I've got one of those that's spare, that you could take if you want.

So that is one of yours - (sings to tune of Smoke Gets in Your Eyes)
'The PC said to me, as he poured water on my tea, aaaah, this land is
MOD, kept primarily for cruise and military, aaah. Oh when you joined
the force, was it to run through cause, aaah, twelve men in a van, with a
watering can, was that how you began? Aaah. The PC replied as he
checked the oaks aside, aaah, first arise, but you hear so many lies,
smoke gets in your eyes.'

Fantastic. You wrote that?

Yeah.

Judy and her sister wrote that.

Lily of the arc lights, I really like that one.

Yeah, that's a good one.

(Sings to tune of Underneath the Arches) 'Underneath the arc-lights, by
the old Green Gate, I took out my bolt cutters, my hands could hardly
wait. I snapped towards her, she snipped to me. We both could see the
common free, oh Lily of the Arc Lights, a-snipping in the rain. As we
crawled into the base we held our cottons tight, wondering if the USA
would shoot at us on sight. I sneaked along with her, she sneaked with
me. We both could see the common free. Oh Lily of the arc lights, will
this all be in vain? Closer to the missile silos my heart began to quiver.
Was it Lily, the fear, the base, or just a little shiver? I look towards her,
she looked to me, we both could see the common free, oh Lily of the arc
lights, it wasn't Jenny, or Lesley, or Katrina or Sabrina, or any of the
others. Cutting up the silo fence, my knees began turn to jelly, but
standing strongly next to me was Lily in her wellies. I snipped towards
her, she snipped to me, we both could see the common free. Oh Lily of
the arc lights, we have everything to gain. Running up the missile silos
planting lots of trees. Should I have given my heart away or kept it in
deep freeze? Stay pure and sound ideologically (laughs), oh we could

be completely silly. Oh Lily of the arc lights, is this true romance or pain?' (Laughs).

Oh dear!

(Continues singing) 'When we got to Newbury nick we shared a little cell, we wrote on walls, sang lots of songs, drove all the men to hell, I snipped towards her, she snipped to me, we both could see the common free. Oh Lily of the arc lights, will I see you again?' Anyway.

Does it carry on?

No.

That's fantastic.

It was quite...(laughs).

There was a very good acoustic in those cells in Newbury.

(Laughs). There was, wasn't there!

I can clearly remember one time when me and Eleanor and Sue Popper were there, and Eleanor was singing - it was about what we were going have to drink when we got out. And Eleanor was singing, and Sue was singing (sings in low voice) 'A pint of lager', and I was going (sings in high voice) 'A glass of Baileys', and Eleanor was singing (sings lyrically) 'And a pint of bitter beer. ' And it was like we were in separate cells, but we could hear each other. But it sounded really nice. And then we did go to the pub after.

There was that Yellow Gate song, but you've probably got that. What other Greenham has... it's a bit.

I don't think I know that one.

(Sings to tune of English Country Garden). 'What are the bugs that a Greenham women has - Newbury, Berkshire. I'll tell you now of a song that I know, and the rest you've probably got them. Herpes, (inaudible), butting fleas, diarrhoea...' (laughs) 'small pox...' (laughs)....'ring worm, scabies'.

This does come back to me now.

'Dysentery and rabies, Newbury, Berkshire. What are the names.... (laughs). I can't!

(Sings) 'What are the names that vigilantes call us at peace camp Newbury, Berkshire. I'll tell you some of the ones that I know and those I list you'll surely pardon. Smelly cunts and dirty hags, doped up lesbians and slags, communists and traitors to the flag, and witches, dirty bitches at the peace camp, Newbury Berkshire. What are the questions the visitors ask at the peace camp, Newbury Berkshire? I'll tell you some of the ones that I know, and those I miss you will probably ask them. Are there many of you here? Is it cold and are you queer? Where do you get your water from? (Laughs). Where do you get your water from? Will you die for the cause, do you shit in the gorse at the peace camp Newbury, Berkshire? What are the things you hear the women say at the peace camp Newbury Berkshire? I'll tell you now of some that I know, and those I miss are confidential. I can't stand the bloody smoke, pass the joint I want a toke. What's that in the bushes, could it be a perv? There's a turd in road, a policeman's dropped his load at the peace camp Newbury, Berkshire. (Laughs)'. And then there was a Grannies action, and they added another verse on that. It's just like what you do is humour to get you through, basically. What, anyway, anyway, I won't go on - the next bit's worse. That's another of yours - Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head.

I don't even remember that. You could have that one if you want?

Thank you. I'm absolutely sure they're going to want to record you doing these and more of them, properly.

(Sings) 'Raindrops keep falling on my head. That's 'cause the bailiffs got my bender and my bed. I'd like a cup of tea. But we put the water in the car that's gone to the Newbury. Oh how silly. But, Liz's bender is my, it's got all the poles and I'll be building in a while. Evictions come and go, but all that seems to happen is this peace camp just grows and grows. Everybody knows.'

(Inaudible). (Laughs).

This woman (Sings) 'Woman tiger, woman, save the world.'

Oh yes, 'Woman toilet, woman bat, what the hell do you think you're at? Keep wearing wooly hat, go back to Russia (laughs). Go back to Russia - near Russia and far away. Go back to Russia.

It's deteriorating, this interview - isn't it!

That was the end? Okay!

Oh god!

No, because is that in Carry Greenham Home, that song? I can't remember. That is it Carry Greenham Home, that is the song.

Err, yes, it is. And she said some of things that people had shouted at her.

Instead of what we'd like them to be saying.

But people did say go back to Russia quite a lot, didn't they?

They did.

It was quite funny. (Laughs). I don't think there was anyone who had any connection whatsoever with Russia, but it was...

Apart from the Spetsnaz training?

(Laughs).

Spetsnaz?

Yeah.

Anyway, so many, so many.

I think it's about time.

We're allowed to go! (Laughs). You know what, she said she'd had a really long interview before, it was 2 hours..! (Laughs).