

dear sisters:

activists' archives



dear sisters: activists archives

This exhibition explores two new collections for Manuscripts and Special Collections. The Feminist Archive (East Midlands) was conceived by the Nottingham Feminist Archive Group, a collective of local women, some of whom were active in the Women's Liberation Movement. The 2013 Heritage Lottery funded project, Women's Liberation and after in Nottingham, looked at the origins of Nottingham's Women's Centre, but the Group felt there were still wider contexts to explore and more women's stories to be told. They embarked on a project to interview the women they were still in contact with and along the way began to gather archive materials and feminist magazines.

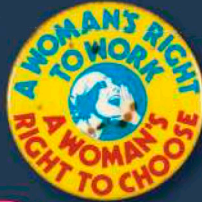
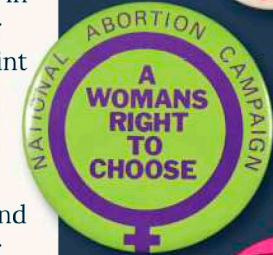
They were passionate about ensuring that students could access the history of women's activism in Nottingham so they approached us to ask if we could provide a home for the materials they had collected. They also set to work developing and preserving the feminist magazines at the

Women's Centre Library. In the process, they identified many duplicates which were kindly donated to form the basis of our new Feminist Publications Collection (FPC).

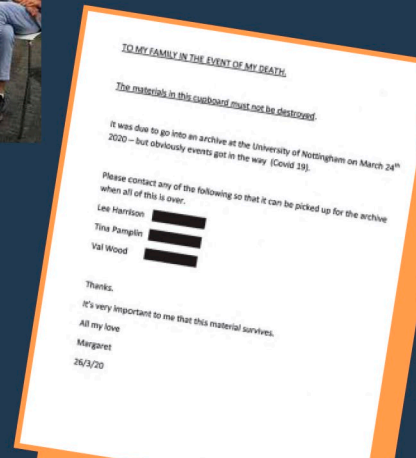
The pandemic delayed the arrival of the material but once restrictions were lifted, the Group began listing, preserving and researching the context of the collections. Co-curation with our local activist community has been a rewarding experience. We have benefitted hugely from the lived experience and research skills of the women. Their activist approach to archiving has brought in new contributions from Nottingham and beyond. Their enthusiastic advocacy has been invaluable in promoting the

collections which have already been used in classes, a conference, and a workshop for Nottingham Trent University's Radical Print Summer School.

We would like to thank the Nottingham Feminist Archive Group, Nottingham Women's Centre, and NTU's Periodicals and Print Culture Research Group for all their efforts in creating and promoting the use of the collections.



Sign attached to Margaret's archive while it awaited transfer during the pandemic, 2020. FME/3/1/5/1



Members of the Nottingham Feminist Archive Group discussing the curation of the Feminist Publications Collection, 7 March 2023. MSC/G6/FME



The Nottingham Feminist Archive Group stall, ready for a local history fair in Mansfield, 2022. Feminist Archive (East Midlands), FME/2/21



University of Nottingham Libraries, Manuscripts and Special Collections

