

KENSINGTON WOMEN'S • GROUP •

December 1979.



-CHILD CARE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED-
89 M^cCRACKEN STREET, KENSINGTON.

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"DOING IT TOGETHER"

FIRST IN A SIX PART HISTORY ON THE KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP.

In September 1975, 7 women met in a lounge room to explore the possibility of having a Women's Group in Kensington and holding regular meetings.

The impetus for the idea had come through a number of sources.

One of the women present had recently spent some time in a half-way house shelter, because her marital situation had become intolerable. During the stay, she found there was great relief in being able to share and discuss problems with women who were in similar situations. In fact she found this aspect to be a strengthening and positive experience and felt there was a need for something of the kind in Kensington - not necessarily a half-way house - but a place where women could meet

MERRY

MAX

TO

OUR

READERS

informally to talk to each other and do things together. Around the same time, 2 mothers from the local Community Centre (Health) were becoming concerned about the lack of facilities for women in the Kensington area. There was no traditional women's groups apart from church ones and they concentrated on fund raising and on the elderly rather than the needs of young families living in the high-rise flats. The Social Worker from the Health Centre, had lately begun to 'refer' some of her female clients to women she already knew in the area, feeling there would be mutual benefit from the link-up and that the women could offer each other a more on-going form of support than she could. Many of these women were in stressful personal situations, including being bashed at home which in turn rebounded on the children. Understandably

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CONT.

then, they needed time to themselves - a breathing space away from children and family - the opportunity to sort things out. As well as this there were practical supports needed - coping with the police, welfare departments, hospitals, etc. Perhaps most importantly they needed someone to be there as a friend, who could understand the situation and it was felt that no-one could understand better than another woman who had been through similar experiences. Therefore this first meeting was held to see whether something could be organized to provide women with an opportunity of getting together. They decided that it was necessary to have a wider representation of women to determine more specifically what was needed; so

SEASONS



GREETINGS



each person agreed to bring someone else to the next meeting. The meetings were held regularly from then on, and attendance steadily grew as word got around and women started bringing friends. The ideas being discussed at this stage were:

- having a support group for women.
- compiling an information and referral file or
- providing an information and referral file or
- providing recreation activities for women, eg, arts and crafts, discussions, Bingo evenings, etc.

It became apparent in quite a short period of time that many women were interested in the prospect of such a group and the community heard

"DOING IT TOGETHER" CONT.

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Centre obliged by giving them temporary accommodation in one of their houses. Evening meetings were organized as well, because quite a few working women had expressed interest in the group but were unable to attend during the day. Plans were also being considered to combine the Womens Group (as it was now called) with the after school club run by the Save the Children fund because, amongst other things, they also needed premises.

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR

In December 1975, a joint submission for funding for a house was drafted with the help of the social worker and the Regional Project officer, and sent to the Interim Committee of the children's Commission. By this time the Health Centre could no longer spare the use of their rooms and so the group moved its meeting to a house owned by the sisters of Zion.

NEXT ISSUE

GETTING A HOUSE



AT THE LAST YOUTH GROUP NEEDS MEETING WE WERE ALL ASKED
IF WE COULD WRITE SOMETHING ABOUT HOW OR WHY WE FEEL THE
NEED FOR SOMETHING TO BE DONE ABOUT THE YOUTH IN THE AREA,
ESPECIALLY AMONG THE (12-16) YEAR OLDS. BEING A MOTHER OF 4
KIDS THE YOUNGEST (6) THE ELDEST (15) I SYMPATHIZE WITH MOTHERS
WHO HAVE KIDS BETWEEN (12-16) MAINLY THERE IS NOTHING FOR THEM
KIDS TODAY SURE, WE HAVE A COMMUNITY CENTRE, BUT FOR SOME
REASON (LIEK NOT KNOWING TO THE RECREATION OFFICER) THEY WILL NOT
USE THE HALL THEY SAY 'THERE'S NOTHING FOR US DOWN THERE, TO BE
HONEST AS I'M WRITING THIS I CAN'T NAME ONE DAMN THING FOR
THEM KIDS TODAY IN THIS AREA IF THERE NOT SPORTS MINDED.
THEREFORE THE KIDS ARE JUST ROAMING AROUND WITH NOTHING
TO DO. SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE WITH MY ELDEST IM NEARLY
GOING MENTAL (IF IM NOT ALREADY) HE'S LEFT SCHOOL, HASNT OR
WANT GET A JOB, SO THEREFORE JUST (AS I CALL IT) BUMMING
AROUND, BECAUSE I WONT LET HIM STAY IN THE FLAT ALL DAY,
HE'S ALWAYS GOT SOMEWHERE ELSE TO GO, AND ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT,
THAT'S WHEN I DREAD, AS THAT IS WHEN THERE REALLY BORED OF
BUMMING AROUND DURING THE DAY. SO THEY WANT SOMETHING
NEW TO DO WELL AT THE MOMENT THEY ARE ALL GETTING THAT
BESSED ITS NOT FUNNY, (EVEN SOME AS YOUNG AS TEN) SO WHEN THERE
ARE DRUNK THEY ARE SCARED TO COME HOME AND FACE THE MUSIC.
SO THEY JUST DONT COME HOME, AND WHEN THEY ARE SOBBERLY UP



therefore they don't come home that day or night either, and the longer they stay away the harder it is for them to come home. Eventually they do because you have to go around looking for them or putting the word around to the other kids, so it will be to you son (or daughter) come home your mother's worried sick! No! Don't blame most of us parents as that is wrong I know for a fact, that I won't allow kids to drink in my flat as when they get older they will learn that for themselves. But the trouble is there are a few (not all) who will let these kids drink, and get so pissed they don't know what they are doing, well I'm sorry I don't agree with that, they might think it's funny, and have a laugh about it. (The parents) By God I would love some-body to do it to their kids, then they would know how it feels, waiting up for a kid who doesn't come home, we would be called all the B----- under the sun, so if you're one of those parents, why don't you have a bloody good think about it, remember it could be your son/daughter next? Don't worry they will soon get tired of Crog, then I shudder to think what comes next. (Drugs, sex etc) Don't worry I get very drunk myself, not because I like it, but because you are damn well worried sick about your kids, you think if I get sozzled, I will forget sure you do, but you still have to wake up in the morning, with the same threat hanging over you. Oh God! I wish there was something interesting for my kid to do, to keep him out of trouble with a capital T. All the cops have to do is see the kids hanging around in groups and then pounce on them. What are you



DOING, WHATS YOUR NAME, WHERE DO YOU LIVE, ETC, ETC, AND GOD HELP YOU
IF SOMETHING HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO AND THEY ARE IN THE AREA, AS
MOST PEOPLE KNOW, THE COPS ARE REALLY DOWN ON KEN KIDS, WHY? WELL
I'M NOT SURE, MAY BE ITS BECAUSE A FEW KIDS HAVE HAD FIGHTS (MAINLY ITS
THE OLDER ONES TOO) BUT US ADULTS ARE EVEN WORSE FOR FIGHTING THAN OUR
KIDS? WELL IF THE KIDS AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE HAD SOMETHING GOING
FOR THEM, THEN MAYBE A FEW HEADACHES WOULD DISAPPEAR WITH
THE KIDS RESTLESSNESS, INCLUDING THE COPS HEADACHES AS WELL
SO WHAT CAN WE DO TO MAKE LIFE FOR OUR KIDS AS WELL AS OURSELVES
A BIT EASIER, A COUPLE OF SUGGESTIONS, HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE,
SUCH AS A DISCO FOR KIDS BETWEEN 12 + 16 (NO Grog) A FEW PARENTS
THERE NOT TO HOUND THE KIDS BUT TO MAKE SURE OLDER (OR YOUNGER)
DON'T TRY SNEAKING IN + BUSTING UP THERE NIGHT. ANOTHER WAS
MOST OF THE KIDS LOVE ROLLER SKATING, WHY THE HELL SHOULD
THEY HAVE TO GO OUT OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITY TO ANOTHER, JUST TO FIND A ROLLER SKATING
RING. SURELY TO GOD SOMEWHERE IN KEN, THERE HAS TO BE A PLACE THEY COULD BUILD A ROLLER
RING, THATS ONE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OR WHOEVER DEALS WITH THAT SORT OF THING,
ANOTHER IS FOR A PLACE WHERE THEY COULD RIDE SKATEBOARDS, & HAVE COMPETITIONS, WHO
KNOWS WE MIGHT END UP WITH AN OLYMPIC ON OUR HANDS? ANYWAY AS I SAID IN THE
BEGINNING WE WERE ASKED IF WE COULD WRITE ABOUT HOW, WHAT, & WHY ABOUT KIDS, I'M
NOT SURE IF THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED BUT ITS WHAT I FEEL, THERE JUST ISN'T ANYTHING FOR
KIDS 12-16 TO DO, SO LETS TRY TO DO SOMETHING, ANYTHING BEFORE OUR HEADACHES GET BIGGER
AND OUR KIDS IN DEEPER TROUBLE ALL BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO.

UAL MARTIN.

Gossip



DID YOU
KNOW
THAT...

YUK!



Why are we as people who are supposed to be human beings, so cruel to each other and the cruelest part of the body is the tongue, which causes so much damage. We are always eager to listen to gossip, and carry it further until some person is really hurt and then everyone is sorry but then it's too late as people can't handle it.

We see different people every day of our lives, we all look the same we all have the same senses and the same feelings, but there are always a few people who are different. Maybe it's the way they were born, or they were in an accident, or even just the way they do. Some people like to be

Gossip

cont....

different, but that's their prerogative or their choice. Yet, we are always ready to laugh at them or condemn them. But what right have we got to make other people's lives miserable? The truth is, we have no right, but we think we have. I know we are all guilty of listening to gossip and we all do it and that's part of life, but what happens when people are very deeply hurt by it.

Alright. There are times when we don't care and we can laugh it off, but there are times when we can't cope with it, and we suffer very deeply by it.

So, what do we do when you are accused of saying something you didn't say, but you are not accused by the informing person, but by different sources of information. Do you approach it directly, or do you ignore it and let them find the truth out for themselves. But you always find guilty people can't face you, they are suffering too, you can see it in their faces. Why should gossip go that far, that not just one person, but two are both feeling bad, because of idle gossip and what eventually happens is that you never find the truth at all, because there is no truth in gossip.

We find also, that if there are people around that nobody really knows much about, and won't talk much about their personal lives, they always seem to be people who come under fire from the gossipers and they will do everything in their power to make them suffer, because they feel threatened by that particular person yet they can destroy people and get away with it. They will lie till their hearts content.

So where is the justice in gossip? Do we all start to really think about it, and how many of us are strong enough to stand up and say, "I won't listen to malicious gossip again, or I will try to stop it, or do we just sit back and enjoy it?"

Remember, we are human and people suffer very badly through it. So the next time you hear of some person being gossiped about in a damaging way put yourself in their shoes and see how you feel. Also, idle gossip doesn't hurt anyone, "but beware of the malicious gossip."

To the tune of Wabbling Melinda

Vicious and malicious
destructive and cruel
gossip exists in many
who have nothing better
to do.

They thrive on hearing talk
about people who they know
surviving at the expense of
others, their characters are
so low.

Talking, listening, seeing
extending every bit,
before they know what's
happening, they're causing
a lot of shit.

People getting hurt, dragged
into the mud, for reasons
quite unjustified, they often
cry with a third.

And to those of you who
listen, and lap up all
you hear, you lose your
credibility, with those you
talk of so dear.

So think about your
actions when talking
about your friend,

Are you being honest?
Is your friend bent?
da da da, da da da

~~THE HOLIDAY NEWS~~

~~January to December 1974~~

~~1975 to 1980~~

We Would like to thank and take this opportunity to wish all our readers of the 'Kensington Womens Group Child Care Co-Operative "Shoulder to Shoulder" Newsletter, a Very Merry Christmas and a Joyous and prosperous New Year. We hope you have all enjoyed reading our very first attempt of our editions of 'Shoulder to Shoulder', we all know it hasn't been perfect, but who's perfect? Next year we hope you will bear with us, - and our mistakes, laughs, & sadness, as it only comes from experience what we write and how we write it, so we hope will bear with us next year, and seeing it is the New Year and things will be a bit dearer (Now comes the old story), im afraid we will have to introduce some subscriptions, especially from people who can afford it, but what the heck, if you can have a laugh, or even shed a few tears, praise, or criticism as long as you enjoy reading, whats a few bob ???

MERRY XMAS

XMAS IS A TIME FOR LOVING, GIVING & SHARING
NOT A TIME FOR HATING, TAKING & VIOLENCE
XMAS IS A TIME FOR JOY, HAPPINESS & FRIENDLINESS
NOT A TIME FOR GREIF, TEARS, & SADNESS
XMAS IS JOY FOR, YOUR CHILDREN, MOTHER, FATHER,
BROTHER, SISTER, AUNT, UNCLE, GRANDPARENTS, NIECES,
NEPHEWS & FRIENDS, ETC. AFTER ALL WE'RE ALL

CAPRICORN: DEC 23RD - JAN 20TH

AQUARIUS: JAN 21ST - FEB 19TH

PISCES: FEB 20TH - MAR 20TH

CONCENTRATE ON HEALTHY MONEY WILL RUN THROUGH YOUR MAKE THE MOST OF ROMANCE
LIVING. RELAX ON FINGERS LIKE WATER THIS WEEK BEINCE I VOW A J. KELL-
SPEWD SOME-TIME WITH CLOSE BUT BY CHRISTMAS ETC. J. KELL-
FRIENDS. SHOULD BE GREAT NEWS I. KELL-
NEXT WEEK. AFFECTION MAY
NEED YOUR H. KELL-
THOUGHTS

ARIES: MAR 21ST - APR 20TH OVER-SEES.

YOU WILL MEET A LONG LOST

FRIEND OVER THE
CHRISTMAS PERIOD.
WATCH YOUR MONEY
THIS WEEK:

TAURUS: APR 21ST - MAY 21ST

GREAT CHRISTMAS
COMING UP. YOU ARE
USUALLY A VERY GENEROUS
PERSON, BUT DON'T OVER-
DO IT. BUY YOURSELF
SOMETHING NEW.

GEMINI: MAY 22ND - JUN 21ST

THIS IS YOUR LUCKY
MONTH EVERYTHING IS
ROSY ON THE DOMESTIC
FRONT. TRY NO. 5-2-30.
IN TATS.

CANCER: JUN 22ND - JULY 23RD

YOU COULD GET CAUGHT
DOING SOMETHING
WHICH IS ILLEGAL.
YOU MUST STOP TAKING
CHANCES.

LEO: JULY 24TH - AUG 23RD

ROMANCE COULD BE
A BIT ROCKY OVER
THE HOLIDAY SEASON
BUT CHECK UP GOOD
TIMES COMING UP.

VIRGO: AUG 24TH - SEP 23RD LEGAL ADVICE
YOU WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IN ROMANCE IS LUCKY
FRIENDS BEHAVIOUR WITH A CAPRICORN.
DON'T ANTAGONISE
COULD LEAD TO

LIBRA: SEP 24TH - OCT 23RD

DON'T SIGN ANY DOC-
UMENTS WITHOUT

LEGAL ADVICE
IS LUCKY
WITH A CAPRICORN.

SCORPIO: OCT 24TH - NOV 23RD

YOU ARE FEELING MOODY FLOWERS FROM YOUR
THIS WEEK. DON'T LET LOVED ONE WILL MAKE
IT GET YOU DOWN AND YOU HAPPY, BUT THERE
UNEXPECTED PRESENT COULD BE AN ARGUMENT
FROM AN ADMIRER WITH A TAURUS CON-
WILL CHEER YOU UP. CELEBRATING JEALOUSY.

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 24TH - DEC 23RD

YOU ARE FEELING MOODY FLOWERS FROM YOUR
THIS WEEK. DON'T LET LOVED ONE WILL MAKE
IT GET YOU DOWN AND YOU HAPPY, BUT THERE
UNEXPECTED PRESENT COULD BE AN ARGUMENT
FROM AN ADMIRER WITH A TAURUS CON-
WILL CHEER YOU UP. CELEBRATING JEALOUSY.

YOU AND YOUR STARS

MERRY

CHRISTMAS...



HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO ALL

1979 - 1980

Shoulder To Shoulder, since its birth late this year, has provided, for our group, a voice.

Apart from the fact that our newsletter has given those involved a chance to write, express their views, publish the view of others, been available for other groups to contribute, teach us a little about basic journalism, helped us to further explore our creative talents and so on.

Shoulder To Shoulder has, overall given the Women's Group a certain amount of identity in Ken, and kept you informed of our work.

For 1980 we have decided to further our efforts with S.T.S. and try to pull together the magazine in areas such as - content, layout, graphics, writing, etc therefore, we are going monthly so to allow more time a collective effort in producing an enjoyable magazine with a variety of material. We look forward to sharing this with you next year + hope that you will contribute articles for publication

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER SUBSCRIPTION
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I enclose cheque/ Money order for \$6.00 for 12 issues S.T.S

SPECIAL THANKS TO -

VAL MARTIN, MAUREEN FAGAN, BEV
GREEN THEOPHIL