

Feminist Archive at Manuscripts and Special Collection

A group of women have been working on a project to uncover, collect and record the hidden histories of feminist activism in Nottingham and the East Midlands since 1970. The women, all active in the women's movement since 1970's, have gathered materials from 1960's onwards – local publications, newsletters, correspondence, papers from meetings, badges, posters and campaign materials. They have also catalogued materials held at the Women's Centre to create a Feminist Archive to be held at the Manuscripts and Special Collections (MSC) at Nottingham University. They have also interviewed other activists and transcribed their personal testimonies which will also be held at MSC where they will be accessible to others who will be able to learn about the various campaigns and activism.

The project group have worked with the Women's Centre and the MSC and have collected materials on:-

- Women's Liberation Movement
- Feminist magazines and journals
- Anti-abortion campaign
- Campaign for the ordination of women (only collection outside London)
- Women's aid and Health and social services for domestic violence victims
- Black women's activism
- Lesbianism
- Peace campaigns and anti-militarism

This project was pleased to receive a grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund towards the cost of a laptop, transcribing the personal testimonies and display boards on which various materials have been exhibited at relevant events eg Mansfield History Fair in March and at the NWHG meetings. The HLF funded phase of the project is now complete but the project continues with further oral testimonies to be added. The project is also planning a written account of 'Women's Community and Feminist Activity', an exhibition at Lakeside in 2023, and they will make various presentations at community events including at a future NWHG meeting.