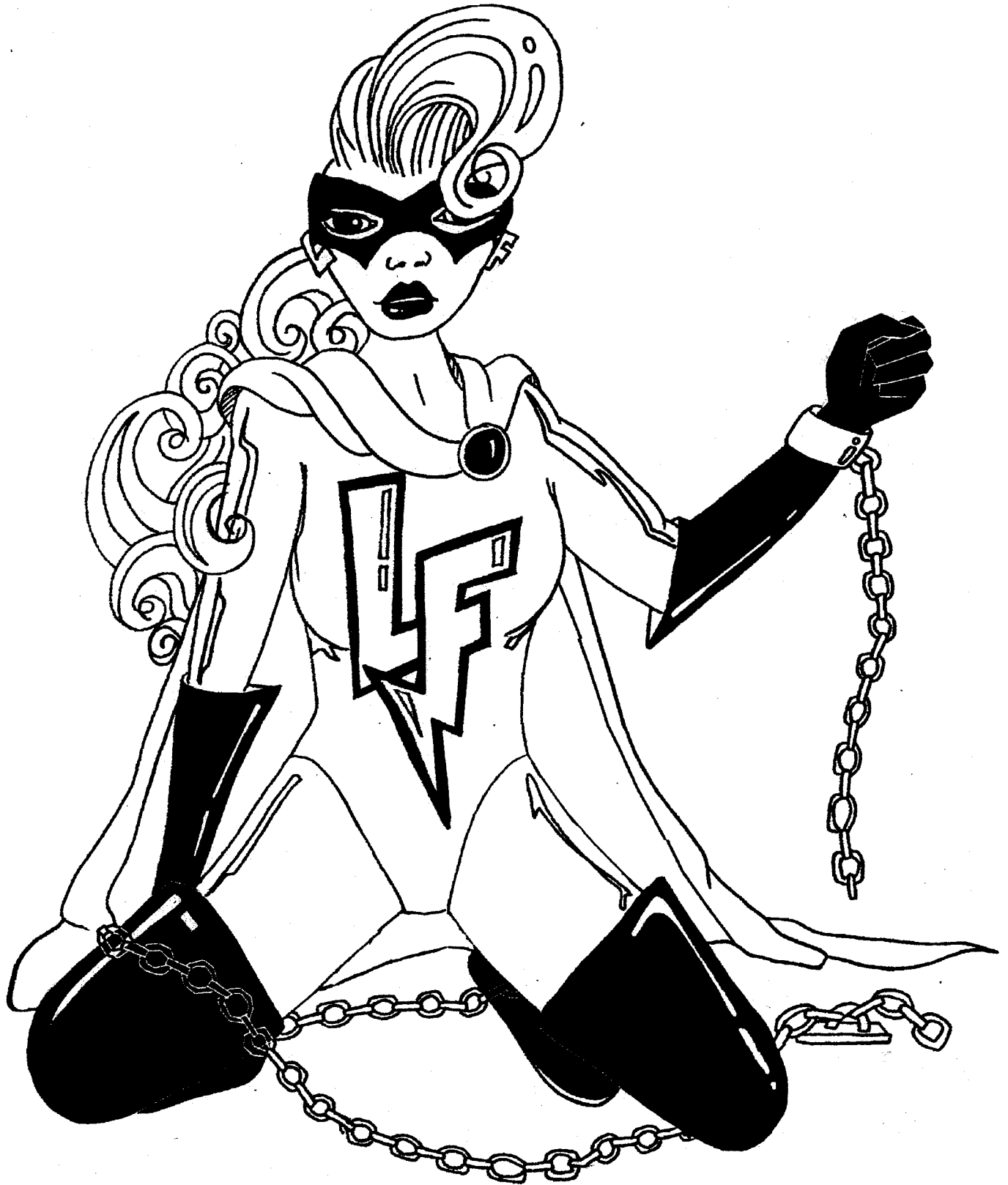


The Ladypress

Official Ladyfest Leeds 2007 News

Friday 13th April



SuperLadyFest BREAKS OUT onto the weekend!

FREE

contents

page 3 - Quake with wonder as super-poet Carol Ann Duffy becomes today's alternative page 3 stunna! Also, something to help you decide whether to use the 'F word'....

page 4- Sarah Barnes expresses her personal opinion on 'Feminisms' and Hywel Lewis tells us why the 'Men in Feminism' workshop on Saturday is so important

page 5- Interview with Cathy Russell of the band Ghost Fleet about her Bass Guitar Workshop on Saturday, and also exploring both what she has done for Ladyfest, and what Ladyfest has enabled her to do.

page 6-Whether they are feeling grizzly or not, 'The Furious Bears' are set for world domination via Ladyfest! Rosie, of the band, has a self defense workshop today; 'Strategies for Staying Safe' from 2.15 -3.15 pm at The Carriageworks. Catch The Bears playing tomorrow at Josephs Well.

page 7- The stalls start today!!!! Hopefully seeing all the gorgeous DIY goods will inspire you to get creative! If you feel like making a monster, or giving an old toy a new lease of life, then head to the Re-Toyed Trash workshop in The Art Market tomorrow and get stuck in from 1-5pm.

The Pedalkraft clothing stall will be inspiring you and making you look fabulous from today onwards! Read creator Beth Maiden's views on DIY style and ethics here.

page 8 - A lovely Pedalkraft stencil design for you to get customising with!

In The Carriageworks tonight;

£5 (£3 conc.) or free entry with a Festival WeekendPlus Pass or Friday DayPass

6pm Secret - The Yaitrei B Micro Happening (1915)

The happening will include audible cinema, sound art and experimental film and video works that explore the interface between sound and vision. You are encouraged to bring with you something that makes a sound you really like, or feel free to use your vocals!

7.30pm Threadbare - Rachel Dean

Familiar patterns and well-worn rituals start to unravel. An intimate and playful duet from an exciting new Leeds based choreographer.

8.45pm Products of Conception II - Lorraine Smith

This harrowing duet explores two men experiencing their fertility journeys, outpouring their pain and struggle. Drawn together through their lamentations, the men begin to forge an intimate and moving relationship.

9.45pm The Trouble - Hi Veld

A physical comedy...with leaks. A two hander clown show, in which two women inhabit an underground, dripping world. They have very important jobs, but beneath their fine problem-solving skills, there is a dark underpinning of fear and cruelty. And what happens when the drips stop? A heart-warming fusion of clown and physical theatre.

alternative page three stunna! - Carol Ann Duffy



Curvaceous Carol Ann is one of the seven wonders of the literary world! Her poems and plays are famous for being both accessible, enjoyable and intelligent all at once - making her the most-studied writer after Shakespeare in many schools and universities.

Perhaps her most famous volume of poetry is *The World's Wife*, a collection that gives a voice to all the forgotten wives throughout history and folklore, including Mrs Midas, Salome, Pope Joan and Queen Kong, and looks at either how the woman might react to her husband's behaviour (as Mrs Darwin says, "something about that chimpanzee... reminds me of you") or reverses the gender of those involved (such as *The Kray Sisters*).

In 1999, this wonderful woman was the hot choice for Poet Laureate, but was apparently passed over because Tony Blair was "worried about having a homosexual poet laureate because of how it might play in Middle England." She went on to say that she wouldn't have taken the post anyway, stating: "I will not write a poem for Edward and Sophie. No self-respecting poet should have to."

Verse and virtue - what more could you wish for? This talented wonder-woman of the words now teaches Creative Writing just over the Pennines at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Are You a Feminist?

Wondering whether you should call yourself a feminist? Then our fun and funky quiz will help!

Q1. What excites you most about Ladyfest Leeds?

- a) It sounds like one long party!
- b) Lot's of female centric acts, that don't usually get the recognition they deserve
- c) I'm looking for intellectual stimulation....so the discussion workshops
- d) The Dating Game!!!!

Q2. What's your body-hair situation right now?

- a) There's probably a few celebrities tucked away in there, it's so bush- like
- b) I'm as smooth as a shop mannequin under my clothes
- c) A bit stubbly in places, I'm pretty relaxed about the whole thing
- d) That's for me to know, and you to find out!

Q3. What's your ideal way to spend an evening?

- a) Down the pub, putting the world to rights with my mates
- b) Watching Sex and the City with a bottle of wine
- c) Holding the banner at the front of a 'Reclaim The Night' march
- d) Making amateur porn with a couple of good friends...

Q4. Your favourite pair of shoes?

- a) Trainers, I'm all for comfort over style
- b) 'F*** Me' Heels, no pain no gain
- c) DMs, all the better to stamp out patriarchy
- d) Rollerskates, all the better for the roller disco!

Q5. What's really aggravating you at the moment?

- a) My job, I'm bored to tears.
- b) Mascara adverts,,, I thought false advertising was illegal?
- c) 'Lifestyle abortions' banned on Harley Street
- d) My girlfriend nagging me.

Q6. What was the last thing you burnt?

- a) My toast
- b) My ear, with my hair straighteners
- c) My bra
- d) The dancefloor, with my hot moves!

Now count up how many a, b, c and d answers you got and turn the page for your results!



Did you answer mostly a, b, c or d?

Congratulations! You're a feminist!

And Sarah Barnes will tell you exactly why.....

Whatever you may think feminism is, think again. Because it shouldn't really be called 'Feminism', but 'Feminisms'. Radical Feminism, Socialist Feminism, Vegetarian Feminism, Islamic Feminism...the list goes on. In fact, there are as many different Feminisms as there are people who identify with them.

Put simply, Feminism is a belief in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes, and a movement organized around the conviction that biological sex should not be the pre-determinant factor shaping a person's social identity or socio-political or economic rights.

There are so many misconceptions about Feminists, that they are *all* this way, or that. People are scared to call them-

selves Feminist because they fear judgement within these terms. But with so many different people holding Feminist beliefs, how can they all be the same? In fact there are even debates between Feminisms. An example would be that Difference Feminists believe that there is a difference between sexes which is important and to be respected, whereas some Feminists, such as those who are particularly interested in Queer theory, believe that there is no essential difference between sexes and that gender roles are constructed by society.

It is important for there to be room for all different view points within Feminism, simply because no two women's life experiences are the same. And how

can Feminism work for a better, more equal world for women if that isn't taken into account?

Feminists like Katha Pollitt or Nadine Strossen consider feminism to hold simply that "women are people.", Estelle Freedman once said "Feminism is a belief that women and men are inherently of equal worth.", and Vice magazine put it so eloquently with "All it means is you don't hate yourself".

We still need Feminism because gender equality is not yet here, but it is within reach! And the more people who identify themselves as Feminists, the more colourful a movement Feminism becomes, and the more people there are to ensure an equal world for the future.

Men in Feminism Workshop

Hywel Lewis, organiser of the men's side of the workshop, tell us why this discussion is such an important one.

There are a lot of men who care about gender equality, but are often put off by feminism and the stereotypes that surround it. The 'Men and Feminism' workshop (Saturday, 5.15pm in The

Carriageworks) is a chance to open up a dialogue that is inclusive and informal, to discuss the role men can play in the women's movement and what everybody has to gain from that. It is a creative and positive exercise - we don't want to get bogged down with "men can't be part of feminism" or "those feminists want to stop me being a man" - it's about asking "what can we do as men?"

It is important that men are involved because men's attitudes have to change as well as, and often more than, women's. To generalize, we often perceive criticism of our actions as a threat to our gender identity or masculinity, especially when it comes from women. It is therefore vital to have men actively saying "No, this is what it means to be a man." And that doesn't mean becoming "more feminine", it means including respect as an integral part of masculinity. In short, it's about pushing and prodding and gently guiding towards a change in what it means to be a man in

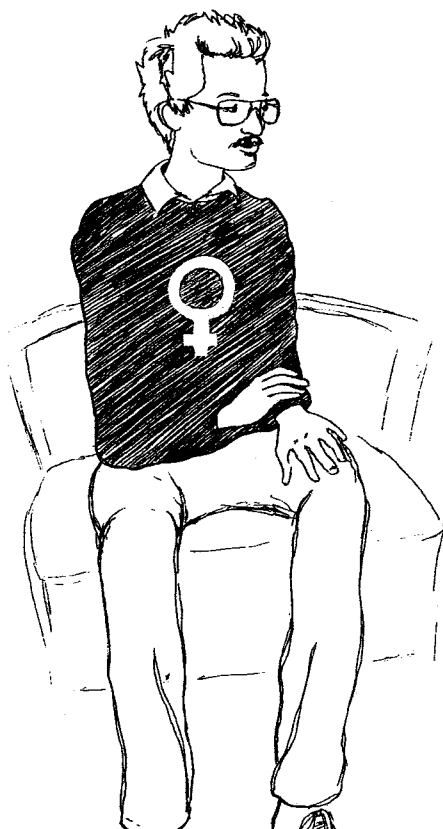
our society.

The initial workshop is split into two (self-identified) men and women. This is because we want to provide an environment in which we feel we can talk freely. We want to encourage a non-judgemental atmosphere where people can speak their mind.

Following these workshops there will be a discussion open to all, in which themes and ideas from the workshops can be continued under the umbrella question "How can men and women work together towards gender equality?"

We are hoping that this event will be the springboard for future events including further workshops and discussions with which we can explore ideas further, particularly the practical side of what we can do in our everyday lives.

Cost - £2 (£1.50 conc.) or free with a Festival WeekendPlus Pass or Saturday DayPass



all aboard the good ship bass

Cathy Russell is best known for her bass playing, used to startling effect within her most current Leeds-based band, Ghost Fleet.

However, with the advent of Ladyfest Leeds Cathy is turning her hand to other forms of creativity and organisation.

Tomorrow Cathy will be running the Bass Guitar Workshop in The Carriageworks and she is also exhibiting her art as part of the 'Views from Nowhere' exhibition at Holy Trinity Church. From arranging benefit gigs, to running her first ever workshop, and exhibiting her art for the first time, Cathy is treading her toes in the water of many new creativities, all in the name of Ladyfest.

Melanie Maddison interviewed Cathy about all of these strings to her bow, and uncovered an unsung heroine of Ladyfest Leeds.

Your band, Ghost Fleet played at one of the first Ladyfest Leeds benefits back in November '06, not long after you had formed. Was it an 'easy' early gig, playing to the Ladyfest crowd?

Yeah it was only our 2nd gig, and we were thinking 'yeah this might be a bit easier because it's people we know'. But then the nerves strike and it's just like any other gig for me - a lot of staring at the ceiling and my guitar! Having said that, the whole atmosphere is a bit less judgemental than other kinds of gigs.

For me have become one of Ladyfests unsung heroines by embodying and supporting the festival's ethos. What does Ladyfest mean to you, and why did you personally decide to become so involved in the festival?

That's really flattering but there are loads of people who've worked a lot harder than me! The festival is a good

framework to try doing different things. Personally, I'm not keen on the name 'Ladyfest' - obviously the tradition goes way back, and it's important to recognise this, but also to move forward, which I think Ladyfest Leeds '07 is doing, by actively promoting inclusion and dispelling some of the myths.

How long have you been playing bass, and how did you first learn & develop your talent?

About 10 years...I started learning when I was in school, just 'cause I wanted to start a band with my friends. It was a bit on and off to start with, but as soon as I started playing in bands, rehearsing and gigging loads, I gradually improved, but without really noticing. It's only recently that I've felt totally comfortable with what I'm doing, and not intimidated by stuff.

How important to you is sharing skills and advice with others via workshops?

I remember Julia [Downes; on the Ladyfest organising team] doing a DJ workshop in Glasgow, and thinking 'wow!' It's cool to inspire people to go off and create, and in turn hopefully inspire others. I think it's important that it's first-hand unfiltered advice, which demystifies the process in a supportive environment, where people can feel comfortable to make mistakes.

By making the workshop open to all, beginners and those already playing,

what do you hope for the workshop to 'achieve'?

I want to deconstruct the whole musical thing, and show that you can experiment. I definitely believe anyone can learn guitar skills - you might have to play to your strengths, and be a bit more creative, rather than getting bogged down in a standard way of playing, but that might be more interesting anyway.

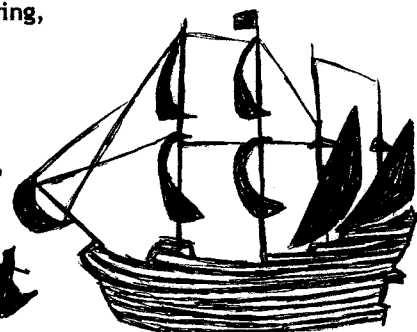
Info on Cathy Russell's Ladyfest Leeds events:

Bass Guitar Workshop, Saturday 14th 12:30pm - Carriageworks Room 5

This workshop will explore different aspects of playing bass, including its traditional role and encouraging an alternative, creative approach where technical skill is less important than experimentation and ingenuity. This workshop is for beginners and anyone who wants to have a go at playing bass in a supportive, friendly environment. You don't need to bring anything (although you can bring your own instrument/amp if you want).
Cost - £2 (£1.50 conc.) or free with a Festival WeekendPlus Pass or Saturday DayPass

'Views from Nowhere' art exhibition at Holy Trinity Church is open until Saturday 14th April, opening 10am to 3pm each day. Entry is free.

GHOST FLEET



05

The FURIOUS BEARS



Ladyfest Leeds isn't just around for one week - it's taken over 9 months to plan and prepare for. In the run up to the festival there have been many fundraisers held to help pay for the massive cost of this extravaganza, and it was at such an event on 28th March at the Fenton that Sarah Smith caught up for a chat with The Furious Bears, who were about to play their debut gig. The Bears will be playing at Josephs Well on Saturday at 4pm.

Introduce yourselves please!

Rosie: I'm Rosie Bear, I sing and play guitar

Nic: Nic Bear, bassist

Martha: I play guitar and sing a little bit

Conor: I play... percussion, because there's maracas in it. Percussion, drums and shaky things

How did you start the band?

Martha: There weren't really any practises. It's just fun to tell people you're in a band

Rosie: I played guitar sometimes, all alone, in my flat in Paris, and then, when we were finally in the same country, we...

Martha: Found this young man here...

Conor: Found me, rambling in a forest. And then I found Nic

Martha: In his house.

Conor: "We need a bassist." "Oh, I live with one." "Oh, OK." Bassists are quite hard to find, normally.

Why are you playing Ladyfest Leeds?

Rosie: I got involved with Ladyfest a little while ago. Ladyfest is doing some fantastic things and it's great that we can play at it

Martha: You don't get so many things happening that have such positive, welcoming vibes, so we should grab them when they're there

What events are you planning on going to?

Martha: Looking forward to the Raincoats

Rosie: Friday night will be fun too, with

Hello Cuca, Duloks, Jean Genet, and on Sunday, Sky Larkin, who are awesome.

Oh and my workshop! It's called Strategies for Staying Safe, on Friday, and it's a group discussion about self-defence, assertiveness and so on. It will be great, everyone should come.

If your band was an animal, what would it be?

Rosie: Surely it's inconceivable that it's anything other than bears?

Conor: What bear would we be?

Rosie: See, for me the bear changes

Nic: I'm quite drawn to the black bear.

Conor: You don't feel like a grizzly?

Nic: I'm definitely not a grizzly

Rosie: Sometimes I feel like a grizzly bear. Teddy bear sometimes

If your band was a book, what book would it be?

Conor: Alice in Wonderland, it's my favourite book

Martha: We did just randomly rip off huge chunks of Alice in Wonderland, Wizard of Oz, most fairy tales... They're all open to plundering.

Conor: Goldilocks!

Rosie: We are a classic children's library.

What are your plans for world domination?

Martha: Ladyfest is our route to world domination

Rosie: Definitely the best route to world domination. Or perhaps just a nicer world.

Have you got any words of wisdom you would like to pass on through this interview?

Conor: If you go down to the woods today, bring us cake



Re-toyed TRASH

Alicia Talikowska spoke to us about this fun and sticky Saturday workshop!

What is the idea behind Re-toyed trash?

Re-toyed trash is about making use of discarded items and re-using materials to create new things that could be art or toys, or whatever the creator wants them to be. Turning junk into your own treasure, if you like. Everyone likes toys and the workshops are a fun way to allow people the space to play and stick stuff together.

I was also interested in the Re-Use of materials: if new objects can be created from found/old/junk materials then no limited resources have to be used up in the process. Many toys are mass-produced and made from plastic and this can be damaging to the environment. We are not just providing an alternative to these types of toys, we are giving any discarded toys a second life.

What made you want to do a Re-toyed Trash workshop as part of Ladyfest Leeds?

To be a part of Ladyfest Leeds is cool because the people getting involved will hopefully be willing to give it a go, the festival encourages participation and hopefully we will get lots of uninhibited creativity.

Who is the workshop aimed at?

I don't think you need any special creative abilities to take part in this workshop. Everyone is welcome. If you're happy to glue some parts together to see what can be made then come and give it a go.

What kind of things will people need to bring to the workshop?

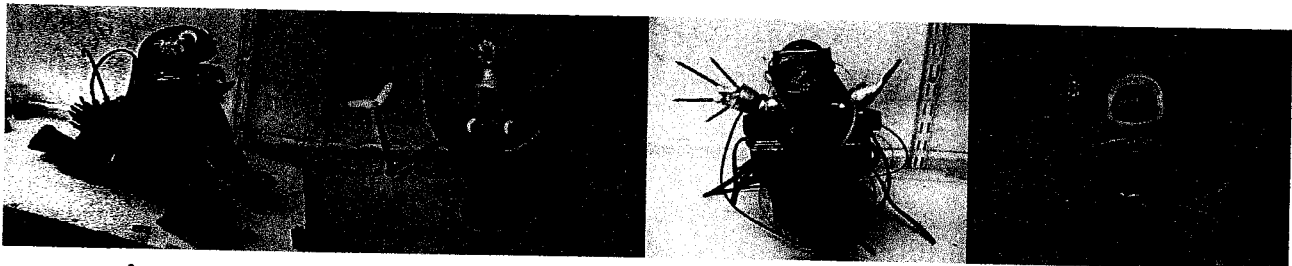
Enthusiasm, willingness to get stuck in and possibly some of their own junk that they would want to work on.

What can people at the workshop expect to take home with them?

Apart from the sticky fingers, the satisfaction from creating something unique and taking away a treasured handmade item.

Re-toyed trash will be at The Art Market (it's between Studley's stamp shop and Chuckles card shop) in the Merrion Market on Saturday 14th April 1-5pm. Come and join in! Lot's of junk, adhesives and tools will be provided. It's totally free, but donations are welcome!

<http://recycledtoys.wordpress.com>
www.myspace.com/recycledtoys



pedal krafting

Beth Maiden of Pedalkraft clothes has been good enough to give the Ladypress a cool design that can be used to customise your clothes, either as a template to make a patch, or as a stencil to use with spray paint! Take a look over the page and get creative!

Or, whilst your gathering your sewing kit, read Beth's ethos behind her clothing stall, which will be visiting Ladyfest this weekend.

"Pedalkraft takes a stand against disposable fashion - the mainstream craze for buying lots and lots of cheap sweatshop made clothes and throwing them out at

the end of each season. Pedalkraft clothes come from charity shops or are donated by friends, then they're altered or decorated using recycled/reclaimed materials, and sold on for between £2 and £10. so every item is completely unique, and a bargain. And all the proceeds go to organisations like Ladyfest Leeds which promote gender and sexuality equality.

I want to spread the message that customising clothes is something anyone can do - make a felt shape and stitch it onto a cardigan, sew some ribbons onto an old skirt...take some risks and chop and pin things into new shapes - you can't be a perfectionist about it, but that's part of the fun - just go for it!

All pedalkraft profits go to women/queer-positive organisations. The whole thing started out as a fundraiser for Ladyfest Leeds, but it's been such a hit that is simply had to carry on! So far Pedalkraft has raised over £200 for Ladyfest, and I'm hoping lots more at the festival itself.

Pedalkraft will be available on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th of April at the Carriageworks - it'll be part of the Ladyfest merch stand."

www.pedalkraftclothes.com
www.myspace.com/pedalkraft

P.T.O 

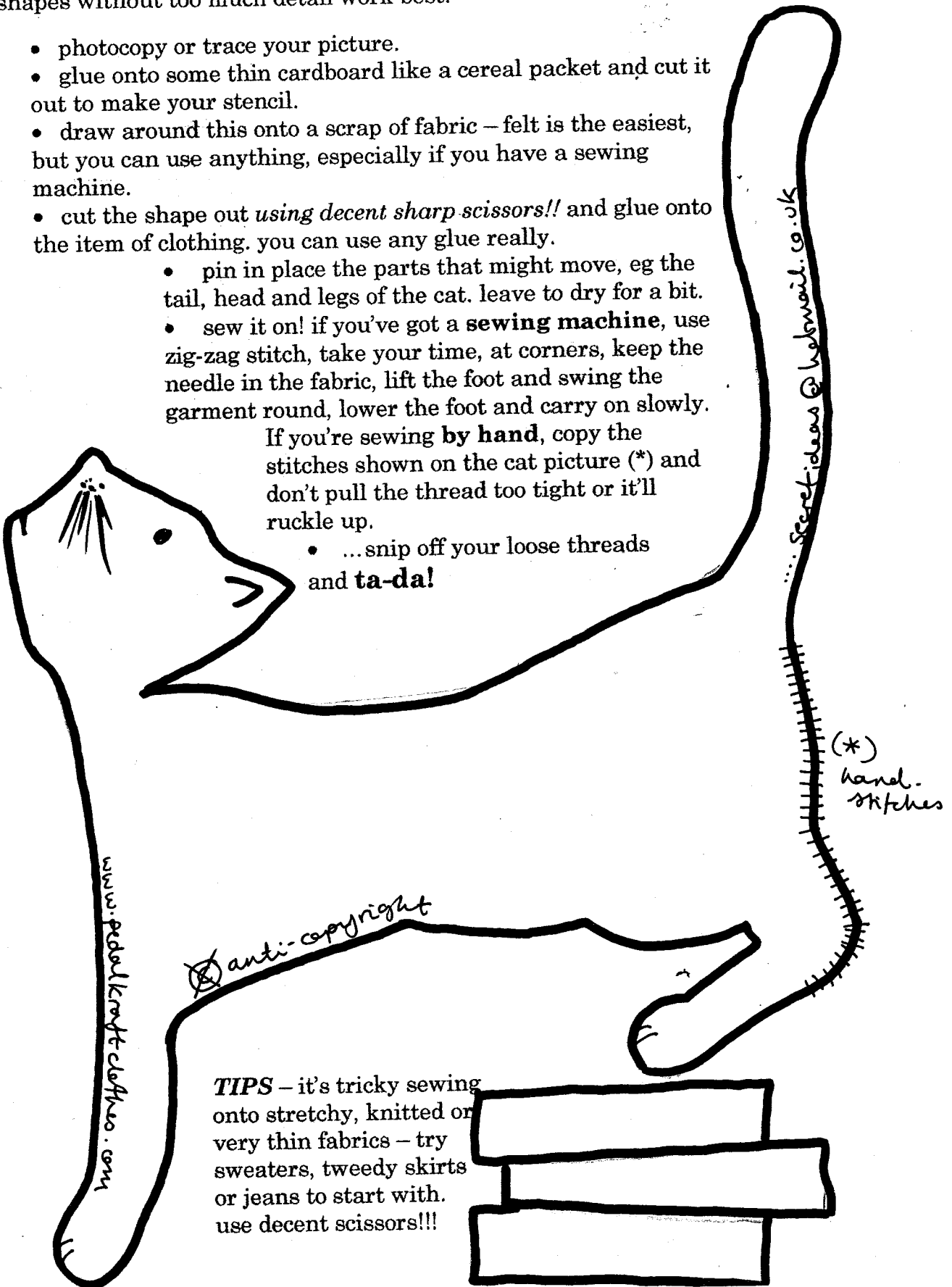
LF07 

pedalkraft stencil!

how to applique

this cat stencil has been the most popular pedalkraft design, but if you don't like cats, draw your own, or find a cool picture on the internet or in a magazine – unless you plan to embroider it too, you need to be able to tell what it is from just the outline, so simple shapes without too much detail work best.

- photocopy or trace your picture.
- glue onto some thin cardboard like a cereal packet and cut it out to make your stencil.
- draw around this onto a scrap of fabric – felt is the easiest, but you can use anything, especially if you have a sewing machine.
- cut the shape out *using decent sharp scissors!!* and glue onto the item of clothing. you can use any glue really.
 - pin in place the parts that might move, eg the tail, head and legs of the cat. leave to dry for a bit.
 - sew it on! if you've got a **sewing machine**, use zig-zag stitch, take your time, at corners, keep the needle in the fabric, lift the foot and swing the garment round, lower the foot and carry on slowly. If you're sewing **by hand**, copy the stitches shown on the cat picture (*) and don't pull the thread too tight or it'll ruckle up.
 - ...snip off your loose threads and **ta-da!**



TIPS – it's tricky sewing onto stretchy, knitted or very thin fabrics – try sweaters, tweedy skirts or jeans to start with. use decent scissors!!!