Bristol Radical History Group

Founded in 2006, BRHG has organised more than 250 events including talks, film screenings, archive days, walks, historical recreations, gigs and fireside story telling. We have also published over 40 pamphlets and books. A part of the History from Below Network, BRHG organises open events across Bristol and the South West, hosting local, national and international speakers.

We are a non-profit, volunteer-run organisation and take no funding from business, political parties, local government or universities. We seek to open up history so that it is relevant and real and to make it engaging and accessible for all. www.brh.org.uk

bread, print and roses collective

bread, print and roses is a creative collective. We publish seditious pamphlets, lead and promote radical walks, organise and host workshops in practical skills – from anarchist baking to community organising. www.breadprintandroses.org

Remembering the Real World War One

Alongside research projects investigating ‘war enthusiasm’, conscientious objectors, deserters, strikes and army mutinies in Bristol, RRWW1 has organised 50 talks and other events since 2014. These have uncovered hidden histories of resistance to WW1, including opposition to Britain’s involvement in the war, conscription and the imperial ambitions of its rulers. www.network23.org/realww1

M Shed

M Shed is a museum all about Bristol. Explore the city through time: its places, its people and their stories. M Shed is part of Bristol Museums. www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed/
Welcome to the second Bristol Radical History Festival! This year’s event is a joint effort, organised by bread, print and roses, the Bristol Radical History Group (BRHG) and the Remembering the Real World War I Group (RRWWI). Following the success of the 2017 festival, we are delighted to be once again hosted by M Shed, located on Bristol’s historic dockside.

2018 marks the anniversaries of two of the most significant historical moments in the 20th Century.

The First World War ended in 1918. This centenary sees RRWWI delving into the hidden histories of rebellious miners, mutinous soldiers and those on the run from conscription as well as examining how the War and its victims are memorialised (all talks in Studio 1).

May 2018 also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the May 1968 events. These signalled the rise of the counter-culture and emergence of the new social movements that continue to define cultural and political debates. In Studio 2 bread, print and roses revisit 1968 in bringing together those ‘who were there’ to discuss what happened in Bristol, considering events such as the university occupations and the founding of St Pauls Carnival in the broader context of that tumultuous year.

Also look out for the M Shed’s new display: ‘One vibration: voices of St Pauls Carnival’ (from 21 April) and the ‘Bristol music: seven decades of sound’ exhibition (starts 19 May).

1918

History Walk 1: Lee Cox & Hazel Gower—Painted out of history: Ellen and Rolinda Sharples
Join Lee Cox and Hazel Gower in exploring the places where the artists Ellen and Rolinda Sharples lived and worked in the 19th century.

Start 11.00am: Christchurch, Clifton Down Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3BN.
End 1pm: Royal West of England Academy Café, Queen’s Road, Clifton BS8 1PX.
1.30pm-2.30pm: Film screening: ‘Rolinda Sharples – Painted out of History’.

1968

History Walk 2: Anny Cullum & Steve Mills—Bristol Feeding the people: markets, trade, transport and conflict (17th-19th Centuries)
A walk round the harbourside to discover how Bristolians were fed during the early modern era and what happened when they weren’t...

Start 11.30am: M Shed
End 1.00pm: M Shed

History Walk 3: bread, print and roses—Degrees of Dissent: Bristol’s radical educational history, and what we can do to take learning back
A walk to bring to life the city’s dissenting history; asking what kind of education we need for all our futures.

Start 4.30pm: M Shed
End approx. 6.00pm: Mshed

It’s not just talks! There are history walks, films, a performance space with puppet shows, poetry and readings, plus stalls with displays, books and merchandise from local and national groups. And all the events are free.

See the full programme of talks, performance, films and stalls overleaf...

Full programme online at: www.brh.org.uk/?p=8984

Travel to M Shed and parking
By Car: Parking is available in Wapping Wharf next to M Shed.
By Train: Temple Meads station is a 15 min walk.
By Bus: Bristol Bus Station is a 20 min walk.

Accessibility
The M Shed is an accessible building. For full details see the M Shed website: www.christlomuseums.org.uk/m-shed/facilities/
Lois Bibbings—The Shot at Dawn Campaign: rewriting history and pardoning the past
In 2006 a pardon was granted for some of the men executed by the British military during WW1. This talk traces the efforts to gain justice for those men who died. It also considers resistance to ‘rewriting’ history and reflects upon campaigning and the use of pardoning.

Andy De Comyn—The Art of Remembrance, a sculptor’s approach to war commemoration
Centred around the Shot at Dawn Memorial the talk looks at how war commemoration is viewed and how an artist’s approach may differ from that of a commissioning body. It also looks at how war commemoration has changed, who is included and who is left out.

Ian Wright—Starting the flame: agitators, conchies and miners in the Forest of Dean
BRHG’s own Ian Wright draws upon research in his new pamphlet ‘Ring out the Thousand Wars of Old’ to discuss opposition to WWI in the Forest of Dean.

Tony T and Julian Putkowski—Film Showing: Mutiny at Taranto
‘Mutiny at Taranto’ is a documentary about the British Caribbean experience of WWI, with veterans’ recollections of the 1918 mutiny in Italy. The film’s researcher and producer, Tony T, along with Julian Putkowski, expert on British army mutinies, will be present for Q&A after the screening.

Sue Tate and Kevin Whitston—‘You say you want a revolution’: student protest and occupation in Bristol, May 1968
Bristol students occupied the University’s Senate House for 10 days in 1968, campaigning for greater representation and to open access to educational facilities. Participants in the sit-in, Sue Tate and Kevin Whitston, will start this session with brief presentations before questions and discussion.

Sheila Rowbotham and Hilary Wainwright—Women, politics and protest: Feminist perspectives on 1968
Sheila Rowbotham and Hilary Wainwright will contribute personal memories of links between events, movements and ideas which surfaced in 1968 and the emergence of the 1970’s women’s liberation movement. They will reflect upon how these helped to shape their approaches to politics.

Julz Davies, Roy Hackett & Cleo Lake—From Festival to Carnival: 50 Years of St Pauls
This panel will discuss the history of Bristol’s famous procession and street festival. There is also unique film footage of the first St Pauls festival in 1968.

Al Read and Ed Newsom—The Granary Club: rock music in Bristol in 1968
Founders of The Granary Club, Al Read and Ed Newsom, two local musicians who put on the club nights that made the legendary venue so memorable. They will share their recollections of The Granary which ran from 1968 to 1988.

Di Parkin—What I remember...memories of 1968
Di shares memories of 1968: from the Prague Spring to the Anti-Vietnam War marches and much more.
Cyril Pearce — On the run: remembering the men who went away
Cyril Pearce shares some largely ignored history of anti-war resistance in WWI: the experiences of men who were deserters and absentees from the British home forces.

Hilary Wainwright & Roger Ball — Strikes, equal pay and workers’ control: the workplace in ‘68
In the late 60s the strength of workers organisations was reflected by their radical demands: equal pay for women, shorter hours and workers’ control.

Clive Bush — Pressure Drop? What did the 1968 protests achieve?
Professor Clive Bush offers a critical reassessment of the 1968 events and their aftermath. He will look at May ‘68 in a broader context of global protest and changing narratives of political analysis and authentic action.

Performance & Films
Life Gallery, Level 1

On the run 11:30am-12:30pm
A puppet show by Otherstory. A story of struggle during the First World War – full of intrigue, escapes, comradeship...and bikes. Recommended for adults and older children.

The Dispossessed 12.30pm-1.30pm
Storytelling. Heather Jane will present a story on poaching and enclosure set in her homeland of Gloucestershire, followed by discussion.

May 1968: From a Mod to a Marxist 2:15pm – 3.00pm
Radical Stroud’s Stuart Butler recounts how the ‘68 events turned him from a mod into a Marxist. In the form of three prose poems, Stuart will share his personal journey during the year that rocked the world.

Also expect impromptu performances by Bristol’s wonderful Red Notes Choir.

Films The following will be screened on the Level 1 TV

Exhibitions and Displays
Level 2

Dennis Gould: Art and Memorabilia. Original posters created by the celebrated Stroud letterpress artist alongside memorabilia from Dennis’s journey in the 1960’s counterculture.


Unite Community history. Small display on history of trade unions.

Hands-on Activities
Cato Press: poster-making. Members of Easton-based printmakers, Cato Press will be present with some radical designs. Be sure to pay them a visit to print your own poster which you can take away!

Our Chartist Heritage: creating Chartist tokens. Newport’s Charles Ferris will don period costume to strike commemorative tokens of the 1839 Chartist Uprising.

Banner-making workshop: The Atelier Populaire: The Struggles Continue! Take inspiration from the Interference Archive’s Exhibition, to make your own radical banner, poster of protest, image of insurrection or object of beauty in bread, print and rose’s workshop.