Bristol Radical History Group

Founded in 2006, BRHG has organised more than 250 events including festivals, talks, film screenings, walks, historical recreations, exhibitions, gigs and live storytelling. We have also published nearly 50 pamphlets and books. BRHG organises public 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

Remembering the Real World War One

Alongside research projects investigating 'war enthusiasm', conscientious objectors, deserters, strikes and army mutinies in Bristol, RRWW1 has organised more than 50 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 third Bristol Radical History Festival!

This year's festival is organised by Bristol Radical History Group (BRHG) and the Remembering the Real World War I Group (RRWW1) along with our hosts at M Shed. Once again we will reveal hidden histories, debate and agitate for a future of better pasts. The 2019 festival has two main themes:

Accessibility

M Shed (BS1 4RN) is an accessible building with bike stands on Museum Street and parking available at Wapping Wharf (BS1 4RH) and The Grove (BS1 4RB).

By Train: Temple Meads station is a 15 min walk. By Bus: Bristol Bus Station is a 20 min walk.

Catering

The M Café, located on the ground floor of M Shed is open from 10.00am to 4.30pm. There are also many other cafes, restaurants and street stalls in the immediate vicinity, catering for vegans/vegetarians and those with special dietary needs.

HISTORY WALKS

History Walk 1:
Mark Steeds (Bristol Radical History Group) - From Wulfstan to Colston, severing the sinews of slavery
Join Mark Steeds on a walk paying tribute to Bristol's abolitionists and sharing the history of the City's links with the slave trade.
Start 11.00am: M Shed (meet at the front of the building)
End 1.00pm: M Shed

History Walk 2:
Molly Conisbee (bread, print and roses) - Romantic, Radical and…Reactionary: Bristol Green Capital or Green Capitol?
Molly Conisbee's harbour walk will explore the way that the city of Bristol, a magnet for environmental activists and contemporary good-lifers, has a longer history of struggles relating to the built and natural environment.
Start 3.00pm: M Shed (meet at the front of the building)
End 4.00pm: M Shed

Not to be missed: see the Regional Radical Press exhibition on Level 2, featuring highlights from UWE Bristol's current project.

It's not just talks!
Expect walks, films, a performance space with a puppet show, storytelling and poetry and an exhibition space, as well as stalls with books and merchandise from local and national groups.

ALL THE EVENTS ARE FREE.

STALLS
- Active Distribution • Anarchist Communist Group • Black Skin Black Flag • Bloom and Curll Bookshop • Bristol Radical History Group • Bristol Transformed • Fiducia/Long John Silver Trust • Haymarket Books • Just Seeds • Mayflower Mavericks • Our Chartist Heritage • Past Tense • Remembering the Real World War One Group • Tangent Books • Unite Community • Wessex Solidarity • West of England and South Wales Women’s History Network

We are also thrilled to announce a tie-in event: '3 Acres and a Cow: A History of Land Rights in Folk Song and Story'. This will be hosted at Bristol's Cube Cinema on the evening of Friday 25th October. (£10/£8) book online at: headfirstbristol.co.uk/#event_id=56884

About M Shed

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The Bristol Radical History Festival

Two Centuries of Green History

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11.30am — 12.20pm

**Philip Kuhn**—“With all the resources at the disposal of the State: Industrial legality and the 1919 Railway Strike”—Philip Kuhn will explore Government responses to the 1919 Railway Strike to understand how the British State successfully negotiated the large-scale industrial upheavals that threatened a syndicalist takeover.

12.30pm — 2.20pm

**Ireland in 1919**

**Joe Mooney**—‘England’s difficulty is Ireland’s opportunity’: How Irish nationalism responded to the Great War—This talk will outline the difficulties of the ‘Irish question’, the movement towards Home Rule and the rise of armed bodies in the pre WW1 period. 1919 would witness the establishment of a separatist parliament in Dublin, an escalation of guerrilla warfare and the establishment of a ‘soviet’ in opposition to British rule.

**Dee Daley**—Whose King, Whose Shilling?: Irish Great War soldiers who returned to fight for freedom—Dee Daley will examine the anomaly of Irishmen who fought for the British during the Great War. What were the motivations of these men who owed nothing to the British Crown, some of whom would go on to join the IRA?

**Nick Heath**—‘We Make Butter, Not Profits’: The Irish Soviets, 1919-1921—Between 1919 and 1921 there was a rash of workplace occupations and the setting up of workers’ councils or ‘soviet’ throughout Ireland. Nick Heath outlines this movement and the forces arrayed against the workers.

2.30pm — 3.20pm

**Karen Hunt**—Bridport 1919: Conflict and tensions in a small industrial town in West Dorset—Karen Hunt’s talk explores social and political tensions in 1919 through a case study of Bridport in the war years, including soldiers’ protests, industrial strikes and new political organisations.

**3.30pm — 4.30pm**

**Strikes and riots: British servicemen in 1919**

**Roger Ball**—‘We want out’: Bristol and the British armed forces strikes of January 1919. Roger Ball outlines the massive wave of discontent which swept through the British armed forces in 1919, with a particular focus on Bristol and its regiments.

**Neil Gordon-Orr**—‘Keep the home fires burning’: the 1919 Peace Day riot in Luton—In Luton in 1919 riotous crowds of angry ex-servicemen fought with police and burned the Town Hall down. Neil Gordon-Orr will examine the causes of the local and wider social discontent that erupted in the aftermath of WW1.

**Performance Space, Level 1**

11.0am-12.00pm **Otherstory**—‘The Draining of the Mere’—A storytelling that demonstrates, however benign the technology, it is who owns and controls it that matters. This tale of Whittlesea Mere in the Fenland starts in 1605 and ends in a few years into the future...when the environment strikes back. (Suitable for Age 10+)

12.00pm-12.15pm **Graham Bottrell**—‘How do you articulate a working class political consciousness in the context of 1919?’—Graham will read from his novel The Sword & The Sickle which was partly inspired by his own family history and explain the research that led him to write it.

1.00pm-1.30pm **Peter Bearded aka Pete the Temp**—‘A People’s History of Poetry: Highjinks from Stage Invasion’—Hot-foot from Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Bristol’s Pete will be sharing highlights from his new work on radical performance poetry, Stage Invasion; Poetry and the Spoken Word Renaissance, which ‘explores the unwritten history, science and skill of spoken word’. (Suitable for all ages)

3.30pm-4.30pm **Otherstory**—‘Roots of Resistance’—A live animation show celebrating twenty years of the environmental direct-action network Earth First! Using innovative puppetry and video, Otherstory, take us from the treetops of Newbury to the towers of power stations. (Suitable for adults and older children)