

## Bristol Radical History Festival - M Shed - Saturday 20 April

**History Walks** – Meet outside the front of M Shed

- **11:00am** *The real story of the Countering Colston campaign*: (Mark Steeds & Christine Townsend) - find out what really happened from those directly involved.
- **1:00pm** *The 1831 Bristol reform riots*: (Ralph Hoyte & Steve Poole) - a new soundscape experience at the principal sites of the riot (requires smart phone).
- **4:00pm** *Bristolians vs the Blackshirts*: (Paul Kingdon) - a relative of a Bristolian anti-fascist traces the major confrontations with Mosley's Blackshirts in 1930s Bristol.

**Performance** - Ground Floor Foyer by the M Shed front entrance

- **11:30am** *Red Notes Choir*: Bristol's socialist choir singing a repertoire of songs from around the world on historical, union, peace, green and human rights themes.

**Exhibitions** - Level 2 Foyer and Gallery

- *The 1831 reform riots in the southwest* – a touring display unmasking reform-related disturbances in Somerset, Dorset, Bath, Newport and Worcester.
- *Voices of the Bristol Crisis Service for Women* – a multimedia display charting the history of this radical women's health project.
- *Mike Baker, plaque maker* – a celebration of the work of Bristolian artist, craftsman and historian.

**Book and Info stalls** - Level 2 Gallery

- Stalls from more than 30 radical history related groups, publishers and campaigners.

## Bristol Radical History Festival – The Cube - Sunday 21 April

**History Walk** – Meet outside the Cube entrance

- **12:00pm** *Stokes Croft Squatted*: (Bristol Squatted) – A guided walk, tracing a 50-year history of squatting in Stokes Croft and St Pauls.

**History Talks and Film** – *Republicans and Revolutionaries*

- **2.00pm** *News From Nowhere: The Revolutionary History of Literacy* (John Casey) - Reflections on the past present and future of autonomous working-class education.
- **2.40pm** *Fighting Women: Interviews with veterans of the Spanish Civil War* (Isabella Lorusso) - Author of a fascinating book of interviews with women who fought fascism.
- **3:40pm** *Fighting for two Republics: Irish volunteers in the British Battalion, International Brigades* (Joe Mooney) – Irish republicans and the Spanish Civil War.
- **4:20pm** *Revolution and What Happens After: Transgenerational Aftershocks* (Ellen McWilliams) - How familial links with Irish Civil War killings in 1922 shaped Ellen's life.
- **6.00pm** Film - *Walter Rodney: What they don't want you to know* - A new documentary profiling the Guyanese revolutionary Walter Rodney followed by discussion and Q&A with co-director **Arlen Harris** and **Luke Daniels** from *Caribbean Labour Solidarity*. Note the film costs £5, all other events are free/donation.

Bristol Radical History Group

# BRISTOL RADICAL HISTORY FESTIVAL



## 2024

Talks, Walks, Films & Exhibitions

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 10:00—16:30

@ M Shed

## WAR ZONES

*Bristolians who went to struggle for a better future*

## WORKHOUSES & MADHOUSES

*Histories of mental health & social care in Bristol*

## MAKING HISTORY

*DIY guides to creating 'history from below'*

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 14:00—20:30

@ The Cube Microplex

## REPUBLICANS & REVOLUTIONARIES

*BRHG goes international*

**M shed**

**brh.org.uk**

**CUBE**  
MICROPLEX

<b>Bristol Radical History Festival - M Shed - Saturday 20 April - History Talks and Panels</b>			
<b>Start Time</b>	<b><i>Madhouses and Workhouses</i></b>	<b><i>War Zones</i></b>	<b><i>Making History</i></b>
	<b>Histories of mental health and social care in Bristol</b>	<b>Bristolians who went to struggle for a better world</b>	<b>DIY guides to creating 'history from below'</b>
	<b>Level 1 - Studio 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Level 2 - Room A</b>	<b>Level 2 - Room B</b>
<b>10:30am</b>	<b><i>'No Cure, No Fee, Boarding Excepted': 'Mason's Madhouses' in Old Fishponds</i></b> (Mike Jempson) – A history of the largest private madhouse outside London in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century and its ignominious end in scandal and a public inquiry.	<b><i>The Bristol Admiral who defended the Haitian Revolution</i></b> (Paul Clammer) - Uncovering the story of Thomas Goodall, a Bristolian, who served as Haiti's first Admiral and fought the Royal Navy in defending Haitian independence in the early 18 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b><i>Putting History on Television</i></b> (David Parker & Colin Thomas) – Find out how these producer/directors challenged conventional approaches to television history in their seminal productions of social and Welsh history: <i>Reel Lives</i> and the <i>The Dragon Has Two Tongues</i> .
<b>11:30am</b>	<b><i>Eastville Workhouse, the mentally ill and systemic murder mysteries</i></b> (Roger Ball) - Using Eastville Workhouse as a case study, this talk explains why, despite the 1834 Poor Law Act, mentally ill people were trapped in workhouses, systemically neglected, often ill-treated, and sometimes even murdered.	<b><i>Bristol and the Zapatistas</i></b> (KIPTIK) - Thirty years ago in Chiapas, SE Mexico, the Zapatistas rose in armed rebellion against 500 years of oppression of indigenous peoples and the rise of neo-liberalism. An intrepid sports club in Easton worked in Chiapas and formed the solidarity project KIPTIK which remains to this day.	<b><i>Writing and Publishing Radical History</i></b> (Steve Hunt & Richard Musgrove) - Bristol Radical History Group will explain our approach to writing and publishing, how our publications relate to Bristol, how we situate ourselves within traditions of radicalism, and how we take a history-from-below approach.
<b>12:30pm</b>	<b><i>Women Listening to Women: feminism, self-injury and the Bristol Crisis Service for Women</i></b> (Rosie Wild & Sarah Chaney) - In 1986, women drawn together by their experiences of trauma, self-injury and punitive psychiatry, created a service which provided women with solidarity they had rarely experienced.	<b><i>Resistance in Myanmar</i></b> (Bristol #WithMyanmar) – Myanmar's history since liberation from British colonial rule in 1948, has included over 60 years of brutal military rule, and numerous uprisings against the military. This talk will explain how the current resistance is different, and what support can be given.	<b><i>History From Below in Schools</i></b> (Lois Bibbings, Jeremy Clarke, Nick Smith & Tony Wood) – Recently BRHG have been producing history materials for schools. This session will invite debate about what we, and others involved in education, can do to introduce radical histories, histories 'from below' and 'hidden histories' to young people.
<b>1:30pm</b>	<b><i>The Life and Death of Hannah Wiltshire: Bedminster Union Workhouse and Victorian social attitudes to Epilepsy</i></b> (Rosie Caldicott) - In 1855 rumours of murder and a cover up in the Bedminster Workhouse at Flax Bourton were circulating after the death of an epileptic destitute country girl, Hannah Wiltshire.	<b><i>Bristol Heroes: Volunteer Fighters in the Spanish Civil War 1936-39</i></b> (Alan Lloyd) - This talk will follow the course of the Spanish Civil War, by introducing the volunteers from Bristol who joined the International Brigades to fight against fascism and explaining the part they played in each phase of the conflict.	<b><i>Radical plaque-making</i></b> (Mark Steeds) – A visual tribute to the Bristolian artist, craftsman, historian and archaeologist Mike Baker whose beautifully produced history plaques to remember those 'not born with a silver spoon in their mouths' adorn the streets of Bristol and particularly Easton where Mike grew up and lived.
<b>2:30pm</b>	<b><i>The Muller Orphanage Dismissal Books: saving souls and judging bodies</i></b> (Kate Brooks) – After co-founding the Plymouth Brethren movement, Victorian preacher George Muller also set up a world-famous orphanage in Bristol. In challenging the conventional narrative of the Muller story, Kate Brooks, draws on archival sources unavailable to the public.	<b><i>Bristol and the Rojava Revolution</i></b> (Mike Chant & Josh Walker) - In 2012, with the Syrian Civil War in its infancy, three Kurdish areas overthrew the Assad regime. This region (Rojava) helped form a movement whose core values are grassroots democracy, women's liberation, and ecology. Armed conflict ensued in 2014 as Islamic State tried to (unsuccessfully) overrun them.	<b><i>Listen Up! How to do a successful oral history project</i></b> (Rosie Wild, Trish Mensah & Marcus Smith) - Oral history allows the voices of ordinary people and overlooked communities to contribute to the historical record. This panel discussion on the pleasures and pitfalls of oral history features practical advice from a variety of Bristol-based projects.
<b>3:30pm</b>	<b><i>What can we learn about mental health care from Bristol's psychiatric hospital?</i></b> (Stella Mann) – In 1861 Bristol's new Lunatic Asylum opened its doors. What treatment did this new state-of-the-art hospital provide, and how did it evolve over the next 130 years until closing in 1994?	<b><i>The London Recruits: undercover in apartheid South Africa</i></b> (Ken Keable & Bevis Miller) - The history of the Anti-Apartheid movement brings up images of boycotts and public campaigns. But another story went on behind the scenes, in secret. This is the story of the foreign recruits who infiltrated apartheid South Africa on behalf of the African National Congress (ANC).	<b><i>Choose your own adventure: digital play and history from below</i></b> (Steve Poole) - How can digital technologies help us to think more creatively about making radical histories from below? This talk considers the use of immersive 'real world' digital tools, not only in the reconstruction of radical pasts, but in challenging the conservatism of the 'authoritative voice' in mainstream 'top-down' history.