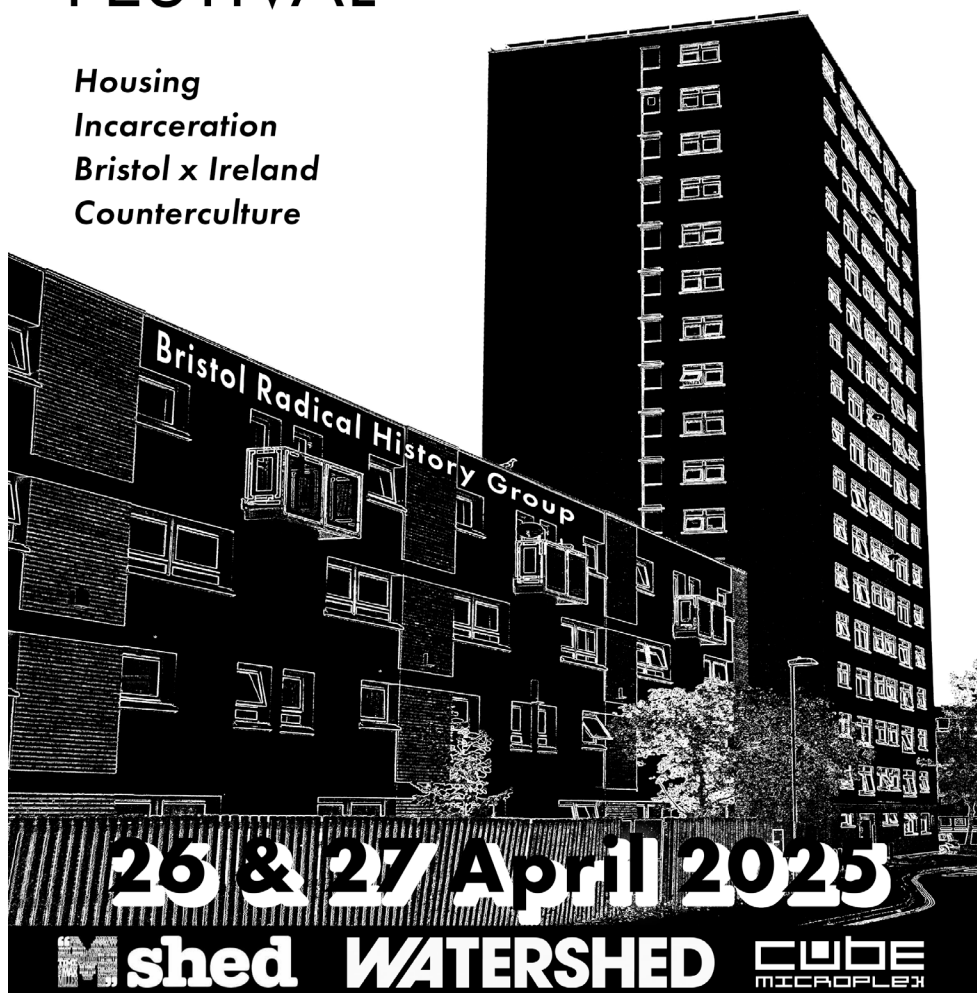


BRISTOL RADICAL HISTORY FESTIVAL



Housing
Incarceration
Bristol x Ireland
Counterculture



26 & 27 April 2023

Mshed

WATERSHED

CUBE
MICROPLEX

Welcome to the seventh Bristol Radical History Festival! This year's event is a joint effort, organised by the Bristol Radical History Group and our guests from Dublin, the East Wall History Group.

Themes

Saturday 26 April *M Shed*

#1 Incarceration

The hidden histories of imprisonment, from the design of 19th century gaols to 1930s labour camps, Radical Alternatives to Prison (RAP) in the 1970s, 'Short, Sharp, Shock' in the 1980s and the recent criminalisation of protest.

#2 Housing

Radical histories of housing, from the nineteenth century socialist origins of garden suburbs via municipal dreams of social housing and post-war Black activism in response to racial discrimination.

#3 Ireland

East Wall History Group, from Dublin, like us, live in a port city with a long history of Atlantic links and rebellious working-class history. They bring inspiring histories of international collaboration against apartheid in South Africa and solidarity during the UK miners' strike, as well as darker stories.

Sunday 27 April *The Cube Microplex*

#4 Countercultures

We look at some of the countercultures in the post-war era, in Bristol and beyond. From the LGBT press to gay punk activists in Ireland, via the underground music and art scenes of 1980s Bristol, we explore how music, art and the written word have contributed to subcultures of resistance.



[bristolradicalhistorygroup](https://www.facebook.com/bristolradicalhistorygroup)



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Bristol Radical History Group

Founded in 2006, BRHG has organised more than 500 events, published 80 pamphlets and books, and have a number of active research projects. We seek to open up history so that it is relevant and real and to make it engaging and accessible for all.

BRHG are a non-profit, volunteer-run organisation and take no funding from business, political parties, local government or universities. Instead, to break-even, we rely on our members giving their labour for free, sales from our bookstall, and donations.

East Wall History Group

EWHG is based in the Dublin Docklands. While other organisations in the area had always included history in their activities, a dedicated history group was established in 2011. The EWHG covers all aspects of local history, with a particular focus on trade unionism, Republican revolutionaries, and significant socialist and cultural figures. The group hosts talks, walking tours and annual summer school events.

Given the historic links between Dublin and Bristol, it is not unexpected that a working relationship between the EWHG and BRHG has emerged in recent years.

Film: *The London Recruits*

Introduced by some of the original recruits who hail from Somerset, acclaimed documentary film *London Recruits* tells the story of how the African National Congress recruited volunteers in London in the 1960s and 70s to travel to South Africa for undercover missions against the apartheid regime.

Sat. 26 April 6.00pm—*The Watershed*—Tickets £11/8.50

Thur. 1 May 7.00pm—*Clevedon Curzon*—Tickets £10

Talks

#1 Incarceration	#2 Housing	#3 Ireland
<i>Hidden histories of incarceration</i>	<i>Radical histories of housing</i>	<i>Dublin x Bristol</i>
Level 1—Studio 1&2	Level 2—Harbourview Suite	Level 2—Harbourview Suite
10:30am ‘A Fitting Receptacle for the Depraved and Abandoned’: Rethinking Punishment at Bristol’s New Gaol, 1816–1831 (Steve Poole) Bristol’s new gaol opened in 1820. Its architects sought to turn punishment into a science.	Bristol’s Garden Suburbs: A critical celebration (Steve Hunt) A tour through the socialist origins, principles and practical impact of the garden-city movement in Bristol. From Sea Mills to Hartcliffe, via Hillfields and Filwood.	‘Returning the Favour’: Irish trade unions’ support for the striking miners in 1984 (Mary Muldowney) The parallels and historical resonances in international solidarity between the Dublin Lockout of 1913 and the miners’ strike in the UK in 1984–85.
11:30am Bristol’s Misérables: The soldiers and sailors of Stapleton prison (Chris Bowkett) The untold social history of Stapleton Prison, the home of POWs during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars.	Hartcliffe Betrayed: The fading of a post-war dream (Paul Smith) Designed on the garden city model, built as a housing estate in the 1950s, this tale of Hartcliffe shows how ‘municipal dreams’ were curtailed by cuts.	A History of Fascism and the Far-right in Ireland (Pádraig Óg Ó Ruairc) Over last decade Ireland, north and south, has seen a new wave of far-right street demonstrations, arson attacks, and racist violence.
12:30pm ‘Working for your dole’: British labour camps, 1929–1939 (Roger Ball) In the ‘great depression’ the government introduced labour camps for the unemployed. This talk analyses the camps, how they functioned and the responses of the ‘inmates’.	Housing the People: The contested role of the State from pre-industrial times to the 1930s—why we built council housing and how (John Boughton) The forces and historical events that generated and shaped council housing in the nineteenth century.	‘Stopping Business as Usual’: The Dunnes anti-apartheid strike within a wider political environment (Padraig Durnin) The celebrated three-year strike by workers at Dunnes Stores in Dublin after they refused to handle South African goods in 1984.
1:30pm Radical Alternatives to Prison (RAP) (Ros Kane & Gail Coles) Founders in the early 1970s, Ros and Gail will cover why RAP was set up, how it operated and what it proposed as alternatives.	High-Rise Housing and Community Activism (Holly Smith) An exploration of how multi-storey housing served as a crucible for the welfare state’s reimagination and how residents have forged progressive models for its realisation.	Partners in Crime: Collusion between Church and State in Ireland’s notorious mother and baby homes (Mary Muldowney & Silu Pascoe) Overview of abuses in mother and baby homes in Ireland first exposed in 2014, the failures of the subsequent inquiry and a possible link to Bristol.
2:30pm Short, Sharp, Shock: Youth detention centres in the 1980s (Carlos Guarita & Colin Adamson) This photo-essay presentation tells the story, first hand, of what it was like to be incarcerated in a ‘youth detention centre’ in the 1980s and to be subject to the Tory government’s ‘short, sharp, shock’.	‘No Coloureds, No Irish, No Dogs’: The struggle against racial discrimination in Bristol housing (Silu Pascoe, Joyce Morris-Wisdom & Guy Bailey) Members of the ‘Windrush Generation’ share their experiences of collective action to overcome racial discrimination in housing in Bristol.	Genocide or Famine? The Great Hunger of the 1840s (Fin Dwyer) The Great Hunger of the 1840s devastated Ireland and had a profound impact on the wider world. Was this controversial moment in Anglo-Irish history a famine or genocide of the Irish people? And was it different from famines in other British colonies in the Victorian era?
3:30pm Criminalising Protest (Kat Hobbs, Olivia Chessell, Gaie Delap) Recently, non-violent protest has been increasingly criminalised, leading to the imprisonment of activists. Is it a long-term drift or a lurch towards authoritarianism?	Plotlands of Shepperton (Stefan Szczelkun) The hidden history of Britain’s plotlands. Do they contain a key to the ‘housing problem’ that the establishment dares not countenance?	From Killarney to Jarama: The political struggles that shaped Robert Hilliard (Lin Clark) From Olympic boxer and Church of Ireland priest to anti-fascist in revolutionary Barcelona in 1936, the life and death of Robert Hilliard.

Performance

11:30am	Catch Bristol’s wonderful Red Notes Choir, whose themes include unions, peace, green and human rights.
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History Walks

	<i>Departing from outside the front of M Shed</i>
11:30am	The One Road—From Bristol to Dublin (Mark Steeds) A walk through time and space, covering no less than 1,500 years of Bristol’s historic connections with Dublin and featuring Saints and Sinners, Roundheads and Royalists, Colonists and Criminals, Transportees and Treachery, Merchants and Murders...
3:30pm	Bedminster Coal Mines (Tony Dyer) The Bedminster area was once covered by coal mines stretching from East Street to Long Ashton. This walk will take you around the sites of nine of the mines, each of which has its own stories, many ending in tragedy for the mineworkers.

Exhibitions

	<i>Level 2—Waterside Suite</i>
	Come and take a look at anytime, or have a guided tour explaining the material on show:
11:30am	Mozambique at 50: A LUTA CONTINUA! Celebrating the anniversary of the struggle for the liberation of Mozambique from Portuguese colonial rule in 1975.
12:30pm	Short, Sharp, Shock Ground-breaking photographs taken by radical photographer Carlos Guarita within youth detention centres in the 1980s, with commentary by ex-inmate Colin Adamson, showing daily life for the young offenders in the militarised regime.
1:30pm	Bristol Miners’ Support Group Ephemera, posters and flyers produced in Bristol during the 1984-85 miners’ strike.
2:00pm	Faces of the Irish Diaspora A fascinating set of images of Bristolians with Irish heritage.
2:30pm	CND Demands a Continuing Supply of History Posters, photos and printed materials from the 1980s when the immediate threat of nuclear war rejuvenated the anti-nuclear movement.

The Cube Sunday 27 April

#4 Countercultures

- 2:00pm** **We Must Begin with the Land: How the social ecology of the 1970s counterculture helps us to think about food production** (Steve Hunt) Drawing from the work of Murray Bookchin and the countercultural Institute for Social Ecology (ISE), Steve discusses his new book *We Must Begin with the Land* and its implications for addressing the present-day food and ecology crises.
- 2:40pm** **The Counterculture and the LGBT Press—Bristol and Beyond** (Robert Howes) Reviewing the counterculture of the '60s and '70s and the LGBT movement, this talk concentrates on the origins of LGBT periodicals as part of the underground press and interweaves national and international developments with what was happening in Bristol and Bath.
- 3:40pm** **'From Prejudice and Punk to Pride': Music, art and the culture of resistance** (Eoin Freeney) A fascinating personal account of the experience of growing up gay in 1970s Ireland, and how gay activists and punk rock musicians inspired a new generation defending and fighting for 'a love that did not have a name'.
- 4:20pm** **From the Wild Bunch to Banksy: A short history of Bristol counter culture** (Richard Jones) This audio/visual talk makes the case for Bristol counterculture of the 1980s thriving on neglect and follows a thread from the St Paul's uprisings to the Wild Bunch, the Dug Out club, punk, the Battle of the Beanfield, street art in Barton Hill, and Banksy.
- 6.00pm** **Film Showing: Wapping—The workers' story** *Tickets £5/£7* (Ann Field) A film about the momentous year-long industrial dispute which began in 1986 when Rupert Murdoch moved production of his papers overnight from central London's Fleet Street to a heavily guarded plant at Wapping, a docklands district in east London. Introduced and Q&A with Ann Field (SOGAT official during the strike).
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