

Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign
and Heritage Open Days present:

From Peterloo to Orgreave 200 Years of People Power



Wednesday 18 September 2019

7:30pm

Sheffield City Hall (Memorial Hall)

Barkers Pool, Sheffield S1 2JA

A unique celebration of People Power across the centuries highlighting the historical links between the 1819 Peterloo Massacre and the attack on striking Miners at Orgreave in 1984, including a special reading of the Barry Hines' drama *After the Strike*.



ORGREAVE

TRUTH AND JUSTICE CAMPAIGN



A key aim of the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign (OTJC) is to obtain a full and independent Public Inquiry into:

- the preplanned militarised nature of police tactics and police brutality against miners.
- wrongful arrests, blatant corruption and perjury connected with the events that occurred when striking miners picketed the Orgreave coking plant on 18th June 1984.
- ensuring the true narrative of what happened at Orgreave and throughout the year-long strike is finally placed in the public domain.

The injustice experienced by miners and communities due to what happened at Orgreave is felt to this day and must be dealt with to achieve Truth and Justice. The manner and scale of pit closures in the 1980s and 90s combined with the implementation of deindustrialisation, mass unemployment, casualisation and welfare reforms feeds into the motivation for the OTJC to seek justice for the Miners and their communities.

10 REASONS WHY WE NEED AN ORGREAVE INQUIRY

1. The incredibly serious and unprecedented nature of what happened at Orgreave.
2. The militarised nature of police tactics on the day.
3. The deliberate construction of a 'false narrative' in police evidence.
4. The deliberate promotion of the 'false narrative' through the media.
5. The lack of legal accountability and failure of the legal system.
6. The ongoing consequences of Orgreave.
7. The role of Hillsborough and undercover policing inquiries.
8. New sources of police and government evidence.
9. The key issues associated with Orgreave are still relevant today.
10. The law requires there to be an Inquiry.

4 KEY FEATURES OF AN ORGREAVE INQUIRY

These are the key elements of an Orgreave Inquiry that the OTJC has told the Home Secretary are necessary to make an Inquiry effective.

1. The Inquiry must have the power to require all the relevant information and evidence to be produced to it.
2. Those who have an interest in the Inquiry must be able to fully participate in order to lend their experience, knowledge and understanding to the process.
3. The tribunal conducting the Inquiry investigation must include a range of skills so that people can have confidence that it will fully understand the issues and be independent and objective in its approach.
4. The Inquiry must be transparent, open and accessible and its conclusions publicly explained.

OTJC does not demand an expensive, overly-long Inquiry.

Plenty of information exists and has already been obtained giving an Inquiry a substantial head start to deliver Truth and Justice.

Heritage Open Days



Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,000 organisations, 5,000 events and 40,000 volunteers. Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – and it's all FREE.

Heritage Open Days 2019 is 13–22 September

Thanks

The Orgreave Truth and Justice would like to thank Heritage Open Days and Janet Ridler for initiating this event with us.

Thanks also go to Sheffield City Hall and Sheffield International Venues for hosting the event, Sheffield Newspapers for providing many of the photographs, the National Union of Mineworkers for use of the Banners, our on stage guests and

performers who have so generously given their time for free and the many Trade Unions, supporters and organisations who give the OTJC ongoing practical and financial support.

Last but not least we thank all our Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign activists and volunteers who have organised and are taking part in this event.

From Peterloo to Orgreave

**Your compères for the night:
Joe Rollin and Chris Peace**

FIRST HALF

Welcome: Janet Ridler, Heritage Open Days

Music from Sam Browse

In Conversation 1: Chaired by Shaun Doane a.k.a. Big Shaun

The relevance of Orgreave and how it continues to inspire people power
Kate Flannery, Cllr Sophie Wilson and Mark George Q.C.

Music from The Fates

In Conversation 2: Chaired by Shaun Doane a.k.a. Big Shaun

Representations of popular action and movements from Peterloo to Orgreave
Dr Matt Roberts, Kate Rutter and Ray Goodspeed

Poetry from Kevin Titterton

In Conversation 3: Chaired by Shaun Doane a.k.a. Big Shaun

The challenges of representing our social and political heritage in the media
Tony Garnett, Patricia Clough and John Dunn

Music and comedy from Christian Reilly

INTERVAL 20 MINS

An opportunity to visit the Orgreave stall in the foyer

200 Years of People Power

SECOND HALF

Reading of Barry Hines *After the Strike* performed by representatives from the University of Sheffield's Faculty of Arts and Humanities and staff and theatre graduates from Rotherham College.

This recently discovered play by one of Britain's most celebrated authors is being performed thanks to researchers from the University of Sheffield.

The play, *After the Strike*, was written by Barry Hines in 1985 in response to what the novelist saw unfold during the police riot at Orgreave. Events of the play span the miners' strike, its aftermath and explore the multiple corrosive effects it had on local communities and depicts the events of Orgreave in detail.

Hines had intended for the play to be produced and broadcast on British television, but its unflinching account of the strike and its proudly unambiguous politics meant it was not screened. The play sits alongside Hines' other unpublished works in his archive at the University of Sheffield. This exclusive performance aims to celebrate Hines' legacy and to commemorate the struggles of the miners and their families.



Performance and speaker biographies

Joe Rollin is an activist, anti fascist campaigner and Trade Union Organiser for UNITE. He is one of the founders and Deputy Chair of the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign. He plays a key and leading role in promoting OTJC by organising and facilitating a number of high profile events and activities.

Chris Peace is a key campaigner in the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign and currently works for the GMB Union. She has worked as a legal aid lawyer, a teacher and is the Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for North East Derbyshire.

Sam Browse is a folk musician and political activist who counts Tony Benn and the singer, Roy Bailey, as key influences. He has campaigned in movements for peace, anti-racism and against austerity, and is a regular in the pub music sessions of Sheffield.

Shaun Doane a.k.a. Big Shaun is 50 years old and describes himself as 'Sheffield through and through'. He grew up in a mining community in Beighton, and the Miners Strike had a huge impact on his life. He comes from a mining background, his Grandfather was a miner, as was his Mother's cousin, and her Great Uncles. He is known as a singer and funny man, and hopes he is also remembered as a proud socialist.

Kate Flannery is an activist, Secretary of the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, ex Women Against Pit Closures and a founder of the Friends of Edward Carpenter. She has many years experience of working in local government, the voluntary sector and trade

union movement, organising political, historical and public awareness campaigns and events, promoting exhibitions, music, theatre and literature as a force for social change.

Councillor Sophie Wilson is an activist who represents a mining community, is a recent graduate of English literature and one of the youngest Councillors in the country. As a Sheffield Labour Councillor she has a passion for the development of Council Housing and publicly owned public services.

Mark George QC is an experienced defence trial advocate specialising in very serious crime who also appears in criminal appeals and conducts miscarriage of justice work. During the 84-85 strike Mark represented a number of miners in court cases. Between 2014 and 2016 he represented a number of families in the Hillsborough Inquests. He is a legal commentator on issues of criminal justice, civil liberties, human rights, legal aid and access to justice.

The Fates are **Teg** and **Sure** who are two thirds of the Sheffield-based a-cappella group, as well as being well regarded artists in their own right. Over the past year they have been working on a joint project, creating song, story and sound walks that explore (amongst other things) the spaces and musical legacy of Sheffield's radical history during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Dr Matt Roberts is a Senior Lecturer and historian at Sheffield Hallam University. He is an expert on 19th century popular radicalism, protest politics and parliamentary reform.

Kate Rutter has worked extensively in film, theatre, television and radio. She also writes, directs and is a prize-winning poet and a talented comedy actor. She has acted in many challenging TV and film roles such as 'Queer as Folk', 'I Daniel Blake' and 'Peterloo' and has been seen this year on Coronation Street as the tough-talking D.S Beckett.

Ray Goodspeed is one of the original founder members of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners portrayed in the recent film *Pride*, depicting a group of activists who raised money to support miners and their families during the Miners strike. Ray is an activist with a leading role in his local Labour Party in East London and has spent much of his life campaigning to ensure the LGBTQ+ community and the labour movement work together.

Kevin Titterton is a performance poet from Sheffield, writing about real life, working class struggle, equality and injustice. He has performed for numerous causes, from the anti-austerity, pro-community 'We Shall Overcome' events, to showing support in industrial actions through being a member of 'Poetry on the Picket Line'.

Tony Garnett is a film and television producer, and former actor. He is also famously known for his close work and associations with writers Barry Hines and Jim Allen and director Ken Loach. *Cathy Come Home*, *The Lump*, *Up the Junction*, *Kes*, *Price of Coal* and *Beautiful Thing* count amongst Tony's many achievements.

Patricia Clough is the youngest of seven children. Her father was a miner and her mum worked in the textile factory. Thanks to the Labour Party, Tricia was the first in the family to go on to Higher Education. Retired Principal

of a College for Adults with Autism and a foster carer, Tricia has spent the last few years campaigning for 1950s women's pensions and was recently elected as a Councillor on Bolsover District Council.

John Dunn is an ex surcharged Clay Cross Labour Councillor, ex miner and member of Derbyshire NUM who was seriously assaulted, framed and arrested by the police whilst picketing during the 1984/5 Miners Strike. As an activist and key member of the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, John is a regular speaker at many events and rallies.

Christian Reilly is a global comedy circuit headliner and has appeared at numerous international comedy festivals, on BBC radio and TV, and in four series of the Chortle Award-winning stand-up and sketch show 'Richard Herring: As It Occurs To Me'. In 2015, BBC Radio 4 followed Christian on the road to the Edinburgh Fringe for 'Lives In a Landscape'. 2016 saw Christian taking his comedy to Australia as part of Perth's Fringeworld festival and 2018 saw Christian return to the Edinburgh Festival for the seventh consecutive year with a new show.

University of Sheffield and staff and theatre graduates from Rotherham College.

The rehearsed reading of Barry Hines *After the Strike* will be by: Antony Hopkinson, Owen Jones, Amanda Whelan, Karen Mulcahey, John Salway, Lucy Hope, Dave Forrest and Bill McDonnell. These readings we recently performed in Sheffield to a sell-out audience at Kelham Island this year at an event commemorating the 35th Anniversary of Orgreave.

From Peterloo to Orgreave

Thirty-five years this summer one of the most brutal attacks in the history of industrial disputes took place at the Orgreave Coking Plant in South Yorkshire when striking miners were violently assaulted by the police and charged with riot.

Many of them were seriously injured, some nearly died and 95 were charged with riot or unlawful assembly. A year later all were acquitted after a trial that saw the prosecution case collapse following 10 weeks of inconsistencies, contradictions and blatant lies in the police evidence. Not one single officer has ever been disciplined or charged with any offence.

But Orgreave did not come from nowhere. In Manchester 200 years ago this summer a peaceful rally in St Peter's Field of 60,000 pro-democracy reformers – men, women and children – was attacked by armed cavalry, leaving 15 dead and more than 600 injured. It remains the bloodiest political clash in British history.

The so-called 'Battle of Orgreave' in 1984 and the St Peter's Field massacre in Manchester in 1819 stand beside many other historical examples where hundreds have been killed or injured by the state including the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, the Amritsar Massacre in India in 1919 and Bloody Sunday of Northern Ireland in 1972.

New, more restrictive laws were passed after both Peterloo and Orgreave, and in each case the state forces were congratulated by the government of the day for warding off what they called the threat of revolution. Both were ambushes planned by the state.



Photo: Sheffield Newspapers

Other similarities between Peterloo and Orgreave include:

At Peterloo, named after the Battle of Waterloo, a huge crowd of between 60,000 and 70,000 peaceful and good-natured ordinary men, women and children were allowed to gather to demand the reform of parliamentary representation.

At Peterloo the government and local businessmen were frightened of the power of organised labour and wanted to make sure that what had happened during the 1793 French revolution did not happen in England. They planned for a huge number of soldiers, cavalry and militia to attack the crowds.

At Peterloo cavalry armed with swords killed 15 people and injured hundreds. They were not there to get the crowds to leave, but to kill and maim.

After Peterloo the businessmen, army and militia were thanked by the Prince Regent for preserving public order and saving the nation.

At the Orgreave coking plant around 8,000 picketing miners, striking to protect their jobs and communities, were escorted into a field by police and shown where to stand. Again, the gathering was peaceful.

At Orgreave the government planned to use thousands of police to attack the pickets and smash the unions in revenge for being defeated by the striking miners and other unions during the 1970s.

At Orgreave pickets were attacked by police on horseback armed with long batons, and by police on foot using short batons. The aim was to brutally assault, injure and demoralise the miners.

After Orgreave when the strike ended, Chief Constables were invited for drinks at the Home Office with senior Conservative Government figures to be congratulated on defeating the miners and unions.

Whenever the State finds itself faced with large-scale protest it resorts to force, and then claims that there was no other way to deal with matters.

Those in power work to cover up the truth and build a false narrative after the event, with their allegations that troops or police had been attacked first enthusiastically taken up by the right-wing press and others. Both the governments of 1819 and 1984 absolutely refused to have any form of Inquiry into their actions. And this current Conservative government continues to turn down the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign's call for an independent Public Inquiry, along with a request from the Bishop of Sheffield for an Orgreave Independent Panel.

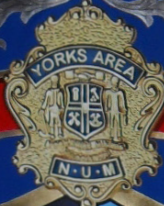
We believe that the state-sanctioned actions that summer in 1984 have seriously undermined the confidence of the public in the police, especially in mining communities.

We are also puzzled why, if there is nothing to hide, this Conservative government is refusing to release certain key documents relating to what happened at Orgreave in 1984 until 2066.

This is why we must keep up the pressure for an inquiry and make sure that Orgreave is not just another state assault that passes into history, but that truth and justice prevails.

NATIONAL UNION OF MINEWORKERS

YORKSHIRE AREA



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