

CELEBRATING JOHN BRIGHT MP

A study day at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery B3 3DH

Saturday 19th November 2011

In collaboration with Newman University College



“When the wise were blind he made half England see” G.M.Trevelyan

“For we are bound by the sacred duty to examine why it is, with all this trade, all this industry and all this personal freedom, there is still so much that is unsound at the base of our social fabric” John Bright MP.

CELEBRATING JOHN BRIGHT
A study day to consider the life and achievements of
JOHN BRIGHT MP (1811 – 1889)
Saturday 19th November 2011
In collaboration with Newman University College, Birmingham

John Bright was born on 16 November 1811, a Quaker son of a Rochdale mill owner. He became the most famous orator and politician of his day, a champion of the rights of the ordinary man, a peacemaker and parliamentary reformer, who was not afraid to take the unpopular view sometimes at great personal cost.

This study day seeks to celebrate the bicentenary of John Bright's birth by bringing together some of the writers and politicians who are most knowledgeable about John Bright's life and career and to assess his importance as a reformer with particular reference to his time as Birmingham's MP. We shall be looking at his work as a peace protagonist and its relevance for today and asking the question 'How best can we build on his legacy?'

PROGRAMME

10.00 – 10.30 Registration and welcome by Councillor Paul Tilsley, Deputy Leader, Birmingham City Council. Our morning sessions will be chaired by Bruce Kent, CND tbc

10.30 – 11.15 John Bright, A Man for Our Own Times ' by Bill Cash MP.

Refreshments

11.30 – 12.00 The Birmingham Years by Dr Chris Upton, Newman University College

12.00 – 12.30 John Bright and the Quakers by Howard Gregg, editor Journal of the Friends' Historical Society.

12.30 – 1.00pm 'The greatest orator of our times' with Antony Wood, councillor, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Lunch

1.45 – 2.45 Film 'John Bright and the Angel of Death' with director Nick Wilding followed by discussion.

2.45 – 3.15 "'Et tu Brighte?" Bright, Gladstone and the Home Rule Issue' by Professor Ian Cawood, Newman University College.

3.15 – 3.45 The Anti-slavery Campaign by Councillor Martin Mullaney, Birmingham City Council.

Refreshments

4.00 – 4.30 John Bright's Relevance for Today by Rae Street, peace activist. Chair: Peter van den Dungen, Peace Museum, Bradford.

4.30 – 5.00 FORUM and open discussion on the achievements of John Bright and how we can continue his work as peacemakers and reformers. Chair: Peter van den Dungen.

Venue: Gas Hall (AV room), Birmingham City Art Gallery (BMAG), Edmund St., Birmingham B3 3DH
The venue is within easy walking distance of New Street rail station and car parks. at the Mail Box and Cambridge St. It is approx 15 minutes on foot from Birmingham bus station, Digbeth.

Booking: please use the booking form below to secure a place. For more information email Janet King on janet@kingfamily110.org.uk or call her on 0121 445 2802.

SPEAKERS

Councillor Paul Tilsley has been the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group in Birmingham since 2005 having begun his career as councillor back in 1968; as deputy leader of Birmingham City Council, Paul is the second most powerful man in the largest local authority in the country. In 1993 he became the first Liberal Democrat Lord Mayor in Birmingham for 70 years. Amongst his other awards are Birmingham Post's Politician of the Year in 2008 and an MBE for Public and Political Services in 1991. Councillor Tilsley gained a BA in Government and an MBA as a mature student and was Chancellor of UCE (now BCU) in 1993/94. The over arching principle of Paul's work is to continue to improve the relationship between the council and the citizens of Birmingham.

Bill Cash MP, author of 'John Bright: Statesman, Orator, Agitator' (published by IB Tauris in October 2011), was educated at Stonyhurst College and Lincoln College, Oxford, where he read History. He practiced constitutional and administrative law for over 20 years, before becoming Member of Parliament for Stafford and then Stone. He has been in Parliament for 27 years and was Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs. He has written several books on European affairs, many articles in national newspapers, including The Times and the Daily Telegraph, and made frequent appearances on radio and television. John Bright was his great-grandfather's cousin.

Dr Chris Upton lectures in History at Newman University College and, in addition to his academic work, he seeks to popularise local history, working with BMAG and leading walks in the Birmingham area to share his own knowledge with all.

Howard Gregg grew up in Birmingham. He completed an MA thesis on Quaker involvement in nineteenth century Ireland (1985) and published 'John Bright: Called to the Lord's Service' in the journal QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT (1990). He is currently editor of the JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Antony Wood has many years experience in the army , international industry , campaigning for UK manufacturing and running his own Leadership training company, He has an MSC in Education and Training from Leicester University. In 2003 he became a Councillor in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead where in 2005 he stood as PPC and was recently Chair of the local Party. Earlier this year Antony's article, "John Bright - great political campaigner or something more?" was published in the Journal of Liberal History.

Nick Wilding worked in ITV in the 1970's and in the BBC in the 1980's before setting up his own independent television production company in 1986. In 1989 he made a film about John Bright to celebrate the centenary of his death and went on to make several films about him, but the original version of John Bright and the Angel of Death was made for the United Nations Association in 1991 and screened in the Reform Club at the inauguration of the John Bright Chair, with a specific role to intervene in conflicts between countries to prevent the onset of war.

Dr. Ian Cawood is Head of History at Newman University College. He has written 2 modern history textbooks and a number of scholarly articles on the political culture of late Victorian Britain. He has recently completed the very first history of the Liberal Unionist Party which will be published in 2012 by I.B. Tauris. He is a regular contributor to the Times Literary Supplement.

Martin Mullaney played a leading part in the recent renovation of the John Bright statue and the establishment of the Equiano gallery at Birmingham Art Gallery. He is councillor for Moseley and Kings Heath, Birmingham and his local community (from neighbourhood forum to farmers' market) is the centre of his world. Martin has a first class honours degree in Mechanical Engineering and worked at Land Rover until 2001. He is now a web designer and runs a comedy club.

Rae Street has been involved in anti-nuclear, anti-militarism and peace campaigning at home in Rochdale and internationally for more than three decades. She is a long time activist in CND UK (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) and for many years was a Vice President of the International Peace Bureau. Rae has been national Co-ordinator for CADU (Campaign Against Depleted Uranium) since its foundation in 1999 and is a Steering Committee member of ICBUW (the International Coalition for a Ban on Uranium Weapons). Rae is an attendee at Rochdale Quaker Meeting.

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Saturday 19th November 2011 10.00am to 5.00pm
In collaboration with Newman University College, Birmingham
AV Room, Gas Hall, Birmingham City Art Gallery (BMAG),
Edmund St., Birmingham B3 3DH

BOOKING FORM

Surname (Mr, Mrs, Ms, other).....

First name.....

Address.....

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Post code.....

Telephone.....email.....

The charge for the day is £10.00 per person including refreshments mid-morning and afternoon. Lunch may be bought at the Edwardian Restaurant at BMAG or a number of cafes/restaurants nearby.

Number of tickets required.....

I enclose a cheque for £.....forpeople payable to Janet King. Please send your booking form and payment to Mrs Janet King, 110 Linthurst Newtown, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B60 1BS.

Closing date 10th November 2011

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Please retain this portion as your reminder.

CELEBRATING JOHN BRIGHT

Saturday 19th November 10 – 5pm AV Room, Gas Hall, BMAG, Edmund St., Birmingham B3 3DH

Number of tickets booked @£10

Payment sent

Thank you for booking for our event.

janet@kingfamily110.org.uk