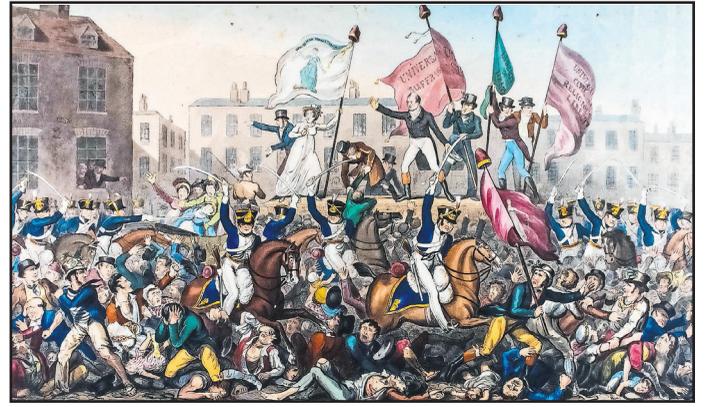


# THE WORD

16th August 1819

£1



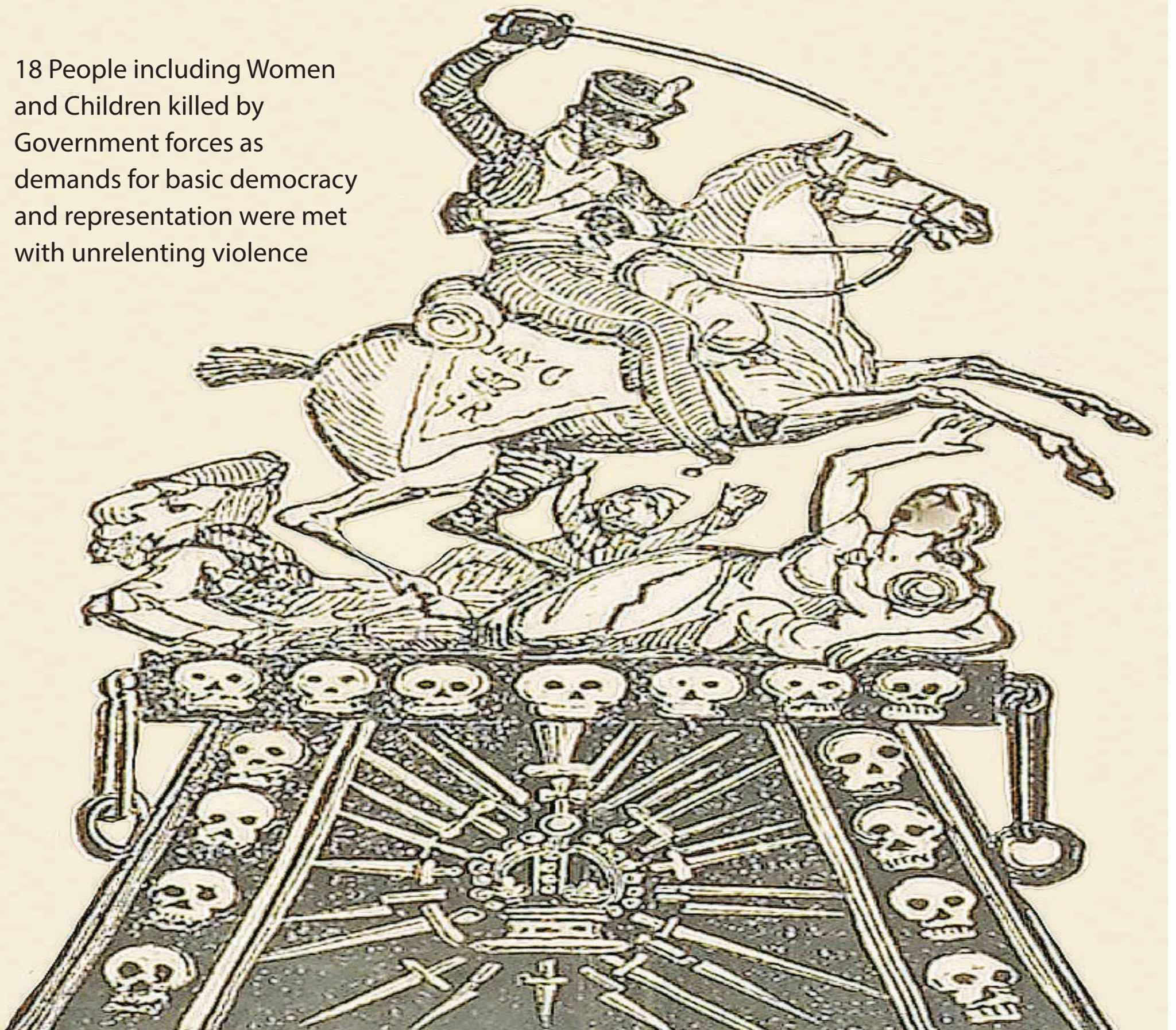
Reform of Parliamentary Representation

200th Anniversary

# Peterloo Massacre

Souvenir Edition

18 People including Women and Children killed by Government forces as demands for basic democracy and representation were met with unrelenting violence



## THE PETERLOO MASSACRE.

Monday the 16th August 1819.

The year was 1819, the 16th day of August. The weather was hot and sunny and people were marching from far and wide from what are now the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester towards St Peter's Field in the city centre.

Most people were dressed in their best clothes, each of the groups Leaders had a sprig of laurel in their hats as a 'token of amity and peace'. Many of the women wore their white dresses (to symbolise purity of character and motive. It was also how the cavalry would single them out for attack) for the intended peaceful meeting to hear Orator Henry Hunt speak on Parliamentary reform.

The people wanted change, they were fed up with the terrible living and working conditions they had to endure. Poverty was rife.

About 60,000-80,000 People had turned out, including children, (which would not have happened if this was not to be a peaceful meeting)

They were disciplined and well behaved and there was laughter and excitement amongst them and bands playing and banners waving, it was like a gala, they were not expecting any trouble.

People marched with the banners that represented their particular area or group. The last remaining banner from that day is the green one from Middleton bearing the words

### 'Unity and Strength and Liberty and Fraternity'

By the time Hunt had spoken just a few sentences, the first victim, 2 year old William Fildes had been killed by a lone drunken rider from the infantry that was galloping hard behind the rest of his infantry down narrow Cooper Street and rode into Mrs Ann Fildes who was clutching her son knocking her to the ground and stunning her, while William fell from her arms and was killed. His death was either through hitting his head on the cobbles or being trampled upon by the horse with whom he had 'come into contact with' was not clarified. The boy and his mother were in a side street and had not even been at the meeting.

The thousands of people were crammed tightly together at St Peter's Field, so when they were ordered to disperse by the Magistrates who had been watching from the upstairs of a house overlooking the field.

The soldiers charged on horseback at the defenceless unarmed families, ruthlessly attacking everyone there, women, children, the elderly, they didn't care.

By 2 o'clock there were at least a dozen dead including women a child, and hundreds more seriously wounded, of whom a number died. The field was covered in the dead and injured, abandoned torn flags and banners.

This had been a peaceful meeting but the magistrates and infantry had turned it into a bloodbath of innocent victims.

The crowds were well aware that there was to be no violence, that it was a peaceful meeting and Hunt, even as they tried to arrest him, told them to 'continue conducting themselves peaceably and quietly' and so there was no reason for the people to have been attacked.

The reason for the naming this atrocity as the "Peterloo Massacre" was because it was 4 years after the battle of Waterloo and many Waterloo Veterans had been amongst the quiet crowd on St Peter's Field that day, including 18 year old John Lees who was one of those who died from his injuries weeks later. Some of the cavalry who were attacking the people that day (the 15th Hussars) had actually been John Lees' comrades in arms at Waterloo.

According to the Guardian...

'What happened at St Peter's Fields would become known as the Peterloo Massacre – a name coined by a local journalist named James Wroe in punning reference to the Battle of Waterloo four years earlier. Wroe paid for the joke by seeing his radical newspaper, the Manchester Observer, close down, and was himself sentenced to a year's imprisonment for seditious libel.

On the face of it, a Monday morning in August was a strange time to hold a political rally.

Most factory workers would be at their machines – the deafening, ceaseless, clacking cotton spinning machinery that ran in the mills day and night.

An industry was taking off: there were 2,400 power looms locally in 1813; 14,000 by 1820, and 115,000 within 15 years. But the handloom weavers, who worked from home and traditionally took Mondays off after working all weekend, were available. They were still in the majority in the Lancashire cotton trade: 40,000 in Manchester alone, compared with 20,000 spinning-machine operatives in the factories – but they feared for their jobs, skills, lifestyles and standards of living.

Wages had halved since the end of the Napoleonic war: 12 shillings a week for 16-hour days, if you could get the work; a decade earlier, it had been 21 shillings a week.'

As a result of this terrible atrocity 'the Manchester Guardian' was formed later to be known as 'the Guardian', and it also led to the formation of the Chartist movement, and the right of ordinary people to get the chance to vote.

The famous poem by Shelley, 'The Masque of Anarchy' was written about that terrible day. ('Ye are Many, they are Few')

Parallels between THEN and NOW.

(From Wikipedia.)

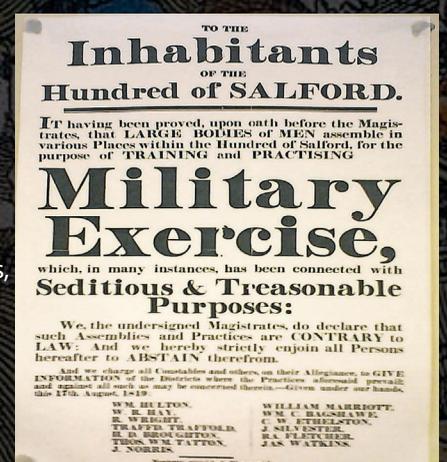
### Political

The immediate effect of Peterloo was a crackdown on reform. The government instructed the police and courts to go after the journalists, presses and publication of the Manchester Observer. Wroe was arrested and charged with producing a seditious publication. Found guilty he was sentenced to twelve months in prison and fined £100. Outstanding court cases against the Manchester Observer were rushed through the courts and a continual change of sub-editors was not sufficient defence against a series of police raids, often on the suspicion that someone was writing a radical article. The Manchester Observer closed in February 1820.

Hunt and eight others were tried at York Assizes on 16 March 1820, charged with sedition. After a two-week trial, five defendants were found guilty. Hunt was sentenced to 30 months in Ilchester Gaol; Bamford, Johnson, and Healey were given one year each, and Knight was jailed for two years on a subsequent charge.

A civil case on behalf of a weaver wounded at Peterloo was brought against four members of the Manchester Yeomanry, Captain Birley, Captain Withington, Trumpeter Meagher, and Private Oliver, at Lancaster Assizes, on 4 April 1822.

All were acquitted, as the court ruled their actions had been justified to disperse an illegal gathering.



Notice "to the inhabitants of the Hundred of Salford", published by the magistrates the day after the massacre

The government declared its support for the actions taken by the magistrates and the army. The Manchester magistrates held a supposedly public meeting on 19 August, so that resolutions supporting the action they had taken three days before could be published. Cotton merchants Archibald Prentice (later editor of The Manchester Times) and Absalom Watkin (a later corn-law reformer), both members of the Little Circle, organised a petition of protest against the violence at St Peter's Field and the validity of the magistrate's meeting.

Within a few days it had collected 4,800 signatures. Nevertheless, the Home Secretary, Lord Sidmouth, on 27 August conveyed to the magistrates the thanks of the Prince Regent for their action in the "preservation of the public peace." That public exoneration was met with fierce anger and criticism. During a debate at Hopkins Street Robert Wedderburn declared "The Prince is a fool with his Wonderful letters of thanks ..."

"What is the Prince Regent or King to us, we want no King – he is no use to us." In an open letter, Richard Carlile said: "...he would surely be deposed and make them all REPUBLICANS, despite all adherence to ancient and established institutions unless the Prince calls his ministers to account and relieved his people, and established institutions".

The above compares the way, the truth is not allowed to be told, (Manchester Observer) and by doing so you are severely punished. Look what has happened to Julian Assange for publishing the truth. You are not judged on your honesty, but by which side you are on.

Only right wing newspapers/media are allowed and even helped, because they support the view of the wealthy, the elite etc. If you write something that is true but shows terrible things that are happening because of the wealthy, the Tory government etc then you will be stopped from publishing it. An example of this is when Thousands demonstrated on the streets of London in February 2018 about the cuts in the NHS; there was very little mention of it in the Media. This was censorship, as is always the case if you don't support their extremist views.

Nowadays, for example if you dare to criticise what the Israeli government do, then you maybe called Anti-Semitic and threatened with the police. People who dare speak up against child sexual abuse by wealthy powerful paedophiles, are shut down straight away, threatened, ignored, attacked financially, falsely charged etc. Everything possible is done to ruin/destroy them.

The fact is that the people responsible for the massacre and deaths were found innocent and yet the innocent were found guilty.

Just look at Hillsborough, or Orgreave to name just two.



Police mounted on horseback attack women,  
Battle of Orgreave June 1984

( From the Knowledge centre, University of Warwick.)

A prolonged period at war combined with the agricultural and industrial revolutions were resulted in an anonymous, industrialised state where the demands of factory life created an urban poor. People were disaffected and disenfranchised. Manchester epitomised this fundamental change of life for the labouring classes. It had excellent transport links, a damp climate and local coal mines which created the ideal centre for the burgeoning cotton industry.

However, conditions for workers were appalling. They were housed in slums and they saw wages slump in the recession following the end of the Napoleonic Wars. By 1819, in a city which exemplified the success of the Industrial Revolution, people were starving and there was not a single MP.

The similarities of today are so clear. Now thousands of people are living in appalling conditions, damp, rat infested, mould ridden, dangerous homes and having to pay a fortune for that but nothing is done to the people who own those properties. Just look at what happened at Grenfell Tower. No one listened to the tenants safety concerns and so all those innocent people died. If they had been wealthy, that block of flats would never have been left in a dangerous condition.



Just look at all the homeless people on the streets in this country (one of the richest countries in the world) People are penalised for being poor, something that is caused by the capitalist system. The Zero hours jobs, where you never know when you will be working next. Low pay, poor working conditions, price rises in everything especially food and often for poor quality smaller sizes etc and yet your wages/ benefits stay the same or even go down.



In 1819 the weavers wages had gone down and the food prices had gone up.

They were literally starving.

Mel K.

On the 16th of August 1819 the huge open area around what's now St Peter's Square, Manchester, played host to an outrage against over 60,000 peaceful pro-democracy and anti-poverty protesters; an event which became known as The Peterloo Massacre.

An estimated 18 People, including four women and a child, died from sabre cuts and trampling. Nearly 700 Men, Women and Children received extremely serious injuries. All in the name of liberty and freedom from poverty. The Massacre occurred during a period of immense political tension and mass protests. Fewer than 2% of the population had the vote, and hunger was rife with the disastrous corn laws making bread unaffordable.

## PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

On the morning of 16th August the crowd began to gather, conducting themselves, according to contemporary accounts, with dignity and discipline, the majority dressed in their Sunday best.

The key speaker was to be famed orator Henry Hunt, the platform consisted of a simple cart, located in the front of what's now the Manchester Central Conference Centre, and the space was filled with banners - REFORM, UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, EQUAL REPRESENTATION and, touchingly, LOVE.

Many of the banner poles were topped with the red cap of liberty - a powerful symbol at the time.

Local magistrates watching from a window near the field panicked at the sight of the assembly, and read the riot act ineffectively ordering what little of the crowd could hear them to disperse.

## THE MASSACRE

As 600 Hussars, several hundred infantrymen; an artillery unit with two six-pounder guns, 400 men of the Cheshire cavalry and 400 special constables waited in reserve, the local Yeomanry were given the task of arresting the speakers. The Yeomanry, led by Captain Hugh Birley and Major Thomas Trafford, were essentially a paramilitary force drawn from the ranks of the local mill and shop owners. On horseback, armed with sabres and clubs, many were familiar with, and had old scores to settle with the leading protesters.

(In one instance spotting a reporter from the radical Manchester Observer, a Yeomanry officer called out "There's Saxton, damn him, run him through.")

Heading for the hustings, they charged when the crowd linked arms to try and stop the arrests, and proceeded to strike down banners and people with their swords.

Rumours from the period have persistently stated the Yeomanry were drunk.

The panic was interpreted as the crowd attacking the yeomanry, and the Hussars (Led by Lieutenant Colonel Guy L'Estrange) were ordered in.

As with the Tiananmen Square Massacre, there were unlikely heroes among the military. An unnamed cavalry officer attempted to strike up the swords of the Yeomanry, crying - "For shame, gentlemen: what are you about? The people cannot get away!" But the majority joined in with the attack.

The term 'Peterloo' was intended to mock the soldiers who attacked unarmed civilians by echoing the term 'Waterloo' - the soldiers from that battle being seen by many as genuine heroes.

## AFTERMATH

By 2pm the carnage was over, and the field left full of abandoned banners and dead bodies. Journalists present at the event were arrested, others who went on to report the event were subsequently jailed. The businessman John Edward Taylor went on to help set up the Guardian newspaper as a reaction to what he'd seen.

The speakers and organizers were put on trial, at first under the charge of High Treason - a charge that was reluctantly dropped by the prosecution.

The Hussars and Magistrates received a message of congratulations from the Prince Regent, and were cleared of any wrong-doing by the official inquiry.

## LEGACY

Historians acknowledge that Peterloo was hugely influential for ordinary People winning the right to vote, led to the rise of the Chartist Movement from which grew the Trade Unions, and also resulted in the establishment of the Manchester Guardian newspaper.

The Manchester Guardian was founded by a young cotton merchant called John Edward Taylor. A reformer and religious nonconformist, Taylor had written the first eyewitness account of Peterloo and wanted to see a new paper committed to political change and truthful reporting. At the time he was already writing most of one of the city's existing six weekly papers, the Manchester Chronicle. In April 1821, ten of his friends raised £1,050 and issued a prospectus for a seventh the Manchester Guardian.

On Saturday, the 5th of May, 1821, will be Published,  
Price Seven-Pence,  
No. 1 of a New Weekly Paper,  
TO BE ENTITLED  
The Manchester Guardian

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. GARNETT, MANCHESTER.

The Place of Publication will be announced when the necessary arrangements are completed; and, in the mean time, Orders, Advertisements, and Communications, will be received by Mr SOWLER, Bookseller, St Ann's Square, Messrs ROBINSON AND ELLIS, St Ann's Place; and Mr JOHN FORD, Market-street.

*On Saturday, the 5th of May, 1821, will be Published,*

Price Seven-pence,

No. 1 of a New Weekly Paper,

TO BE ENTITLED

## *The Manchester Guardian.*

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. GARNETT, MANCHESTER.

*The Place of Publication will be announced when the necessary arrangements are completed; and, in the mean time, Orders, Advertisements, and Communications, will be received by Mr. SOWLER, Bookseller, St. Ann's Square, Messrs. ROBINSON AND ELLIS, St. Ann's Place; and Mr. JOHN FORD, Market-street.*

### PROSPECTUS.

IT may safely be asserted, that no former period, in the history of our Country, has been marked by the agitation of questions of a more important character, than those which are now claiming the attention of the public. To any one, who regards, for a moment, the conflicting views and wishes of the Commercial and Agricultural Interests,—the considerations which may arise out of the existing Laws for the regulation of our Currency,—the present and the anticipated pressure of the National Debt and of Taxation,—this statement will be sufficiently apparent.

But there are other subjects, of greater and more permanent importance, which the circumstances of the times are forcing upon public attention. The effect of the great diffusion of Education within the last quarter of a century, is attested by the greatly increased interest which political subjects excite, and the immense extension of the circle within which they are discussed. It is of the utmost importance that this increased interest should be turned to beneficial account; that it should be made effective in promoting all those ameliorations in our laws and political institutions, of which experience has proved the necessity, and in fixing upon a broader and more impregnable basis the fabric of our liberties.

Though the concerns which relate to the internal prosperity of this country, must always be of paramount consequence to its Inhabitants, Foreign Politics will now be a subject of anxious observation; for there perhaps never was a period, at which the affairs of other nations could awaken, in the minds of Englishmen, so deep an interest as at the present moment. The friends of freedom, every where, must watch, with intense anxiety, the progress of those efforts which several Continental States, as well as others in the New World, are now making to free themselves from the incumbering pressure of antiquated and despotic Governments, and to establish, in lieu thereof, institutions conformable to the increased intelligence of the age, and calculated for the promotion of public happiness, and the security of popular rights. Proportionate to the interest with which these magnificent experiments are regarded, will be the wish, that nothing may impede the success, or detract from the purity, of their course; that no internal commotions, or external attacks, excited or dictated by the unprincipled hostility of foreign and arbitrary governments, may defer the consolidation of such political establishments, as are suited to the condition of the People, as the national will requires, and the national wants demand.

The considerations which have just been stated, seem to render the influence of the public press, the spirited discussion of political questions, and the accurate detail of facts, particularly important at this juncture; and we believe it has been generally felt, that no existing local Newspaper has possessed a degree of public consideration correspondent with the wealth and intelligence of this town and of the surrounding district, and their high rank in the scale of national importance. The present, therefore, seems a favourable opportunity for establishing a Newspaper, which, by supporting a consistent character for sincere and undeviating attachment to rational Liberty, may promote that union and concentration amongst the friends of freedom in this neighbourhood, which is in itself so desirable, and the want of which has been hitherto so sensibly felt.



The site of the Manchester Guardian building as it was in 1821.

Photograph: Unknown/GNM Archive

According to the Guardian...

'What happened at St Peter's Fields would become known as the Peterloo Massacre – a name coined by a local journalist named James Wroe in punning reference to the Battle of Waterloo four years earlier. Wroe paid for the joke by seeing his radical newspaper, the Manchester Observer, closed down, and was himself sentenced to a year's imprisonment for seditious libel.

On the face of it, a Monday morning in August was a strange time to hold a political rally.

Most factory workers would be at their machines – the deafening, ceaseless, clacking cotton spinning machinery that ran in the mills day and night.

An industry was taking off: there were 2,400 power looms locally in 1813; 14,000 by 1820, and 115,000 within 15 years. But the handloom weavers, who worked from home and traditionally took Mondays off after working all weekend, were available. They were still in the majority in the Lancashire cotton trade: 40,000 in Manchester alone, compared with 20,000 spinning-machine operatives in the factories – but they feared for their jobs, skills, lifestyles and standards of living.

Wages had halved since the end of the Napoleonic war: 12 shillings a week for 16-hour days, if you could get the work; a decade earlier, it had been 21 shillings a week.'

### Political

The immediate effect of Peterloo was a crackdown on reform. The government instructed the police and courts to go after the journalists, presses and publication of the Manchester Observer. Wroe was arrested and charged with producing a seditious publication. Found guilty he was sentenced to twelve months in prison and fined £100. Outstanding court cases against the Manchester Observer were rushed through the courts and a continual change of sub-editors was not sufficient defence against a series of police raids, often on the suspicion that someone was writing a radical article. The Manchester Observer closed in February 1820.

Hunt and eight others were tried at York Assizes on 16 March 1820, charged with sedition. After a two-week trial, five defendants were found guilty: Hunt was sentenced to 30 months in Ilchester Gaol; Bamford, Johnson, and Healey were given one year each, and Knight was jailed for two years on a subsequent charge.

A civil case on behalf of a weaver wounded at Peterloo was brought against four members of the Manchester Yeomanry, Captain Birley, Captain Withington, Trumpeter Meagher, and Private Oliver, at Lancaster Assizes, on 4 April 1822. All were acquitted, as the court ruled their actions had been justified to disperse an illegal gathering.

Are annual parliaments called for by Henry Hunt, some of the Peterloo marchers, and the Chartists later, something we could be calling for in the 2020s?

\*Do national referenda have a role to play in the 21st century? If so, how should they be called and organised?

\*What role might new technology have in the conduct of future elections/referenda/other ballots?

\*If a 52% to 48% vote is a democratic mandate to leave the EEU, why do we accept the election of a Government for up to five years elected on 40% or less of the vote, and most people voting against the Government? How can this be said to be genuinely democratic?

What can be done to change the present system if that's what the majority of people want?

\*Should parliament be truly representative of the people and elected by an agreeable system of proportional representation? If so, how can the link with local constituencies be maintained if people want that too.

\*Should voting be compulsory in all elections?

\*Should re-opening nominations or "None of the above" be included on the ballot papers?

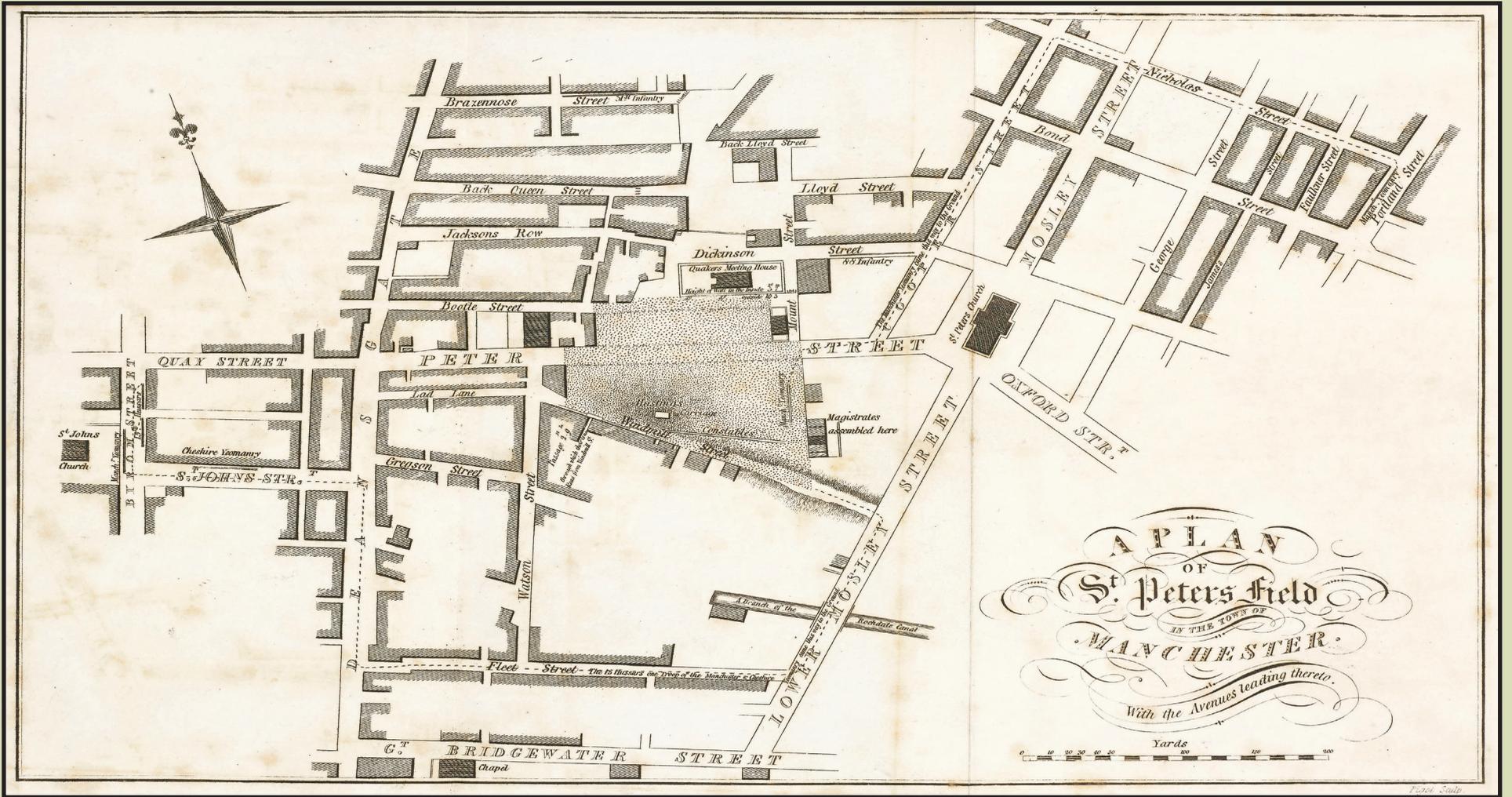
\*Should 16 year olds be given the vote?

\*Do we need a second parliamentary chamber? If so, is the House of Lords a good example of one, and of a modern day democracy?

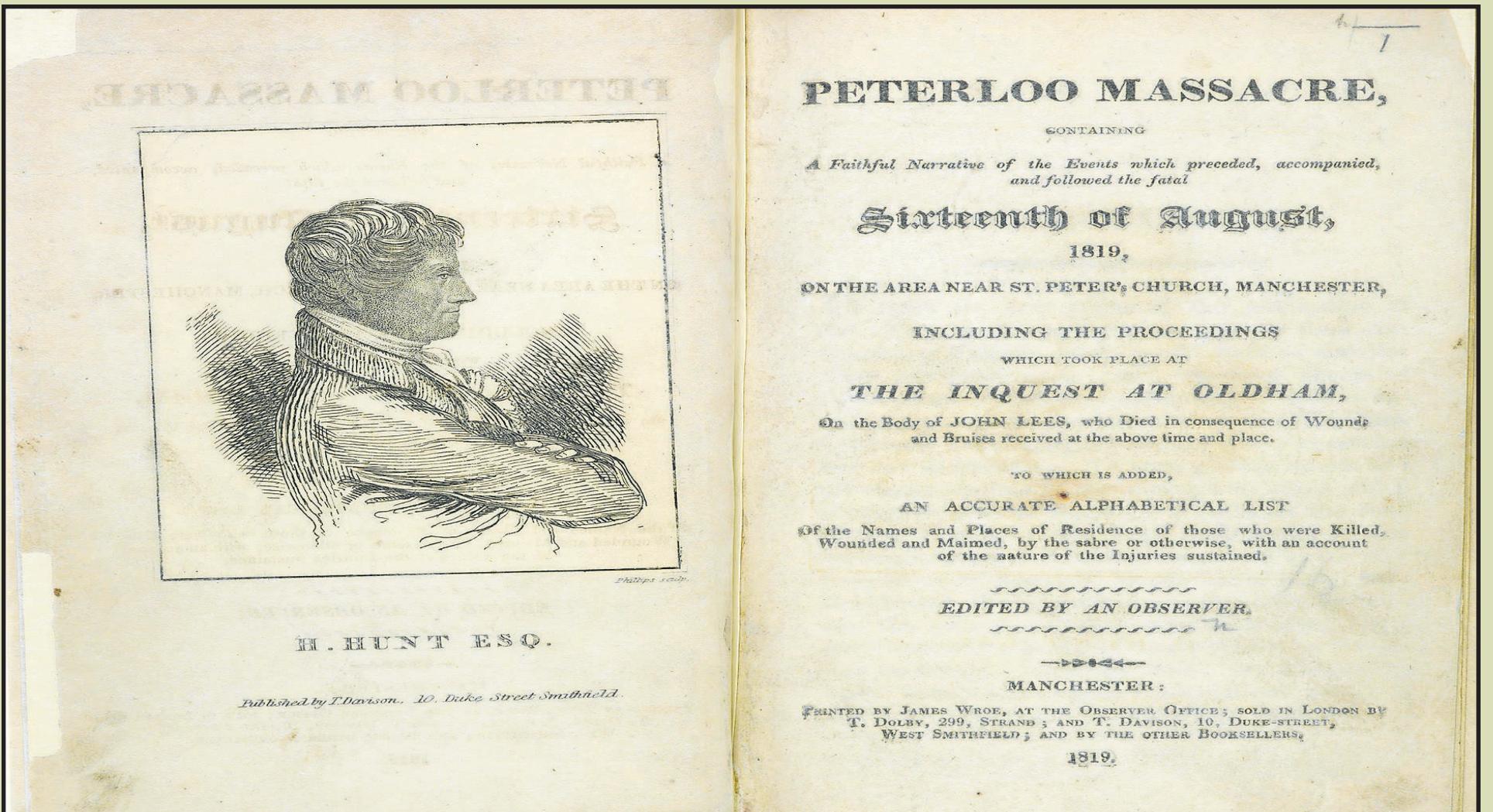
What's wrong with enlarged select committees incorporating experts and members of the public to scrutinise and make recommendations on all recommendations on all proposed legislation for example, as an alternative to a second chamber?

\*The NHS is supposed to belong to us all but few of us have any say in the provision of local services or in proposals such as those currently being discussed by Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust, who want to privatise all their non-medical staff.

How can this be remedied, and control of the NHS made more democratic and accountable to the public it serves?



Map of the Peterloo Massacre depicting the location and movements of protestors and soldiers at St Peter's Fields, 1820. British Library



Account of 16 August, 1819, The Peterloo Massacre. British Library



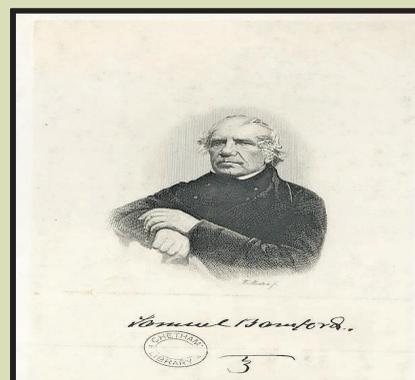
Print depicting the Peterloo Massacre, 1819.

### Peterloo Banner Finial

The finial sat on the top of a hand painted banner that was carried by a group of marchers from Middleton and Rochdale to the meeting led by Sam Bamford to what was planned as a peaceful demonstration.

It was attended by thousands of local protestors, many of whom were hand loom weavers.

Sam Bamford was arrested and sentenced to one year in prison for his part in the demonstration.



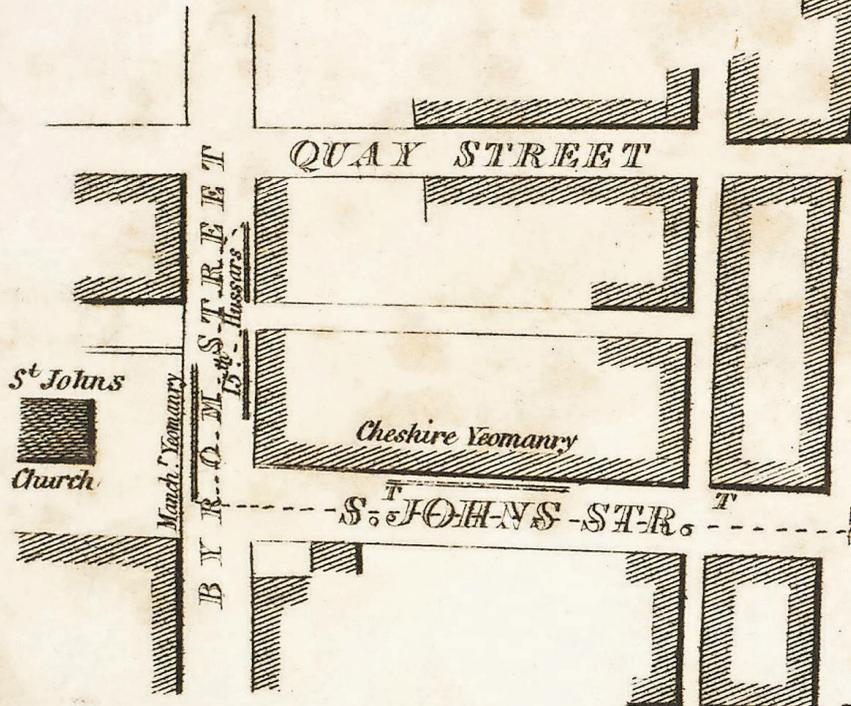
The finial was believed to have been found on St Peters Field in Manchester after the dispersal of the crowd.

The banner is now part of a museum collection currently in storage due to its delicate condition.

The banner was made of blue silk with a gold painted inscription 'Unity and Strength 1819' on one side and 'Liberty and Fraternity' on the other.

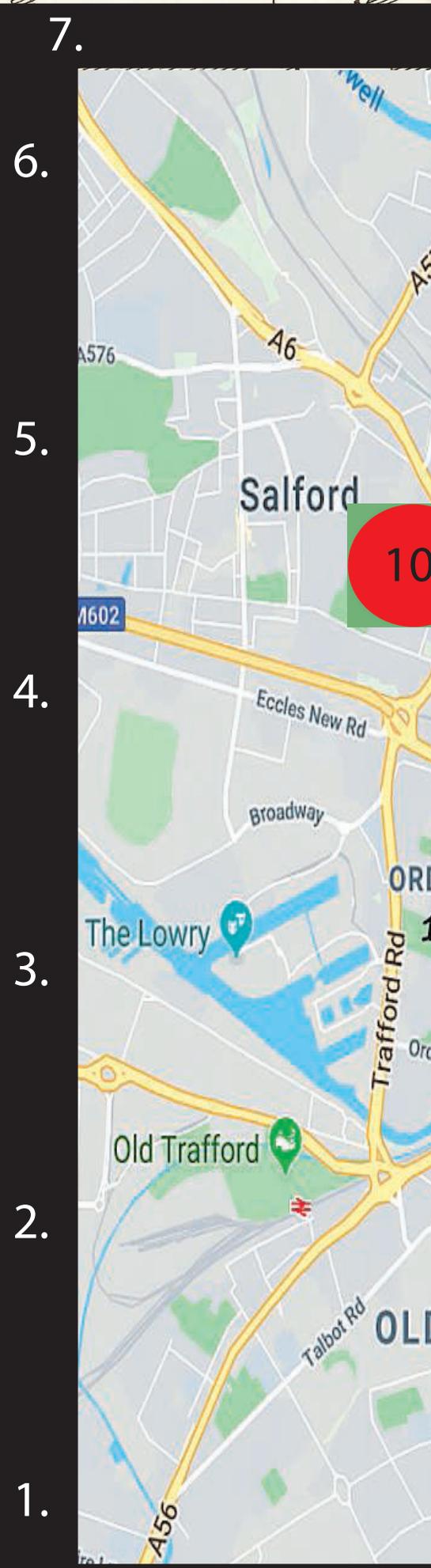


**PETERLOO**  
 PROTEST.  
 DEMOCRACY.  
 FREEDOM.



**ASSEMBLY POINTS**

- (1) Silk Street off Blackfriars Road (Salford).
- (2) Hornby Street (adj car park) off Bury New Road.
- (3) Derby Street off Cheetham Hill Road.
- (4) Village Park. (off Oldham Road).
- (5) Lime Bank Street (adj Park) off Ashton OLD Road.
- (6) Langport Ave (adj Park) off A6.
- (7) Whitworth Park adj Oxford Road.
- (8) Alexandra Park, Claremont Road off Princess Road
- (9) St. Georges Park off City Road (Old Trafford).
- (10) Salford University off A6.





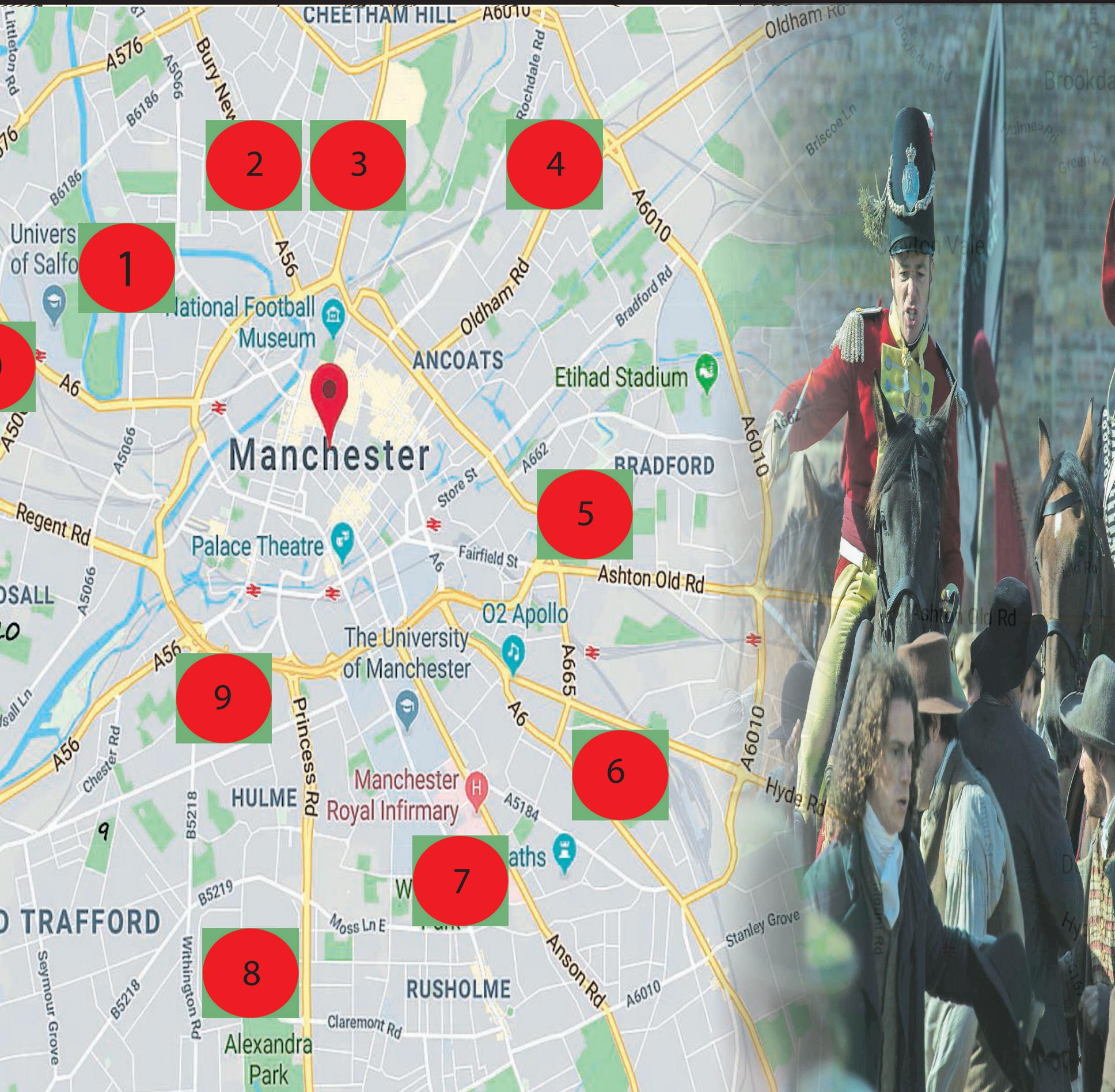
8.



9.



10.



Assembling at 10 different locations close to the city centre (see details below and in the 'Discussion' section) this event has been organised by Greater Manchester Association of Trades Union Councils (GMATUC) to commemorate those killed and injured at the 'Peterloo Massacre' on the 16th August 1819 by local Yeomanry and Tory Government troops.

It is also intended to promote the widest possible debate on the kind of democratic reforms and improved civil liberties, the original Peterloo marchers, were they alive today, and working people in the here and now, might consider necessary to transform our present day undemocratic, and broken political system, into something that actually works for the majority rather than in the interests of the few. i.e. one which might allow us to put an end to the same kind of problems of austerity, new technology, inequality and unjust laws working people faced 200 years ago, and still face today.

The type of proposals we will be raising (the list is not exhaustive) include:

- \* Proportional representation for political parties in all elections
- \* The Peterloo Marchers' and Chartists' demand for Annual Parliaments
- \* Reducing the voting age to 16 and other extensions of the franchise
  - \* Abolition of the House of Lords
  - \* Greater democratic control of public services by the people
- \* A genuine democratic devolution of power to the regions, cities and towns
- \* A greater say at work, including statutory trades union recognition and the abolition of the anti-union laws
- \* A written Constitution, Bill of Rights and Citizens' Responsibilities

There will be a number of guest speakers on these and other themes from a range of organisations at the rally in Albert Square, which starts at 1.00pm. These will include:

Matt Wrack (General Secretary, Fire Brigades Union)  
 Julie Ward MEP (North West Labour MEP)  
 Ian Hodson (President, Bakers, Food & Allied Workers' Union)  
 Lynn Collins (Regional Secretary, North West TUC)  
 Owen Winter (Director, Make Votes Matter)  
 Marlene Walker (NHS Worker & Campaigner)  
 Pete Middleman (NW National Education Union)  
 Cllr Geraldine Coggins (Trafford Green Party Councilor)  
 Ian Allinson (President, Manchester Trades Council)  
 Felicity Dowling (National Secretary, Left Unity)  
 Mark Krantz (Peterloo Historian & Political Activist)  
 Paula Barker (Regional Convenor, NW Unison)

Alan Davies (The Word Newspaper & Peterloo March for Democracy Organising Committee)  
 Chris Williamson (MP)

Presiding: Stephen Hall (President, GMATUC)

Speakers will be grouped into threes and limited to 7 minutes each. Each group of three will be 'interspersed' with entertainment provided by Joe Solo, Claire Mooney, Bard Company and Crispin Flintoff. There will also be entertainment at the end of the speakers provided by Gerry O'Gorman.

We additionally want to help promote public meetings across the country on the theme of democratic reform in the 21st Century to mark the bi-centenary of the Massacre. If you'd like a meeting in your area, or to get involved in organising a contingent of people from your area to take part in the march. Then get in touch with us ASAP.

March Assembly Points (see central map and photos of the assembly points in the 'Discussion' Section. Also, other info you might need)

ASSEMBLY POINT 1 - Silk Street, off Blackfriars Road, Salford - Head Steward (Salford TUC) John Catterall - 07772 292161

Members of Salford TUC are organising this 'Leg' and are focussing on mobilising local trades unionists, labour movement activists and residents to join them here. Anyone else wishing to join them would of course be very welcome.

ASSEMBLY POINT 2 - Hornby Street, off Bury New Road, Manchester - Head Steward

North West Unison will be in charge of this leg, which will assemble in Hornby Street, off Bury New Road, Manchester. We are also directing people from the North Manchester, Prestwich and Bury area to this assembly point. Anyone else of course, is free to join them.

ASSEMBLY POINT 3 - Derby Street, off Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester - Head Steward

This is the assembly point we are directing members of the NWTUC Exec (not otherwise committed elsewhere) to march from along with ideally the NW TUC Banner.

It is also where we would like to encourage GMB, CWU and USDAW members to start the march, plus ideally everyone else other than Unite, Unison, PCS, NASUWT, the NEU, local Trades Councils and GFTU unions)

**ASSEMBLY POINT 4 - Village Park, off Collyhurst Road, off Oldham Road, Manchester - Head Steward (Rochdale TUC) Stefan Cholewka - 07901 913698**

Members of Rochdale TUC are organising this 'Leg' along with activists from Oldham and The Word newspaper, who are the ones responsible for producing the FREE Souvenir 16 page Peterloo Massacre Bi-Centenary edition to mark the occasion, and to help to promote the event beforehand.

As well as encourage people from the Rochdale and Oldham area to join this 'Leg' (two local events have already been planned) on the day, we are also asking Labour Party Branches and CLPs (wherever they are from) to assemble here, and march into the town centre with Labour MEP Julie Ward.

**ASSEMBLY POINT 5 - Lime Bank Street, off Ashton Old Road, Manchester - Head Steward (BFAWU) Ian Hodson - 07772 292161**

The Bakers' Union are in charge of this leg and will be asking fellow GFTU unions (e.g. FBU, RMT, TSSA, etc) to join them there for the march into the city centre.

We are also directing Trades Councils, such as Sheffield and Leeds and others from Yorkshire, Humberside and the North East to ideally march from here. Locals from the Tameside area who usually march the entire distance from Mossley for example each year, will also be joining the march here and encouraging others from the area to do likewise. We will also directing any trades councils from Derbyshire & the East Midlands (as well as anyone else from those areas) to join the march here.

**ASSEMBLY POINT 6 - Langport Avenue, off Stockport Road, Longsight - Head Steward**

This 'Leg' is being organised by members of Unite living in the area in conjunction with Stockport TUC and will be looking to mobilise trades unionists, labour movement activists and locals to start the march here.

**ASSEMBLY POINT 7 - Whitworth Park, adj Oxford Road, Manchester - Head Steward (Manchester TUC/NEU) John Morgan - 07818 055605**

This assembly point and march in is being organised by members of Manchester TUC, and the NEU in particular. MTUC will be using its network of contacts and affiliates to promote the greatest possible participation of Manchester based trades unionists and labour movement activists as well as South Manchester locals, students and Manchester based campaigners, not committed to marching on other legs. Additionally, they will be asking for the members of the NEU everywhere (also not otherwise committed to marching with others) to join the march for democracy here.

The ever popular PCS Samba have kindly said they will take part in this 'leg' and the march in straight up Oxford Road to Mount Street and Albert Square, and are even doing their own independent publicity. PCS members are also being asked to assemble and march from here

Facebook Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/386914075287673/>

**ASSEMBLY POINT 8 - Alexandra Park, adj Claremont Road off Princess Road, Manchester - Head Steward**

We would like to ask the NASUWT plus ALL trades council members from the South of Greater Manchester (Birmingham and London included) to assemble here along with all legal aid and NHS campaigners wanting greater control of the NHS by 'the people'.

This will also be the starting point for all groups campaigning for democratic reform of the political system, including Make Votes Matter, and other campaigners wanting to see the extension of the franchise to ALL UK residents 16 years old and over.

Nb) Leg involves using a footbridge to navigate the Mancunian Way

**ASSEMBLY POINT 9 - St. Georges Park, City Road, Old Trafford - Head Steward (Trafford TUC) Nik Barstow - 07976 025174**

This assembly/leg starting point is close to where the 15th Hussars were stationed in 1819 prior to their deployment at St. Peter's Field.

We would ideally like UNITE to encourage their members to assemble here and to work with Trafford TUC to ensure a good turnout by workers from Trafford Park and the wider Trafford area generally. If Momentum are supportive of the march (we have no way of knowing, but think they could well be!) then we would ask them to direct their supporters to this start point as well.

**ASSEMBLY POINT 10 - Peel Park, Salford University, The Crescent, Salford - Head Steward**

Bolton Trades Council will take charge of this 'Leg', as the assembly point is close to Salford Crescent railway station where people from the Bolton and the Wigan area have met up over many years, those marchers who have walked the entire route from Bolton to accompany them for their final walk into Manchester city centre and the annual Peterloo Massacre commemoration outside Manchester Central/ in Albert Square. The area in front of Salford Museum & Art Gallery is also a regular assembly/starting point for marches into Manchester City Centre by anti-fracking and climate change campaigners.

Everyone from the Bolton & Wigan area is being encouraged to start from here and local meetings have been arranged in both Boroughs. There will also be a free coach from Bolton and other organised means of getting there.

Following a discussion with the NW TUCJCC Rep, we are also asking that all Trades Councils in all four North West Associations to assemble here.

For any further info contact your local trades council, trades union Regional Office or Stephen Hall at GMATUC on 01942 886645 Mobile: 07724 139278

## What we hope to achieve

To give even a small bit of balance to the bias against the left wing from main stream media. To achieve this we are launching a series of road shows to help inform and recruit people to help us. We believe with modern technology we rival the corporate news outlets by lots of people doing a small amount of work. As much as we admire the ability of the Morning Star to still keep going we feel there is a need for a tabloid daily newspaper that is entertaining to read with a great insight on sport and entertainment promoting all that is cooperative rather than simply money making.

Help us achieve our goal by joining us. If you are from the democratic left wing you will fit in. We debate and vote on our differences without a careerist in sight.

**To become involved or learn more about the ideas of a new charter for democracy phone, Stephen Hall, President, Greater Manchester Association of Trade Union Councils: 07724139278**

"Parts (percentage?) of this publication must feature input from people who are not identified as 'professional journalists.'" If there's a story on education/schooling, I'd rather like to hear the views of a teachers in a whole article, not little clippings of those teachers' views via interview. I think there should be a way to ensure it isn't entirely written by those only interested in the journalism, but also those in 'real life' affected by the issues. **Mike Kelly**

### Truth and Accuracy

Journalists cannot always guarantee 'truth', but getting the facts right is the cardinal principle of journalism. We should always strive for accuracy, give all the relevant facts we have and ensure that they have been checked. When we cannot corroborate information we should say so.

### Independence

Journalists must be independent voices; we should not act, formally or informally, on behalf of special interests whether political, corporate or cultural. We should declare to our editors - or the audience - any of our political affiliations, financial arrangements or other personal information that might constitute a conflict of interest.

### Fairness and Impartiality

Most stories have at least two sides. While there is no obligation to present every side in every piece, stories should be balanced and add context. Objectivity is not always possible, and may not always be desirable (in the face for example of brutality or inhumanity), but impartial reporting builds trust and confidence.

# THE WORD

## EQUALITY, DEMOCRACY, TRUTH AND COURAGE

These four principles are what lead us as Socialists. A pioneering philosopher once said that we are supposed to live in a democracy - one person one vote, equal to each other. And yet what we live in is a Capitalist Democracy which states that you are what you own. These two systems completely contradict each other and this major contradiction is something we live within in the United Kingdom. I think our jobs within this new publication are about trying to alter people's perceptions. I see it every day in the street, on the bus, in the shop, etc. The human race is bombarded and fed corporate consumerism through every channel to the point they no longer can see that they have been completely and utterly brainwashed into their lives being nothing but a corporate playground where they are manipulated, sold and tested all manner of goods. We are all some extent guilty of this. I believe it is our jobs as Socialists to bring light to the dark, to try and get people to see everybody and not just themselves. I am a Spiritualist, I try and see the goodness and love in most things, particularly my fellow human brothers and sisters. As children we are brought up to share, to think of others, to be compassionate and to treat greed, selfishness and want as the vices of the soul. The forces that run the material world are led by greed, by selfishness and want - multi-national businesses, Western Governments and Establishments. The movement that upholds our earliest human ideals is Socialism. I do not see it in Liberalism and I most certainly do not see it in the low energy that is Conservatism.

Pretty much all of the mainstream media in Britain is ignorant, dogmatic poison and it bothers me that it is being fed to the public. We need to offer an alternative, a socialist newspaper that inspires people and doesn't spit venom. Of course we need to oppose the Tories and everything they stand for. We need to expose them for their cruelty, their heartlessness and their prejudices but this has to be done in a manner which is intelligent, insightful and truthful. This is how Jeremy Corbyn leads - we attack the politics, not the people, otherwise we might as well all go and try and get jobs at The Sun. We have to be the example, the difference and the inspiration. We have to systematically prove that Conservatism is

a flawed ideology. We shouldn't just focus on the politics; we should focus on other aspects of life, areas the Tories do not champion. We should look at charity work across the communities, the arts and communal activities that help people among so much more. Remember we are the human beings, our politics and outlook of life is based on humanity. Ours is not about fiscal aspiration, preserving an outdated monarchy and demonising minorities. We welcome all people of all faiths, colours and sex and we should promote this in our newspaper. Socialism has no borders and no flags; we are the free, the loving and the harmonious. We shine a light on all injustices not just in the UK but everywhere.

Of course if we are running this outlet democratically then it is important that we open up channels to other political leanings as well. What I mean by this is having an email address or contact details for people of any political background to get in touch if they have a query, need help or want to discuss a topic with us. We should be able to talk with anybody, no matter what their political background. This would be practicing true democracy and is one of the ideals upheld by Jeremy Corbyn. Most importantly - what we need to give people is the truth. Ask yourselves - do we see truthful news and journalism in The Sun, The Daily Mail or Sky News? I don't think so. We have to be a beacon for truthful, honest and insightful news. I would look at the British political dilemma in a manner of philosophy and try and get people to look at our problems with intelligence and intellect while challenging the political ignorance and propaganda which befalls many areas of our country today. If we can achieve any of the above then maybe we can say we tried to make a difference in our society, we saw how our society was broken and tried to guide it with truth, love and humanity, the core values of true Socialism! **Jack Cornes**

An organization where all workers are paid the same wage. Where all profits are to be put back into the collective running of the organization rather than into private hands. We are to be financed through crowd funding to begin with then by sales, advertising and shares. (Advertising will be voted for or against online). All shares are to be of equal value, not to be sold, bartered or inherited. Shares to be limited to an upper limit of 500,000.



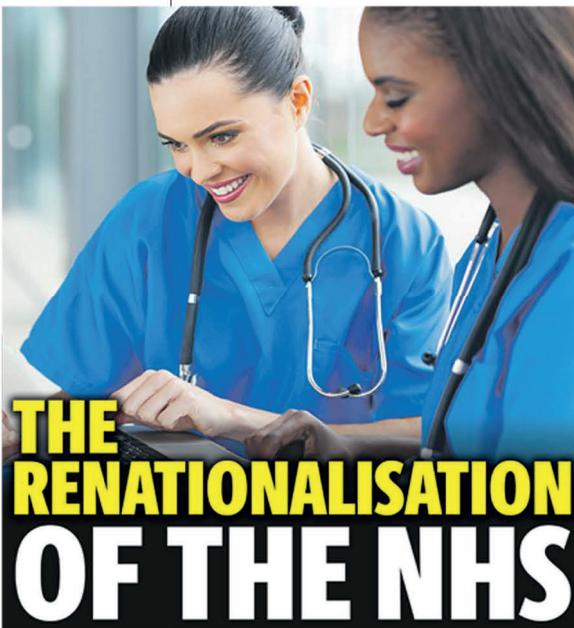
Our media will be left wing, radical and campaign for truth and justice. This media will never be sold, or used for profit by any of its shareholders. Any outside media work paid to members of this project will be given back to the project. We are to be independent of any political party but based on the following principles: Equality, democracy, truth, courage. **Peter Loo**

The ethics are bang on - amongst the policies that will be legally ratified are stipulations that ALL workers will be paid the same, all profit is to be fed back in, & no private company will be allowed to own even 1%. Personally, the thing that has me sold is the following. They don't want to produce the Morning Star - that's preaching to the choir. The aim is to produce a varied and interesting read on anything & everything - but always slipping politics into the mix. Ethics are socialist & this is likely to appeal to Corbyn



**Jeremy Corbyn says it was The Word what won it**

Jeremy Corbyn today thanked The Word newspaper for coming to the support of the Labour party and helping to win a massive majority in last night's general election. After the Daily Mirror and The Sun went out of business the media bias became much less. Results still coming in show the biggest swing to Labour since 1945. As Labour make a clean sweep across the north of England. Even safe Southern seats like Rochford and Southend East fall out of Tory control. The BBC reported that "Chif Richard has released another record and that That Jeremy Corbyn had once had tea with someone who knew the name of Jerry Adams dentist." Boris Johnson's days as a politician are over after being offered a lucrative contract as a circus clown. Jacob Rees-Mogg expected to return willingly to the Tory century and Theresa May has started a business making coats out of Dalmatian fur. The massive Labour party majority means fairness has returned to the UK for the first time since 1979. continued on page 7



# IDEALS



and Green supporters but there is no stipulation that you have to be of any political persuasion. Though obviously we are unlikely to appeal to many Tories, Kippers or Nazis. This is not all about politics - remember it's a general interest paper so quick examples could be good art, photos, music, maybe some poetry, varied stories & also that bit of real good political writing that exposes our corrupt right-wing government, addresses the wrongs of the current lurch to the right and gets the bloody truth out there; as it's mainly confined to Social Media right now.

**\*FUNDING\*** . Initial funding will be via crowd sourcing. We are looking for people to film just 30 seconds to say something very quick like; "Hi I'm Fergy. I'm a Drugs Worker between jobs. I would like to see an interesting & varied left-wing leaning newspaper, with a socialist stance but no set affiliations

to anyone, something that just tells me the truth & is a good read" - That kind of thing... obviously you give your own angle. If camera shy, a few short sentences would be great as they can also be flashed across the screen to allow enough variety to guarantee successful crowd sourcing / funding.

**REMEMBER** - The aim is for a true socialist publication - but not a political newspaper a la Morning Star - As much as I like it it's not reaching out to White Van Man atm - This is a real issue in Kent where I live as many of you will know. I know awareness is growing but there are populations across the UK that need reaching & socialism needs the grassroots support at the moment. This is why we want an INTERESTING paper.

**IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ABOUT POLITICS - INTERESTING WILL HIT THE SPOT - IF IT IS POLITICAL ALL WELL & GOOD.**

**FERGY**

Ok , first stab: To gloriously illuminate the savage anti-Corbyn bias of the British press you really need to look no further than the dismal headlines of December 1st 2015. The Telegraph reads "Airstrikes in days as Corbyn retreats", "Corbyn's 'free vote' puts UK on brink of war" blares the Metro, its inverted commas over 'free vote' openly sneering at the principles of fairness and democracy that Corbyn not only advocates but champions. The Times similarly reports "Airstrikes in days after Corbyn concedes defeat" perhaps obscuring the reader from the fact that the only way airstrikes in Raqqa could have ever come to fruition, is by a policymaker putting the campaign on the table to begin with. That policymaker was David Cameron (or whichever lackey in his think tank) not Jeremy Corbyn, yet the tabloids have still managed to lay the blame for it squarely on his shoulders. This extends beyond bias into a gross inversion of truth with the sole intention of smearing the leader of the opposition over any reporting of the facts. Newspapers today are more akin to physical clickbait than informative resources - best advice is to not even eat your fish and chips out them. **Roxanne Checkley**

As regards editorial policies and guidelines for the proposed new socialist newspaper (I hope I'm in the right forum). Personally, I would very much like to see some of the key attitudes put forth by JC in his first leadership speech

as reported here to be embraced as guiding principles. I believe it is these which have captured the imagination of many of the multitude of new Labour members and supporters that he has brought forth and that by espousing them as fundamental principles there is huge additional potential to drive that tsunami of momentum on to ever greater heights. And thus the paper can gain a broad, growing enthusiastic and supportive readership tapping into new sectors of the population, the apathetic, the disillusioned, the apolitical, the couch potatoes etc etc.

By that, I mean, more specifically, to promote his revolutionary concept of the politics of kindness; socialism with a kind face, a human face; the positive and socially beneficial side always to be brought out and accentuated. This is what caught my own attention after a lifetime of total cynicism, apathy and disillusion with politics, and turned me, and the rest of my family, and friends, into enthusiastic labour supporters and campaigners. And I think millions of others are just like us in that.

Of course, we have to vigorously attack Tory policies and expose them to the maximum effect, but always attacking the policies themselves, and their rationales, and their effects; rather than making personal attacks on the politicians who promote them. Remember they are people like us struggling with lives and families who may be deluded, arrogant, cruel or whatever but sometimes these can be changed through giving a good example while we can never win anyone over by personal attacks. In addition, the organisation should obviously positively embrace the principles of full transparency, accountability and best practice, that should go without saying. I am no expert but this is my personal experience that I would like to share and propose for adoption, since we are all invited to contribute ideas. Some details from the speech that exemplify my above thoughts can be found in this report. All comments welcome. **Sean Jones**

A socialist should not be secretive, furtive or conformist. A socialist should always criticise injustice, no matter, were it comes from. A socialist should be democratic but not manipulative. A socialist should always be unafraid of speaking their mind. A socialist should never seek power for themselves but only for the common good. A socialist should always go that extra distance for a comrade who is trying to do the right thing. A socialist will abandon the pursuit of riches for the pursuit of justice. If a socialist does this they will always have my support and loyalty. **Peter Loo**

## The Word newspaper, radio and television

The word newspaper was started in September of 2015 after seeing the biased media coverage of Jeremy Corbyn's election to leader of the Labour party. Only 4 people attended the first meeting in October of that year but after setting up a group on facebook it quickly grew to several hundreds. The Newspaper title "THE WORD" was voted on in the facebook group "Together against the Tories" (now called, the word debating group) The name was suggested by Sean Jones. Our first edition was launched at the Tolpuddle festival on 14<sup>th</sup> of July. The word is produced by a loose cooperative of people who contribute their time and effort free of charge because they believe in Socialism and that cooperation is better than the capitalist system of dog eat dog. We are set up to be non profit making. We can never be bought, sold or traded. "The Word" is available in shops and by mail order as a physical newspaper or PDF.

At the end of last year we started the second phase of our media fight back which was to set up a radio and TV station. We felt that with the network of contacts in place from the newspaper this would not be as difficult to accomplish. There are already plenty of leftwing podcasts and video out there so the task was really one of bringing them together into a grouping. We have so far brought together three video production companies as well as a cooper-

ative radio station and several news sites. The idea is to work as the catalyst to connect rather than to take over.

We are currently commissioning several different talk show formats, interviews and news shows as well as being a platform for up and coming talent for musicians, singers and comedians. As with the newspaper we will tell the stories that the main stream media do not allow to be made public. We will go against the present main stream media way of only allowing posh accents and middle class presenters a say. What will make us different is instead of simply being a youtube channel and a podcast we are applying for radio and television broadcast license's.

As we vote on as many things as possible there is no one person telling others what can and cannot be done. We try it and see if it works. We welcome input from everyone no matter what their background but we will obviously give a say to those who are being stopped at the moment from having a choice. If you have any ideas for radio or television shows or articles for the newspaper please come and join us. If you are prepared to work at it then it will happen. If you want to take part in the voting for it or be part of it in any other way then join "The Word supporters" group on facebook to take part in producing the newspaper. Or for broadcast join "The Word radio and television."



### How to get involved

Register on our website [www.thewordmedia.co.uk](http://www.thewordmedia.co.uk)

Join us on twitter <https://twitter.com/wordnewspaper>

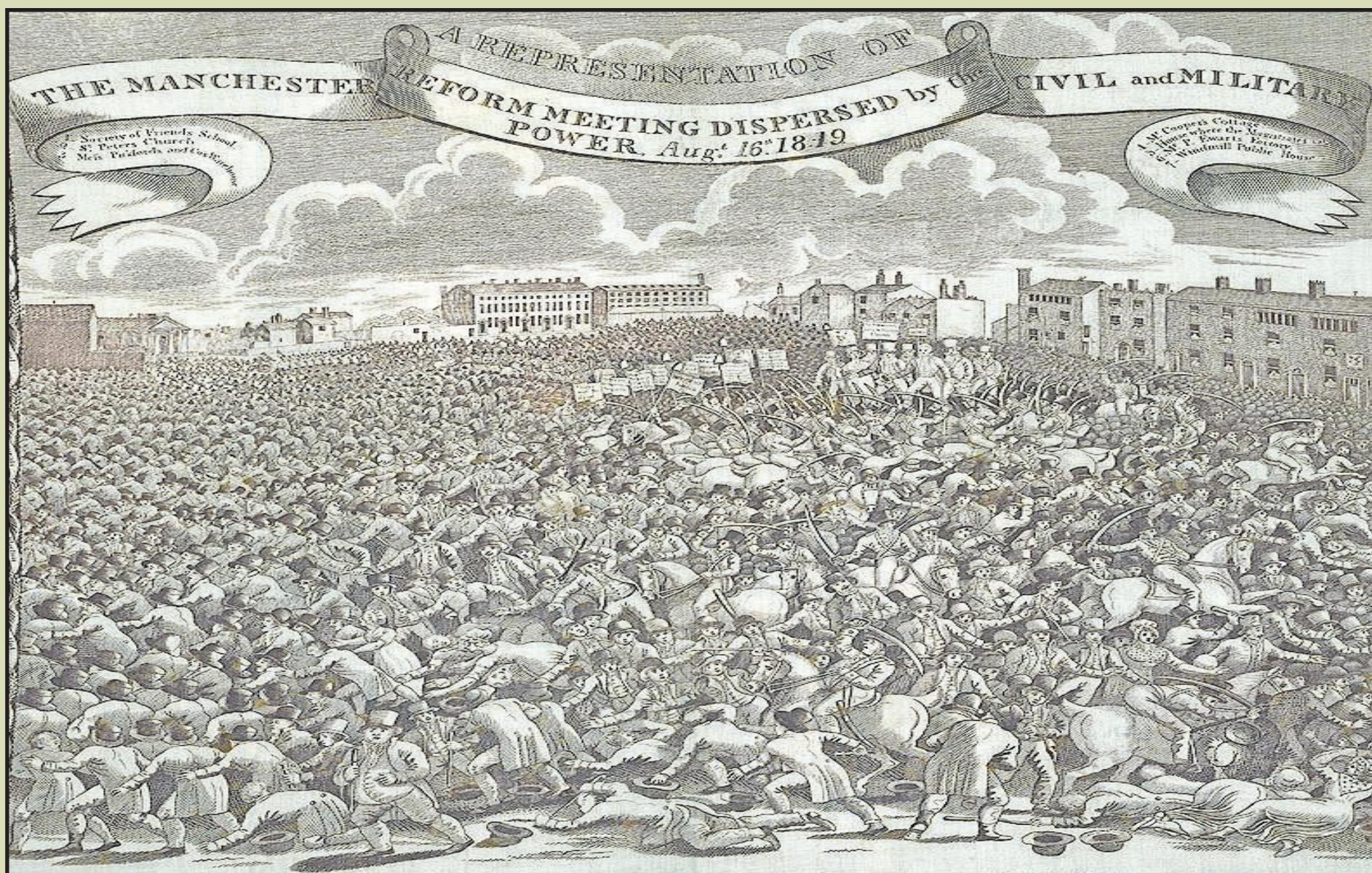
Or on the word supporters group on FB <https://www.facebook.com/groups/770925089714393/about/>

We need writers, proof readers, researchers, cartoonists and help with social media. We have regular meet ups and social events across the country. All people from the left of centre are welcome to join in.

**We hope by many of us working together to achieve a daily tabloid left wing newspaper and combined media outlet that is run by its readers and can never be bought or sold.**



Peterloo Massacre depicting Female Reformers dressed in white and holding a banner for the Manchester Female Reform Union / British Library



Handkerchief commemorating the Peterloo Massacre, 1819. It depicts the yeomanry slashing at the crowd of protestors. British Library

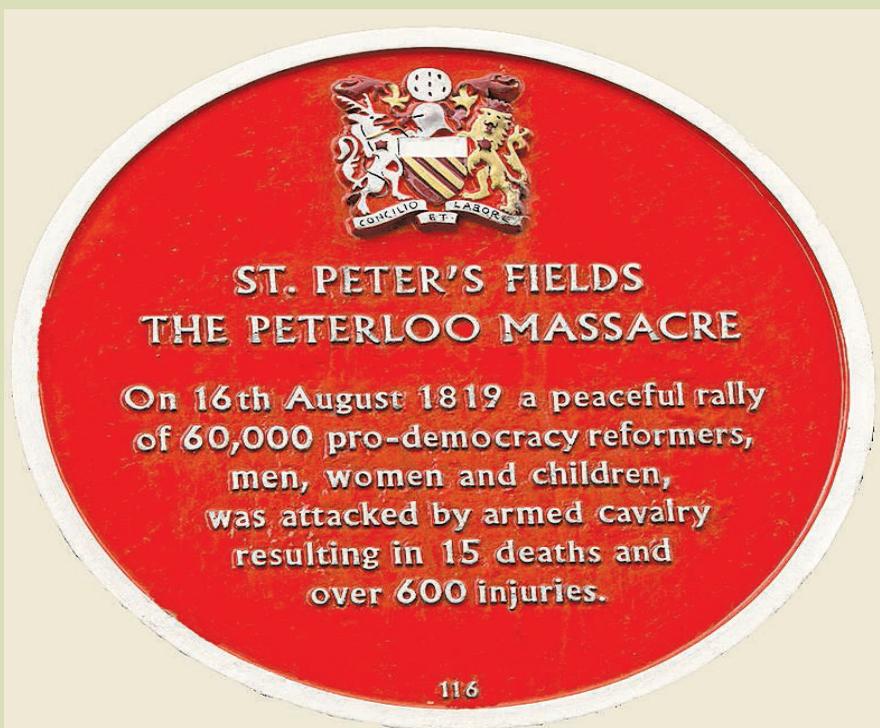


The only surviving banner from Peterloo.

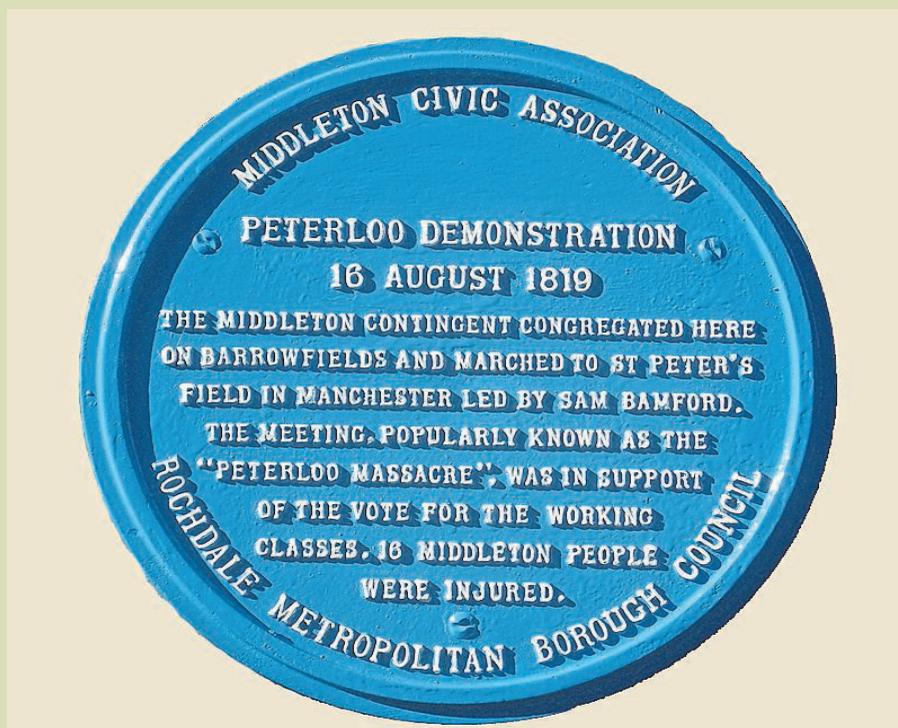
Touchstones Museum Rochdale

As far as experts know, above is the only known surviving banner from the actual Massacre which is held at Touchstones Museum in Rochdale. It is believed that the banner had been hidden under a woman's dress to escape the end of the massacre. Many of the banners were destroyed at Peterloo and during the trials afterward, possibly to protect the makers of the banners from being prosecuted.

This actual banner was marched by the from Middleton to St Peter's Field, Manchester on August 16th, 1819.



Following pressure in 2007 Manchester City Council replaced the old blue plaque with a new red one. The plaque is sited on the wall of the Radisson Hotel (previously the Free Trade Hall), and is the only memorial in the vicinity of St Peter's Square, corner of Peter Street and Southmill Street.



This Blue Plaque in Middleton marks where Sam Bamford's contingent congregated before heading to St Peter's Field.

Morton Street, Middleton.

## Accounts of the Peterloo Massacre

### The Bastows

David and William Bastow lived close to St Leonard's Church in Middleton and were close neighbours of Samuel Bamford, they joined Bamford and others in the walk to St Peter's field to take part in the peaceful protest.

The brothers returned safely from Manchester, but neighbours had got back earlier and spread stories of the militia charges and terrible injuries rendered to people. Both men were married and their wives heavily pregnant and had stayed at home.

### The Hurdies

William Hurdies of 22 Fawcett Street, Manchester, a weaver and was injured on St Peter's field, he had been stabbed on the left side of head by a bayonet of a soldier of the 88th Regiment, and sprained his ankle at the same time.

William was born in 1794 and was 25 when he attended the rally, In 1818 he married for the second time, to Sarah Bennett of Marple. His son James was born in July 1819, so it is not known if his wife and child accompanied him, it seems unlikely. William is listed in the 1824 Manchester Directory as a weaver and living at the same address. He may have been politically active as he is noted as being part of the 'Committee of the Salford Hundreds'. Some of his descendants were involved in local council activities.

There are many unanswered questions, such as did the bayonet wound leave a scar for the rest of his life? there are no photographs, was the soldier's name known?

Did William confront him thus angering said soldier to lunge at him.

### James Street of Littlemoss, injured at Peterloo

The eldest son of Jonathan and Mary (nee Wild), James was baptised in May 1752 at St Michael's Church, Ashton under Lyne. Jonathan was a weaver and the family lived at Hartshead and then moved to Alt.

In 1775 James married Betty Heywood and they went on to have three children, James and family moved to Littlemoss.

Sadly Betty died in January 1819 aged 80.

James was injured on the 16th August by the cavalry and received one pound in Relief.

### Thomas Jones of Pendleton

At the age of ten, Thomas was sent on an errand to Manchester and where he saw a lot of men fighting. He wondered what was happening and walked closer to the fight where he was given two pence by a soldier (presumably one of the Yeomanry) to buy some bread. Thomas took the money and went to find a bakery. On the way, however, he was pulled into a house by somebody who thought he might be killed in the fighting, for at this time Thomas was in a street where fighting had broken out.

The owners of the house sent Thomas home when the fighting was over, but Thomas felt very sorry, in the case the soldier whom he had met and given him the money, might think that he had stolen the two pence and not attempted to find a bread shop.

Evidently Thomas returned home safely to his family in Pendleton, how he spent the two pence is unrecorded. Nothing is known of the anonymous soldier or his reason for sending young Thomas on an errand, was he hungry or was it a simple rouse to keep the ten year old, Thomas from danger.

Thomas Pendleton born in 1809 died 1893

### Elizabeth Wilson nee Foster

Reported in the press in May 1894, the obituary of Elizabeth Wilson who was in Manchester and witnessed the meeting and the massacre of many innocent populace, in St Peter's Field. The deceased a survivor of Peterloo Elizabeth Wilson nee Foster was very fond of accounting the scenes of the Massacre and other incidents of an eventful life.

Mrs Wilson was born in Redford in the year 1800, and began work when only six years of age, winding pins for check weaving and earning a weekly wage of 1s 6d, with food included.

She had been working, at the time of her decease, no less than 88 years. Subsequently, she been came a spinner, and after residing for a while in Sheffield, she moved to Stockport, where she met and married in 1820 to Thomas Wilson, a toymaker and joiner.

Poor people at this time could not afford vehicular conveyance, and for this reason Elizabeth was compelled to walk the 36 miles from Sheffield to Stockport to visit relatives, taking her 11 hours. Until five years prior to her death, she had become a devotee of the 'weed' beginning to smoke at the age of 26, by medical advice, giving it up when she was 80 after a slight illness.

Elizabeth was the mother of 13 children, seven who survived her. She had 51 grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

By Samuel Bamford, 1788 - 1872.

Passages in the Life of a Radical, 1864

"In about half an hour after our arrival the sounds of music and reiterated shouts proclaimed the near approach of Mr Hunt and his party; and in a minute or two they were seen coming from Deansgate, preceded by a band of music and several flags.

Their approach was hailed by one universal shout from probably 80,000 persons. They threaded their way slowly past us and through the crowd, which Hunt eyed, I thought, with almost as much of astonishment as satisfaction. This spectacle could not be otherwise in his view than solemnly impressive.

Such a mass of human beings he had not beheld till then. His responsibility must weigh on his mind. The task was great, and not without its peril. The meeting was indeed a tremendous one.

Mr Hunt, stepping towards the front of the stage, took off his white hat, and addressed the people.

We had got to nearly the outside of the crowd, when a noise and strange murmur arose towards the church. Some persons said it was the Blackburn people coming, and I stood on tiptoe and looked in the direction whence the noise proceeded, and saw a party of cavalry in blue and white uniform come trotting, sword in hand, round the corner of a garden wall, and to the front of a row of new houses, where they reined up in a line.

"The soldiers are here," I said; "we must go back and see what this means." "Oh," someone made reply, "they are only come to be ready if there should be any disturbance in the meeting." "Well, let us go back," I said, and we forced our way towards the colours.

On the cavalry drawing up they were received with a shout of goodwill, as I understood it. They shouted again, waving their sabres over their heads; and then, slackening rein, and striking spur into their steeds, they dashed forward and began cutting the people..."

"Stand fast," I said, "they are riding upon us; stand fast."

The cavalry were in confusion: they evidently could not, with all the weight of man and horse, penetrate that compact mass of human beings and their sabres were plied to hew a way through naked held-up hands and defenceless heads; and then chopped limbs and wound-gaping skulls were seen; and groans and cries were mingled with the din of that horrid confusion.

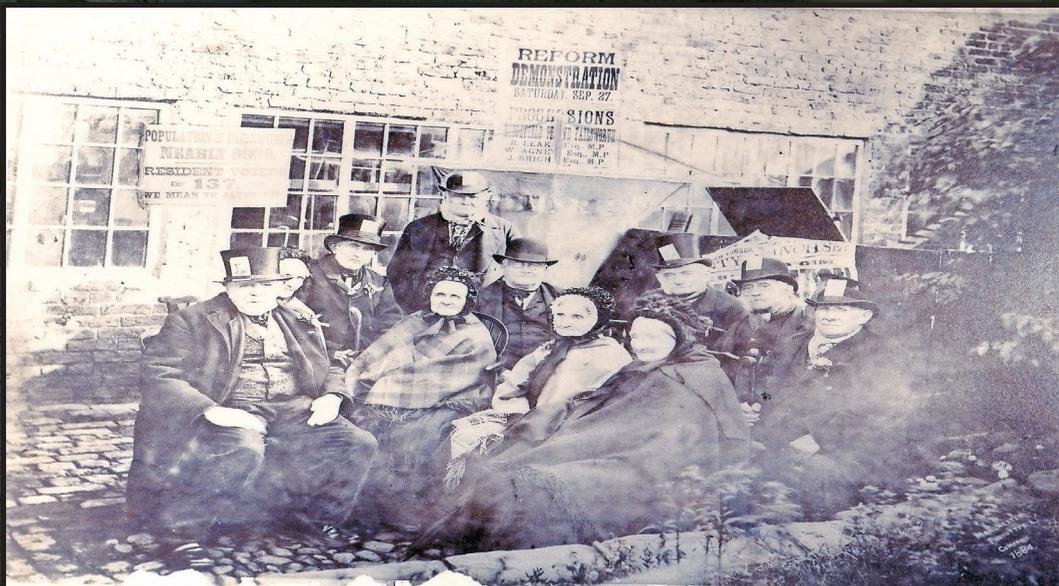
Many females appeared as the crowd opened; and striplings or mere youths also were found. Their cries were piteous and heart-rending, and would, one might have supposed, have disarmed any human resentment: but here their appeals were in vain.

In ten minutes from the commencement of the havoc the field was an open and almost deserted space. The sun looked down through a sultry and motionless air. The curtains and blinds of the windows within view were all closed.

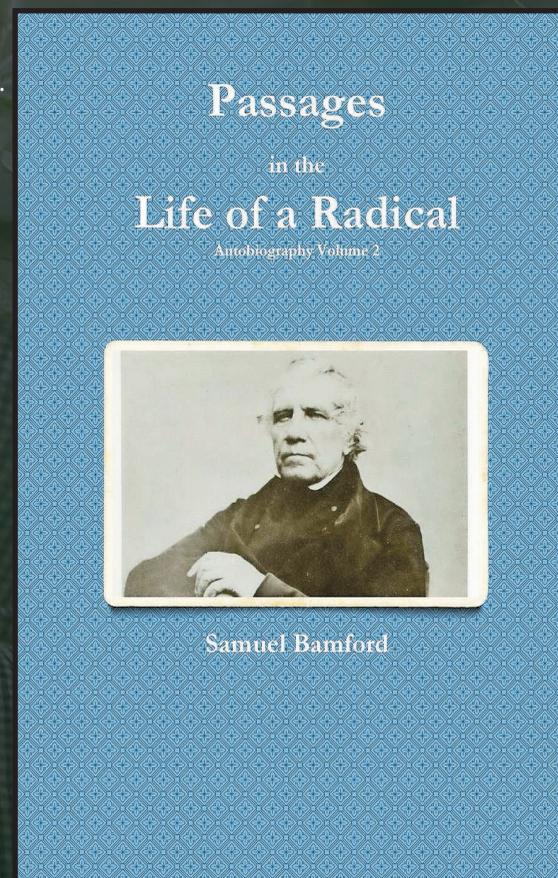
The hustings remained, with a few broken and hewed flag-staves erect, and a torn and gashed banner or two dropping; whilst over the whole field were strewn caps, bonnets, hats, shawls, and shoes, and other parts of male and female dress, trampled, torn, and bloody.

Several mounds of human being still remained where they had fallen, crushed down and smothered. Some of these still groaning, others with staring eyes, were gasping for breath, and others would never breathe more.

All was silent save those low sounds, and the occasional snorting and pawing of steeds.



Taken in September 1884, The picture shows a meeting of Peterloo 'veterans' in Failsworth, near Oldham, more than 60 years later. It shows 11 men and women gathered together in a courtyard surrounded by campaigning banners and posters.



"It was not until we became infested by spies, incendiaries, and their dupes – distracting, misleading, and betraying – that physical force was mentioned amongst us.

After that our moral power waned, and what we gained by the accession of demagogues, we lost by their criminal violence, and the estrangement of real friends."

By Samuel Bamford, 1788 - 1872.

## Victims of the Peterloo Massacre

The number of those killed and injured at Peterloo has never been established with certainty.

Sources claim 11–18 killed and 400–700 injured. The Manchester Relief Committee, a body set up to provide relief for the victims of Peterloo, gave the number of injured as 420, while Radical sources listed 500.

The true number is difficult to estimate, as many of the wounded hid their injuries for fear of retribution by the authorities.

A particular feature of the meeting at Peterloo was the number of women present. Female reform societies had been formed in North West England during June and July 1819, the first in Britain. Many of the women were dressed distinctively in white, and some formed all-female contingents, carrying their own flags.

Of the recorded casualties, at least 168 were women, four of whom died either at St Peter's Field or later as a result of their wounds.

There are claims that the women were especially targeted, a view apparently supported by the large number who suffered from wounds caused by weapons.



### John Ashton (Chadderton, Oldham)

Sabred and trampled on by crowd

Carried the black flag of the Saddleworth, Lees and Mossley Union, inscribed "Taxation without representation is unjust and tyrannical. NO CORN LAWS". The inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death. His son, Samuel, received 20 shillings in relief.

### John Ashworth (Bulls Head, Manchester)

Sabred and trampled

Ashworth was a Special Constable, presumably attacked unintentionally by the cavalry.

### William Bradshaw (Bury)

Suffered a severe sabre cut to his head and trampling by the Yeomanry.

### Thomas Buckley (Chadderton, Oldham)

Sabred and stabbed by bayonet

### Robert Campbell (Salford)

Killed by a mob in Newton Lane, Campbell was a Special Constable.

### James Crompton (Barton-upon-Irwell)

Trampled on by the cavalry.



## Edmund Dawson (Saddleworth)

Died of sabre wounds to the head on the field. He was in possession of a pole carrying a cap of liberty. Died in Manchester Royal Infirmary.

## William Dawson (Saddleworth)

Sabred, crushed and killed on the spot.

## Margaret Downes (Manchester)

Sabred.

## William Evans (Hulme, Manchester)

Trampled by cavalry, Evans was a Special Constable.

## William Fildes (Manchester)

Ridden over by cavalry.

Two years old Son of Ann Fildes, he was the first victim of the massacre. His mother was carrying him across the road on Cooper Street when she was struck by a trooper of the Manchester Yeomanry, Trampled by a cavalry horse.

## Mary Heys (Oxford Rd, Manchester)

Ridden over by cavalry, Her foot was stripped of the flesh and great toe nails.

Mother of six children, and pregnant at the time of the meeting. Disabled and suffering from almost daily fits following her injuries, the premature birth of her seven-month-old child resulted in her death.

## Sarah Jones (Salford)

Beaten on the head by a Special Constable's truncheon on the field.

Mother of seven children, identified Thomas Wordsworth (or Woodworth), a Special Constable, of Newton Lane as her assailant. £4 received in relief.

## John Lees (Oldham)

Sabred.

Lees was an ex-soldier who had fought in the Battle of Waterloo.

## Arthur Neil (Manchester)

Beaten on the field by the Constables' truncheons and trampled by the crowd; breast bruised, and internally injured.

## Martha Partington (Eccles)

Thrown into a cellar in Bridge Street by pressure of the crowd. Died on the spot. Husband received £5 in relief.

## John Rhodes (Hopwood, Rochdale)

Sabre wound to the head by which he lost much blood. Dreadfully crushed in the body.

Rhodes's body was dissected by order of magistrates who wished to prove that his death was not a result of Peterloo. The coroner's inquest found that he had died from natural causes.

## Josheph Whitworth (Stockport)

Killed by a musket ball to the head in Ancoats Street, New Cross.



1819 - 2019 Peterloo Massacre Bi:Centenary  
**MARCH for DEMOCRACY**

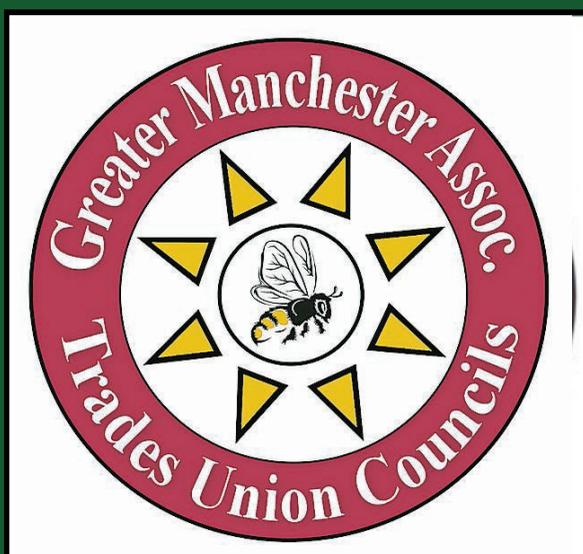
Sunday 18th AUGUST 2019  
 Rally in Albert Square from 1.00pm

Assemble at any of the 10 locations close to central Manchester  
 from 11.30am onwards - Move off at 12.00 noon

Please contact:  
 Stephen Hall on 07724 139278 (stephen.hall@gmail.com) or  
 Stefan Cholewka on 07901 913698 (stefan.cholewka@btinternet.com) or  
 Alan Davies on 07958 158080 (daviesjamesalan@hotmail.co.uk)  
 for details of which assembly point is closest to you or see our website @

**PETERLOODEMOCRACY.COM**

SPEAKERS FROM A RANGE OF ORGANISATIONS + LIVE ENTERTAINMENT + CELEBRITY APPEARANCES  
 Event ends at 4.00pm - Family Friendly



ISSN 2398-5704

Designed by DA & Hudson A Jepson  
 Thank You to Stephen Hall

The 'Mask of Anarchy' is an ethical conundrum. It was inspired by the 'Peterloo Massacre' on the 16th August 1819.

XXXVII

'Men of England, heirs of Glory,  
 Heroes of unwritten story  
 Nurslings of one mighty Mother,  
 Hopes of her, and one another;

XXXVIII

'Rise like Lions after slumber  
 In unvanquishable number,  
 Shake your chains to earth like dew  
 Which in sleep had fallen on you -  
 Ye are many - they are few!

The word newspaper first started in October of 2015 when some of us in Greater Manchester realised that to achieve a Labour Government that delivers a left wing agenda we needed a balanced media. We managed to print the first edition of The Word in July of 2016. This was crowdfunded and consists of the following ideals.

That we produce a newspaper which is a popular left of centre tabloid daily that is available in shops and is a readable and enjoyable by those of any political persuasion. That the prime function of the newspaper is to inform and to be unafraid of telling the truth

There are many other places where political polemics and long boring diatribes are available and we who produce the Word already know the basics otherwise we would not be here. Even the name, THE WORD, was chosen by an extensive debate and vote.

The many working together can defeat the few.

Please join us. To donate, subscribe or contribute:

**WORD** www.thewordmedia.co.uk