

OPUS INDEPENDENTS PRESENTS

FESTIVAL OF DEBATE

MARCH & APRIL 2015

FESTIVALOFDEBATE.COM | @FESTOFDEBATE | #FofD

WHAT IS FESTIVAL OF DEBATE?

Sheffield is an active and engaged city. In the past it has been instrumental in national politics, due in part to its manufacturing heritage, key political figures and its status as a university city.

Our society is facing a host of issues which affect everyone. Informed decision making and strategic planning are required. If this is to be done in a way that is democratic and for the good of the majority then these issues need to be publically debated and an informed consensus reached.

The Festival of Debate will take place in Sheffield in the run-up to the General Election and consist of a series of panel discussions, debates, Q&As, artistic responses and keynote speaker events across March and April 2015.

This festival makes no claim to be representative of all the issues or viewpoints. We make no claim that this is a one-stop solutions shop and that all will be well after 7 May. We are just providing the opportunity for groups, organisations and individuals to get together over a range of issues and discuss them.

The success of this festival will depend on the willingness of people to attend events, voice their concerns, questions and suggestions for change. The Festival of Debate is here - the rest is up to you.

VOLUNTEERING

There are many ways for members of the public to get involved in the Festival of Debate, from attending events and taking part in discussions to volunteering their time to help run an event, promote the festival and much more. Volunteering is a good way to build skills, make connections and meet new people. Visit festivalofdebate.com and click 'Get Involved' if you're interested.

CONTACT

www.festivalofdebate.com | www.facebook.com/festivalofdebate
@FestOfDebate | #FofD | hello@festivalofdebate.com

TICKETS

Unless otherwise stated, all events are free to attend, but if possible please register via the appropriate Eventbrite link on the Festival of Debate website - festivalofdebate.com - so we can get an idea of numbers.

VENUES



UNION ST 18-22 Union Street, S1 2JP

Union Street is a place to meet, work and collaborate. It is Sheffield's first city centre co-working co-operative and, as Festival of Debate partners providing event space, we thought we'd give them an added mention. Union St has hotdesking space available from just £5 a day for up-and-coming social entrepreneurs and is a great community of artists and creatives. They are currently offering a one month free trial of the space. Check it out at union-st.org.

SU AUDITORIUM Sheffield Students' Union, S10 2TG

THEATRE DELICATESSEN 17 The Moor, S1 4PF

BANK ST ARTS 32-40 Bank Street, S1 2DS

SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL Pinstone Street, S1 2HH

SHEFFIELD CITY HALL Barker's Pool, S1 2JA

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH 60 Norfolk Street, S1 2JB

PLUG 14-16 Matilda Street, S1 4QD

SHAKESPEARES 146-148 Gibraltar Street, S3 8UB

SHEFFIELD BUSINESS SCHOOL Howard Street, S1 1WB

REGATHER WORKS 57-59 Club Garden Road, S11 8BU

THE CHURCH OF ST JAMES AND ST CHRISTOPHER Bellhouse Road, S5 0RB

TERMINUS CAFE 240 Low Edges Road, S8 7JB

THE HUB Hartley Brook Road, S5 0JF

MAPPIN HALL University of Sheffield, S1 3JD

SHOWROOM CINEMA 5 Paternoster Row, S1 2BX

MARCH EVENTS

CHASING ICE

Weds 4 March | 6pm | Union St

In association with Friends of the Earth

Released in 2012, this documentary film follows the journey of nature photographer James Bolog on his 'extreme ice survey'. Directed by Jeff Orlowski, it aims to publicise the severe effects of climate change.

WHAT IS FREEDOM? MARXISM AND LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Thurs 5 March | 7:30pm | Harrisons 1854

In association with Sheffield Workers Liberty

What is freedom under liberal democracy and who is it for? What is freedom of speech and do socialists mean the same thing by it as world leaders? With so much rhetoric from politicians across the world about free societies and human rights, this discussion will look at what value we place on liberal democracy around us and consider what freedom really means.

REPORTING PARLIAMENT

Thurs 5 March | 6-8pm | Mappin Hall

In association with Parliamentary Outreach

A panel discussion chaired by David Blunkett MP and journalists from print, radio and television on what it's like to report on the individuals and processes of Parliament. Featuring Times columnist and former MP, Matthew Parris. To book, contact Daniel Wood - wooddan@parliament.uk.

THE EARLY WOMEN MPS

Fri 6 March | 12-2pm | University of Sheffield

In association with Parliamentary Outreach

Join celebrated Parliament archivist Mari Takayanagi as she gives an insight into the extraordinary lives of the first female MPs. To book, contact Daniel Wood - wooddan@parliament.uk. Venue to be announced on the Festival of Debate website.

OPENING PARTY

Sat 7 March | 8pm | Devonshire Cat

Join us at the Dev Cat on Saturday 7 March for the official launch party of the Festival of Debate. There will be a pub quiz themed around politics, music with a political edge, and the festival ale, Why Not Give A Toss?, will be available at the bar.

MARCH EVENTS

NORTHERN ART FESTIVAL

Sat 7 March | 6-11pm | Theatre Delicatessen

In association with Charlotte and Tim

Charlotte and Tim present the Northern Art Festival, an evening of live entertainment from northern artists. With the General Election drawing near, what better time to ask our artists to respond to the current political landscape? A real variety of acts and drinks/refreshments available at the bar. More info at charlotteandtim.wordpress.com.

REGATHER ROAST

Sun 8 March | 1-5pm | Regather Works

In association with Regather

Serving up food for body and mind, the Regather Roast will offer a traditional three course Sunday roast of fresh, local produce - high welfare lamb, stuffed mushrooms and delicious organic vegetables - accompanied by a discussion led by Leon Ballin (Soil Association), who will explore the challenging question, 'Eating seasonally is good, isn't it?' Tickets £20. BYOB. Pre-booking essential at regather.net.



OWEN JONES: THE ESTABLISHMENT

Mon 9 March | 7:30pm | SU Auditorium

In association with Flash

Behind our democracy lurks a powerful but unaccountable network of people who wield massive power and reap huge profits in the process. Author, columnist and political commentator Owen Jones offers a biting critique of the British establishment and a passionate plea for democracy. Tickets £7.50 (£6 concs), available through Sheffield Students' Union box office and at su.sheffield.ac.uk.



SHAMI CHAKRABARTI: ON LIBERTY

Tues 10 March | 6:30pm | SU Auditorium

In association with The Exchange

As director of Liberty, the UK's most influential civil rights organisation, Shami Chakrabarti is a vocal advocate for civil rights and liberties. This talk will draw inspiration from her recent book, *On Liberty*, in which she warns of the threats that currently face our democratic institutions. Talk followed by a Q&A session and a book signing.

MARCH EVENTS



PECHAKUCHA SHEFFIELD #17 - PUT UP OR SHUT UP Thurs 12 March | 7:30pm | Theatre Delicatessen

We all know things aren't right and it's time to make a choice about what matters. It's not who we are underneath, but what we do that defines us. Come and find the inspiration for where to draw your line in the sand. Tickets at pknsheff17.eventbrite.com. £6 standing, £9 table, MOTD.

GASLAND 2

Weds 18 March | 6pm | Union St
In association with Friends of the Earth

Nominated for an Academy Award, Gasland 2 follows communities in the US affected by fracking. Written and directed by Josh Fox, Gasland 2 is the sequel to Gas Land following Fox's arrest.

GENERATION RENT DEBATE

Weds 18 March | 7-9pm | Theatre Delicatessen
In association with Student Voice

Should the private rented sector be regulated? Are we a generation of renters? What is the answer to high rents and poor accommodation? Political parties ahead of the election have made a number of promises to renters and first-time buyers. Do they go far enough or is regulation too much?

YOUR EUROPE: PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Thurs 19 March | 6-10pm | SU Auditorium
In association with The UK Race and Europe Network (UKREN)

A partnership of leading human rights defenders present an evening of inspiration on the importance of upholding human rights and freedoms, taking the voices of students and young adults through armchair interviews, music, film and spoken word. Stalls from a range of NGOs and food and drink available.

COOPERATIVES AND COOPERATIVE WORKING

Fri 20 March | 6-8pm | Sheffield Hallam University
(Stoddart Building, Room 7330)

What are cooperatives and what do they mean for the way we work? Dr Rory Ridley-Duff critiques UK perceptions of the cooperative movement using international studies in a presentation and interactive debate. Dr Ridley-Duff is a founder of the FairShares Association and course leader for the Cooperative and Social Enterprise Management MSc at Sheffield Hallam University.

MARCH EVENTS

INFOWOW W/ IDEOLOGICAL WARFARE

Fri 20 March | 7:30pm | Theatre Delicatessen
In association with AltComCab

Contemporary politics is a funless void of austerity measures, benefits rows and zero-hours contracts. To derive humour from this is to shriek petulantly into the face of the abyss. But sometimes comedians just need to play the hand they're given. InfoWow w/ Ideological Warfare will feature Chris Coltrane ("One of a handful of comedians who are the future of British political comedy" - Mark Thomas), Tiernan Douieb ("A perennial contender for the title of most affable person in comedy" - The Scotsman) and many more. £5 on the door.

SHEFFIELD PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AGAINST AUSTERITY

Weds 25 March | 7-9pm | Central United Reformed Church
In association with Sheffield People's Assembly

A public meeting with some local candidates for the General Election. Come along and seek their views and policies on public spending cuts and the consequences of austerity. Sheffield People's Assembly is a local, non-party political group belonging to the National People's Assembly Against Austerity.

THE PROBLEM WITH IMMIGRATION

Weds 25 March | 7pm | Union St

This election cycle's hot potato. Join us to frankly discuss the issues surrounding immigration and how best to tackle them together. An open discussion facilitated by Adam Clark, BSc (Hons), PGCE. A free event. See festivalofdebate.com for further details.

POLITICS OF THE STREET: WHY ARE THERE STILL PEOPLE ROUGH SLEEPING IN 2015?

Thurs 26 March | 3-5pm | Union St
In association with Big Issue in the North, SAVE and Roundabout

A discussion led by a panel and audience Q&A examines the issues facing people who sleep rough or are in temporary, unsuitable or vulnerable housing. We will also hear from people affected in this way about the actions they would like to see to address these issues, as well as ways to overcome barriers to political engagement.

CLIMATE CHANGE: SOLUTIONS TO INACTION

Thurs 26 March | 6:30pm | Union St

With the combined pressures of an increasing population, dwindling fossil fuels and the damaging effects of burning those fossil fuels on our climate, the need to move to a carbon-free economy is paramount for individuals, companies and governments alike. This talk will describe some solutions to reduce our carbon output, with a special guest keynote speaker to be confirmed.

MARCH EVENTS



WORD LIFE

Fri 27 March | 7:30pm | Shakespeares

Sheffield's leading live literature night returns for a politics special, featuring a headline set from Matt Black's Vote For Someone Campaign and a politically themed open mic. To sign up for the open mic, email wordlife@nowthenmagazine.com. Recommended donation of £5 on the door. All welcome.

PROF JOHN DRYZEK: THE DELIBERATIVE WORLD

Mon 30 March | 2-3:30pm | City Hall

In association with the Political Studies Association Annual Conference and The Crick Centre

A discussion of cutting-edge academic research on 'deliberative democracy', which argues that democratic legitimacy is to be found in authentic deliberation among those affected by a collective decision. Prof John Dryzek will discuss the implications of this idea for how we understand and practice politics. Free entry, but please register your attendance at festivalofdebate.com.

MAKING IMMIGRATION WORK

Mon 30 March | 5:45-7pm | Town Hall (Mandela Room)

In association with the Political Studies Association Annual Conference and The Crick Centre

Professor Randall Hansen from the University of Toronto talks on the theme of 'Making Immigration Work: How Britain and Europe Can Overcome Their Immigration Crises'. Organised in association with the Political Studies Association Annual Conference and hosted by the Crick Centre. Free entry, but please register your attendance at festivalofdebate.com.

DISCUSSING THE GENERAL ELECTION

Tues 31 March | 11am-12:30pm | City Hall

In association with the Political Studies Association Annual Conference and The Crick Centre

Academic experts Professor John Curtice and Dr Robert Ford discuss the forthcoming General Election. Members of the public have the chance to hear about the prospects for each party, the possibility of a hung parliament and the likely state of politics after May 2015. Free entry, but please register your attendance at festivalofdebate.com.

APRIL EVENTS

FAIRNESS ON THE 83

Throughout April | Showroom Cinema

In 2013 an independent report found that life expectancy changes by up to ten years across Sheffield's 83 bus route, which links Millhouses in the south with Ecclesfield in the North. Fairness on the 83 is a film and photography project mapping the city and talking to members of the public about fairness and inequality in Sheffield. A selection of photos from the project will be on display at the Showroom throughout April and video interviews are online at nowthenmagazine.com/fairnessonthe83.

SAVING THE NHS: WHY MONEY ISN'T ENOUGH

Weds 1 April | 7pm | Central United Reformed Church

The NHS is in crisis, but the problem isn't only due to lack of funding. Jillian Creasy has worked as a GP in Sheffield for 25 years and has been a city councillor for ten years. She will lead a discussion about the changes which are needed to improve health and health care, as well as reducing demand.



DEVOLUTION DEBATE

Weds 8 Apr | 7:30pm | Central United Reformed Church

In association with Nigel Slack, Active Citizen

Devolution and Sheffield - how far should it go? A discussion with public questions looking at the impact of devolution on the city. What do we want and what might we get? A panel of politicians, including Paul Blomfield MP and Green Councillor Jillian Creasy, community activists and academics talking about and fielding questions on one of the hot topics of the General Election campaign.

STREETFILMS: INSPIRATION FOR A MORE LIVEABLE SHEFFIELD

Thurs 9 April | 6-8pm | Union St

In association with Cycle Sheffield

Streetfilms produces short films showing how smart transportation design and policy can result in better places to live, work and play. What lessons can Sheffield learn from other world cities which are embracing public space, living streets and alternatives to the car? An evening of Streetfilms followed by a panel session and discussion hosted by Cycle Sheffield.

APRIL EVENTS

Photo by William Murphy



THE ALTERNATIVES TO AUSTERITY

Sat 11 Apr | 7-9pm | Union St

We've been presented austerity as though there is no alternative. But austerity has failed and there are many alternatives. This open discussion brings together a panel of experts to explore alternatives to austerity which would benefit the whole population, rather than the richest few, whilst helping our economy become more sustainable and debt free. Audience members will also be invited to contribute suggestions before voting on their top ten policy ideas.

HOW TO BE AN ACTIVE CITIZEN

Mon 13 Apr | 7pm | Union St

For the past two years, active citizen Nigel Slack has been on a mission to find out how decisions are made at Sheffield City Council – who has the power, what they do with it, and how we, as citizens, can influence their decisions. Join Nigel for a conversation about his work and methods and to discover how you can be a more active Sheffield citizen.

COMMUNITY MEDIA: INDEPENDENT, LOCAL, ALTERNATIVE

Tues 14 April | 7.30-9pm | Union St

Independently-owned media is a vital platform for people to share and discuss ideas, voice concerns and connect with their community in a deeper and more meaningful way. Join this roundtable discussion about the importance of independent media to the city, with representatives from Now Then, SilenceBreaker Media, Sheffield Live and more TBC.

COMMON PEOPLE: PUBLIC SERVICES, SPACES AND PROGRESS

Weds 15 April | 6pm | Union St

In a country with one of the largest populations of billionaires alongside the growing need for food banks, the question of how we reclaim public spaces and services remains open. In this panel session the speakers reflect on this context and offer ideas for ways forward to promote greater equality and social inclusion.

COST OF LIVING DEBATE

Weds 15 April | 7-9pm | Theatre Delicatessen

In association with Student Voice

Is there a cost of living crisis? With households bills rising and many people earning below the living wage, we're asking how a future government should tackle rising living costs. Should public transport fares be regulated? Should people have to rely on food banks or is this crisis political hype?

APRIL EVENTS

CIVIC CAPITALISM BOOK LAUNCH

Thurs 16 April | 6pm | Town Hall (Mandela Room)

In association with SPERI

Civic Capitalism is a book by Professors Colin Hay and Tony Payne, co-directors of Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute (SPERI), published by Polity Press in March. This book launch will be introduced by Ed Cox, director of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) North, after which both Colin and Tony will highlight some of the themes of the book.

EH, HOW DO WE EXPRESS THE VALUE OF CULTURE?

Thurs 16 April | 6pm | Bank Street Arts

In association with What Next? Sheffield and BBC Get Creative

A public debate and discussion which invites speakers from outside the arts sector to address the question of how we articulate the value of arts and culture. Add your voice to a national dialogue. Tickets free but limited. Email malaika@thebareproject.org to book.



GEORGE MONBIOT

16 April | 7pm | SU Auditorium

An award-winning author and investigative journalist, George Monbiot's writing spans topics such as the environment, political corruption and corporate misdeeds. A tireless campaigner, advocate for human rights and never one to shy away from a controversial topic. Tickets £7.50 (£6 concs) from su.sheffield.ac.uk.

DEVOLUTION WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM POLITICIANS

Sat 18 April | 2-4pm | Union St

In association with Hannah Festival

There is a new enthusiasm for devolution to local government, but ordinary people can't yet see how to make it happen. In this workshop we will listen to each other, talk and come up with ideas to start 'doing devolution' from the bottom up as soon as we walk out of the room.

SATURDAY LIVE: POLITICS

Sat 18 April | 7-11pm | Bank Street Arts

In association with The Bare Project

A new scratch night which incorporates spoken word, live art, music and theatre, hosted by Sheffield-based theatre company The Bare Project April's Saturday Live is themed 'Politics'. Come and itch a scratch! Tickets £3, available at thebareproject.me.

APRIL EVENTS



CANVAS OF VOICES

Mon 20 April | 5:30-7:30pm

The Church Of St James and St Christopher

Tues 21 Apr | 5:30-7:30pm | Terminus Cafe

In association with Ignite Imaginations

A short film by Gemma Thorpe, Canvas of Voices is about young people in Sheffield and their engagement in politics. Followed by a chaired debate about the topic. Have your say!

ANIMAL FARM

21-25 Apr | 7:45pm | Theatre Delicatessen

In association with Open Door Theatre Company

With many commentators predicting the closest election in years and fringe parties possibly holding the keys to power, revisiting the polemic of Orwell's masterpiece Animal Farm seems appropriate. Tickets on the door - £8/£7 concessions/£12 family (2 adults, 2 children). Additional matinee (4pm) on 25 April.

BANKS, DEBT AND INEQUALITY

Weds 22 April | 7-8:30pm | Union St

In association with Positive Money

97% of our money supply is created by banks and loaned to us at interest. But what is money anyway? How does our money system cause inequality and can we ever escape our dependence on debt? Positive Money is a campaign to democratise money and banking so that it works for society and not against it. Hosted by Peter Verity, co-ordinator of the Sheffield group of Positive Money supporters.

CITIZENSHIP, SEX AND DEMOCRACY DEBATE

Fri 24 April | 4-6pm | Sheffield College

In association with Student Voice

Young people's engagement with politics is declining, but is citizenship education and votes at 16 the answer? Should schools and colleges deliver sexual relationship education? Political parties are divided. Where do you stand?

SHEFFIELD'S MANIFESTO FOR A FEMINIST GOVERNMENT

Sat 25 April | 1-3pm | Theatre Delicatessen

With inequality, sexism and violence a part of so many women's lives, Sheffield's Feminist Manifesto is a chance to create a list of demands for a government to inspire, liberate and find solutions to these problems. The meeting will conclude with the writing of a manifesto drawn together from your contributions and presented to all those wanting your vote on 7 May.

APRIL EVENTS

DO I HAVE A VOICE?

Mon 27 Apr | 3-5pm | The Hub, Shiregreen

Tues 28 Apr | 5:30-7:30pm | Terminus Cafe

In association with Ignite Imaginations

How do you express yourself? When do you use your voice? How does art, Facebook or the press play a role? A creative workshop developing a group collage that will reflect the discussion and debate. Free but registration encouraged - 0114 268 6813 or admin@igniteimagination.org.uk



CLOSING PARTY FEAT. AKALA

Thurs 30 Apr | 7:30pm | Plug

Akala is an award-winning rapper, poet and journalist. Come and celebrate the conclusion of the Festival of Debate with socially conscious hip hop which isn't afraid to tackle issues of class, society and politics head on. Tickets £10 from www.the-plug.com.

THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

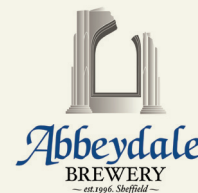
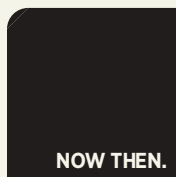
WHY NOT GIVE A TOSS? The good folk at Abbeydale Brewery have made an ale especially for the Festival of Debate. Why Not Give A Toss? is a pale, blonde 4% session beer made with Cluster and Galena hops. A distinct earthy and grassy, pine aroma leading to a sweet, dark berry fruit flavour with hints of peach. Served at all reputable establishments in March.

VOTER REGISTRATION SilenceBreaker Media will host a range of mobile voter registration points across Sheffield and South Yorkshire, but will also be operating a registration station at their base, the SBm Hub, at 1 Bowling Green Street, S3 8SU. You can register yourself at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Don't forget, the final registration deadline is Monday 20 April.

UNION ST DROP-INS During the festival there will be informal drop-in sessions at Union St. These sessions aim to host informal discussions around any topic suggested by members of the public. All are welcome. We will also have computers and guidance available for online voter registration, as well as access to policy orientated websites like VoteForPolicies.org.uk. Dates: Sat 14 Mar (10-3pm), Tues 24 Mar (10-1pm), Mon 6 Apr (10-1), Sat 11 Apr (1-3).

PARTNERS

THE FESTIVAL OF DEBATE COULD NOT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY AND COMMITMENT OF MANY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ACROSS SHEFFIELD AND BEYOND. WE ARE HUGE APPRECIATIVE OF THEIR SUPPORT, PASSION AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE FESTIVAL. PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE LOGOS BELOW. THESE PEOPLE DO GREAT WORK FOR YOUR CITY.



Evolutionprint



LOTTERY FUNDED



Sheffield
Students'
Union



Cycle Sheffield
Love Both



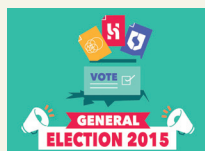
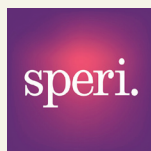
SHOWROOM
WORKSTATION
SHEFFIELD



PositiveMoney



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
OUTREACH SERVICE



The Crick Centre
Understanding Politics



Keep It Real!



www.evolutionprint.co.uk 2015

We also print placards

WHY NOT GIVE A TOSS?

LIGHT. PALE. HOPPY. ABV 4%

A pale, blonde session beer made with Cluster and Galena hops. A distinct earthy and grassy, pine aroma leading to a sweet, dark berry fruit flavour with hints of peach.

Served at all reputable establishments from March.



Abbeydale
BREWERY
— est. 1996, Sheffield —

