

## Programme - Radical History Zone @ The Bristol Anarchist Bookfair (upper floor)

### RHZ stalls

Bloom n Curll Bookshop; Breviary Stuff Publications; Bristol Radical History Group; Just Seeds (New York); Living Easton; Long John Silver Trust & Fiducia; Northern Voices (Northern anarchist network); Past Tense Press; Richard Hart; Tangent Books.

### Meetings & Workshops

#### **11 - 12.00noon: 'Every Cook Can Govern': From Athens to the Electoral Lottery**

*by Dan Bennett (BRHG)*

Cheerleaders for parliamentary democracy often hark back to semi-legendary 'golden ages' as a foundation of the modern electoral process. Do these myths have any basis in reality & what relevance do they have today? Bennett uncovers the hidden history of Athenian popular democracy and proposes a modern alternative.

#### **12 -1: Doing Radical History**

*by Lord Twankum and Bristol Radical History Group*

The recent resurgence in 'doing radical history' includes researching, writing and speaking to provocative recreations, media stunts and interventions in civic debates. South London Radical History group were pioneers in this process, and with our own Bristol 'mob' will survey the ideas and experiences of the 'new wave'.

#### **1 - 2: Directional Discourse and Counter-History**

*by John Desmond*

Desmond's concept of directional discourse might interest radical historians for two reasons. It incorporates the two concepts of ascending discourse and counter-history. And it produced the challenge: 'Is undertaking counter-history preferable to undertaking radical history?', which he will only have time to float.

#### **2 - 3: Do It Yourself Publishing**

*by Richard Jones (Tangent Books), Randall Brantley (Bristol Radical Pamphleteer), Alex (Past Tense Press), Paul Mangan (Breviary Stuff Publications)*

Panel of experienced independent publishers discusses the ins and outs of producing history texts from short-run reprinting, running a small publishing outfit to the revival of the 'radical history pamphlet'. So if you want to knock stuff out come and find out how to 'do it yourself'.

#### **3 - 4: Pamphlet Launch: 'Anarchism in Bristol and the West Country to 1950'**

*by Steve Hunt (BRHG)*

Hunt looks at home-grown anarchism, with its roots in a tradition of West Country radicalism. Many colourful and inspiring characters believing in 'The Cause' were here. So let's put on our black cloaks and wide-brimmed flowerpot hats and wander down to the coffeehouses of 1880s Bristol to see who was around.

#### **4 - 5: 'Drowning on Dry Land': Swansea's Jack Kerouac**

*by Ray Jones (author of 'Drowning on Dry Land'), with an intro by Ian Bone*

From working-class Wales through drugs, gambling and prison to punk, Paris fashion houses and San Francisco's underground. Jones, editor of the notorious 'Roughler' magazine, recounts his surreal life. If chatting up Marianne Faithfull and rat arsing it with Keith Moon & Joe Strummer takes your fancy, then Ray's yer man.

#### **5 - 6: 'The Atmosphere of Heaven': Dr. Beddoes and revolutionary Bristol**

*by Mike Jay (author of 'The Atmosphere of Heaven: The Unnatural Experiments of Dr Beddoes and his Sons of Genius')*

Beddoes (1760-1808), fervent humanitarian & chemist, was inspired by the heady ideals of the French Revolution and the wonders of Nitrous Oxide gas. In Bristol he gathered a dazzling circle of like-minded artists & scientists, who created a grand vision of providing free healthcare to the poor of the south-west.