



PETERLOO1819.CO.UK
#PETERLOO2019



PRESS RELEASE

March 2019

Launch of Peterloo1819.co.uk

Peterloo 2019 • 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre



A new website, Peterloo1819.co.uk, has been launched that will interactively explore the events and legacy of the **Peterloo Massacre** 200 years after this watershed moment in Britain's democracy. Using detailed **3D imagery** the user is placed in **St Peter's Field** so that they can see how events unfolded when 60,000 people gathered in **Manchester** on **16 August 1819** seeking rights and representation.

Timelines enable the user to navigate the months, days and hours ahead of the tragic events that were to take place, in which 18 people would lose their lives and around 700 would be injured when troops, including local yeomanry, charged the crowd. Why did people gather in such numbers? Who were the protestors? What actions did the authorities take? How did people lose their lives? What happened afterwards? These are all questions that Peterloo1819.co.uk helps the user to explore and understand.

The website is part of a project, **Peterloo 2019**, being delivered by **Manchester Histories** with the support of **The National Lottery Heritage Fund** to mark the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre.

Karen Shannon, Chief Executive of Manchester Histories, says, "There is a huge amount for us to learn from about the events that were to lead to Peterloo; how a peaceful protest was to end in a day of bloodshed and the consequences that were to follow. Yet awareness levels of this milestone in our democracy are still relatively low,

even within Greater Manchester. The website that we've created will help to connect people to this history and to understand why it has such relevance to our lives today.

Peterloo1819.co.uk delivers a highly visual and engaging experience thanks to the combined work of brand and creative agency **Dinosaur**, which has designed and built the site, animator **Neil Millington**, who has produced the 3D photospheres, and **Professor Robert Poole**, who has provided all of the historical guidance and expertise."

Historian Professor Robert Poole says, "The website gives us for the first time a view of what it would be like stood on St Peter's Field. Not only that, but we can explore this world and the stories of those that were there on 16 August 1819 through the graphic recreations, which are a revelation."

Peterloo1819.co.uk will be the go-to place to find out about all the **community, cultural and heritage events** happening across Greater Manchester as the 200th anniversary of Peterloo is marked with exhibitions, art installations, walks, music events and much more. Users will also be able to download the **learning resources** that are being created for children of primary and secondary school age as part of Peterloo 2019, in partnership with People's History Museum and British Council. Alongside this there will be archive materials, feature articles, blogs and links to social media channels.

Rich in resources, the website will not only be an invaluable way of accessing information relating to the 200th anniversary, it will also create an **archive of content and materials** for future generations to use.

Frank Fenten, Digital Director for Dinosaur, says, "Our challenge was to make the events of 1819 relevant to an audience that includes those raised on computer games and CGI-heavy films. To create a rich, immersive, experience we drew heavily on gaming techniques, storytelling and interface design to tell the story of what happened. Working alongside a historian and a 3D artist, we painstakingly reconstructed the events of the day and delivered this as an interactive that works on several levels. On one level, it's a straight linear story, on another, you can dive into over a hundred hotspots to explore in much greater detail."

Peterloo 2019 features public events, learning opportunities and creative exploration developed through partnership work amongst cultural organisations and communities, led by Manchester Histories and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Visit Peterloo1819.co.uk for further information.

ENDS

A selection of images taken from Peterloo1819.co.uk can be found here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xgocsambo2oeakb/AACxGIMvMSzL_cUP-MjELKMya?dl=0

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Notes to editors

The Peterloo Massacre was a watershed moment that would mark Manchester as a radical city like no other and become a defining moment for Britain's democracy. On Monday 16 August 1819, a 60,000-strong crowd walked to the meeting point at St Peter's Field in Central Manchester from as far afield as Wigan, Rochdale, Saddleworth and Altrincham to call for parliamentary representation. Shortly after the meeting began and whilst the orator Henry Hunt was making his address, local government forces charged into the crowd on horseback and with swords drawn. Around 700 people were injured and 18 men, women and children would lose their lives.

About Peterloo 2019

Peterloo 2019 is a project that is led by Manchester Histories and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Working with key cultural organisations and communities across Greater Manchester it is delivering a programme of activity that combines public events, learning opportunities and creative exploration.

For further information: Peterloo1819.co.uk

About Manchester Histories

Manchester Histories is a growing and dynamic charity. We work collaboratively with people, organisations and partners to reveal and celebrate the stories of the people and places that make up Greater Manchester. We connect people together to explore the past and shape the future through histories and heritage. Manchester Histories runs a yearlong programme of work as well as the magnificent Manchester Histories Festival.

For further information: ManchesterHistories.co.uk

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

Thanks to National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about – from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. heritagefund.org.uk. Follow NLHF on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund.

About Dinosaur

Owned and led by chief creative officer, Mark Beaumont, Dinosaur is a brand communications and creative agency in Manchester delivering data-led and emotionally-driven thinking that fuels growth. The independently owned agency has worked with retail giant Co-op Food for over a decade and counts BUPA, The Co-operative Bank, Brother, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and Metrolink among its clients. Notable campaigns include its award-winning work for Adidas, Pets at Home and Wagamama.

Peterloo 2019 partners

