

**Press release September 2019**

**Peterloo Learning Resources for young people go live**

“*Hidden histories, like the Peterloo Massacre, are significant moments that have shaped contemporary Britain as we know it. Future generations need to know this”*

**Mike Leigh, Director of *Peterloo***

A learning programme that will enable young people to explore what happened at the Peterloo Massacre in 1819 and its role in the evolution of British democracy has today (Monday 23 September) been launched. The **Peterloo Learning Resources** are an important part of the legacy of the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre, which has been commemorated throughout 2019.

**Mike Leigh, Director of *Peterloo****,* says, “I am delighted that the new Peterloo Learning Resources have been produced. It's really important that children and young people are taught about social and radical history in our schools and in any educational or community setting. Hidden histories, like the Peterloo Massacre, are significant moments that have shaped contemporary Britain as we know it. Future generations need to know this. The new learning resources will help to ensure that we never forget what happened on that fateful day of 16th August 1819.”

Despite the magnitude and impact of the Peterloo Massacre, awareness levels of the events, in which a peaceful protest for reform led to bloodshed and loss of life, have remained low. The Peterloo Learning Resources have been created to ensure that Peterloo is not a hidden history with a free set of learning tools created for both primary and secondary students for activities based upon history and citizenship. Young people will gain both a greater understanding of the significance and place in history of the Peterloo Massacre, as well as a connectivity to politics and their own role as active socially aware citizens.

**Karen Shannon, CEO of Manchester Histories**, says, “We’re really proud of the Peterloo Learning Resources, which have been created alongside historians, teachers and students to ensure they are rich in both historical material, but also in contemporary relevance. The themes of freedom of speech, democracy and protest that flow through them are themes that will resonate with, and empower, young people.”

**Lucy Powell, MP for Manchester Central**, says, “The Peterloo Massacre changed people’s rights in our country. The changes set in motion 200 years ago directly influences how we live our lives today. And it happened right here in Manchester. Before Peterloo there were no MPs in Manchester, now there are 27 across Greater Manchester. It’s important our children learn about this part of our history. I hope these resources will provide a sense of local history in the Greater Manchester area, and more widely will contribute to the understanding of how a significant past event shaped the way Parliament works today.”

The resources are designed to fit within the National Curriculum for those studying at Key Stage 2 (primary) and Key Stage 3 (secondary). Within them are colourful introductions and activities so that young people can gain an insight into life 200 years ago and why people felt the need to protest, through to life today. The link between what can be learnt from the past and the role of protest in the ongoing fight for equality is there for young people to imaginatively explore and relate to the world today.

The creation of the Peterloo Learning Resources has been led by **Manchester Histories** and **People’s History Museum** as part of the **Peterloo 2019** project, which has delivered a Peterloo programme of activities working alongside communities, individuals and cultural organisations. The Peterloo Learning Resources are supported by **The National Lottery Heritage Fund**, **Historic England** and **UK Parliament Education and Engagement Service** and have been co-designed with **The Politics Project**.

**Failinge Park High School** in Rochdale and **St Thomas Werneth Primary** in Oldham have particularly supported the work that’s gone into the creation of the Peterloo Learning Resources. Working class youth campaign organisation **RECLAIM** has worked with artists to create an inspiring film that captures the story and spirit of Peterloo, with the resources including a guide for young people to create their own stop motion animation.

The Peterloo Learning Resources are freely available to all and can be downloaded via [www.peterloo1819.co.uk/learn/learning-resources/](https://peterloo1819.co.uk/learn/learning-resources/) They include lesson plans, worksheets, assembly introductions and notes for teachers.

For further information about Peterloo 2019 visit [www.Peterloo1819.co.uk](http://Peterloo1819.co.uk)

**ENDS**

**For further information please contact Fido PR:**

[laura.sullivan@fidopr.co.uk](mailto:laura.sullivan@fidopr.co.uk) / [clare.short@fidopr.co.uk](mailto:clare.short@fidopr.co.uk) 0161 832 3588

A selection of images can be found here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/72ttb4axl8itsgv/AADwNse3PWVh1S0jt_q_0mhja?dl=0>

**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, injuring around 700 and killing 18 men, women and children.

**About Peterloo 2019**

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

For further information: [Peterloo1819.co.uk](http://www.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](http://www.ManchesterHistories.co.uk)

**About People’s History Museum (PHM)**

People’s History Museum (PHM) in Manchester is the national museum of democracy, telling the story of its development in Britain: past, present, and future.  The museum provides opportunities for people of all ages to learn about, be inspired by and get involved in ideas worth fighting for; ideas such as equality, social justice, co-operation, and a fair world for all.  PHM offers a powerful programme with annual themes; 2018 looked at representation and commemorated 100 years since the first women and all men won the right to vote in Britain, 2019 sees a year of activities around protest movements to mark the bicentenary of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester, and the programme for 2020 will be on the theme of migration and identity. Recent winner of Kids in Museums Family Friendly Museum Award.

For further information: [phm.org.uk](http://www.phm.org.uk)

**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](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/).  Follow NLHF on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/HeritageFundUK), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HeritageFundUK/) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/HeritageFundUK/?hl=en) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund.

**About The Politics Project**

The Politics Project specialises in supporting young people to use their voice by providing them with democratic education. They specialise in digital democracy, supporting young people and teachers to use digital tools to learn, teach and engage. They deliver workshops to young people and train teachers using variety of dynamic techniques, resources and events.

For further information: [ThePoliticsProject.org.uk](https://thepoliticsproject.org.uk)

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