

Illegal Picnic

As with most of our previous PMC commemorations, this year's *Illegal Picnic* will be a low budget, grass roots, radical event with theatrical flourishes and no gloss. Over the years we've enticed performers, campaigners, historians, Peterloo enthusiasts, artists, musicians, writers, and as many local community outreach and campaign groups that we can engage, out of the woodwork to participate in a variety of mass participation theatre/art collaborations. This year we get to the heart of the matter by continuing the work of the Peterloo Reformers through direct, peaceful action to reform and strengthen democratic practices.

While the event will be centred around serious political action, the atmosphere will be light-hearted and festive with live entertainment and down-to-earth northern humour.

The Democratic Marketplace

Come 4pm on the 17th August the Six Acts poll will go live for public submissions and voting. At this point, our campaigners will take centre stage and attention will be drawn to the stalls in our *Democratic Marketplace*.

The stalls, which will be a major feature of the *Illegal Picnic*, will be run by campaigners such as yourselves, and will be dedicated to the promotion of democratic reform. We look forward to meeting you, and having you on-hand to provide your insight, imagination and ideas. Your participation in the event will add greatly to the quality of information being shared and the experience of the attendees. Likewise, we hope this will be a valuable opportunity for your organisation to connect with the public, the press and each other.

The afternoon will be fast-paced and frenetic as stall holders compete for the attention of the milling crowd. We will provide soapboxes if you wish to address the audience hustings-style, but this will be entirely up to yourselves and we will let you decide the approach you wish to take in communicating your reform proposals to the public... But most importantly we want to keep the focus on innovations and improvements to the quality of democracy and keep all political party propaganda or other ideological agendas out of it, so that the only 'trade' that will take place in our *Democratic Marketplace* will be in the form of information, ideas and knowledge.

Reserving a stall

Stalls will be *free to our first 12 organisations*. These will include a table, 2 chairs and a soapbox. Once we have secured our 12 key organisations, stalls will be £10 thereafter. Please email eva_schlunke@hotmail.com to reserve a stall or for any other enquiries regarding site facilities.

We are looking into having some gazebos on hand should the weather look threatening, and these will be prioritised for stall holders who need to travel light. We will do what we can to make these either free or as affordable as possible. Please let us know in advance if you will be travelling a significant distance to Manchester and if you would like us to reserve a gazebo for you.

There will be no power on stalls, so please make sure your devices are well-charged before arriving on site. We will look into emergency charge possibilities, but best to expect none.

We appreciate your understanding and patience. We are an unfunded group of mostly freelance individuals who work together collaboratively, relying on the skills, owed-favours and connections of our team members, fuelled by the thrill of attempting (and often pulling off) wacky and daring endeavours.