


BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

16-21 May 2005

creative
Bristol

A Strategic Initiative in Creative





CHALLENGE PROVOKE LEARN

Successful cities are driven by good ideas: ideas that promote economic prosperity, ideas that increase and extend knowledge, and ideas that create happiness and a better quality of life for all. Successful cities are also mature cities, welcoming debate and promoting tolerance.

Bristol is a city of good ideas. Whether it be cultural activity and the creative industries which find their home here; the recent designation of Bristol as a Science City; the work in our universities; the growth of partnerships between public and private sectors; the pioneering work in cultural development; or the exciting arts and media work now being developed in places as diverse as At-Bristol, Knowle West Media Project and Watershed Media Centre, Bristol embraces ideas.

In 2005 we celebrate, through the Creative Bristol initiative, the creative people of the city. Next year, we celebrate the life and work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and will use that year as a springboard to creating the Brunels of the future. In these two years, and in all our work, we want to build a prosperous economy and society based upon creativity, innovation and creative people and teams.

The Festival of Ideas aims to provide opportunities for debate. Our first festival has sessions on arts management and cultural planning in the twenty-first century; the potential offered by Brunel 200; happiness in life and work; and building prosperous economies, as well as debates and conversations on making a better society and Darwinism and evolution. We also celebrate the seventieth anniversary of Penguin books in the birthplace of its founder, Allen Lane, continuing our relationship with Penguin, our partner in the first three Great Reading Adventures. Look out for the Penguin 70 logo in the programme.

We want to challenge, provoke and learn. And we do so by bringing some of the best writers, artists, scientists and thinkers to Bristol to debate with the best we have here.

Andrew Kelly
Director

Welcome to the first Bristol Festival of Ideas

Monday 16 May



Paul Ormerod

8.00-9.30

Paul Ormerod on
Why Most Things Fail

At-Bristol

£14.00 includes continental breakfast
and copy of the book

Paul Ormerod is the bestselling author of *The Death of Economics* and *Butterfly Economics*, and a highly successful businessman. Paul's latest book, *Why Most Things Fail*, looks at the Iron Law of Failure and the surprising effects of failure on the economy. Paul exposes the flaws in some of the basic assumptions of economic teaching and reflects on the enormous difficulties in predicting human behaviour. Paul's work is especially appropriate for businesses, and public and not-for-profit organisations as it provides a refreshing review of the strategies that need to be adopted for success. *Why Most Things Fail* is a cautionary tale for managements who have a blind faith in planning and monitoring. It hails innovation and flexibility as the best tools for survival. An essential session for those who want their company and projects to succeed.



A C Grayling

18.00-19.00

A C Grayling on
The Importance of Ideas

At-Bristol

£5.00 / £3.50

Broadcaster, journalist, writer, commentator and Professor of Philosophy at Birkbeck College, A C Grayling is one of Britain's leading philosophers of ideas. His books include a biography of William Hazlitt and many bestselling volumes of philosophy including *What is Good: the search for the best way to live*. His new book, *The Heart of Things*, returns to questions of personal ethics and the problems of the contemporary world, but also looks at the lives and ideas of great thinkers, the role of the arts in civilisation, and the need for reason everywhere. Anthony has also been involved in many human rights initiatives and has been a Booker Prize Judge. Always timely and full of insight, Anthony talks about the importance of ideas in the first Bristol Festival of Ideas.



Julia Neuberger



Joanna Bourke



John Gray



Colin Tudge

19.30-21.30

The State We're In and the
State We Could Be In

At-Bristol

£6.50/ £4.50

It's widely, though not universally, accepted that we're in a right state, morally and environmentally. We're fearful, risk averse and there seems little advancement to be made on environmental issues. An outstanding panel, all having written about contemporary Britain, politics and the environment, now look at what can be done to make progress. Dame Julia Neuberger, author of *The Moral State We're In*, joins Colin Tudge, well known environmental writer and campaigner, John Gray, political philosopher and author of *Straw Dogs*, *Al Qaeda* and *What it Means to be Modern* and *Heresies*, and Joanna Bourke, whose new book *Fear: a cultural history* provides an original insight into the issue dominating contemporary political life. All four will state their case and then join in a discussion with each other and the audience.

70
YEARS

Monday 16 May



Tuesday 17 May



Colin Tweedy

18.00-19.00

Colin Tweedy on New Forms of Funding the Arts

At-Bristol

Free, but bookable

As public funding for the arts is frozen and sponsorship and charitable funding becomes more difficult to obtain – the arts now compete with health, education and the police for corporate support – is there a role for private giving and patronage? Can we return to a Victorian model of private philanthropy? Colin Tweedy, director of Arts & Business, leads a discussion on private giving and the legislative and societal framework needed for this.



Marek Kohn



Jack Cohen & Ian Stewart

19.30-21.30

Evolution, Science and Religion

At-Bristol

£6.50 / £4.50

Evolution is under attack in the United States. Stickers on textbooks state that evolution is a theory not a fact. Even Imax films about the natural world face protests and boycotts. Could this happen here? How should evolution be defended? Does the forthcoming Darwin bicentenary offer an opportunity? A distinguished panel explore the history of evolutionary thinking and offer insights into the way forward. Marek Kohn, author of *A Reason for Everything: natural selection and the English imagination*, joins biologist Jack Cohen and mathematician Ian Stewart, co-authors with Terry Pratchett of the *Science of Discworld* series, and Denis Alexander, The Babraham Institute, Cambridge, editor of the journal *Science and Christian Belief*.





Paul Collard



Guy Claxton



John Holden



Clare Cooper

14.00-17.00

Cultural Planning for the Twenty-First Century

Watershed

£10/ £8.00

Cultural planning has made great progress in recent years but has it really become embedded in community and economic life? After local cultural strategies, best value, community plans, partnerships, where do we go next? Does cultural diversity lead to economic growth? How should we value the arts and cultural activity? And what does this mean for creativity and the arts manager in the twenty-first century? Phil Wood (Comedia) talks on interculturalism, a new initiative looking at the role of cultural diversity in economic growth, prosperity and community well being. He joins Paul Collard (Director, Creative Partnerships) who looks at the needs of the knowledge economy and the role of education in meeting these needs; Guy Claxton (world-renowned authority on creativity); John Holden from Demos, who argues for a new way of measuring cultural value and, as a result, a complete overhaul in the cultural funding system; and Clare Cooper, Arts & Business, responsible with the Jerwood Foundation for the Mission, Models and Money programme. Moderated by Andrew Kelly, director, Bristol Cultural Development Partnership.



John Carey

18.00-19.45

John Carey on What is the Value of the Arts?

Watershed Media Centre

£5.00 / £3.50

Author of the bestselling and controversial *The Intellectuals and the Masses*, John Carey promotes new debate in his book *What Good are the Arts?* Do the arts make us better people? Are they a sign of civilization? Why should high art be thought higher than low? Are judgements about art anything more than personal opinions? What are works of art anyway – do they belong to some special, sacred category? Can the brain-scientists who are investigating the arts tell us anything useful about them? John provides startling answers and champions the superiority of literature over all other arts. John's arguments will be discussed by a panel of leading arts managers and commentators including Professor Ian Christie (Birkbeck College).



John Mortimer

19.00-20.30

John Mortimer, Jeremy Lewis and Tony Lacey on Penguin 70 – Penguin, Bristol and Allen Lane

Bristol Grammar School

£6.00/ £4.00

One of the best ideas of the twentieth century was the mass marketing of the paperback book. The pioneer was Allen Lane, born and educated in Bristol, who went on to found Penguin Books. Finding himself at a station one day with nothing to read he realised there was a mass market for cheap, well produced, 'good books for all'. Launching Penguin, he transformed publishing and popular and formal education, as well as contributing to the creation of a modern country. Jeremy Lewis, biographer of Allen Lane, joins leading novelist and barrister John Mortimer and Penguin editor Tony Lacey, for an evening of reminiscence and discussion about the great publisher, and the many battles that he fought. Attendees get a free copy of the story of the biggest battle of all from the new Penguin 70 series, *Lady Chatterley's Trial*.



Isambard Kingdom Brunel

9.30-16.00

The Brunel 200 Conference

Watershed Media Centre

£47.00/ £29.38

Brunel 200 – the programme to mark the 200th anniversary in 2006 of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel – offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the life and work of the greatest engineer of the nineteenth century as well as create the Brunels of the future: creative individuals and teams dedicated to finding new solutions to contemporary problems. Brunel 200 unites arts and sciences, promoting innovation in architecture, design, planning, engineering and all aspects of cultural activity. As well as leading speakers talking about the Victorian vision, Brunel and Brunel 200, the Brunel 200 conference hears from novelists and commentators about why Brunel inspires them. In the afternoon participants have the chance to go on boat trips and bus journeys to see Brunel attractions in Bristol. Delegates also get free copies of books by authors at the conference.

Bursaries are available. Contact brunel200@btopenworld.com for details



Mavis Cheek



Francis Spufford

Speakers include:

Mavis Cheek, novelist, whose *Patrick Parker's Progress* was inspired by Brunel's work

Gareth Griffiths, Director, British Empire and Commonwealth Museum

Sue Kay, Executive Director, Culture South West

Martyn Heighton, Brunel South West Project Champion

Andrew Kelly, Director, Brunel 200

Tristram Hunt, author of *Building Jerusalem: the rise and fall of the Victorian city*

Francis Spufford, author of the modern classic story of British engineering, *The Backroom Boys*

Matthew Tanner, Director, ss Great Britain

Professor Colin Taylor, Professor of Engineering, University of Bristol



Deyan Sudjic

18.00-19.00

Deyan Sudjic on The Edifice Complex

At-Bristol

£5.00 / £3.50

Why have presidents, prime ministers, mayors, millionaires and despots come to share such a fascination with grand designs? Renowned writer and critic Deyan Sudjic, architecture correspondent of *The Observer*, explores the intimate relationship between buildings, power, money and politics in *The Edifice Complex*. Based on 20 years' thinking and research, Sudjic examines the most disastrous edifices that humankind has produced and the architects that built them. A visionary study and an essential evening for those interested in the power of architecture and the architecture of power.



Nick Hornby

19.30-20.30

Nick Hornby on A Long Way Down

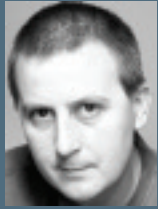
At-Bristol

£5.00/ £3.50

Nick Hornby is one of our great writers and novelists, author of *Fever Pitch*, *High Fidelity*, *About a Boy*, *How to be Good* and *31 Songs*. His latest book, *A Long Way Down*, asks some of the big questions: about life and death, strangers and friendship, love and pain, and whether a slice of pizza can really see you through a long, dark night of the soul. Always funny, Hornby is a writer who makes you think.



Friday 20 May



Julian Baggini



Claudia Hammond

14.00-16.00
Happiness

Watershed Media Centre
£8.00 / £5.00

The question of happiness is set to dominate political life in the next decade. Work-life balance, personal fulfilment, work that means something, a vibrant cultural life, the time to enjoy leisure, think and read, are all issues coming to the fore in contemporary life. Companies promote emotional intelligence, but what does this mean for the economy? Is there a politics of happiness? And shouldn't we just chuck it all in, give up work and live differently? Julian Baggini, one of Britain's leading popular philosophers and author of *What's it all About?*, joins Paul Martin, author of *Making Happy People: the nature of happiness and its origins in childhood*, broadcaster and writer Claudia Hammond, whose book *Emotional RollerCoaster* has been praised widely (the radio series was called 'wonderful' by the *Observer* and 'a fascinating kaleidoscope of voices, observations and ideas' by the *Sunday Express*) and Tom Hodgkinson, editor of *The Idler* and author of the bestselling *How to be Idle*.



Nick Barham



Steven Johnson

18.00-19.00
Why Popular Culture is Good for You

Watershed Media Centre
£3.50 / £2.50

Popular culture is often seen as nothing more than the production of mindless entertainment, PC and video games, multiplex movies and downloaded music. It's currency to talk about the declining standards of today's culture to say that modern media is dumbing us down. In his new book, *Everything Bad is Good for You*, Steven Johnson, author of *Emergence: the connected lives of ants, brains, cities and software*, presents a radical alternative: mass culture is making us smarter by consistently demanding more of our brains. A session for all those that love *The Sopranos*, *24*, *The Simpsons* and computer games. Steven discusses his work with Nick Barham, author of *Disconnected: why our kids are turning their backs on everything we thought we knew*.



Penguin 70

A Celebration of Puffin Books – in Penguin's 70th year – for all the family

All events take place
at Bristol Grammar School
Book at Watershed Media Centre

10.00-10.30
Come and meet Angelina Ballerina
for ages 3 to 8
£2.00

Calling all prima ballerinas! Come and meet Angelina Ballerina herself and join in a delightful feast of dance and story-telling. Angelina goodies to go home with. Don't forget to wear your tutu!

10.45-11.30
A Taste of Dahl
for ages 9+
£2.00

Roald Dahl is played by Anthony Pedley, who created the role of the BFG for stage, introducing the worlds of Sophie and the BFG, Matilda and Miss Honey, Charlie and Willy Wonka, Mr and Mrs Twit, and many more of Dahl's much loved characters. A forty-five minute tour de force – all in Dahl's own words – bringing to life a man described by *The Times* as 'our modern Pied Piper'.



Dick King-Smith

11.45-12.30
Dick King-Smith
for a family audience
£3.00

Dick King-Smith is the international best-selling author of *Babe – The Sheep-Pig* and many other popular children's classics. Come and hear Dick enthrall and delight you with stories about his rise and fall from farmyard to Hollywood. An ideal chance to meet this much loved author.



Saturday 21 May



Roger McGough



Brian Patten

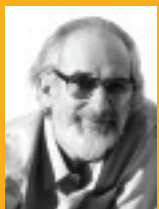
14.00-15.00

Roger McGough and Brian Patten on The Monsters' Guide to Choosing a Pet

for a family audience
£3.00

Monster Liverpool poets Roger McGough and Brian Patten reveal the truth about pets. Which ones live on the roof. Which ones look good in pink. How to teach a giraffe to swim. More devilish stuff & nonsense from Britain's dodgiest poetry duo as their rib-tickling new collection of animal versification hares across the stage. Would you trust them with your favourite goldfish?

Brian Patten is author of all-time children's cult classics *Gargling With Jelly*, *Thawing Frozen Frogs*, *Juggling With Gerbils* and now *The Story Giant*. 'A magic ability to turn radiant imagination loose' *The Times*. Roger McGough presents BBC Radio 4's *Poetry Please*. Just out, his new books for kids of all ages are *The Bees' Knees*, *All The Best* and anthology *Sensational*. 'Roger is the patron saint of poetry' Carol Ann Duffy.



David Crystal



Ben Crystal

15.15-16.00

A Shakespeare Miscellany with David and Ben Crystal

for a family audience
£3.00

The father and son authors of the best-selling *Shakespeare's Words* have collaborated again on a new book, *The Shakespeare Miscellany*, an illuminating and endlessly absorbing treasury of observations about the world's greatest writer, with essential data about the man behind the plays and the dynamic Elizabethan theatrical world in which he worked. In their performance, they seek to answer such questions as: Why is there a curse on one of Shakespeare's plays? Which subjects did he study at school? Why did Romeo and Juliet nearly have a happy ending? Why was acting banned in Shakespeare's home town? How many words did he invent? Who was the first actor to play Hamlet?

Known for their fantastic facts and great performance, this will be an afternoon to remember.

Special Events at Explore(at) Bristol

A week-long festival for young people running alongside Bristol's Festival of Ideas programme

14-20 May 10.00-16.30

Get your thinking hats on!

drop-in sessions (free with a ticket to Explore, no booking required)

Join the team at Explore-At-Bristol's Live Science Zone and take part in events and activities especially for young people with big ideas. Why not try building a second Clifton Suspension Bridge, describing a brain or challenging yourself with our science games? Test your problem solving skills and share your ideas for a bigger, better Bristol!

Suitable for all ages over 5.
Some activities for ages 11-16 yrs.

Young People's Festival of Ideas



Pat Kane

Thinker in Residence

Each year, the festival appoints a thinker in residence to promote debate and extend knowledge, contributing to festival sessions and working with schools, businesses, organisations and individuals. The 2005 thinker in residence is Pat Kane, musician, writer, consultant, journalist and activist. In the 1980s and 1990s Pat was a political activist for Scottish self-government, Lord Rector of Glasgow University and one half of the jazz-pop group Hue & Cry (he still writes and performs today).

His most recent publication is *The Play Ethic: a manifesto for a different way of living* (Macmillan) which argues that play should supersede work as 'our dominant way of knowing, doing and creating value', building active, creative and fully autonomous people.

Pat's creative consultancy work has seen him work for Forum for the Future, the Design Council, Scottish Enterprise and Nokia. As co-director of New Integrity, Pat is developing a comprehensive play audit for organisations, institutions and enterprises. See www.theplayethic.com

AGB

Artistic Director, Bristol 2005

Thinker in Residence

Booking Details

Book direct at the venue where the event is being held, except for those events at Bristol Grammar School which can be booked at Watershed Media Centre.

Prices for each event are listed next to the event. Concessionary prices are for those unemployed, retired and students.

At-Bristol

www.at-bristol.org.uk

In person:

At-Bristol, Harbourside, Bristol, BS1 5DB
go to Explore, Wildwalk or IMAX desks

By telephone: 0845 345 1235
(£1 booking fee per transaction)

The box office is open:

Monday - Friday 9.00am-5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm

Sunday 11.00am-3.00pm

Watershed & Bristol Grammar School

www.watershed.co.uk

In person:

Watershed Box Office: 1 Canon's Road,
Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5TX

By telephone: 0117 927 5100

The Box Office is open Monday to Friday
from 9.00am / Saturday and Sunday from
10.00am. It closes 15 minutes after the
start of the final film that day.

Brunel 200 conference

In person

Watershed box office

By telephone:

Denise Warner 01275 370790

Direct bookings

Bristol Cultural Development Partnership

Email: brunel200@btopenworld.com

Speakers and timings may be subject to change
at any time. See www.creativebristol.com for
updates

www.creativebristol.com

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