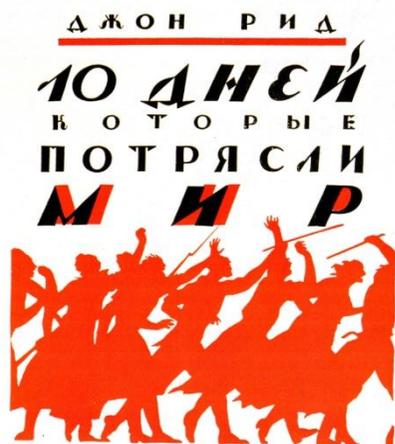


"The hour of working class dictatorship has arrived. A wave of irrepressible joy sweeps over us all, mists our eyes .... 'All power to the Soviets!'

"... A silent paean of triumph swells in hundreds of hearts united by a single resolve: to take over the power, to establish the world's first government of yesterday's slaves.

"... Here it is, that cherished threshold! We have crossed it."

*Alexandra Kollontai, 1924*



«КРАСНАЯ НОВАЯ»  
ГЛАВНОУЧЕБНИК  
ИЮЛЬ 1925  
С. В. Чаплин

**Panel discussions and workshops:**

**12 noon - 4.30 pm**

**Evening gig with poetry, singers,  
and bands: 7 – 11 pm**

**Poster display all day**

**Café open during the day, bar  
open at night.**

**Ticket prices, day or evening:**

**£8 waged, £5 low-waged,  
£3 unwaged, under 10s free.**

**Combined ticket: £10/£7/£5.**

**Buy tickets at**

**<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/russian-revolution-centenary-celebration-1917-2017-tickets-38173821929>**

**Saturday 11 November**

**12 noon – 11 pm**

**WALLSEND MEMORIAL HALL  
& PEOPLE'S CENTRE**

**10 Frank St, Wallsend NE28 6RN**

**Panel discussions, workshops, poetry, art, music –  
the significance of the Russian Revolution today**

# The Russian Revolution of

**1917** changed the course of human history. From the Tsar's fall in February to the overthrow of the Provisional Government in October (old calendar), ordinary Russians took centre stage in one of the great dramas of the modern world. A new society, a republic of Soviets, involving mass democracy, was created, breaking the power and privileges of the nobility, landlords and capitalist class, and vesting society's wealth in the hands of the workers and peasants.

In the midst of the carnage of the 1914-18 imperialist war, the Revolution was also a message of peace, of the rights of oppressed peoples and the rights of women – who had played a key role in the first stage, the overthrow of the Tsar.

Whatever one thinks about the Soviet Union's later political development, it cannot be denied that it abolished illiteracy, raised millions out of poverty, built a modern industrial society and enabled an unprecedented flowering of culture.

But the very idea that working people could do without capitalists and landlords earned the Soviet Union the fear and hatred of the ruling classes in the Western world, who attempted to drown the Revolution in blood.

The Soviet Union is no more today but it is remembered for its fight against Hitler fascism and its support for national liberation movements. In Britain, Russia and the ex-Soviet republics, the class struggle remains fierce and exploitation must be overthrown.

## Plenary Session 1

12.30 – 1.45

*The Russian Revolution's impact on the working class movement, the struggle for women's rights, and the fight for national liberation*

**Ian Lavery, Ultán Gillen, Mollie Brown, Mohsin Zulfikar**

**Chair: Martin Levy**

Creative Workshops: 2.00 – 3.00:

*Zine-making: the Revolution & today*  
**Theresa Easton and Sheree Mack**

*Poetry and Politics: "In the dark times"*  
**Paul Summers**

*Song-writing and adapting*  
**Bethany Elen Coyle and Ron Brown**

## Plenary Session 2

3.15 – 4.30

*The fight against racism, against imperialism and for peace and national liberation today*

**Daniel Kebede, Steve Handford, Roger Nettleship plus Palestine Solidarity Campaign speaker. Chair: Mollie Brown**

During the meal-break: video (*tbc*) of **Nigel Todd's** recent talk on *The Impact of the Russian Revolution on the North East*

## Celebration: Ballroom, 7.00 – 11.00

**Paul Allan** (Wallsend singer-songwriter), **workshop presentations, Beeswing** (North East folk group), **North East Socialist Singers, Bethany Elen Coyle, Ron Brown, Delta Bay** (pop,rock,soul,funk,blues). *The Internationale at 11.*

## Throughout the day

The Marx Memorial Library's Heritage Lottery funded exhibition

**'The Russian Revolution 1917-1922'**

*Sponsored by Newcastle Trades Union Council*

## Contributors

**MOLLIE BROWN** is a representative of the National Assembly of Women.

**RON BROWN** is a singer-songwriter. **BETHANY ELEN COYLE** is a musician, activist, community arts practitioner and educator.

**THERESA EASTON** is an artist with socially engaged practice, and secretary of Artists' Union England

**ULTÁN GILLEN** is a historian and edits the Workers' Party of Ireland journal *Keep Left*

**STEVE HANDFORD** is an ex-soldier and peace activist.

**DANIEL KEBEDE** is a Labour Party and anti-racist activist, and former joint chair of Newcastle Unites

**IAN LAVERY** is MP for Wansbeck, Labour Party chair and former president of the National Union of Mineworkers.

**MARTIN LEVY** is a local political activist and president of Newcastle TUC.

**SHEREE MACK** is a Newcastle-based published poet.

**ROGER NETTLESHIP** is secretary of the Tyneside Stop the War Coalition

**PAUL SUMMERS** is a North Shields-based poet from a mining background in Blyth.

**NIGEL TODD** is a Labour councillor in Newcastle, a historian and a former regional director of the WEA.

**MOHSIN ZULFIQAR** is general secretary of the Pakistan Awami Workers Party North England

Published by Russian Revolution Centenary Committee (North East), c/o Martin Levy, 13 Shoreham Court, Newcastle NE3 2XG. Information about the national celebration at Congress House, London, on November 4, may be found at [www.1917.org.uk](http://www.1917.org.uk).