



Sounds from the Park Project Archive (SFTP)

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Catalogued by Stef Dickers and Nicky Hilton, March 2013

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Name of Creator: On the Record Community Interest Company

Extent: 75 digital folders.

Administrative/Biographical History: *Sounds from the Park* was a one-year project to record the history of Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park, London, from its origins in the late nineteenth century up to 2013. Orators, hecklers and crowd members were interviewed. A Speakers' Corner archive of oral histories, documents and sound recordings were gathered and deposited at Bishopsgate Institute.

Sounds from the Park was managed by On the Record Community Interest Company in partnership with Bishopsgate Institute. It was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Barry Ameil and Norman Melburn Trust.

On the Record was a small, not for profit co-operative whose aim was to record people's histories by engaging those who lived through a historic event/period as well as encouraging volunteer participation. The company was established by joint Managing Directors Rosa Schling and Laura Mitchison.

Custodial History: Deposited at Bishopsgate Institute by Rosa Schling and Laura Mitchison, March 2013

Scope and Content: The collection includes:

- Individual deposits collected from orators, hecklers and crowd members. These primarily consist of digital or digitised photographs, but also include audio-visual recordings, articles and ephemera, (1905-2012)
- Oral history interviews conducted with thirty orators, hecklers and crowd members with associated transcripts and portraits, (2013)

System of Arrangement: The Sounds from the Park Archive is divided into the following three sections:

SFTP/1	Individual deposits
SFTP/2	Oral histories interviews
SFTP/3	Project archive.

Language/scripts of material: English

Access conditions: OPEN

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of hand list available in Library Reading Room.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

Archive Catalogue

SFTP	Sounds from the Park: Speakers Corner Archive	1905- 2013
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Sounds from the Park was a one-year project to record the history of Speaker's Corner from its origins in the late nineteenth century, right up to the present day. Thirty orators, hecklers and crowd members were interviewed. A Speakers' Corner archive of oral history, documents and sound recordings was gathered and deposited at Bishopsgate Institute, (1905-2013)

The collection includes:

- Individual deposits collected from orators, hecklers and crowd members. These primarily consist of digital or digitised photographs, but also include audio-visual recordings, articles and ephemera, (1905-2012)
- Oral history interviews conducted with thirty orators, hecklers and crowd members with associated transcripts and portraits, (2013)

OPEN

SFTP/1	Individual Deposits	1905-2012
	<p>Digital and analogue items collected from individual donors as part of the Sounds From the Park project. The project looked to collect histories from those associated with Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (1905-2012)</p> <p>The collection includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - photographs (primarily digital), - videos (digital and non-digital), - Text documents (digital and non-digital). <p>OPEN. Digital items can be accessed via the online catalogue only.</p>	
SFTP/1/1	Chris Kennett	1968-1972
	<p>Christopher Kennett (Paul Kennett's younger brother) attended Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, as a young man in the 1960s and 1970s. He documented the Corner with a camera and tape recorder, and was especially interested in hecklers and bizarre performances. Christopher Kennett wrote his own descriptions of many of the images and was also interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive.</p> <p>Kennett's collection includes 29 digitised slides from Autumn 1968 (except SFTP/1/1/13-14 which are from 1972), a short written memoir of Speakers' Corner, and six stills from a cine film, (c.1968-1972)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SFTP/1/1/1	'Doris'	1968
	<p>Doris was better known for her singing than her heckling, though she would never have made it on to 'Britain's Got Talent'! Most of the regular speakers found the way she barged into the crowd and disrupted a meeting a thorough nuisance. She would use the newspaper stand as a drum and her rendition of "My old man says follow the van and don't dilly-dally on the way" is especially well remembered, (Autumn 1968)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	

SFTP/1/1/2	Victor Mathews	1968
	<p>Victor Mathews spoke on the platform of the Coloured Workers Welfare Association. Roy Sawh who also spoke on this platform remembers: "He was from Trinidad and apparently he'd been here a long time and that's how he ended up speaking. But at that time [in the 1950s] he was the only black speaker in Speakers' Corner, and from his background and from that period of time, he was the only one who articulated why West Indians were coming here, how we came, the history behind it". The donor remembers him shouting "Silence in Court! Order. Order in the gallery" jokingly at his crowd, (Autumn 1968)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SFTP/1/1/3	Unknown Speaker	c.1968
	<p>Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SFTP/1/1/4	Unknown Speaker	c.1968
	<p>Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SFTP/1/1/5	Crowds at Speakers' Corner	1968
	<p>This photograph identifies the density of the crowds and the fact that people really did get on top of each other, although the crowds were bigger in the 1950s, (Autumn 1968)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SFTP/1/1/6	'Bob'	1968
	<p>The Geordie gentleman who the donor photographed carrying the banner proclaiming "The End Is At Hand" was called Bob. Bob was always to be seen with banner in hand surrounded by a boisterous crowd of singers and hecklers. Indeed, they were regarded by the donor as the centrepiece of many a Sunday's visit during the 1960s and 1970s. The donor writes "As can be seen above this was no orthodox religious meeting. Bob, or Holy Bob as he was affectionately known, was someone you could hardly miss as you approached Speakers</p>	

Corner on a Sunday afternoon. For he was never seen without his trademark banner warning that "The End Is At Hand". Bob had been a regular here since 1950, a cheerful mild-mannered man who liked nothing better than a sing-a-long under his banner. He was a man of few words whose style of preaching was largely confined to such utterances as "Anyone here want to go to heaven?" to which some wag in the crowd would quickly retort "What time's the next train?" Bob attracted an enthusiastic following, a mixture of largely good-natured hecklers together with a number of eccentric old ladies, the latter collectively known as "Sisters". So typically you would have Sister Aggie and Sister Maud dancing around to the "hymns" whilst others in the crowd would sing their own bawdy versions virtually drowning out poor Bob. But Bob took this all in his stride and was never one to lose his temper.", (Autumn 1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/7	Unknown Speakers and Crowd	c.1968
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Unknown speakers and crowd at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/8	'Twin Brothers' ("New and Latter House of Israel")	1968
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There were twin brothers who spoke on the "New and Latter House of Israel" platform. This was a group who claimed to be one of the lost tribes of Israel. They had been speaking since at least the 1930s as they are mentioned in "Around the Marble Arch" written by F.W. Batchelor about Speakers' Corner in 1939 and during the war. It's noticeable that in 1968 the men in the crowd are all wearing suits and ties. The elaborate stand the speaker is standing on is a sign that public speaking was taken a lot more seriously in those days, getting the stands there was quite an operation! There were two advantages to having a tall stand; you were visible from further away and by being higher your voice projects better, (Autumn 1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/9	Cafe at Speakers' Corner	1968
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The pavilion in the background masks a ventilation shaft. It's the site of the cafe. The two people who used to run the cafe, Rose and Rita deserve to be commemorated themselves because they've been so much a part of the scene. They probably saved quite a few lives at the end of the day giving sandwiches and cups of tea to homeless people, (Autumn 1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/10 'George'

1968

The donor remembers how George started every meeting:

"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen... It gives me greatest of pleasure... to welcome you... on this luvly afternoon... to the biggest... open air... lunaticasyllumintheworld." He said the last bit quickly because the usual hecklers, who knew exactly what he was going to say, used to try and call it out before he said it himself. It was always a "luvly afternoon" even if it was cold and drizzling!

The only other regular bit I remember is:

"I didn't wanna join the navy. I didn't wanna join the air force. So I joined the army. I went to the dentist. He said "George, you've got bad teeth". "I said..."I ain't got no teeth. I wanna fight the Germans, not eat them!"

One day that Hyde Park Question Corner woman was having her meeting next to his. His meeting was even more noisy than usual and she called out "Mr Wilkinshaw, Mr Wilkinshaw" so that must have been his name. Everyone seemed to know each other. One day Norman was doing his usual act in the usual place and Doris walked past. She called out "Hullo Norman, have they let you out again?" I think of it now as being almost like a club which met every Sunday afternoon, (Autumn 1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/11 'Betty'

1968

Kennett remembers: "Betty was the self-styled quiz compere of Speakers in the 1960s and sported a cap proudly proclaiming the initials HPQC - Hyde Park Question Corner. She

delighted in firing a series of general knowledge questions in rapid succession at her audience and would get quite excited in doing so. Winners were rewarded with small prizes - usually a boiled sweet, though my brother tells me that I once returned home with a packet of something called "Jungle Juice". For some reason I never did get round to sampling this however - I guess I must have been a bit suspicious!", (Autumn 1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/12 Unknown Speaker c.1968

Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/13 Unknown Speaker c.1968

Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/14 'Smithy' 1968

Smithy's favourite act was to simultaneously play the part of both racing jockey and commentator whilst peering through a pair of imaginary binoculars - in his case a rolled-up newspaper. Included in his spiel were frequent references to well-known homosexuals of the time and also Christine Keeler, the former model whose involvement with a British government minister discredited the Conservative government of Harold Macmillan in 1963 in what is known as the Profumo Affair, (Autumn 1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/15 Unknown Speakers c.1968

Unknown speakers at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/16 Unknown Person at Speakers' Corner c.1968

Unknown person at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/17 Man Sleeping at Speakers' Corner 1968

This scene was absolutely typical! There used to be a row of people like this. That railing on Park Lane used to be lined with people, possibly not so asleep as that, but a group of elderly men who would line that railing and just drop off in the afternoon sun, (Autumn 1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/18 "Astral meditation" Speaker 1968

Kennett says: "I never ever got to know the name of this speaker even though he was a regular during the 1960s. All we can remember is that he used to speak on the subject of "Astral meditation" and had a habit of wagging his fingers at the audience whilst delivering his sermon.", (Autumn 1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/19 Unknown Speaker c.1968

Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/20 Unknown Speaker c.1968

Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/21 Unknown Speaker c.1968

Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/22 Unknown Speaker c.1968

Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/23 Crowd at Speakers' Corner c.1968

Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/24 Unknown Speaker c.1968

Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1968)

OPEN

SFTP/1/1/25 Unknown Speakers c.1968

OPEN

Memoirs of Speakers' Corner, (n.d.)

OPEN

Stills captured from a cine camera film, which had been digitised. The gentleman with hat and beard is Timothy Wyatt who used to recite humorous poems and represented a fictitious publishing company called Sunslump Incorporated, (c.1972)

OPEN

The short lady armed with a crutch is Mary, a notorious heckler from the 1960s. Never underestimate the power of a heckler for they can make or break a meeting. And this was certainly true of Mary whose rasping voice and hectoring manner more than made up for her diminutive stature.

Fearless and fearsome Mary would first select her target, then armed with her crutches would barge her way through to the front of the crowd. There she would set about ridiculing the hapless speaker whatever colour or creed with terse one-liners and derogatory remarks, typically "Get away with you. Look at you - you've never done a day's work in your life!"

Like many well-known hecklers Mary attracted a following and became the centre of attention, thus posing a threat to established speakers in the park who stood to lose part of their audience once she moved on. When challenged Mary was known to take a swing at the speaker with her crutch and on more than one occasion this led to an officer of the law being summoned to defuse the situation, much to the amusement of spectators like myself, (c.1972)

OPEN

SFTP/1/2	Paul Kennett	c.1972-1981
	Paul Kennett (Chris Kennett's older brother) visited Speakers' Corner and documented it by taking photographs and recordings in the 1960s - 1980s. Collection includes seven scanned colour photographs and two cassette tapes of recorded sounds, (c.1972-1981) OPEN	
SFTP/1/2/1	Unknown Speaker	c.1972
	Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1972) OPEN	
SFTP/1/2/2	Unknown Speaker	c.1972
	Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1972) OPEN	
SFTP/1/2/3	'William' (or 'Jesus')	c.1972
	"Jesus" - his real name was William, a hippie, who used to spread out lots of brightly-coloured posters on the ground in front of him, each containing some mystical message. He thought himself to be the reincarnation of Jesus Christ, (c.1972) OPEN	
SFTP/1/2/4	Unknown Speaker	c.1972
	Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner, (c.1972) OPEN	
SFTP/1/2/5	Unknown Speaker	c.1972
	Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner with a poster which reads 'Jesus, Saviour! Who gave himself a ransom for all', (c.1972) OPEN	
SFTP/1/2/6	'Smithy'	c.1972
	Two photographs of Smithy: "His impression of racecourse meetings was quite incredible. He would curl up his newspapers and make them into binoculars and give you a radio commentary:	

"Here they come, here they come, they're coming round the bend! Here they come, here they come, by a nose!"
He was a bookies runner at one time." (c.1972)
OPEN

SFTP/1/2/7 'Norman' and Lord Baker 1981

Cassette tape.
Side A; Norman; Singers and Lord Barker
0:25:22, (20 September 1981)
Side B: Lord Barker; Singing Tramp; Norman;
Martin Besserman. 0:25:04, (27 September
1981)

The recording of Norman was him in his squeaky voice rather than in his deep voice. He used tremendous pauses and you can hear people laughing in the pauses. He used mime movements which made what he said meaningful and was entertaining in itself. Notes on recording in the pdf document, (c.1972)

OPEN

SFTP/1/3	William Ainsworth	1974
	Two CDs labelled: 'Lord Soper - Hyde Park 2.1.1974'; and 'Lord Soper - Hyde Park 3.3.1974'. Also includes one photograph taken from Ainsworth's uncle's slide collection of a unknown speaker, (c.1974) OPEN	
SFTP/1/3/1	Lord Soper	1974
	CD labelled 'Lord Soper - Hyde Park' (2 September 1974) OPEN	
SFTP/1/3/2	Lord Soper	1974
	CD labelled, 'Lord Soper - Hyde Park', (3 March 1974) OPEN	
SFTP/1/3/3	Lord Soper	(n.d.)
	Photograph taken from Ainsworth's uncle's slide collection of a unknown speaker, (n.d.) OPEN	

SFTP/1/4 Anthony Gomm 1964-1989

Anthony Gomm began visiting Speakers' Corner in the 1960s and describes it as a place that opened up new ideas to him. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive. Includes photographs of 'Speakers' Corner Muslim', 'Mohammed Khan and Old West Indian lady cake seller', 'Speakers' Corner', 'Van Dyn, Speakers' Corner', 'Al Capone Side kick tattooed', 'Donald Soper Speakers' Corner' and 'Speaker Hyde Park', (c.1964-1989)

OPEN

SFTP/1/4/1 Mohammad Khan and 'Old West Indian Lady' 1989

Photograph labelled 'Speakers' Corner Muslim, (Mohammed Khan) and Old West Indian lady cake seller', (September 1989)

OPEN

SFTP/1/4/2 Speaker and Speakers' Corner 1964

Photograph labelled, 'Speakers' Corner (temporary colleague)', (c.1964)

OPEN

SFTP/1/4/3 Van Dyn c.1964

Photograph labelled, 'Van Dyn, Speakers' Corner, Al Capone Side kick tattooed', (c.1964)

Gomm: "Van Dyn used to get people to throw money into the air and then he'd pick it up to get around the regulations banning collecting money in the park. Described by Christopher Kennett:

"Any Distinguishing Features?

When it comes to appearances you could hardly miss Jacobus Van Dyn in the crowd. His fully shaven head was adorned with tattoos of hearts, flowers, butterflies and signs of the zodiac and the rest of his body was also a work of art.

Born in South Africa in 1896 Van Dyn spent time in prisons all over the world including Sing Sing, San Quentin and Dartmoor and was rumoured to have been a gun runner for Al Capone. In 1931 he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for armed robbery, but claimed this was a case of mistaken identity and spent

the rest of his life trying to clear his name".
 "Van Dyn first appeared at Speakers Corner in the 1930s and my father recalled seeing him there just before the war. He could still be seen perched on a tea chest some 3 years later when I became a regular visitor. Despite his appearance of an archetypal burglar Van Dyn was quite a charmer, ever trying to make out that he was not such a bad man really. He said that there were only two types of people in the world, those who have been to prison and those who should be in prison!"

"In a bid to win support to clear his name Van Dyn would regularly pass round a collecting bag at the end of his act- strictly against Park rules of course, but that would never deter this old gangster. To anyone reluctant to pay up he had this to say: 'Ladies and gentlemen, if you haven't got anything in your wallet, put your hand in someone else's; and if you don't know how to do that then stay behind at the end of the meeting and I'll teach you!'"

OPEN

SFTP/1/4/4 Donald Soper 1988

Photograph labelled, 'Donald Soper Speakers' Corner' (Summer 1988).

OPEN

SFTP/1/4/5 Speaker at Speakers' Corner 1964

Photograph labelled 'Speaker Hyde Park' (c.1964)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5	Robert "Bob" Rogers	c.1960-2006
	Bob Rogers has been a part of Speakers' Corner since the 1960s. He wears a sign saying "It's Going to Get Worse". He became friends with Norman Schlund, an unusual and comic performer who used to draw large crowds at Speakers' Corner. Letters from Norman Schlund to Bob Rogers form a part of the collection. Collection includes assorted documents and material, both digital and non-digital, (c.1960-2006) OPEN	
SFTP/1/5/1	Article from a German Magazine	(n.d.)
	Scanned article from a German magazine, (n.d.) OPEN	
SFTP/1/5/2	Pillar of Fire society	(n.d.)
	Scanned photograph of Pillar of Fire society, (n.d.) OPEN	
SFTP/1/5/3	Correspondence	2012
	Letter to West End Extra (unpublished) responding to a feature on Sounds from the Park, the oral history project about Speakers' Corner and a subsequent letter by Ian Cameron published, (29 November 2012 - 7 December 2012) OPEN	
SFTP/1/5/4	Article about Speakers' Corner	1998
	Financial Times article, 'The lost voice of public speaking' by Michael Peel. A cartoon of Robert Rogers, with 'Its going to get worse' sign at Speakers' Corner, (10 January 1998) OPEN	
SFTP/1/5/5	Lawrence Mc Donagh	2008
	Laminated obituary notice & laminated sign, given to Rogers by the brother of Lawrence Mc Donagh a regular speaker at the corner. He	

used to wear the sign - 'It's now or never, come listen to me. I'm very clever I know everything. Tomorrow will be too late. It's now or never my word won't wait.', (c.2008)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/6 Article about Heiko Khoo 1988

Daily Mirror article. 'Its standing room only for red busman' about Marxist speaker and bolshie bus conductor Heiko Khoo ordering the Conservative Peer of the Realm, Lord Joseph, off his number 11 bus, (9 May 1988)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/7 Bonar Thompson Speech 1943

Transcript of a radio speech given by Bonar Thompson on 24th November 1943. The speech is about Thompson's experience of Hyde Park in Here's Wishing You Well Again. The program was created for hospitals overseas with Mantovani and his orchestra, and Jack Cooper also contributing. Broadcast 2nd December 1943, (24th November 1943 - 2nd December 1943)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/8 John Michael Roberts 2000

Thesis on 'The Enigma of Free Speech; Speakers' Corner, the geography of governance and a crisis of rationality' by John Michael Roberts, Cardiff University. John Roberts was the son of Barry Roberts who was a regular speaker, (2000)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/9 Article about Lord Soper and Other Speakers 1994

The Times Weekend Edition. Two full page, cover story concerning the "Preacher of the Year" award by John Gummer, including reference to assorted preachers, not least Lord Soper at Speakers' Corner, (29 January 1994)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/10 Article 'Kenneth Roy's Britain' 1996

An article in the Observer, part of a series:

Kenneth Roy's Britain, No. 20, Speakers' Corner. General commentary, (14 January 1996)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/11 Article about John Edwards 1994

Photocopy of a newspaper cutting of John Edwards, with the lead title of 'Speakers cornered by heckler from hell' about one Michael Woolley who was a regular heckler at the corner, (1994)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/12 Article about Martin Besserman 1994

Article, 'Heckler cleared after Speakers' Corner Rumpus - Onlooker's anger as orator drops trousers' Article about Martin Besserman's famous incident where he dropped his shorts, but was wearing multiple pairs underneath, (29 December 1994).
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/13 Serpentine Gallery Press Release 2002

Serpentine Gallery Press Release, 'Its going to get worse' by Gayle Chong Kwan, a exhibition of art produced in collaboration with Paddington Youth Parliament and speakers at Speakers Corner, inspired by Bob Rogers, (22 August 2002)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/14 Nick White Article (n.d.)

Piece printed privately by Nick White, a private opinion by a regular attendee and occasional speaker, Nick White of the Socialist Party of Great Britain (SPGB). It is a satire on Christian speakers at the corner, (n.d.)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/15 Leaflet, 'Folk Patriots' 2002

Leaflet entitled 'Folk Patriots', A5 double sided of a highly charged nature. Racist in content and not untypical of such hand-outs at Speakers' Corner. Signed "Frank" on the bottom, (September 2002)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/16 Leaflet, 'Students, ignite!!!', 1994

Leaflet entitled 'Students, ignite!!!', A5 double sided, by Magnus Neilsen Bewick, in connection with a very early ban on smoking in the canteens of a certain university, probably University of London, (August 1994)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/17 Dictionary, 'The various psychological 'tricks' and 'mind' games of the Secret State' 1998?

Dictionary, 'The various psychological 'tricks' and 'mind' games of the Secret State' published by V Roach, (5 February 1998?)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/18 Article, 'Blimey what a mouth you've got!' 1990

Article in Midweek, entitled 'Blimey what a mouth you've got!'. It includes reference to Haroun Jadharkan, someone called Tom, Mr Walsh, Martin Besserman, American tourists, Robert Ogilve, Jim Huggan, Tyburn gallows and the Sunday Trading Bill. Cartoon on front page says 'The Listening Blank, is everyone odd at Speakers' Corner?', (19 July 1990)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/19 Paul Hunt and Frank 'the tramp' 2008

The London Paper colour photograph by Beatrice Miano probably taken on a Saturday because this is the only time these two people appeared together. The seated figure is Paul Hunt and the standing figure is Frank 'the tramp' so called. This is a very typical scene involving these two men, and pigeon with the ubiquitous red buses in the background and before the trees were cut down, that used to form a buffer to the traffic noise at Speakers' Corner. They would sit and stand like that for hours at a time, (4 February 2008)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/20 Leaflet, Hip Hop Event 2007

A flier from a hip hop event called Speakers'

Corner which has a dramatic photograph of an eclectic fence. The Jam in Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, (May 2007)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/21 Flyer, 'Spaces of Protest' 2006

A flier from Birkbeck university of London for 'Spaces of Protest' module of London Studies course. Series of 11 meetings with a photograph of the very well known Peter, the Christian atheist, (2006)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/22 Article, 'My Peace Dance', Father Neil Horan 2006

Article, 'My Peace Dance', Father Neil Horan about his peace dance, which he performs wearing Irish national costume. Horan performs the dance at intervals at Speakers' Corner. He was allegedly a defrocked Roman Catholic priest, (May 2006)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/23 Article, 'Treating the plant above root level' 2006

Article, 'Treating the plant above root level' about psychiatric drugs, talking treatments and other related topics, (6 pp) (December 2006)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/24 Leaflet, 'Britishness is to have the wits and guts to fight to keep ones Britishness - Pro Patria', 2006

Leaflet, 'Britishness is to have the wits and guts to fight to keep ones Britishness - Pro Patria', (18 December 2006)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/25 Matthew Palmer 2005

Two articles published in the Financial Times newspaper about series one of 'The Apprentice', a BBC reality TV show where contestants compete for job at one of Lord Alan Sugar's companies. One article includes a reference to a contestant and a notorious Speakers' Corner heckler, Matthew Palmer. Palmer is described in the article as an awkward 39 year old mature

student, (5 May 2005)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/26 Article, 'Remembrance Service opposed by police aggression', 2004

Article, 'Remembrance Service opposed by police aggression', Reverend Roland R. Parsons. Article about police aggression involving a Christian speaker who claims the police pushed him off his platform when he refused to move while observing the two minute silence on Remembrance Sunday. Photographs of Parsons are included in the archive, references: SFTP/1/31/6 and SFTP/1/31/25), (2004)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/27 Article, 'Let's face it - the best is yet to come!' 2004

'Let's face it - the best is yet to come!', The War Cry, Salvation Army publication, with an article by a regular speaker, Cliff Kent using the slogan "Its going to get worse" as his subject base but otherwise a conventional piece of Christian publishing, (4 July 2004)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/28 Article, 'Gasping for speech at the gallows' 2003

'Gasping for speech at the gallows', Times Chronicle Series, by Tim Cole, a reasonable account of the background to Speakers' Corner and Tyburn where the death sentence was carried out, (22 January 2003)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/29 Article, 'Hyde Park Meetings 1855' c.1855

Extract, 'Hyde Park Meetings 1855', about Lord Robert Grosvenor's Sunday Trading Bill, (n.d.)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/30 'Speakers Corner threatened by Hecklers', Steve Usdin 1996

Article, 'Speakers Corner threatened by Hecklers', Steve Usdin, LAM magazine. Specific reference to a man called Brian Becket who with

others, such as Mathew Palmer and Michael Wooley, disrupted the meetings for quite a long time. This article describes Mathew Palmer, for example, as aged 20 and an unemployed computer salesman. He would later become a Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Councillor, (1996)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/31 'The Battle for Hyde Park: Ruffians, radicals and ravers, 1850s-1990s' 2002

Webpage printout, 'The Battle for Hyde Park: Ruffians, radicals and ravers, 1850s-1990s'. Refers to Wal Hannington, (18 December 2002)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/32 'Anti Church Movement Demonstration in Hyde Park', Karl Marx 2002

'Anti Church Movement Demonstration in Hyde Park', Karl Marx, Neue Oder-Zeitung, (28 June 1855). (18 December 2002)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/33 Article about Heckling, Magnus Neilsen Bewick c.1980

Document, 'Speakers' Corner: The background to the current disturbances', Magnus Neilsen Bewick, regarding concerns the disruptive heckling in the 1980s, (21pp) (c.1980)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/34 Nick White c.1999

Nick White, a member of the Socialist Party of Great Britain and an occasional speaker, has written a 9 page item, again satirising the Christian religion as professed by many speakers at Speakers' Corner. Nick's wit and wisdom would make you believe he had read the bible from cover to cover. Given to the donor, (14 February 1999)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/35 Article about Bob Rogers and Speakers' Corner 1991

Weekend Guardian feature on Speakers'

Corner. Photograph of Bob Rogers, (14
September 1991 - 15 September 1991)
OPEN

**SFTP/1/5/36 Collage, 'The Zoo' including Paul Hunt, (n.d.)
David Cole, 'William / Jesus the hippy',
Donald Soper 'Peter, the Christian Atheist',
'Ali', 'Lidja', 'Harry', 'Maxwell', Barry Roberts,
Alec Lowry, and 'Tom'**

Collage, 'The Zoo'. The original was presented
to the speaker Paul Hunt, who copied the image
at a price to a few interested people, including
Rogers.

The collage represents Speakers' Corner. The
railings are depicted around the green spaces
as literally on the ground in the NE corner of
Hyde Park - this really sets the scene. The
gorilla is the speaker David Cole, a QC. The
turkey is a large Christian woman with shrill
voice. "Police in disguise" is written next to two
police men in uniform with moustaches. Two
leopards in an antagonistic pose are Muslim /
Christian blind followers. Paul Hunt - with his
hallmark crate, pile of books and coffee is the
lion. The label "Jesus is Music" is for William /
Jesus the hippy - here as a parakeet. The clock
labelled "Catholic Corner" is the Catholic
Evidence Guild and private group of the devout.
Donald Soper as a wise elephant. The Christian
Atheist - Peter - is the ape on a milk crate. The
horse is Ali (who often wears horns), the cat is
Lidja (a Serbian girl and friend of Ali) Harry -
often also present with Ali and a mini cab driver
depicted as a reclining monkey on a deck chair.
Maxwell is a hedgehog - he was also a Labour
Councillor. Barry Roberts as a long tailed
monkey, Alec Lowry was a lynx and a heckler
and Tom was an otter, he was an Irish man
always smartly dressed in a bow tie. An
evocative piece, (n.d.)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/37 Correspondence, Norman Shlund 1983

Letter to Norman Shlund from British Airports
Authority about his arrest in the bus station, (30
March 1983)

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/38 Norman Schlund

1982

Norman Schlund's itinerary of night buses to sleep on (two sides, one crossed out). Written by Bob Rogers, (23 September 1982 - 24 September 1982)
OPEN

SFTP/1/5/39 Norman Schlund

c.1980

'Norman Schlund's letters and postcards to his friend Bob Rogers in the 1980s, after Norman 'retired' from Speakers' Corner and started travelling. Most of these letters were sent from Portugal or Cornwall, a few were sent from London. Some of the missives have little enclosures – pictures or bookmarks. Many of them instruct Bob not to write back as Norman does not know how long he will be at the same address.

Norman described Bob Rogers as his 'agent' in the first few letters, because Bob looked after Norman's financial and other affairs for him, since Norman did not have a home address in the UK. Norman was technically homeless: after speculating family money in banks and losing a substantial sum, he decided to go onto the streets while he still had money in the bank.

Reflecting on this collection of letters, Bob said he liked Norman's natural style and honest representation of feelings and experiences. Norman managed to make the everyday sound fascinating. The letters also evince an acute awareness of the time because he travelled so much by bus and train. PDF of notes describing the letters.

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/40 Lord Soper

c.1980

'Two improvised signs from 1994 hung to explain Lord Soper's absence, firstly because his wife was sick, secondly because his wife had died and he had a "bad cold and sore throat". The signs show how unusual his absence from Speakers' Corner was.

OPEN

SFTP/1/5/41 Various Speakers

1994

'A cloth bag and t-shirt made as "Speakers' Corner merchandise", probably by the same person in 1994. The bag depicts a number of Speakers' Corner characters and the t-shirt has a tag with an image of Bob Rogers and has his slogan "It's Going to Get Worse" on it.

OPEN

SFTP/1/6	Reinhard Wentz	c.1976-2010
	Reinhard Wentz has visited Speakers' Corner since the 1960s. He has compiled an encyclopaedia of Speakers' Corner entitled "Only in London; Speakers' Corner, Marble Arch, Past, Present, and Future (if any)" which is included in this collection. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive. Collection includes assorted digital and non-digital records. OPEN	
SFTP/1/6/1	Speakers' Corner Presentation	c.1976
	PowerPoint presentation with photographs of Speakers' Corner that Reinhard Wentz has given to universities and other groups. OPEN	
SFTP/1/6/2	Encyclopaedia of Speakers' Corner.	c.2010
	Excerpts from "Only in London; Speakers' Corner, Marble Arch, Past, Present, and Future (if any)", an encyclopaedia of Speakers' Corner. OPEN	
SFTP/1/6/3	Encyclopaedia of Speakers' Corner	c.2010
	Full Speakers' Corner encyclopaedia entitled 'Only in London. Speakers' Corner, Marble Arch. Past, Present, Future (if any)'. OPEN	
SFTP/1/6/4	Articles about Speakers' Corner	1968-1997
	Assorted photocopied documents including articles; * "Jamahiriya at Speakers' Corner", by Thurston Bailey II in The Afro Caribbean Post (p3) 22.06.1978 * "A soapbox in cyber space", by Heathcote Williams from www.independant.co.uk (Online) 07.05.1997 * "Speakers Corner", by Andrew from www.nakedspeaker.com (Online) 07.05.1997 * "Speakers' Corner threatened by hecklers" in LAM (p.4) 28.01.1968, "Blimey what a mouth you've got", by Andy Solomon and Andrew Chivvies in Midweek (p.4 and 5) 19.07.1990 * "A visit to London", source unknown. OPEN	

SFTP/1/6/5	Philip Samson	c.1976
	Photocopied picture [source unknown] with caption 'Philip Samson on the anarchist platform in Hyde Park. May Day 1976.'	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/6/6	Reinhold Alfred	c.1976
	Reinhold Alfred (Alfred Reynolds, 1907-1993) brief biographical notes, covering the period of his life until 1947' by Richard Headicar.	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/6/7	George Blackmore and Gerald Shaw	c.2010
	A Regal Affair, George Blackmore and Gerald Shaw, Europe's Largest Theatre Organ in the Regal Marble Arch.	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/6/8	'Webster'	c.2010
	Cassette tape marked 'Webster'. Digitised onto CD and two .wav files. Webster was a famous speaker who at one point had been a Mosleyite, an anarchist and a Muslim convert. He would move to Australia and speak at Sydney's Speakers' Corner.	
	OPEN	

SFTP/1/7 Alan Abercrombie

2009-2010

Book 'The best free show in London', and a collection of 67 digital photographs of Speaker's Corner characters. Abercrombie was the photographer.

OPEN

The 67 digital photographs can be consulted at Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives (Digital Archive reference SFTP-7). Please contact the Archivist before visiting the Institute.

SFTP/1/8 Tony Allen 1979-2011

Tony Allen started heckling at Speakers' Corner in the 1970s and later became a speaker. He first spoke on sexual politics, anarchist lifestyle and suggested people give up work. He has also performed in theatre, stand up comedy and as a clown, outside of Speakers' Corner. He got a grant to be an "advocate heckler" at Speakers' Corner from the Arts Council in the early 2000s and wrote a book: "A Summer in the Park; A journal of Speakers' Corner". He continues to speak at Speakers' Corner. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner Archive. Collection includes documents, images, audio recordings and video.

OPEN

SFTP/1/8/1 'The New and Latter House of Israel' c.2011

Photograph of 'The New and Latter House of Israel'. They were twin brothers who spoke as part of a group who claimed to be one of the lost tribes of Israel. They had been speaking since at least the 1930s as they are mentioned in "Around the Marble Arch" written by F.W. Batchelor about Speakers' Corner in 1939 and during the war. Photo labelled on back but illegible. Hungarian writing on the back (also scanned).

OPEN

SFTP/1/8/2 Tony Allen 1979-2011

Two pages from the International Times, May 1979, about Tony Allen being arrested. Also blog piece 'Speakers Cornered' published on 25 July 2011 written by Tony Allen about having his speaking disrupted by the Grand Prix Priest.

OPEN

SFTP/1/8/3 Tony Allen 2005

Text of a online Guardian article, dated Monday 25 April 2005 entitled 'BBC refuse to apologise for Howard Hecklers' in which Tony Allen trained people to heckle. PDF with email from Tony Allen describing article with link.

OPEN

SFTP/1/8/4	Howard Eisenburg	c.1970
	Postcard of Howard Eisenburg with a sign saying 'I have discovered the secret of eternal youth'. Postcard is of a photograph taken by John Gladdy and produced by a company called 'any old icon' that donor is involved in. OPEN	
SFTP/1/8/5	'The Heckler'	c.2005
	VHS tape of 'The Heckler' BBC Three program, (28 minutes 14 seconds). OPEN	
SFTP/1/8/6	'Tony'	c.2005
	2 x Cassette tapes. One labelled 'Hyde Park' and 'Tonys play' the other 'Tony - Speakers Pre Arrest'. OPEN	
SFTP/1/8/7	Various Speakers	c.2010
	18 digital images of various speakers and the crowds at Speakers' Corner. Originally on CD, but also deposited in the Digital Archive. OPEN	
SFTP/1/8/8	'A Summer in the Park'	2010
	CD of Tony Allen's book 'A summer in the park', [formatted as a Microsoft Word document with the text and pictures]. OPEN	
SFTP/1/8/9	Speakers' Corner Exhibition	c.1979
	Postcard, two sides, advertising 'Speakers' Corner, a photograph exhibition, by Darrell K Morris'. OPEN	

SFTP/1/9	Martin Besserman	c.1980-2010
	<p>Martin Besserman first performed poetry at Speakers' Corner at the age of 16, and went on to speak about women and his quest to meet them at the Corner. He is also a comedian and continues to speak at the Corner. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive.</p> <p>Includes various digital photographs of Martin Besserman speaking, an Islington Gazette article about Martin Besserman, and the front cover of Martin Besserman's record; 'High Class Dinner Party'.</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SFTP/1/9/1	Martin Besserman	c.2005
	<p>Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)</p> <p>OPEN</p> <p>The digital images can be viewed at Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives (Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please contact the Archivist prior to your visit.</p>	
SFTP/1/9/2	Martin Besserman	c.2005
	<p>Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)</p> <p>OPEN</p> <p>The digital images can be viewed at Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives (Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please contact the Archivist prior to your visit.</p>	
SFTP/1/9/3	Martin Besserman	c.2005
	<p>Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)</p> <p>OPEN</p> <p>The digital images can be viewed at Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives (Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please contact the Archivist prior to your visit.</p>	
SFTP/1/9/4	Martin Besserman	c.1980

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/5 Martin Besserman c.2005

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/6 Martin Besserman c.2005

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/7 Martin Besserman c.2005

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/8 Martin Besserman c.2005

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/9 Martin Besserman c.2005

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/10 Martin Besserman

c.1980

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/11 Martin Besserman

c.1980

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/12 Martin Besserman

c.1980

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/13 Martin Besserman

c.1980

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

**The digital images can be viewed at
Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives
(Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please
contact the Archivist prior to your visit.**

SFTP/1/9/14 Martin Besserman

c.1980

Photograph of Martin Besserman at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (n.d.)

OPEN

The digital images can be viewed at Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives (Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please contact the Archivist prior to your visit.

SFTP/1/9/15 Martin Besserman

2005

Newspaper article about Martin Besserman, (n.d.)

OPEN

The digital images can be viewed at Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives (Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please contact the Archivist prior to your visit.

SFTP/1/9/16 Martin Besserman

c.1980

The front cover of Martin Besserman's record; 'High Class Dinner Party', (n.d.)

OPEN

The digital images can be viewed at Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives (Digital Archive reference: SFTP-9). Please contact the Archivist prior to your visit.

SFTP/1/10	Heiko Khoo	c.1931-2004
	<p>Heiko Khoo began to speak at Speakers' Corner in the 1980s about communism. He is a Marxist and continues to speak at the Corner. He produces a radio show on Resonance FM about Speakers' Corner and has trained students and others in outdoor public speaking. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive. This collection includes documents and one digital photograph.</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SFTP/1/10/1	Police Horse at Speakers' Corner	1931
	<p>Scanned photograph of police horse chasing crowd into park, (30 September 1931)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SFTP/1/10/2	Articles about Speakers' Corner	1988-2001
	<p>Newspaper articles including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sunday Telegraph, Speakers' Cornered, (6 March 1988) - News - Merry Go Round Threat to Speakers' Corner, - Comunidad 9/99 liben@ut@s del mundo do unios, - Today, Riot in the park, (10 October 1994) - Evening Standard, Spy Cameras for Speakers' Corner Police, Police to Video Extremists at Speakers' Corner, (9 July 1995) - The Daily Telegraph, Speaker: I know my redeemer lives, (12 June 1995) - Evening Standard, Get off your soapbox and get on a ladder, (24 March 1997) - Evening Standard, Speakers' Corner urges end to war, (29 October 2001) <p>OPEN</p>	
SFTP/1/10/3	Published works about Speakers' Corner	c.1930
	<p>Books and published works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hunger Marches and Hyde Park (Pamphlet) - Bob Edwards, Memoirs of Lenin (Chapter 4) - Life in London, Struggle for Hyde Park (Chapter 4) - Riotous Victorians, Setting the scene - The Marxist League (Chapter 2) 1929-1932 	

- Marx and Engels - collected works, volume 42
OPEN

SFTP/1/10/4 Magazine Articles about Speakers' Corner 1994-1998

Magazine articles:

- The Hyde Park Socialist World News Review (16 October 1994),
- Investors Chronicle Volume 125-1608 (11 December 1998),
- The Hyde Park Socialist World News Review (8 July 1994) (Speakers' Corner a brief history),
- Expansion (May 2004) Politics and religion combined in the Parliament of Hyde Park, The Editor, (15 August 1998) p.4 (A foreign view of Britain: this week from Portugal),
- The Sunday Times Magazine Mission and Madness p.16, Midweek (1 September 1988) p.8-9 (Out Come the Freaks)

OPEN

SFTP/1/10/5 Essays about Speakers' Corner (n.d.)

Essays:

- Yannis Mendez - London Heritage Project: How important is Speakers' Corner to London's Heritage, Heiko Khoo
- Utopia and Dystopia, Heiko Khoo - Memories of Speakers' Corner.

OPEN

SFTP/1/10/6 Correspondence and Papers of Heiko Khoo 1940-2004

- Statute: Open Spaces: The Royal Parks and other Spaces Regulations 1997,
- Pictures: Grace Golden Free Speech (1940),
- Interview: Heiko Khoo and Nadia Mahjoub (19 April 2004),
- Letter to Heiko Khoo from Jack Straw regarding an invitation to debate,
- Letter to Heiko Khoo from Philip Leech regarding an Evening Standard report on police probing Speakers' Corner with cameras.

OPEN

SFTP/1/11	Levi Leatherberry	2012
	Digital photographs and footage of Speakers' Corner on with Sounds from the Park participants (volunteers, interviewees and staff), (2 December 2012). OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/1	Patrick McEvoy	2012
	Photograph of Patrick McEvoy at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/2	Patrick McEvoy	2012
	Photograph of Patrick McEvoy at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/3	Speakers' Corner	2012
	Photograph still from Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/4	Speakers' Corner	2012
	Photograph still from Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/5	Levi Leatherberry	2012
	Photograph of Levi speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/6	Levi Leatherberry	2012
	Photograph of Levi speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/7	Levi Leatherberry	2012
	Photograph of Levi speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/8	Levi Leatherberry	2012

	Photograph of Levi speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/9	Levi Leatherberry	2012
	Photograph of Levi speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/10	Levi Leatherberry	2012
	Photograph of Levi speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/11	Levi Leatherberry	2012
	Photograph of Levi speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/12	Levi Leatherberry	2012
	Footage of Levi speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/13	Patrick McEvoy	2012
	Footage of Patrick McEvoy speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/14	Patrick McEvoy	2012
	Footage of Patrick McEvoy speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/11/15	Unknown Speaker	2012
	Unknown speaker at Speakers' Corner OPEN	

SFTP/1/12 Julian Meek c.1989

Julian Meek founded the Open Platform, on which anyone could get up and speak. Public speaking was especially important to him as a child he developed the ability to speak later than other children. He is a Unitarian Minister. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive. Includes:

- Photograph of Meek speaking on open platform in 1989 with sign 'Speaker's Corner only open platform',
- Scanned page from booklet labelled 'Soperisms booklet'
- Two postcards about Julian Meek's church
- Photocopied booklet 'Soperisms'.

Open

SFTP/1/12/1 Julian Meek c.1989

Photograph of Meek speaking on open platform in 1989 with sign 'Speaker's Corner only open platform'.

Open

SFTP/1/12/2 Soperisms Booklet c.1989

Scanned page from booklet labelled Soperisms booklet.

Open

SFTP/1/12/4 Julian Meek c.1989

Two postcards about Julian Meek's church.

Open

SFTP/1/12/5 Soperisms Booklet c.1989

Photocopied booklet 'Soperisms'

Open

SFTP/1/13 Joe Bloggs

c.1970

Picture of soundsystem on flatbed as part of a
demonstration against the police bill

OPEN

SFTP/1/14	Jonathan Fitter	c.1995-2013
	Jonathan Fitter first spoke about veganism in Hyde Park, changing his subject to Israel - Palestine as he became more interested in the issue. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive. OPEN	
SFTP/1/14/1	Jonathan Fitter	c.1995-2013
	Photographs of Jonathan Fitter speaking at Speakers' Corner. The man with the black beard is called Carlo, from the ex-Yugoslavia. The photographer was "Matth" according to the back of the photo. OPEN	
SFTP/1/14/2	Jonathan Fitter	c.1995-2013
	Photographs of Jonathan Fitter speaking at Speakers' Corner. The man with the black beard is called Carlo, from the ex-Yugoslavia. The photographer was "Matth" according to the back of the photo. OPEN	
SFTP/1/14/3	Jonathan Fitter	c.1995-2013
	Photographs of Jonathan Fitter speaking at Speakers' Corner. The man with the black beard is called Carlo, from the ex-Yugoslavia. The photographer was "Matth" according to the back of the photo. OPEN	
SFTP/1/14/4	Jonathan Fitter	c.1995-2013
	Photographs of Jonathan Fitter speaking at Speakers' Corner. The man with the black beard is called Carlo, from the ex-Yugoslavia. The photographer was "Matth" according to the back of the photo. OPEN	
SFTP/1/14/5	Jonathan Fitter	c.1995-2013
	Photographs of Jonathan Fitter speaking at Speakers' Corner. The man with the black	

beard is called Carlo, from the ex-Yugoslavia.
The photographer was "Matth" according to the
back of the photo.

OPEN

SFTP/1/14/6 Speakers' Corner, Jerusalem.

2013

A photocopied article from Jewish Chronicle
about a Speakers' Corner being set up in
Jerusalem.

OPEN

SFTP/1/15 Adam Buick 1950-1985

Adam Buick is a member of the Socialist Party of Great Britain, spoke at Speakers Corner on the party's platform and was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive. Includes a French magazine article - Liberacion, about spoiler hecklers; a photograph of Tony Turner (portrait) from early 1950s; and a photocopied leaflet with picture of Ted Grant (Trotskyist leader).

OPEN

SFTP/1/15/1 Article about Hecklers 1985

French magazine article, 'Liberacion' about spoiler hecklers

OPEN

SFTP/1/15/2 Tony Turner c.1950

Photograph of Tony Turner (portrait) from early 1950s

OPEN

SFTP/1/15/3 Ted Grant c.1950

Photocopied leaflet with picture of Ted Grant (Trotskyist leader).

OPEN

SFTP/1/16 Socialist Party of Great Britain 1905-2004

Assorted documents and scanned photographs from the Socialist Party of Great Britain (SPGB) archive. The SPGB had a platform at Speakers' Corner since 1912, and maintains a presence there to this day. Many well known speakers throughout the Corner's history have spoken on their platform, including the famous Tony Turner.
OPEN

SFTP/1/16/1 Outdoor Speaking Platforms in London 1905-1979

Research compiled by SPGB archivist Keith Scholey on the SPGB outdoor speaking places in London, as listed in their paper, the Socialist Standard. Shows how the venues for outdoor speaking changed over time.
OPEN

SFTP/1/16/2 Douglas Ayres 1960

Douglas Ayres (member c. 1960) a civil engineer on the railways, taken by Jack Bradley. Back of photograph says "Doug Ayres, Socialist Party of Great Britain, also B.R.board".
OPEN

SFTP/1/16/62 Article about Speakers' Corner 1987

Article in 'First Sight' about Speakers' Corner. An interview with a photographer, David Murray by Keith Wilson. Images of Socialist Party of Great Britain speakers, (7 November 1987)
OPEN

SFTP/1/16/3 Sidney Beck 1960

Sidney Beck (member 1938-69) seen here at his 'post' outside Hyde Park taken by Jack Bradley. He is holding a Socialist Standard with the headline "This fearsome world, 40 million refugees, The rising rate of profit". Back of photograph reads: "Cre Beck at his 'post' Hyde Park old Toby also SPGB behind. (Before the alterations to the railings). Date as "Standard". JB," (June 1960)
OPEN

SFTP/1/16/4	Sammy Cash	c.1950
	Sammy Cash (member 1924-29, 1934-56) a prominent speaker who later became disillusioned. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/5	Article about Speakers' Corner	1984
	Photograph of Justice which mentions Speakers' Corner, (6 January 1984) OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/6	Socialist Party of Great Britain Lecture List	1912
	Photocopy of Socialist Party of Great Britain lecture list and note from Adam Buick explaining that the SPGB were speaking at Hyde Park from 1912 - 1914, (May 1912) OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/7	Socialist Standard	1937-2004
	Three issues of Socialist Standard, (1937, 1960, 2004) OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/8	Article about Speakers' Corner	1894
	Photocopies of Justice, 'The organ of social democracy' showing that there were speakers in Hyde Park listed, (6 January 1894) OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/9	Unknown Speakers and Crowds	c.1950
	Fifteen photographs labelled 'Various Outdoor Meetings' OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/10	Tony Turner	c.1950
	Two photographs of Tony Turner sitting on a wall in Lambeth with an unknown woman. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/11	Mayday Posters	c.1950
	Photographs of Mayday posters and of an unknown Speaker.	

	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/12	Mayday at Hyde Park	c.1954
	Photograph of the crowd at Mayday Sunday in Hyde Park, (1954) OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/13	Joe McGuinness	c.1962
	Joe McGuinness speaking at Tower Hill. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/14	Terry Lord	c.1960
	Terry Lord speaking at Tower Hill, (5 May 1960). OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/15	Norman Stovold	c.1950
	Norman Stovold speaking. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/16	Remy Stark	c.1952
	Remy Stark speaking at Tower Hill OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/17	Pieter Lawrence	c.1950
	Pieter Lawrence speaking. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/18	'Ambridge'	1962
	R. Ambridge at Tower Hill, in the park, [copyright J.S Bradley], and at Islington Branch of the Socialist Party of Great Britain. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/19	Bill Kerr	1957
	Bill Kerr, Hyde Park, (June 1957) OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/20	Augustus Snelgrove	1941
	Augustus Snelgrove speaking, (8 July 1941)	

	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/21	Les Cox	c.1950
	Les Cox with a sign 'Hampstead branch' speaking to a policeman. On back is written "Tessa Sullivan, Wykes, North End, NW3 7HS".	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/22	'Tubby'	c.1975
	"Tubby Hyde Park", (21 July 1975)	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/23	Cliff Begley	c.1975
	Cliff Begley speaking and selling the Socialist Standard.	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/24	Harry Walter	c.1980
	Harry Walter, the fifth is also labelled Nick Davies.	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/25	Les Cox	c.1980
	Les Cox speaking in Hyde Park with Bob Simpson selling papers next to him	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/26	Danny Lambert	c.2000
	Danny Lambert speaking	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/27	Les Cox	c.1980
	Les Cox speaking with yellow stand.	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/28	Les Cox	c.1980
	Les Cox speaking	
	OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/29	Bill Martin	c.2000

	Bill Martin speaking OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/30	Les Cox	c.1970
	Les Cox speaking with a white stand. Nick White in crowd. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/32	Eddie Grant	c.1970
	Eddie Grant speaking. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/33	Graham Gluck	c.1970
	Graham Gluck pointing with his left arm. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/34	Ron Meka	c.1970
	Ron Meka speaking with poster below on stand 'Proud to be British, exposing nationalism'. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/35	Islington Branch	c.1980
	Islington Branch speaking on Highbury Fields. Probably during 1980s when the Socialist Party Great Britain contested elections in the borough. Clifford Slapper and Stephen Coleman with backs to photographer, right foreground, tweed jacket and dark suit respectively. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/36	Tony Turner	c.1980
	A group seated in café including Tony Turner. Also present Freddie James, Piet Lawrence, Anne Young, and Ross. [Copyright J. Bradley] OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/37	Harry Young	c.1981
	Harry Young speaking in Hyde Park, (1981). "One of my 1981 September/October shots in Hyde Park", [Copyright Photo by Alec Hart] OPEN	

SFTP/1/16/38	Unknown Seller of Socialist Standard	1974
	A man selling Socialist Standard: Danny McCarthy. Probably in Hyde Park. Front page says 'Inflation; the theories and the facts. The war in Cyprus'. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/39	Socialist Party of Great Britain	1952-1974
	Socialist Party of Great Britain speaking in Trafalgar square. On back stamped "Yhytyne Kuvalehdet 22 IX 1974" 1952 also written on the back in pencil. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/40	Richard Headicar	1980
	Richard Headicar OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/41	Socialist Party Great Britain speakers	c.2000
	Socialist Party Great Britain speakers including Danny Lambert in Brixton with a yellow stand. OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/42	Adam Buick and Richard Montague	c.1980
	Adam Buick and Richard Montague in France OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/43	Adam Buick and Masoud Anya	c.1960
	Adam Buick and Masoud Anya OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/44	Stephen Coleman	1985
	Stephen Coleman speaking at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/45	Gary Slapper	1985
	Gary Slapper, Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/46	Crowd at Speakers' Corner	1985

	Crowd at Speakers' Corner OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/47	Richard Montague	1985
	Richard Montague on Channel 4 TV's Comment programme OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/48	Adam Buick and Eddie Grant	1985
	Adam Buick and Eddie Grant, Highbury Fields, (May 1985) OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/49	Stephen Coleman	1985
	Stephen Coleman speaking at Highbury Fields. Labelled "outdoor meetings in Highbury fields", (May 1985) OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/50	Val McEntree	2004
	2 letters from Val McEntree about her photographs of outdoor meetings in Hyde Park, addressed to the Centenary Committee of the Socialist Party of Great Britain. The letters explain there are several shots from the 1987 General Election when they stood a candidate and some from Speakers' Corner during 1983 - 1988. She had been active in the Islington Branch of the SPGB, (17 January 2004 - 24 February 2004) OPEN	
SFTP/1/16/51	Tony Turner and 'Comrade Groves'	1945
	Tony Turner and "Comrade Groves" speaking during the 1945 Paddington by-election and other campaigning activities.	
	Large crowd. Speakers standing on cars. 1 montage of Bracken and Macfarlane campaign (same as the by-election). Groves was the socialist candidate. First labelled "1945, First Election. No Agfa 5a. off "Prince of Wales", Harrow Road, Paddington North. AWL Turner speaking". The next photograph is also Tony Turner. The third is labelled "Comrade Groves	

speaking during Paddington election, 1945".

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/52 Les Cox and Ernie Guy c.1980

Speakers in Hyde Park labelled 'Les Cox' and 'Ernie Guy?'

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/53 Crowd at Speakers' Corner c.1940

Postcard - 'Archive Awareness'. Image shows a sailor and a woman embracing at Speakers' Corner, presumably during Second World War. In the background is an Socialist Party of Great Britain speakers and a crowd. Front and back scanned. [Copyright: Imperial War Museum].

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/54 Eddie Grant and Doug Ayres c.1950

Eddie Grant, Doug Ayres, Socialist Party of Great Britain.

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/55 Sammy Cash c.1950

Sammy Cash and others. Seated at tables in a park. One labelled "Sammy Cash lighting pipe".

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/56 Crowd at Southend c.1949

'Meeting on Southend front', (12 June 1949)

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/57 Crowds at Clapham Common and Hyde Park c.1953

Crowds at Clapham Common and Hyde Park, (1953)

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/58 David Moss and Joe Richmond c.1950

Glasgow branch. The first photograph has writing on the back: "May Day late '40s or 1950 or '51. I have just handed the platform to David Moss, and joined the comrades at the lit. stand. This may explain the looks directed towards us.

The face shown over my and Anna's shoulder is Paddy Small's. The photograph was taken by our late comrade, Pat Kenny. Comrades at the stand are left to right, Joe Richmond, Anna Richmond, Victor Morris and Bert Vallar."

The second photograph is labelled "Joe Richmond" and the third "David Moss".

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/59 Unknown Speaker c.1950

Speaker on 42 Argyle Rd, Ealing.

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/60 Unknown Speaker with Large Crowd c.1950

Speaker in large crowd. On back noted "from American (?) magazine 'Look' 6/74". Possibly Tony Turner.

OPEN

SFTP/1/16/61 Article about Speakers' Corner 1996

French article from "Le Soir" entitled "Islamic Speakers' Corner: au couer de Londres", (21 August 1996)

OPEN

SFTP/1/17 Tom Tickell**1959-2010**

Tom Tickell first went to Speakers' Corner as a teenager in the late 1950s. Following in his father's footsteps, he spoke there as a sixteen year old on the virtues of yak transport and smoking potatoes. He continues to attend the Corner, primarily as a heckler, and records his interactions in diary entries. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive.

Open**SFTP/1/17/1 Tom Tickell****1959**

Photograph of Tickell at Speakers' Corner at age of 16, "Speaking at Speakers' Corner, with a crowd".

Open**SFTP/1/17/2 Tom Tickell****1999-2010**

Selected entries from Tom Tickell's diary from the years 1999, 2000 and 2010, read aloud by Tom Tickell. The diary chronicles a range of colourful personalities and repartee from Sunday visits to Speakers' Corner. Each sound file corresponds to one diary entry and is labelled with the date. Accompanying document with his diary entries typed up.

OPEN

Digital audio of Tom Tickell's diary can be accessed in the Researchers' Area of Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archives. Please contact the Archivist prior to visiting the Archives.

CD labelled Soper in Hyde Park, 25th November 1984, Topics: Sunday Observance; Clergy and Politics; Poverty and Disease; Northern Ireland; Politics of Coal Mining; Nuclear weapons, coal mines, privatisation. 58 min, Recorded by Brian and Angela Bibb. Note: attempts at disruption by heckling. 58 minutes long, (25 November 1984.)
Open

SFTP/1/19 Philip Wolmuth**1977-2012**

Philip Wolmuth is a professional photographer who has frequented Speakers' Corner more or less regularly since 1977. He has built up a substantial photograph collection of the interaction at Speakers' Corner. He conducted interviews with speakers including Donald Soper (which is now a part of this archive) and has recorded numerous speeches and sounds there. His photographs can also be seen on his website: <http://tinyurl.com/paxl5dq> and form part of a unpublished book. His introduction to the Sounds from the Park booklet can be read at soundsfromthepark.org.uk, (1977-2012)

Open**SFTP/1/19/1 'Peter England' or Peter David****1977**

Photograph of 'Peter England' or Peter David, remembered as a very powerful speaker. He sold newspapers at Marble Arch or Oxford Street for the famous heckler "Lord Barker". His most frequently asked question was 'Where's the Underground?' at which he would point at the floor. Not everyone caught on! He used to claim he had all the degrees in the world and would then rotate. One of his favourite sayings was 'done it again!'. He was convinced that asbestos was sent to save us from the Germans. When he finished speaking he'd be in a 'muck sweat' . In the summer he'd strip off to just a pair of shorts and would spend his whole life breathing in the atmosphere of Marble Arch traffic. Sometimes he and Lord Barker would argue and rant and rage at each other, (14 May 1977)

Open**SFTP/1/19/2 Stuart Wheeler****1977**

Stuart Wheeler, an evangelist. He has the bible under his arm. He would get followed, or chased, around the park by people who wanted him to speak. He would threaten them with his six brothers, all Welsh miners who, he said, would come up and sort the crowd out because they were abusing him and his lord. He would always wear a bowler hat and a three piece suit,

(14 May 1977)
Open

SFTP/1/19/3 Catholic Speaker 1977

Woman speaker from the Catholic Evidence Guild, (6 November 1977)
Open

SFTP/1/19/4 Unknown religious speaker 1977

"Be sure your sin will find you out" written in tape on man's back, (6 November 1977)
Open

SFTP/1/19/5 Anti-Catholic Christian preacher 1977

Anti-Catholic Christian preacher, (27 November 1977)
Open

SFTP/1/19/6 'Aggie' 1978

Aggie was an interesting character. "She used to get people singing hymns or popular songs. She and others could be there until midnight, which is the closing time for the park and then they would help each other across the fence because the gate would already be locked". Sharley McLean remembers singing with Aggie and others on weekday escapes to Speakers' Corner in her oral history interview for the Speakers' Corner archive, (15 January 1978)
Open

SFTP/1/19/7 Peter Bhalla 1978

Peter Bhalla, a communist speaker from Sri Lanka. He normally wore a big hat. He had one of the tallest stands and a big red flag, you could see him from right across the park. Lord Barker used to say to him "Mr Speaker - return that flag to British rail immediately!" and get a big laugh, (15 January 1978)
Open

SFTP/1/19/8 Holy Bob 1978

The man carrying "The End Is At Hand" sign

was known as "Holy Bob". Normally Bob would be surrounded by a crowd, singing and joking but here he is at rest, (23 April 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/9 Unknown speaker 1978

Wolmuth wrote: "This gentleman is possibly Polish. He wore badges over a raincoat. He had a huge one on his lapel that said 'Don't Panic'. He was there for years and years, was a very amiable character, not a speaker", (11 June 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/10 David White Cole 1978

David White Cole, a QC from Nigeria. He spoke about Africa and British attitudes to Africa, (9 July 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/11 David White Cole 1978

Haroun Jadhakhan. He spoke about the Libyan revolution, but became quite disillusioned and changed his attitudes. Also spoke on Palestine. His wife always came with him. He published several books about Libya, (9 July 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/12 Geoffrey Smith 1978

Geoffrey Smith, or Geoffrey Chandler. Part of the Gypsy Council. He would speak about Gypsy issues and how unfair the British law is, (30 July 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/13 The Christian Atheist 1978

'This is the arrest of a Christian atheist. He was a very good, principled person. There were several people in Hyde Park who were Christian atheists or Catholics who did not believe in God, (17 September 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/14 'Jesus' ('William) 1978

Jesus - his real name was William, a hippie, who used to spread out lots of brightly-coloured posters on the ground in front of him, each containing some mystical message. He thought himself to be the reincarnation of Jesus Christ, (22 October 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/15 Jim Huggon 1978

Jim Huggon, anarchist speaker, speaking on the Hyde Park Anarchists platform. Jim Huggon wrote "Speakers' Corner: An Anthology" (22 October 1978).

Open

SFTP/1/19/16 Steve Ross 1978

Socialist Party of Great Britain speaker, Steve Ross, (29 October 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/17 Secular League Speaker 1978

Secular League speaker. They used to speak at Tower Hill, (29 October 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/18 Norman Schlund 1978

Pictures of Norman Schlund, gesticulating and speaking. Norman was an ex-serviceman who performed for many decades at Speakers' Corner. According to Bob Rogers he was "talking about nothing" in very entertaining ways. He used his whole body to perform as a kind of street theatre. He is described in detail in Bob Rogers' interview for the Speakers' Corner archive, (11 November 1978)

Open

SFTP/1/19/19 Edmund Wheatley (Ted) 1978

'Edmund "Ted" Wheatley, a World Federalist speaker who has spoken since the 1960s. See his interview for the Speakers' Corner archive for more detail.

Open

SFTP/1/19/20 'Webster' 1978

	<p>'Webster was a famous speaker who at one point had been a Mosleyite, a anarchist and a Muslim convert. Here he is speaking on the Secular League platform. He would move to Australia and speak at Sydney's Speakers' Corner, (24 December 1978)</p> <p>Open</p>	
SFTP/1/19/21	Unknown speaker	1978
	<p>'Speaker with red flag, (24 December 1978)</p> <p>Open</p>	
SFTP/1/19/22	Unknown speaker	1979
	<p>Holocaust denier, (14 January 1979)</p> <p>Open</p>	
SFTP/1/19/23	Norman Schlund	1979
	<p>Pictures of Norman Schlund, gesticulating and speaking. Norman was an ex-serviceman who performed for many decades at Speakers' Corner and was "talking about nothing" as Bob Rogers said in his interview, in very entertaining ways. He used his whole body to perform as a kind of street theatre. He is described in detail in Bob Rogers' interview for the Speakers' Corner archive, (25 February 1979)</p> <p>Open</p>	
SFTP/1/19/24	Robert Oglivie	1979
	<p>Robert Oglivie, a well known anarchist speaker and Scotsman, remembered as a great ad-libber and humourist. Recordings of him speaking are held in the Speakers' Corner archive, (25 February 1979)</p> <p>Open</p>	
SFTP/1/19/25	'Joshua the Hippy'	1979
	<p>Joshua the hippy. CIA conspiracy theorist. Had soap thrown at him by the Tory hecklers, (4 March 1979)</p> <p>Open</p>	
SFTP/1/19/26	Tony Allen	1979

Tony Allen, anarchist speaker, performing. See his interview for the Speakers' Corner archive for more detail, (4 March 1979)

Open

SFTP/1/19/27 Tony Allen 1979

Tony Allen being arrested at Speakers' Corner, probably for swearing. This is described in his interview for the Speakers' Corner archive, (11 March 1979)

Open

SFTP/1/19/28 Tony Allen 1979

'Tony Allen, anarchist speaker and comedian, speaking, (22 March 1979)

Open

SFTP/1/19/29 Paul Hunt 1980

Paul Hunt, a Maths teacher, would often stand on his box saying nothing at all, and could be irascible when people came up to talk to him. Despite this, he is remembered for his wise words when he did break his silence, and for the enduring relationships he made at Speakers' Corner. Here he is in his 'Saint Paul' pose, (12 April 1980)

Open

SFTP/1/19/30 'Aggie' 1980

Aggie is in the deck chair. The group of people in the picture are probably singing hymns. Aggie was an interesting character. "She used to get people singing hymns or popular songs. She and others could be there until midnight, which is the closing time for the park and then they would help each other across the fence because the gate would already be locked". Sharley McLean remembers singing with Aggie and others on weekday escapes to Speakers' Corner in her oral history interview for the Speakers' Corner archive, (13 April 1980)

Open

SFTP/1/19/31 'Frank' 1980

	<p>'The toilet brush and pan are part of 'Frank's royal regalia'. He was an anti-royalist and often had the police in attendance. Also a close up of his handwritten sign, (11 August 1980)</p> <p>Open</p>	
SFTP/1/19/32	<p>Jim Huggon</p> <p>'Close up of Jim Huggon, anarchist speaker. Jim Huggon wrote "Speakers' Corner: An Anthology", (11 August 1980)</p> <p>Open</p>	1980
SFTP/1/19/33	<p>Coalition for Peace through Security rally</p> <p>Coalition for Peace Through Security, a pro-Falklands War rally, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London, (7 May 1982)</p> <p>Open</p>	1982
SFTP/1/19/34	<p>Edward Leigh</p> <p>Future Conservative MP Edward Leigh with a Winston Churchill poster, in support of the Falklands War, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London, (9 May 1982)</p> <p>Open</p>	1982
SFTP/1/19/35	<p>Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament rally</p> <p>A mass CND rally surrounds a signpost to Speakers Corner in Hyde Park, (22 October 1983)</p> <p>Open</p>	1983
SFTP/1/19/36	<p>Peter Bhalla</p> <p>Peter Bhalla, A communist speaker from Sri Lanka. He normally wore a big hat. He had one of the tallest stands and a big red flag, you could see him from right across the park. Lord Barker used to say to him "Mr Speaker - return that flag to British rail immediately!" and get a big laugh, (7 March 1989)</p> <p>Open</p>	1989
SFTP/1/19/37	<p>Evangelical Christian Speaker</p> <p>Evangelical Christian man with a millenarian placard at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park,</p>	1993

London, (8 March 1993)

Open

SFTP/1/19/38 Unknown Speaker on an Open Platform 1993

The feet of a speaker standing on a milk crate, with a sign advocating free speech, at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London. This is probably the Open Platform where anyone could get up and speak. See Julian Meek's interview for more details, (28 March 1993)

Open

SFTP/1/19/39 'Simon' 1993

Simon, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London. Simon has also been described as 'Dr Bulgaria' who was a controversialist, and would be involved with the Open Platform, (28 March 1993)

Open

SFTP/1/19/40 Evangelical Christian Speaker 1993

Evangelical Christian woman holding a sign, (4 April 1993)

Open

SFTP/1/19/41 Muslim Speaker 1993

Young Muslim woman debating with older man, (4 April 1993)

Open

SFTP/1/19/42 Christian Preacher 1993

A Christian preacher addresses a crowd with a large cross erected behind him at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, (8 April 1993)

Open

SFTP/1/19/43 Mrs Bhalla 1993

Peter Bhalla's wife (a communist speaker) argues with a man, (18 April 1993)

Open

SFTP/1/19/44 Christian Speaker 1993

Christian man speaking wearing a "I love

	Jesus" t-shirt, (18 April 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/45	Crowd at Speakers' Corner	1993
	Picture of the crowd at Speakers' Corner, (18 April 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/46	Christian Speaker	1993
	Christian man holding sign at Speakers' Corner, (18 April 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/47	'Peter'	1993
	Peter, a Christian atheist explains his position at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, (18 April 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/48	Hecklers at Speakers' Corner	1993
	Two men argue with a Christian preacher at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, (16 May 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/49	Two men arguing at Speakers' Corner	1993
	Two men arguing at Speakers' Corner, (16 May 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/50	Heiko Khoo	1993
	Heiko Khoo, Marxist speaker (see his interview for the Speakers' Corner archive), (23 May 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/51	Unknown Speaker	1993
	Man speaking in front of sign 'The blood of Jesus Christ' and 'The Holy Ghost and fire', (23 May 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/52	Unknown Spectator	1993

	<p>Muslim man facing away from camera standing next to sign about Palestine referencing the Holocaust, (23 May 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	
SFTP/1/19/53	<p>Crowd at Speakers' Corner</p> <p>Small crowd listening to Jewish man at Speakers' Corner, (23 May 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/54	<p>Muslim Preacher</p> <p>A Muslim preacher addresses a crowd and holds up the Quran at Speakers' Corner, (23 May 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/55	<p>Crowds at Speakers' Corner</p> <p>Crowds at Speakers' Corner, (6 June 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/56	<p>Christian Preacher</p> <p>A Christian preacher addresses a crowd at Speakers Corner, (23 May 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/57	<p>Unknown Speaker</p> <p>An Iraqi speaker argues, in Arabic, with an Arabic crowd at Speakers' Corner, (23 May 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/58	<p>Crowds at Speakers' Corner</p> <p>Crowds at Speakers' Corner, (25 July 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/59	<p>Barry Roberts</p> <p>Barry Roberts speaking; 'A typical summers afternoon with Barry Roberts in good form', (5 September 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/60	<p>Unknown Speaker</p>	1993

	<p>Woman arguing with a Jewish man whilst she has her finger pointed up at the sky, (19 September 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	
SFTP/1/19/61	<p>'Ali the Surrealist'</p> <p>Ali 'The Surrealist', wearing a hat, (26 September 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/62	<p>Unknown Speaker</p> <p>A young woman, who was a Christian speaker, (26 September 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/63	<p>Martin Besserman</p> <p>Martin Besserman, comedian, speaking at Speakers' Corner. See his interview for the Speakers' Corner archive, (26 September 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/64	<p>Bobby Beckford</p> <p>Bobby Beckford at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London, (26 September 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/65	<p>Unknown Speaker</p> <p>Young black male speaker at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, (26 September 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/67	<p>Unknown Speakers</p> <p>A Palestinian and a Jewish man argue at Speakers' Corner, (3 October 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/68	<p>Crowd at Speakers' Corner</p> <p>Crowd at Speakers' Corner, (3 October 1993)</p> <p>Open</p>	1993
SFTP/1/19/69	<p>Jewish Speaker</p>	1993

	Jewish man at Speakers' Corner, (3 October1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/70	Unknown Speaker	1993
	A man holding a bible behind his back, (3 October1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/71	Unknown Speaker	1993
	Man holding a sign up at Speakers' Corner, (3 October1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/72	Adbdurraheem Green	1993
	Adbdurraheem Green, a Muslim convert, speaking. See his interview for the Speakers' Corner archive, (10 October1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/74	American Christian Evangelist Speaker	1993
	An American Christian Evangelist argues with a young black heckler at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, (10 October1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/75	Frank Stringer	1993
	Man in black coat leaning forward, called Frank Stringer or Corporal Stringer or Strangler. He was in the army. He used to threaten to strangle people if he lost his temper. He was right wing, (14 November 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/76	Unknown Speaker	1993
	Man holding up signs 'no to European Union' and against 'capitalist or socialist domination, (14 November 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/77	Muslims praying at Speakers' Corner	1993
	Muslims praying at Speakers' Corner, (14	

	November 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/78	Anti-Semitic sign	1993
	Anti-Semitic sign, (14 November 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/79	'Casey'	1993
	Casey (man shouting with large glasses). He would cycle to Speakers' Corner when he was young, (14 November 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/80	American Christian Evangelist Speaker	1993
	American Christian evangelist, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London, (14 November 1993) Open	
SFTP/1/19/81	Peter Bhalla	1994
	Peter Bhalla from the back with his red flag. A communist speaker from Sri Lanka. He normally wore a big hat. He had one of the tallest stands and a big red flag, you could see him from right across the park. Lord Barker used to say to him "Mr Speaker - return that flag to British rail immediately!" and get a big laugh, (19 September 1994) Open	
SFTP/1/19/82	Sharley McLean	1994
	Sharley McLean speaking on the Hyde Park Gay and Sapphic Society, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London. The platform was formed in the 1980s. See her interview for the Speakers' Corner archive, (19 September 1994) Open	
SFTP/1/19/85	Lord Donald Soper	1994
	Lord Donald Soper, Methodist and Christian Socialist, at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, where he spoke regularly from 1926 until his death in 1998, (September 1994)	

	Open	
SFTP/1/19/86	Argument at Speakers Corner	1995
	A Christian and a Muslim argue at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, (February 1995) Open	
SFTP/1/19/88	Christian Preacher	1995
	A Christian preacher addresses a crowd at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, (September 1995) Open	
SFTP/1/19/89	Bobby Beckford	1995
	Bobby Beckford, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London, (17 September 1995) Open	
SFTP/1/19/90	Martin Besserman	1996
	Martin Besserman, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive. Shot in silhouette from behind against the sky, (1 December 1996) Open	
SFTP/1/19/91	Lord Donald Soper	1997
	Lord Donald Soper speaking from his wheelchair, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London. Possibly Kath Humphries, his secretary and carer standing behind him (who was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive). He spoke regularly from 1926 until his death in 1998, (September 1997) Open	
SFTP/1/19/92	Heiko Khoo	2001
	Heiko Khoo, Marxist speaker, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive, (July 2001) Open	
SFTP/1/19/93	'Simon'	2001

	Simon, or 'Doctor Bulgaria' Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London. He was involved in the Open Platform, (July 2001) Open	
SFTP/1/19/94	Christian Preachers	2001
	Christian preachers, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London, (July 2001) Open	
SFTP/1/19/95	'Diane'	2001
	Diane, a Christian who speaks on race and ethnicity and against immigration, argues with hecklers at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London. Women speakers are very much in the minority, (July 2001) Open	
SFTP/1/19/96	Bob Rogers	2001
	Bob Rogers: It's Going to Get Worse, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive, (November 2001) Open	
SFTP/1/19/97	Heckler	2001
	Heckler, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London, (November 2001) Open	
SFTP/1/19/98	Tony Allen	2001
	Tony Allen, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive, (November 2001) Open	
SFTP/1/19/99	Ishmahil Blagrove	2001
	Ishmahil Blagrove, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive, December 2001) Open	

SFTP/1/19/100	Unknown Speaker	2012
	A man uses his smartphone to show a video of bombing damage in Gaza to an Israeli tourist, (25 November 2012) Open	
SFTP/1/19/101	Religious Discussion	2012
	A Sikh, Muslim and Christian discuss religion, (25 November 2012) Open	
SFTP/1/19/102	Heckler at Speakers' Corner	1978
	A woman heckler interrupts a speaker, large crowd around them, (May 1978) Open	
SFTP/1/19/103	Crowd at Speakers' Corner	2012
	Crowd at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London, (2 December 2012) Open	
SFTP/1/19/104	Crowd at Speakers' Corner	1979
	A crowd around a speaker at Speakers' Corner, (April 1979) Open	
SFTP/1/19/105	Argument at Speakers' Corner	2001
	Argument at Speakers' Corner, (25 November 2001) Open	
SFTP/1/19/106	Portraits of Speakers	1970-2012
	120 digital portraits on speakers in action at Speakers' Corner, (c.1970-2012) These digital images can be viewed in the Researcher's Area, Bishopsgate Institute. Please contact the Archivist for more information.	
SFTP/1/19/107	Lord Soper	1994
	Interview with Lord Soper, 43:42 long conducted by Philip Wolmuth. Digital	

recording (.wav file) and summary. Digitised from cassette tape by donor, (22 September 1994)

Open

SFTP/1/19/108 Fred McKay 1995

Fred McKay's interview with Philip Wolmuth. Wolmuth came to London from Belfast in 1946. He knew Bonar Thompson and started off speaking at the Corner with the National Secular Society. He also provides information about where all the platforms for the speakers' were kept. He describes that they were brought in wheel barrows from a lock-up garage by a man called 'Khaki Joe'. Wolmuth, list of everyone who spoke at the Corner. McKay made contact with Wolmuth through the Socialist Party of Great Britain. Wolmuth's wife is the third voice on the recording. Wolmuth is since deceased.

Digitised from cassette tape by donor, (23 January 1995) Running time: 2:47:19

Open

SFTP/1/19/109 Interviews with Speakers 2007

Recordings from Speakers Corner including speakers who talk about intelligent design (2007)

Open

SFTP/1/19/110 Jonathon Fitter 2004

Recording from Speakers' Corner of Jonathon Fitter speaking about Israel, arguing with pro-Palestinian hecklers. Running time: 0:07:25, (2004)

Open

SFTP/1/19/111 Heiko Khoo 2008

Recording from Speakers' Corner of Heiko Khoo speaking about capitalism and wage levels. (0:09:59), (2008)

Open

SFTP/1/19/112 Recordings of Speakers at Speakers' 1979

Corner

Cassette tape of speakers and Speakers' Corner, digitised by donor, (15 April 1979)
Timings are approximate:
01.00 min Anti-woman speaker (Hispanic – picture available)
06.00 min (a) Anti-religion (Australian); (b) Marxist; (c) homophobe; (d) Barker
15.00 min Robert Ogilvie
22.00 min Communist
25.00 min Peter England
30.00 min Casey
32.00 min Young woman saying men are redundant
34.00 min Tony Allen
45.00 min David Cole (possibly)
50.00 min Peter England
55.00 min Peter England and Tony Allen
60.00 min Martin Besserman
Open

SFTP/1/19/113	Recordings of Speakers at Speakers' Corner	2001
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Cassette tape of speakers at Speakers' Corner. Digested by donor, (11 November 2001)
00.00 min Ishmael Blagrove: Heaven, Hell and racism
05.30 min Ishmael Blagrove: Osama Bin Laden
07.15 min Christian preacher
08.00 min Tony Allen, hecklers, banjo
13.30 min Diane, hecklers
16.50 min chaos
22.30 min Christian and Muslim argument
23.00 min Christian preacher
25.48 min Second Christian preacher
26.50 min Ishmael Blaygrove, terrorism, Palestine
34.50 min Diane, Christianity, migration, races, hecklers
46.56 min Christian Atheist
48.00 min Diane
55.43 min ENDS
Open

SFTP/1/19/114	Recordings of Speakers at Speakers' Corner	2001
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Cassette tape of speakers at Speakers'
Corner, digitised by donor, (18 November
2001)
00.00 min Irish heckler and Christian (a), "the
Bible was writ by Jews"
02.15 min Hyde Park Gay and Sapphic
Society
08.00 min Christian preacher (b): "You must
be born again!"
10.10 min Christian Atheist and questioner
15.44 min Catholic Evidence Guild and
heckler
18.38 min Christian preacher (c), Irish heckler,
Muslim heckler
22.40 min Christian woman preacher (d)
24.47 min Christian preacher (b)
25.36 min Heiko Khoo
29.25 min ENDS
Open

Papers donated by Alex Lowry, including:

SFTP-1.20.1 Book: 'Yes, really; The autobiography of Alex Lowry', by Alex Lowry, (London; Groinkers' Press)

SFTP-1.20.2 Extracts from book, (as a Microsoft Word file) about Alex Lowry as a longstanding attendee of Speakers' Corner.

Open

SFTP/1/21 Richard Headicar 1960-2008

Richard Headicar spoke from the late 1950s on various issues, including nuclear disarmament and socialism. The collection includes assorted digital and non-digital documents relating to Speakers' Corner, many relating to Alfred Reynolds (or Reinhold Alfred) who was a Hungarian émigré, thinker and writer who frequented Speakers' Corner. Richard Headicar is Alfred Reynolds' biographer. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive.

Open

SFTP/1/21/1 Alfred Reynolds 1982

Publication, 'Pilate's question; Twenty years of article, essays and sketches (1950-1970)', Alfred Reynolds, (224pp) (1982)

Alfred Reynolds use to be a regular attendee at Speakers' Corner, not as a speaker but was in the crowds. He was Hungarian, spoke German, English and was a classicist. The book contains religious, philosophical and political essays.

Open

SFTP/1/21/2 Alfred Reynolds c.1982

Publication: 'The hidden years', Alfred Reynolds with an introduction by Colin Wilson.

Colin Wilson also wrote 'The Outsider', a fictional account of Jesus' hidden years.

Open

SFTP/1/21/3 Human Resistance Movement c.1980?

Leaflet, 'Statement of policy for the Human Resistance Movement'.

Human Resistance Movement had meetings at Hyde Park on Sundays. Headicar notes that it was a lofty statement of the aims of the resistance movement. For instance: "To resist at all times and at all places the subjugation of living humanity to the exalted ideas of the dead".

Co-founders of the Human Resistance

Movement were Aileen M Brandt & Robert Ogilvie [a much loved and admired speaker]. Headicar notes that "Ogilvie was so funny people used to give him money, but he was old fashioned and asked them to join him for a walk through the gates to be outside of Speakers' Corner, in keeping with the park regulations".
Open

SFTP/1/21/4 Richard Headicar 1975

Photo Album of sixty-two photographs of Richard Headicar speaking. All taken on the same day. The sign on his platform says "FATAL ASSUMPTIONS Richard Headicar at Speakers' Corner". It is probably the image is from when he was a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament speaker. The images include pictures of the crowd and speaker with a red flag in the distance.
All sixty two digital photographs can be viewed in the Researchers Area, Bishopsgate Institute. Please contact the Archivist for more information.

SFTP/1/21/5 Jean-Pierre Schweitzer 1961

Pamphlet, Schweitzer, Jean-Pierre; Jewish mysticism and the origins of Christianity; Centre D'etudes holistique, Paris. November 1th 1961, The Freethinker.
Open

SFTP/1/21/6 Vanessa Redgrave 1960

Newspaper cutting of uncertain origin and date. Picture of Vanessa Redgrave speaking on Headicar's platform. The title is 'If I didn't protest I would be as guilty as the man who pushed the button'. Smaller picture of Sir Michael Redgrave, her father.
Open

SFTP/1/21/7 'Phillip' 1970

Postcard of Speakers ' Corner, Hyde Park, London, showing speaker Philip [?] with a poster around his neck which reads "Utopia could be the answer to some of your problems - LET ME EXPLAIN -", c.1970

	Open	
SFTP/1/21/8	Alfred Reynolds	c.1970
	Two photographs of Alfred Reynolds relaxing on a boat. He is smoking in one of the pictures. Open	
SFTP/1/21/9	'Phillip'	c.1970
	Two very detailed pamphlets by 'Philip' about non-violent revolution. Open	
SFTP/1/21/10	Jacobus Van Dyn	2008
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newspaper cutting 'A head for design' with details about Jacobus Van Dyn, published in the Daily Mail. - Picture of Van Dyn with tattoos, - Monthly column where people can ask questions about London and someone asked 'Who was the tattooed man who was a regular at Speakers' Corner in the 1970s?' Kevin Daley from Brighton responded. - Van Dyn was one of the four personalities Heathcote Williams describes in 'The Speakers', (6 May 2008) Open	
SFTP/1/21/11	Alfred Reynolds	1969
	Photocopy of a letter from Alfred Reynolds to [Jomo] Kenyatta about previous meetings going back to 1937, (3 February 1969) Open	
SFTP/1/21/12	Human Resistance Movement	c.1980
	Leaflet, one page, statement of policy for the Human Resistance Movement. Open	
SFTP/1/21/13	Alfred Reynolds	1993
	Copy of document with the title "To well loved and at last found Alfred" [Alfred Reynolds] Open	
SFTP/1/21/14	Alfred Reynolds	1965

Copy of The London Letter No. LXXXIII
including an essay on Martin Buber by Alfred
Reynolds. Picture of Martin Buber on the front,
(July/August 1965)
Open

SFTP/1/21/15 Alfred Reynolds 1993

Two copies of Hungarian article mentioning
Aldred Reynolds, probably after his death -
redividus
Open

SFTP/1/21/16 Alfred Reynolds 1993

Newspaper cutting, obituary. Three intellectuals
including Alfred Reynolds died in December
1993, frequently attended Speakers' Corner,
(1993)
Open

SFTP/1/21/17 Alfred Reynolds 1988

Newspaper cutting, "Alfred Reynolds...
obsessed with decency" by Colin Wilson, Ham
and High, (3 September 1988)
Open

SFTP/1/21/18 Alfred Reynolds c.1980

Photocopy of an advertisement, two books by
Alfred Reynolds ('The Hidden Years' and
'Pilate's Question'.)
Open

SFTP/1/21/19 Alfred Reynolds c.1980

Document describing some of Alfred's poetry
entitled 'The Myth of Fellegvar and a Literary
Mystery: Alfred Reynolds'
Open

SFTP/1/21/20 Alfred Reynolds c.1932

Translation of a letter dated to the writer of
THE FIRST AND LAST BOOK OF LYRIC
POETRY by Alfred Reinhold [Reynolds] (1932)
by Ferenc Breda.
Open

SFTP/1/21/21 Alfred Reynolds

c.1980?

Leaflet Alfred Reinhold [Reynolds] in Hungarian. Letter from Cambridge International Publishers. 'The Hidden Years', Alfred Reynold's book. One page.

Open

SFTP/1/21/22 Alfred Reynolds

1993

Photocopy of one page blurb for 'Jesus vs Christianity' by Alfred Reynolds. Open Gate press. London. (1993)

Open

SFTP/1/22 Kathleen Humphreys 1960-1994

Kathleen Humphreys regularly attended Speakers' Corner from the 1960s to the 1990s to hear the famous Methodist minister and orator Donald Soper speak. She became his secretary, a friend of the family, and later in his life cared for both Soper and his wife. She was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive.
Open

SFTP/1/22/1 Kathleen Humphreys c.1960

Photograph of Kathleen and her twin sister Madge setting up Soper's stand as he approaches (Kathleen is on the left), (c.1960?). This photograph has been scanned.
Open

SFTP/1/22/2 Lord Soper 1994

Photograph of Lord Soper at Hyde Park (July 1994)
Open

SFTP/1/22/3 Howard Eisenburg c.1960

A postcard of Howard Eisenburg.
Open

SFTP/1/22/4 Lord Soper 1976

Cassette tapes of Lord Soper speaking at Speakers' Corner and Tower Hill, (1976)
Digitised with a summary of the recording.
Open

SFTP/1/22/5 Lord Soper 1983

Cassette tapes of Lord Soper speaking at Speakers' Corner and Tower Hill, (1983)
Digitised with a summary of the recording.
Open

SFTP/1/22/6 Lord Soper 1985

Cassette tapes of Lord Soper speaking at Speakers' Corner and Tower Hill, (1985)
Digitised with a summary of the recording.

Open

SFTP/1/23 Ruth Eastwood

**c.1940-
2012?**

Ruth Eastwood attended Speakers' Corner from when she was a toddler in the 1940s and still attends in 2013 when the Sounds from the Park project was conducted.

Eastwood heckles and engages in debate. She has been interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive.

This file contains a print out of pictures of Ruth and Robin Eastwood, as well as two copies of 'My Testimony'; a document written by Ruth Eastwood concerning her conversion to Christianity.

Open

SFTP/1/24 Ian Puddick c.2013

At the time of this donation [2013], Ian Puddick was still speaking at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, and campaigning against the police.

Open

SFTP/1/24/1 Ian Puddick c.2013

Dusk at Speakers' Corner.

Open

SFTP/1/24/2 Ian Puddick c.2013

Ian Puddick with his tongue out, Speakers' Corner.

Open

SFTP/1/24/3 Ian Puddick c.2013

Speaking to people of Chinese origin and others from the Chinese Embassy about free speech and freedom of speech at Speakers' Corner.

Open

SFTP/1/24/4 Ian Puddick c.2013

Photo of Ian Puddick at Speakers' Corner

Open

SFTP/1/24/5 Ian Puddick c.2013

Puddick said about this image: "Just after this pic was taken, the undercover Counter Terrorist Directorate who were listening to me, arrested me & said I was distributing hate literature".

Open

SFTP/1/24/6 Ian Puddick c.2013

Ian Puddick's leaflet. He said the police described it as 'hate literature'.

Open

SFTP/1/24/7 Ian Puddick c.2013

Photograph of Ian Puddick camping at Parliament Square.

Open

SFTP/1/24/8 Ian Puddick

c.2013

Photograph of Ian Puddick camping at
Parliament Square.
Open

John Palmer spoke at and attended Speakers' Corner in the late 1950s and 1960s. He learnt about socialist politics there and was impressed by the "working class autodidacts" he met. John Palmer was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive.

One photograph of John Palmer speaking on a platform about Ireland. Sign in the background says Victory to the Bogside. John Palmer says: "I was addressing a meeting of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign which was supported by the International Socialists and other left organisations"

Open

Publication, 'The Monument' by Robert Barltrop, Pluto Press (1975), a history of the Socialist Party of Great Britain. Passage marked about Speakers' Corner in the First World War and also in 1939, when Tony Turner, a famous SPGB speaker, spoke against the war to a crowd of 10,000.

Also including two copies of the Socialist Standard: No. 583, Vol. 49 March, 1953 and No. 1196, Vol. 100, April 2004.

Open

SFTP/1/27 Tim Kendall 1916-1961

Tim Kendall is the grandson of Reverend George Kendall, who spoke on the Public Morality Council's platform at Speakers' Corner from 1926-1956. Tim Kendall was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive. During the interview he read aloud some of Reverend Kendall's memoirs.

Open

SFTP/1/27/1 George Kendall 1916

Photograph of Tim Kendall's grandfather, Reverend Kendal (speaker), France (1916)

Open

SFTP/1/27/2 George Kendall 1961

Reverend Kendal with his grand daughter Jane, (1961).

Open

SFTP/1/28 Anne Goldstein

1986

One photograph of Anne Goldstein's father,
Simon Goldstein, who was a regular visitor to
Speakers' Corner and was Jewish. Taken at
Hyde Park, Speakers Corner, (22 March 1986)
Open

SFTP/1/29 Sharley McLean**1945-2003**

Sharley McLean first visited Speakers' Corner in 1939. At the age of 16 she left Nazi Germany on a Kindertransport and when she first came to Speakers' Corner she appreciated it as a place to meet other German refugees and learn English. She met Alan McLean, a socialist, at the corner and they later married producing two children.

McLean continued to visit Speakers' Corner over the years, finding it to be a place of refuge where she could meet "freethinkers". She co-founded the Hyde Park Sapphics and Gays platform in 1982 and spoke in the park about gay rights for over twenty years. Sharley McLean was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive, as was her daughter Jean Saunders.

Open**SFTP/1/29/1 Sharley McLean****2003**

Sharley McLean with other members of the Hyde Park Gays and Sapphics platform in Speakers' Corner, (2003).

Open**SFTP/1/29/2 Alan McLean****1945**

Alan McLean (on far left) husband of Sharley McLean, selling socialist literature with the Socialist Party of Great Britain in 1945 outside the gates of Hyde Park, (you were not allowed to sell literature inside).

Open**SFTP/1/29/3 Robert Oglivie****c.1980**

Picture of Robert Oglivie at Speakers' Corner, (c.1960)

Open**SFTP/1/29/4 Lord Soper****c.1980**

Picture of Donald Soper talking off the speaking stand at Speakers' Corner, (c.1980)

Open

SFTP/1/29/5 Jim Huggan

c.1980

Picture of Jim Huggan, anarchist speaker, at Speakers' Corner, (c.1980)

Open

SFTP/1/29/6 Sharley McLean

c.2003

Two pictures of Sharley McLean being 'sainted' for her work for the gay community by the gay street performance and protest group the 'Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence' who dress as nuns. Speakers' Corner, (c.2003)

Open

Marko Stepanov first went to Speakers' Corner in 1986. He had heard about it growing up in Yugoslavia and described it as a "mythical place". Stepanov continued to attend and occasionally chose to speak. He was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive.

Stepanov worked as an artist and made an exhibition relating to Speakers' Corner, the photographs from which were donated to Bishopsgate Institute as part of the Sounds From the Park collection. There are 15 photographs taken on various dates, first exhibit in c.2008 at Mayfair Library. The exhibition was called, 'Under the black flag'. Photos have been altered so that only the speaker and their message is included. In the original exhibition the images were printed two feet wide with various lengths. They include Bob Rogers with his sign "It's Going to Get Worse", a Catholic Evidence Guild speaker, Heiko Khoo, Lawrence Mc Donagh or "Larry" with his sign "It's now or never, come listen to me, I'm very clever, I know everything" whose sign is now part of the Speakers' Corner archive (donated by Bob Rogers), the Socialist Party of Great Britain, Tony Allen and William the Hippy, among others, (2008)

Open

SFTP/1/30/1 'Bluecap'**c.2008**

Photograph of 'Bluecap' at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov.

Open

SFTP/1/30/2 'Bob'**c.2008**

Photograph of 'Bob' at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov.

Open

SFTP/1/30/3 'Catholic'**c.2008**

Photograph of 'Catholic' at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov.

Open

SFTP/1/30/4	'Don't Vote'	c.2008
	<p>Photograph of 'Don't Vote' at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov. Open</p>	
SFTP/1/30/5	'Heiko'	c.2008
	<p>Photograph of 'Heiko' at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov. Open</p>	
SFTP/1/30/6	'Hugger'	c.2008
	<p>Photograph of 'Hugger' at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov. Open</p>	
SFTP/1/30/7	'Larry'	c.2008
	<p>Photograph of 'Larry' at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov. Open</p>	
SFTP/1/30/8	'Roland'	c.2008
	<p>Photograph of 'Roland' at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov. Open</p>	
SFTP/1/30/9	Tony Allen	c.2008
	<p>Photograph of Tony Allen at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov. Open</p>	
SFTP/1/30/10	'William'	c.2008
	<p>Photograph of 'William' at Speakers' Corner. Edited by Stepanov. Open</p>	

SFTP/1/31 Nick White 1970-1990

Nick White is a member of the Socialist Party of Great Britain and regularly attends Speakers' Corner. The collection includes scans of 17 colour slides, 4 large black and white prints, 57 colour prints (1970-1990)

Open

SFTP/1/31/1 Unknown speaker 1970-1990

Scanned slides of man with sign "The wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord", (1970-1990)

Open

SFTP/1/31/2 Aggie 1970-1990

Scanned slides of several portraits of "Aggie".

Nick White described Aggie as an interesting character. "She used to get people singing hymns or popular songs. She and others could be there until midnight, which is the closing time for the park and then they would help each other across the fence because the gate would already be locked".

Sharley McLean remembers singing with Aggie and others on weekday escapes to Speakers' Corner in her oral history interview for the Speakers' Corner archive, (1970-1990)

Open

SFTP/1/31/3 Christian Atheist 1970-1990

Scanned slide of the Christian Atheist with a sign.

Open

SFTP/1/31/4 Unknown speaker 1970-1990

Scanned slide of a man with an anti-Blair / anti-war sign.

Open

SFTP/1/31/5 Unknown speaker 1970-1990

Scanned slide of man speaking on a "Men's

	Rights" platform. Open	
SFTP/1/31/6	Roland 'Preacher' Parsons	1970-1990
	Scanned slide of Roland or Preacher Parsons in discussion. Open	
SFTP/1/31/7	Crowds at Speakers' Corner	1970-1990
	Scanned slide, crowd members. Open	
SFTP/1/31/8	Graffiti	1970-1990
	Scanned slide of graffiti on wall which reads "Boycott South Africa" and "Support People's War, Peru". The graffiti may or may not be from Speakers' Corner. Open	
SFTP/1/31/9	Smithy	1970-1990
	Scanned slide of "Smithy" the speaker who used to impersonate race commentators. Open	
SFTP/1/31/10	Norman Schlund	1970-1990
	Scanned black and white print of Norman Schlund, who had just finished speaking when the photograph was taken. Open	
SFTP/1/31/11	Unknown speaker	1970-1990
	Scanned black and white print of unknown speaker. Open	
SFTP/1/31/12	Smithy	1970-1990
	Scanned black and white print of "Smithy" the speaker who used to impersonate race commentators. Open	
SFTP/1/31/13	Unknown speaker	1970-1990

Scanned black and white print of man with pigeons at Speakers' Corner.
Open

SFTP/1/31/14 Alex Lowry 1970-1990

Colour print of Alex Lowry, described as a "logic machine" who was a regular at Speaker's Corner and often heckled from the crowd. His memoirs are part of the archive.
Open

SFTP/1/31/15 William 'Jesus' 1970-1990

William identified as a hippie and was previously known as 'Jesus'. William would spread out lots of brightly-coloured posters on the ground in front of him, each containing some mystical message. He thought himself to be the reincarnation of Jesus Christ. Colour print.
Open

SFTP/1/31/16 'Bicycle Paul' 1970-1990

"Bicycle Paul" cycled for miles on his bike, and was a regular patron of Speakers' Corner. He is described in Patrick McEvoy's oral history interview as the person who encouraged him to speak for the first time when he was overcome by nerves.
Open

SFTP/1/31/17 'Cowboy' Christians 1970-1990

Two different "Cowboy" Christian evangelists. Colour prints.
Open

SFTP/1/31/18 "Nationalist" Diane 1970-1990

Photographs of "Nationalist" Diane. Diane spoke at Speakers' Corner about the will of the Christian God, and how she believed He did not want people to emigrate or marry those of other races. Colour print.
Open

SFTP/1/31/19 Noel 1970-1990

Noel, who wears a yellow star, is part of "Jews for Jesus". He stands on the ladder reading the Bible and singing hymns with an Israeli flag. Colour print.
Open

SFTP/1/31/20 Ali the Surrealist 1970-1990

Ali 'The Surrealist', with his characteristic horns on. Colour print.
Open

SFTP/1/31/21 Brian 1970-1990

Brian used to speak at Speakers' Corner about the perils of married life. Colour print.

The man in his blue shirt in the audience is Frank Germek, a communist.
Open

SFTP/1/31/22 Paul Hunt 1970-1990

Paul Hunt, a Maths teacher, would often stand on his box at Speakers' Corner without talking. He could be irascible with people who tried to talk to him. Despite this, he is remembered by those interviewed for the Sounds from the Park project for his wise words when he did break his silence, and for the enduring relationships he formed. In this image he is sitting on his milk crate. Colour print.
Open

SFTP/1/31/23 Tony Allen 1970-1990

Tony Allen, was seen to be an anarchist comedian, advocate heckler and mixed ability shaman. Has been interviewed for the Sounds from the Park archive. Colour prints.
Open

SFTP/1/31/24 Bob Rogers 1970-1990

Bob Rogers with a sign around his neck: 'It's Going to Get Worse', at Speakers' Corner. He was interviewed for the Sounds from the Park archive. Colour print.
Open

SFTP/1/31/25	Roland 'Preacher' Parsons	1970-1990
	Roland or 'Preacher Parsons' and his wife with their signs: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ". They travel to London from Gloucester, Gloucestershire to attend Speakers' Corner. Colour prints. Open	
SFTP/1/31/26	Catholic Evidence Guild	1970-1990
	Catholic Evidence Guild speaker. Colour print. Open	
SFTP/1/31/27	Barry Roberts	1970-1990
	Barry Roberts a regular at Speakers' Corner. In this photograph he has unusually short hair. Roberts propagated mediation and talked about gender. Colour print. Open	
SFTP/1/31/28	Unknown speakers	1970-1990
	People with "Kiss me" or "Free hugs" signs. Colour print. Open	
SFTP/1/31/29	Policeman	1970-1990
	Policeman at Speakers' Corner. Colour print. Open	
SFTP/1/31/30	"Transgender Tom"	1970-1990
	A speaker known as "Transgender Tom" at Speakers' Corner. Colour print. Open	
SFTP/1/31/31	Speakers' Corner	1970-1990
	Speakers' Corner at dusk. Colour print. Open	
SFTP/1/31/32	Unknown Christian speakers	1970-1990
	Assorted photographs of unknown speakers at Speakers' Corner, many of them Christian. Colour prints. Open	

Myk Zeitlin was a regular attendee and heckler at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Tony Allen, the anarchist speaker and comedian, was a great influence on Zeitlin.

The collection includes an A4 fold out pamphlet made at time of the Criminal Justice Bill regarding the history of protest in Hyde Park. It was used to support the anti-Criminal Justice Bill protest on 9 October 1994. The introduction says "today many people take it for granted that thousands of people can demonstrate in Hyde Park but in the past demonstrations were often banned there." The pamphlet also references the 1855 protests against the Sunday Trading Bill, the 1866-67 Reform League protests, the 1914 women's suffrage campaign, and the 1932 unemployed movement. (c.1994)

Zeitlin was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive in 2013.

Open

SFTP/1/33 Moyra Peralta and Rodger Peralta 1964-1972

Moyra and Rodger Peralta photographed Speakers' Corner in 1964.

The collection includes scanned prints (some with higher resolution duplicates) and negative strips; all black and white. Also included is an article printed in the 'Amateur Photographer' entitled 'Candid's at Speakers' Corner'. The Peralta's photographs were used in the article which describes the couple's interests in capturing the expressions of the crowd.

Their small child can be seen in some of the photographs. At the time Park Lane was being widened and you can see evidence of road works in some of the images, (1964-1972)
Open

SFTP/1/33/1 Article 1964

Article in 'Amateur Photographer' entitled 'Candid's at Speakers' Corner' by Rodger Peralta. In addition to printing many of their photographs (some of which are part of this collection) of the speakers and crowds, the article has an explanation of Rodger and Moyra's photography. The article explains that they chose to photograph at Speakers' Corner because it is a place where photographers are routinely ignored. They also prefer to photograph the crowds and spectators and try to capture emotion and expression, (2pp) (1964)
Open

SFTP/1/33/2 Salvation Army 1964

Salvation Army at Speakers' Corner.
Open

SFTP/1/33/3 Unknown speaker 1964

Man with a sign explaining a complicated "miscarriage of justice".
Open

SFTP/1/33/4 Paddy 1964

A man named "Paddy", who has one amputated leg. In some pictures he is with Moyra and Rodger's young son. Three pictures.

Open

SFTP/1/33/5 Donald Soper 1964

Donald Soper speaking whilst holding a crucifix.

Open

SFTP/1/33/6 "Yahweh" 1964

Three images of a speaker called "Yahweh" reading aloud from a book whilst holding another book called the "Emphasized Bible".

Open

SFTP/1/33/7 Multi Ethnic Crowd at Speakers' Corner 1964

Multi-ethnic crowd at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London.

Open

SFTP/1/33/8 Women seated at Speakers' Corner 1964

Women seated at Speakers' Corner.

Open

SFTP/1/33/9 Unknown speaker 1964

Unknown speaker addressing a large crowd.

Open

SFTP/1/33/10 Crowd at Speakers' Corner 1964

Four portraits of faces in the crowd at Speakers' Corner.

Open

SFTP/1/33/11 Crowd at Speakers' Corner 1964

Group of men with a sign in background "Movement of Pan-African Critics".

Open

SFTP/1/33/13 Crowds at Speakers' Corner 1972

A nun seated on a bench near Speakers' Corner next to an unknown man who appears

to be homeless.

Open

SFTP/1/33/15 William MacGuinness 1964

Three images of a speaker at Speakers' Corner called William MacGuinness, who was featured in Heathcote Williams' book "The Speakers".

Open

SFTP/1/33/16 Catholic Evidence Guild 1964

Two images of the Catholic Evidence Guild speaking.

Open

SFTP/1/33/17 'Holy Bob' the 'Banner Man' 1964

Four images of "Holy Bob" the "banner man" with his sign: "The End is At Hand" and his audience including some older women who are dancing with him.

Open

SFTP/1/33/18 Victor Mathews and Roy Sawh, Coloured Workers Welfare Association 1964

Three images of the Coloured Workers Welfare Association, including the speaker Victor Mathews whose fist is raised in the air. Roy Sawh, who was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive spoke, on this stand at times.

Open

SFTP/1/33/19 'The New and Latter House of Israel' 1964

Twelve images of "The New and Latter House of Israel". These speakers were twin brothers and preached the end of the world. They had been speaking since at least the 1930s as they are mentioned in "Around the Marble Arch" written by F.W. Batchelor about Speakers' Corner in 1939 and during the war.

Open

SFTP/1/33/20 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Speaker 1964

A speaker with a CND flag with temporary fence in between camera and speaker.

	Open	
SFTP/1/33/21	A Monk	1964
	Two photographs of a monk speaking wearing his cassock. Open	
SFTP/1/33/22	Unknown Speaker	1964
	Two photographs of a speaker holding a cross with a noose hanging from it. Open	
SFTP/1/33/23	Society for Evangelizing London Speaker	1964
	A speaker on a platform labelled "Society for Evangelizing London". Open	
SFTP/1/33/24	Group Praying at Speakers' Corner	1964
	Five images of group praying at Speakers' Corner Open	
SFTP/1/33/25	Crowds at Speakers' Corner	1964
	21 assorted photographs of crowds at Speakers' Corner and Hyde Park. Open	

SFTP/1/34 Peter Turner

1959

Eight black and white photographs of Speakers' Corner, scanned from negatives.

OPEN

SFTP/1/34/1 Jacobus Van Dyn

1959

Two photographs of Jacobus Van Dyn, the tattooed man who claimed to have been imprisoned all over the world. Van Dyn also claimed that he had been Al Capone's chauffeur.

One photograph captures Van Dyn speaking, whilst the other shows him standing in front of a crowd holding what is probably his collection bag (he used to collect money despite of the park regulations prohibiting collection of money).

When talking about Van Dyn, Peter Turner commented: [he] used to get people to throw money into the air and then he'd pick it up to get around the regulations banning collecting money in the park.

Christopher Kennett described Van Dyn as follows: "When it comes to appearances you could hardly miss Jacobus Van Dyn in the crowd. His fully shaven head was adorned with tattoos of hearts, flowers, butterflies and signs of the zodiac and the rest of his body was also a work of art. Born in South Africa in 1896 Van Dyn spent time in prisons all over the world including Sing Sing, San Quentin and Dartmoor and was rumoured to have been a gun runner for Al Capone. In 1931 he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for armed robbery, but claimed this was a case of mistaken identity and spent the rest of his life trying to clear his name. Van Dyn first appeared at Speakers Corner in the 1930s and my father recalled seeing him there just before the war. He could still be seen perched on a tea chest some 3 years later when I became a regular visitor. Despite his appearance of an archetypal burglar Van Dyn was quite a charmer, ever trying to make out that he was not such a bad man really. He said that there were only two types of people

in the world, those who have been to prison and those who should be in prison! In a bid to win support to clear his name Van Dyn would regularly pass round a collecting bag at the end of his act- strictly against Park rules of course, but that would never deter this old gangster. To anyone reluctant to pay up he had this to say: 'Ladies and gentlemen, if you haven't got anything in your wallet, put your hand in someone else's; and if you don't know how to do that then stay behind at the end of the meeting and I'll teach you!'"
(October 1959)

OPEN

SFTP/1/34/2 Communist Party Speaker 1959

A Communist Party speaker with large crowd.
OPEN

SFTP/1/34/4 Coloured Workers Welfare Association Speaker 1959

A black speaker with large flags on the side of the platform, probably the Coloured Workers Welfare Association platform.
OPEN

SFTP/1/34/5 'A Park Scene' 1959

Scene of Hyde Park near Speakers' Corner.
OPEN

SFTP/1/34/7 New and Latter House of Israel Speakers 1959

One of the 'New and Latter House of Israel' speakers. The 'New and Latter House of Israel' speakers were twin brothers and preached about the end of the world. They had been speaking since at least the 1930s and were included in 'Around the Marble Arch' a publication by FW Batchelor about Speakers' Corner in 1939 and during the Second World War.
OPEN

SFTP/1/36 Roy Sawh**c.2006**

Roy Sawh spoke about immigration and racism at Speakers' Corner from 1959 to 1989. He was perceived to be influential, inspiring young black people to start speaking. Those inspired by Sawh included Ishmahil Blagrove.

Sawh was involved in the Free University of Black Studies in Notting Hill amongst other activities. He was imprisoned under the Race Relations Act for speaking about racism at Speakers' Corner.

Roy Sawh was interviewed for the Speakers' Corner archive. Collection includes a DVD, an article and some scanned images from his book "From Where I Stand".

OPEN**SFTP/1/36/1 Roy Sawh****c.2006**

DVD of Roy Sawh speaking at Speakers' Corner and a documentary about "Britain's racist immigration laws"

OPEN**SFTP/1/36/2 Roy Sawh****c.2006**

Laminated print out of article entitled "Roy Sawh gets honorary degree from British University" from Stabroek News, (5 December 2006).

OPEN**SFTP/1/36/3 Roy Sawh****c.2006**

Scanned images from Roy Sawh's book "From Where I Stand" including the cover, a family picture, Sawh on release from prison, Sawh speaking, and Sawh meeting Mohammed Ali on two different occasions.

OPEN

SFTP/1/37 Edmund Charles Wheatley 2008

American C-span programme about Speakers' Corner. Includes interviews with Edmund Wheatley and Heiko Khoo as well as including footage of speakers in Hyde Park. Running time: 0:28:45.

OPEN

SFTP/1/37/1 Ted Wheatley c.2008

'One Day Wide' a self-published autobiography by Ted Wheatley detailing the development of his ideas on world government and world citizenship, (285pp), (2008).

OPEN

SFTP/1/37/2 Ted Wheatley c.2008

Home movie: 'Ted Wheatley's Trip Around the World', including his visit to Kandahar in 1958, followed by India, Mombassa, and Canada. Features archive footage with a more recent narration. Running time: 00:14:25

OPEN

SFTP/1/37/3 Ted Wheatley c.2008

'The Speaker' a short film about Ted Wheatley created by Over the Pond Productions. Features an interview with Ted and his wife, as well as footage of Ted speaking at Speakers' Corner. Running time: 00:06:04

OPEN

SFTP/1/38 Ralph Dickson

(n.d.)

Booklet, 'On current issues' which was originally
a number of separate leaflets distributed at
Speakers' Corner.

OPEN

SFTP/2 Oral History Interviews 2013

Interviews with the 30 people regarding
Speakers Corner in Hyde Park, (2013)
OPEN

SFTP/2/1 Adam Buick 2013

Name: Adam Buick
Date of Birth: 1944
Interviewer: Hilary McGraw
Brief Descriptive Note: Socialist Party of Great Britain member and speaker
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 27 April 2013
Recording Length: 01:05:04
Information: Adam Buick participated in Speaker's Corner as a member of the Socialist Party of Great Britain (SPGB). Before enrolling at Oxford University, Adam joined the SPGB in 1962. He started making regular trips to London to promote socialism in Hyde Park, as well as other open air speaking places like Tower Hill and Lincoln's Inn Fields. When he joined the party its main recruitment activity was open air oratory, though this was soon to change. Adam provides a detailed account of the shifting relationship between politics and religion from the 1960s to the 1990s. By the 1990s, he says, the general public's attitude was "Ah! Socialism's been tried and failed," it was "a dirty word." However, Americans were surprised to hear that socialism had once been a success among indigenous people. He says female orators had a tougher time because people attacked their appearance as well as their message.
OPEN

SFTP/2/2 Adbdurraheem Green 2013

Name: Adbdurraheem Green
Date of Birth: 1964
Interviewer: Chloe Alexander
Brief Descriptive Note: Muslim speaker for ten years in the 1990s. Director of a national Islamic education organisation.
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 8 June 2013

Recording Length: 01.02.02

Information: Abdurraheem Green was brought up a Catholic and spent many years as a young adult exploring spirituality and philosophy. He first encountered Speakers' Corner as a recent convert to Islam in the 1990s, and was irritated by a Christian preacher. He researched critiques of the Bible and heckled Christians for one year. Once he started speaking, he got "pay back" and hecklers "surrounded him like a pack of wolves." He talks about the etiquette of being a new speaker, mindful of a well-established Muslim speaker Murad ad-Deen already there. He got "a fight or flight" adrenalin rush each time he prepared to speak. Even thinking about it now makes Abdurraheem nervous, though he is a highly accomplished speaker, thanks to Hyde Park's intense and chaotic "training ground." Abdurraheem soon felt that anti-Christian arguments were not moving things forward, so he began explaining Islamic philosophy as well as critiquing western foreign policy. He stopped speaking after a decade because it was too draining to continue alongside other work commitments, but he is proud to have been a part of it. To this day he dislikes speaking in darkened auditoriums where he cannot see and connect with his audience so readily.

OPEN

SFTP/2/3

Anthony Gomm

2013

Name: Anthony Gomm

Date of Birth: 1937

Interviewer: Liz Schmitz

Brief Descriptive Note: Has attended Speakers' Corner since 1959.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 19 April 2013

Recording Length: 0:46:28

Information: Anthony Gomm's Catholic upbringing made his early visits to Speakers' Corner, with its free thinkers and atheists, a profound shock. "It became my open university," he says. He has been a regular visitor since 1959, listening to speakers like Donald Soper and Jacobus Van Dyn. He remembers a hippy who spoke about the joys of LSD in the late 1960s. Anthony also witnessed open air speaking at Tower Hill and remembers someone

pushing an elderly Donald Soper off his stand. Nowadays the majority of the speakers in Hyde Park are religious, which puts him off. Contemporary speakers like Heiko Khoo and “Jay”, a Christian theologian who can quote the Quran chapter and verse, still impress him.

OPEN

SFTP/2/4

Bob Rogers (Part One)

2013

Name: Bob Rogers

Date of Birth: Unknown

Interviewer: Liz Pillar

Brief Descriptive Note: Regular attendee and gatekeeper to Speakers' Corner.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 25 February 2013

Recording Length: 02:38:46

Information: Bob Rogers stumbled upon Speakers' Corner as a teenager, and was intrigued by the “babble of voices.” At that time, Speakers' Corner was a refuge for people “whose lives had been disturbed and disorientated” by the Second World War, homeless people and those with mental health problems. Bob talks about nineteenth century protest movements which led to a qualified right to free assembly in Hyde Park, including the accidental burning of the Reformers tree. He vividly evokes Joshua “the wild man,” Barry Roberts in his “Vlad the Impaler” period, Peter England and the sexual innuendo of Nigerian Jimmy. Bob commemorates his friend, Norman Schlund, a homeless ex-serviceman, who started speaking to overcome a stammer. Norman was “essentially talking about nothing” but he combined it with eloquent gestures, using his enormous hands, feet and expressive face to great comic effect. Norman often said: “Appearances up must be kept.” Bob describes the military regime required to “up-keep” them, including sleeping on night buses, waterproof trousers and wrapping basin washed socks in newspaper. Bob also explains the origin of his laminated news clipping sign that he wears at Speakers Corner: “It’s Going to Get Worse” and his enjoyment of speaking to people from diverse backgrounds.

OPEN

SFTP/2/5

Bob Rogers (Part Two)

2013

Name: Bob Rogers

Date of Birth: Unknown

Interviewer: Liz Pillar

Brief Descriptive Note: Regular attendee and gatekeeper to Speakers' Corner.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 12 July 2013

Recording Length: 01:52:26

Information: Bob Rogers stumbled upon Speakers' Corner as a teenager, and was intrigued by the "babble of voices." At that time, Speakers' Corner was a refuge for people "whose lives had been disturbed and disorientated" by the Second World War, homeless people and those with mental health problems. Bob talks about nineteenth century protest movements which led to a qualified right to free assembly in Hyde Park, including the accidental burning of the Reformers tree. He vividly evokes Joshua "the wild man," Barry Roberts in his "Vlad the Impaler" period, Peter England and the sexual innuendo of Nigerian Jimmy. Bob commemorates his friend, Norman Schlund, a homeless ex-serviceman, who started speaking to overcome a stammer. Norman was "essentially talking about nothing" but he combined it with eloquent gestures, using his enormous hands, feet and expressive face to great comic effect. Norman often said: "Appearances up must be kept." Bob describes the military regime required to "up-keep" them, including sleeping on night buses, waterproof trousers and wrapping basin washed socks in newspaper. Bob also explains the origin of his laminated news clipping sign that he wears at Speakers Corner: "It's Going to Get Worse" and his enjoyment of speaking to people from diverse backgrounds.

OPEN

SFTP/2/6

Chris Kennett

2013

Name: Chris Kennett

Date of Birth: 1947

Interviewer: Rosa Vilbr

Brief Descriptive Note: Observer & chronicler of Speakers' Corner since 1960s.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 26 March 2013
 Recording Length: 0:52:23
 Information: Chris Kennett, who first visited as a schoolboy in 1961, regularly cycled all the way from Harrow to Marble Arch and back. The exuberant personalities and exotic atmosphere gave him a buzz. Chris kept his Sunday visits secret from some of his school friends who would not understand Speakers' Corner's appeal. He took detailed notes and, back at home, performed the exchanges between speakers and hecklers for his brother's entertainment. Later he invested in a camera and a tape recorder. Chris enjoyed listening to hecklers as much as speakers, especially Mary, who barged into meetings and menaced speakers with her crutches. Another favourite was "Holy Bob the Banner Man" who engaged in a call and response quasi-religious singing act with the crowd. After marrying and moving further away from London, Chris recently returned and found Speakers' Corner had changed. A few of the old characters were still there, but the crowds were smaller, with fewer entertainers and hecklers.

OPEN

SFTP/2/7

Clifford Slapper

2013

Name: Clifford Slapper
 Date of Birth: 1961
 Interviewer: Annette Fry
 Brief Descriptive Note: Member of Socialist Party of Great Britain who spoke in the 1980s.
 Gender: Male
 Date of Recording: 27 May 2013
 Recording Length: 1:01:50
 Information: Clifford Slapper, composer, writer and pianist, joined the Socialist Party of Great Britain (SPGB) in 1981, aged 20, and spoke on their platform regularly through the 1980s and 1990s. He was drawn to the SPGB because of its democratic structure and its rational response to the threat of nuclear war: "War will be there as long as capitalism is there." Clifford pursued parallel careers as a history teacher and a musician working with global stars. Though he regularly performed in front of large audiences, stepping onto the stand at Hyde Park was "a bit like jumping into the swimming pool for the first

time,” because initially nobody was listening. Clifford also recalls a gang of disruptive Tory hecklers intent on wrecking meetings. They “twisted the sacred principle of free speech to their advantage” and generally, he says, the police were not very helpful in defending the speakers’ right to express themselves.

OPEN

SFTP/2/8

Edmund Wheatley

2013

Name: Edmund Wheatley

Date of Birth: Unknown

Interviewer: David Abbott

Brief Descriptive Note: Has spoken for 50 years about World Government

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 17 August 2013

Recording Length: 01:47:32

Information: Edmund Wheatley is a retired head teacher who came to Speakers’ Corner after attending the Methodist chapel where Donald Soper ministered. Impressed, he set up his own platform in 1960 called the British Association for World Government, arguing for a democratic chamber at the United Nations. He still speaks now. His wife attends out of “marital duty.” He was asked to give lecture tours in Germany and Japan on the strength of his performances at Speakers’ Corner. “When you go to Speakers’ Corner your words are thrown out on the wind. You don’t know what the effects are but you mustn’t assume they’re negligible,” he says. He talks about hangings at Tyburn, the arrival of the Nation of Islam in the 1980s, the “incredible cross-section of people” today, occasional incidents of unrest, the “gentler” nature of modern heckling, debate moving onto the internet, and the “I’m saved, you’re not” mentality of religious speakers.

OPEN

SFTP/2/9

Edna Mathieson

2013

Name: Edna Mathieson

Date of Birth: circa 1932

Interviewer: Clifford Slapper

Brief Descriptive Note: Attendee from the 1940s, biographer of Tony Turner, socialist speaker 1930s - 1950s

Gender: Female
 Date of Recording: 13 May 2013
 Recording Length: 1:39:37
 Information: Edna Mathieson, a retired sociology lecturer, first went to Speaker's Corner at the age of eight with her family in the 1930s and was "bored stiff." Her parents were very active members of the Bermondsey Labour Party, and her grandfather liked to heckle the religious speakers. She returned as a teenager in the 1940s and was struck by the sense of freedom and the excitement about ideas there: "It broadened my outlook." She remembers heckling as amusing and says people rarely used obscenities. She describes the turbulent life and charismatic performance style of Tony Turner, a socialist speaker who thundered "a plague on both your houses" to a crowd of ten thousand on the day Neville Chamberlain declared war on Germany. In the hungry 1930s, Edna was amazed to see Tony Turner put whole orange quarters into his mouth mid-oration, as most people only had oranges at Christmas. Edna co-authored Turner's biography.
OPEN

SFTP/2/10

Heiko Khoo

2013

Name: Heiko Khoo
 Date of Birth: 1963
 Interviewer: Annette Fry
 Brief Descriptive Note: Marxist speaker 1980s-present
 Gender: Male
 Date of Recording: 13 February 2013
 Recording Length: 1:31:29
 Information: Heiko Khoo joined the Labour Party Youth at seventeen. While studying at Portsmouth Polytechnic he spoke at street meetings, for which he was once arrested. His first memory of Speakers' Corner is from his Malaysian-Chinese father's shoulders, aged three or four, watching a Marxist speaker with a red scarf. In 1986, he ended up on a similar platform. He used the Tory hecklers' stereotypes about Communism in his performance, in order to undermine them. Heiko talks about his involvement in the East German revolution in 1989. In terms of political consciousness, he thinks, the fall of communism actually improved

public thinking about capitalism's place and its alternatives. Speakers' Corner is "a second home" and "a community of the space." Religious speakers there, he says, rely too heavily on "fire and brimstone" without argument; conspiracy theorists emasculate themselves by over-reaching; but he is not in despair about the public. His relationship to Speakers' Corner is "more didactic than revolutionary" at the moment.

OPEN

SFTP/2/11

Ishmahil Blagrove

2013

Name: Ishmahil Blagrove

Date of Birth: 24 July 1968

Interviewer: Laura Mitchison

Brief Descriptive Note: Anti-imperialist speaker since 1980s

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 09 February 2013

Recording Length: 2:06:22

Information: Ishmahil Blagrove, writer and filmmaker, has been speaking in Hyde Park since he was "a bone fide hood rat," menaced by police brutality and skinheads in the 1980s. He was bright at school and gifted at poetry, but was not pushed academically. Still, he did "several PhDs" at Speakers' Corner. Roy Sawh's "forensic knowledge of history and politics" coupled with fierce wit, inspired Ishmahil to learn more. He describes Speakers' Corner as "his office," where he made his first publishing contacts and other connections. He describes the shift in his philosophy from "black power" to an internationalist perspective espousing solidarity with diverse groups. He talks about the theatrical element of Speakers' Corner. Ishmahil's Hyde Park alter ego smokes, while Ishmahil does not. Ishmahil earned his "undergrads" by heckling the pinstriped, cane toting newspaper vendor, "Lord Barker." For Ishmahil, the racist Barker was strangely likable, because he too was performing: "his character represented that [racist] element of society." At Speakers' Corner, "the bare knuckle fight of the oratory world," hecklers are "the gatekeepers" who the speaker must master.

OPEN

SFTP/2/12

Jean Saunders

2013

Name: Jean Saunders
Date of Birth: 01 March 1946
Interviewer: Elizabeth Pillar
Brief Descriptive Note: Daughter of Sharley McLean, attended SC with her
Gender: Female
Date of Recording: 25 July 2013
Recording Length: 0:26:21
Information: Jean Saunders' mother Sharley McLean took Jean and her brother to Speakers' Corner as small children in the 1940s and 1950s, often treating them to rum baba afterwards. Even then, she found some of the speakers charismatic, especially the anarchists. Philip Sansom and Robert Ogilvie were her favourites. As a teenager, Jean got involved in left-wing politics and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). She went on Aldermaston Marches and anti-Vietnam war protests. At fifteen she started visiting Speakers' Corner independently, bringing her then boyfriend Jim Huggon along who later became a popular anarchist speaker. Jean loved the free and easy interaction: "You could just walk away when you'd had enough, or you could set up your own little crowd of people." It was a great place to make friends with people who shared her politics. Jean stopped going in 1969 when she left London and got more involved in the environmental movement. She has fond memories of Speakers' Corner and believes it helped taboo subjects become mainstream.
OPEN

SFTP/2/13

John Palmer

2013

Name: John Palmer
Date of Birth: unknown
Interviewer: Chloe Alexander
Brief Descriptive Note: Speaker in 1950s and 1960s on Ireland and later joined Socialist Review. Speakers' Corner influential on his political development.
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 13 April 2013
Recording Length: 0:42:45
Information: John Palmer, retired journalist, was born in England and brought up in Ireland. He

found Speakers' Corner to be "an intensely political forum" and an "education in left wing ideas," some of which were emerging in response to the crumbling of Stalinism. He first spoke in the late 1950s for the Irish National Union against the policy of internment without trial in Northern Ireland. He also spoke against the war in Vietnam platforms and on International Socialist demonstrations ending in Hyde Park. John Palmer heard political luminaries like Gerry Healy (co-founder of the Fourth International), CLR James, and the anarchists Albert Meltzer and Guy Aldred at Speakers' Corner. What he found most extraordinary were the debates between "ordinary folk," the working class autodidacts in the crowd, which continued long after the speakers had left. He describes how the free entertainment provided by powerful orators in austere post-war Britain, was replaced by the "conversational tone" of radio and television.

OPEN

SFTP/2/14

Jonathan Fitter

2013

Name: Jonathan Fitter

Date of Birth: unknown

Interviewer: Hilary McGraw

Brief Descriptive Note: Speaker, started off speaking on vegan issues and now speaks about Israel-Palestine

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 14 March 2013

Recording Length: 1:19:47

Information: Jonathan Fitter spent several years at sea as a merchant navy navigator, where he learned to play the tin whistle, before moving to London. He is a busker by trade. In 1992 he began promoting animal rights and veganism at Speakers' Corner. After a trip to the Middle East in 1998, Jon began speaking on an even more controversial topic: the Israel-Palestine conflict, because his souvenir "keffiyah", a Palestinian black-and-white chequered scarf, was attracting questions. He currently supports most policies of the Israeli state. He says he often wears both an Israeli and Palestinian flag to show he has sympathy with civilians on both sides and believes both nations have a right to exist. He describes the strong reaction of Muslim

audiences to his arguments and heated territorial disputes between speakers. He likes the freedom of information provided by the internet, but thinks there's no substitute for face-to-face debate.

OPEN

SFTP/2/15

Julian Meek

2013

Name: Julian Meek

Date of Birth: 10 February 1953

Interviewer: Lynda Finn

Brief Descriptive Note: Free Speech Platform founder and a Minister at Stratford Unitarian Church

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 01 May 2013

Recording Length: 1:22:17

Information: Julian Meek had speech difficulties as a child, so communication subsequently became very important to him. After intensive speech therapy he had a calling to use his gift of speech. Though bright, Julian grew up with dyspraxia and dyslexia, as well as dysphasia, at a time when these conditions were little understood. Speakers' Corner was "a way of gaining a sort of university education without going to university." He established the Open Platform in 1989 where anybody could get up and say a few words or speak for up to 20 minutes. The idea was to give a voice to a wide range of people and encourage opposing views to be heard. He still uses this approach in his ministry in Stratford Unitarian Church. Julian believes everyone has a piece of ultimate truth within them, and that truth is a process rather than a doctrine. He saw this process in action at Speakers' Corner and in the group he nurtured around the Open Platform.

OPEN

SFTP/2/16

Kathleen Humphreys

2013

Name: Kathleen Humphreys

Date of Birth: 10 September 1923

Interviewer: Lynda Finn

Brief Descriptive Note: Secretary and carer to Lord Soper

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 21 February 2013

Recording Length: 1:13:31

Information: Kathleen Humphreys is a Christian socialist who joined the Labour Party in 1945 with her twin sister. She observes that political young people today are more likely to “go for the fringes” than join mainstream parties. Kathleen taught in Kenya in 1954 at the height of the Mau Mau insurrection, leaving in 1963, the year the country gained its independence. She then became a clerical officer for Woolwich Arsenal. Kathleen joined Kingsway Methodist Hall and started supporting Donald Soper in the open air at Tower Hill and Speakers’ Corner in the 1960s. Kathleen helped to carry Soper’s stand whatever the weather, an essential service when he was old and frail. Impressed by Soper’s mastery of the English language, oratorical skills and politics, she became a fervent pacifist after hearing him speak. She also heckled the Hyde Park Tories. After her retirement, she became a friend and helper to the Soper household and cared for him when he was sick. She is still in touch with his family.

OPEN

SFTP/2/17

Leslie Griffiths

2013

Name: Leslie Griffiths

Date of Birth: 15 February 1942

Interviewer: Lynda Finn

Brief Descriptive Note: Methodist Speaker in the 1980s, worked with Lord Soper.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 01 March 2013

Recording Length: 0:39:28

Information: Leslie Griffiths spent the first ten years of his career as a Methodist minister in Haiti, returning to London in 1980. In the mid-1980s he became superintendent of the West London Mission where he met Donald Soper who was still very active, despite officially having retired. Leslie first went to Speakers’ Corner under the joking pretext that if Donald was “guilty of any heresy,” the superintendent should know about it. Leslie experienced Speakers’ Corner as a “marketplace for ideas” and he occasionally “stood in” for the big man on his platform. He saw open air oratory as an opportunity to communicate with as wide an audience as possible. He took Donald’s advice:

“When you’re up there on the stand, look as if you’re enjoying it, because if you don’t, the British public will let you suffer on your own.”
Leslie enjoyed “the cut and thrust” of Speakers’ Corner and wishes that church congregations would interject with questions or constructive heckles.
OPEN

SFTP/2/18 Marko Stepanov 2013

Name: Marko Stepanov
Date of Birth: unknown
Interviewer: David Abbott
Brief Descriptive Note: Artist, erstwhile speaker and former Yugoslavian. Had a photography exhibition about the signs held at Speakers’ Corner.
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 06 August 2013
Recording Length: 1:37:08
Information: Marko Stepanov is an artist from the former Yugoslavia who occasionally speaks on libertarian-anarchist themes or recites poetry. He came to London in 1986 and the first place he visited was Speakers’ Corner. For Marko, it was a mythical place because of its associations with the speeches of those condemned to hang at Tyburn. “Tyburnite” is Marko’s word for a Speakers’ Corner regular who believes in total freedom of speech. Speakers’ Corner became a crucial social space for Marko following the rise of nationalism and outbreak of war in his home country, which had a profound impact on his life and friendships. He started holding his own meetings about five years ago, but is more interested in dialogue than shouting about his own views. Marko describes people who “fought tooth and nail” all day meeting afterwards for friendly socials in the fast-food “chicken sheds” near Marble Arch: “Imagine 100 lunatics come in and destroy the business, they all have their own water or order a tea and then hang about for three hours.”
OPEN

SFTP/2/19 Martin Besserman 2013

Name: Martin Besserman
Date of Birth: unknown

Interviewer: David Abbott
 Brief Descriptive Note: Speaker and comedian since 1980s
 Gender: Male
 Date of Recording: 23 March 2013
 Recording Length: 0:49:40
 Information: Martin Besserman has a light comedy style aimed at attracting women and claims to have met all but one of his girlfriends at Speakers' Corner. He was drawn to Speakers' Corner as a teenager in the 1980s by the eccentricity of the environment. Martin says he craved attention for his poems after his parents divorced when he was eleven and was made to feel welcome at Speakers' Corner. It was a place where lonely, vulnerable people and intellectuals alike felt comfortable. As a cash strapped youth he discretely took collections for poetry recitals. He was impressed by "Quiz Queen Betty" who handed out jelly baby sweets as rewards for answering her "Trivial Pursuit" style questions, blackcurrant ones for hard questions; green for easy answers. Martin still speaks and currently advocates vegetarianism.
OPEN

SFTP/2/20

Michael Carolan

2013

Name: Michael Carolan
 Date of Birth: 18 September 1945
 Interviewer: Elizabeth Pillar
 Brief Descriptive Note: Went to Speakers' Corner with his father from age of 7 to 13 in the 1950s.
 Gender: Male
 Date of Recording: 22 April 2013
 Recording Length: 1:12:38
 Information: Michael Carolan, a retired head teacher, adored reading as a boy and went on to a Jesuit grammar school. His father was Irish Catholic and conservative "with a big and small 'c'." His mother had a working class Salvation Army background. The family fortunes were affected by anti-Catholic prejudice. Michael's father, drawn to "a dynamic he had never experienced" in Bolton or the military, took him to Speakers' Corner between the ages of seven and fourteen. Young Michael's impression of Speakers' Corner was of adults "misbehaving." Against the conformist 1950s backdrop, it was

funny and surprising to see them “declaiming like Romans.” He remembers three types of speaker: religious, political or “barmy.” His memories of Speakers’ Corner influenced his worldview: “You don’t harm anybody by standing up and saying what you wish to say in an environment where everybody is safe.”

OPEN

SFTP/2/21

Myk Zeitlin

2013

Name: Myk Zeitlin

Date of Birth: unknown

Interviewer: David Abbott

Brief Descriptive Note: Attendee from the 1970s, Tony Allen was a big influence on him, used to attend the Corner 'full time'

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 30 July 2013

Recording Length: 0:45:17

Information: Myk Zeitlin attended Speakers’ Corner from 1977 to 1983, after seeing an advert in Peace News. His first impression was that Speakers’ Corner was “an offshoot of London zoo.” Myk’s model, aged 20, was Franz Kafka who worked in an insurance office by day and was a radical by night. He was inspired by Tony Allen’s anarchist critique of work to give up his “boring office job” in 1980 and become “full time” at Speakers’ Corner. He busked at Marble Arch and heckled a lot. Most of all Myk was interested in the social scene, which embraced intellectuals like Hungarian Alfred Reynolds. He thinks today’s orators are far more ideological and religious than in the 1970s. Myk recalls “Saint Paul” Hunt’s Sufi parable about a man picking up a strange looking stone, bearing the words “why do you seek more knowledge when you don’t put into practice what you already know.” Myk moved on partly because he wanted to put what he had learnt into practice.

OPEN

SFTP/2/22

Patrick McEvoy

2013

Name: Patrick McEvoy

Date of Birth: 1973

Interviewer: David Abbott

Brief Descriptive Note: Socialist speaker on world economics and politics since 2011.

Gender: Male
 Date of Recording: 02 March 2013
 Recording Length: 2:07:26
 Information: Patrick Mc Evoy has been a regular speaker since 2011. After losing his job as a carpenter in the 2008 financial meltdown, Patrick started going to Hyde Park in search of answers and opinions. He was keen to start a debate that would help him and others understand why the current capitalist system was preventing them earning a fair wage. Patrick's own beliefs have developed during his time as a speaker. The debates and discussions at Speakers' Corner have helped shape his philosophy of life and, he says, improved him as a human being. The experience has given Patrick a profound respect for public speaking, and he has developed a globalist view of the world. Initially frustrated at his lack of employment prospects, he now sees himself as very fortunate to live in the west, which is rich compared to much of the rest of the world. Though some people said: "You'll always be marginalised if you go down to Speakers' Corner," Patrick has every intention of continuing to speak there.

OPEN

SFTP/2/23

Reinhard Wentz

2013

Name: Reinhard Wentz
 Date of Birth: 1943
 Interviewer: Hilary McGraw
 Brief Descriptive Note: Listener and sometime heckler from 1960s
 Gender: Male
 Date of Recording: 04 March 2013
 Recording Length: 1:34:15
 Information: Reinhard Wentz first visited Speakers' Corner as a student in 1960. He became a dedicated regular and sometime heckler from the mid 1960s, undaunted by xenophobic put-downs like: "We have Domestos, which kills 95 per cent of all known Germans." He says it is hard to make generalisations, because Speakers' Corner is "not a homogenous institution organised by a committee or by directors." It works because there are no rules. Reinhard has created an encyclopedia of this unique place, entitled Only in London with entries on enticing subjects like

Ras Prince Monolulu and Lady With the Cakes. Hecklers and speakers have a symbiotic relationship, he says. An increase in tourists and decrease in witty topical hecklers means that speakers get away with repeating the same jokes, but debates on the fringes are still going strong. Reinhard's law is: the mystique of Speaker's Corner cannot be understood in one visit. Do not be put off by a dull or rainy day!

OPEN

SFTP/2/24

Richard Headicar

2013

Name: Richard Headicar

Date of Birth: 28 August 1933

Interviewer: Lynda Finn

Brief Descriptive Note: Speaker on CND, socialism and love. Biographer of Alfred Reynolds

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 15 May 2013

Recording Length: 1:31:35

Information: Richard Headicar visited Speakers' Corner as a young man in the 1950s. Now an atheist, he was inspired at an early age by the oratorical flair of three Methodists: Donald Soper, Leslie Weatherhead and William Sangster. His first platform was the light hearted "People's Retrogressive Party," but he became serious about nuclear disarmament after hearing Donald Soper talk about the gratuitousness of bombing Hiroshima and conducting his own independent research. Richard joined the Committee of 100, was arrested for his anti-nuclear campaigning and served a sentence in prison. Bertrand Russell and Vanessa Redgrave spoke on his platform at this time. He earned a reputation for patience, accuracy and welcoming questions. He says: "You have to be able to listen for at least double that time to what other people have to say, or you have nothing to say yourself." Richard's subject matter later broadened after meeting the radical Hungarian philosopher and poet Alfred Reynolds. Reynolds was a Speakers' Corner regular who had rebelled against the Soviet regime and developed denazification techniques in Germany and Norway. Richard became Alfred's biographer. Richard is also a longstanding member of the Socialist Party of Great Britain

(SPGB).
OPEN

SFTP/2/25

Roy Sawh

2013

Name: Roy Sawh
Date of Birth: 11 November 1934
Interviewer: Rosa Vilbr
Brief Descriptive Note: Guyanese speaker
1950s - 1989, spoke on immigration and racism.
Influential for younger black speakers.
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 28 June 2013
Recording Length: 2:04:00
Information: Roy Sawh was born on a sugar estate in Guyana (then British Guiana), "the next thing to slavery," which galvanized his fight against racism and injustice. His Indian-born father was indentured to the plantation at the age of six; Roy and his siblings worked there too. He worked at the Cumberland Hotel in Marble Arch, and in 1958, he stumbled on Speakers' Corner by chance. He was fascinated by the Coloured Workers' Welfare Association, and the next Sunday, he asked to speak on their platform. He was greeted with "go home you bastard, Ghana is independent." Undeterred, Roy spoke about racism, immigration and the history of the British Empire for the next 30 years. Roy actively sought dialogue and appreciated hecklers for their humour value. In 1968, he was sentenced to twelve months in prison after police and magistrates interpreted jocular speeches as "inciting violence" under the 1965 Racial Discrimination Act, which was intended to protect minorities. Roy also describes his time in the Communist Party, studying philosophy in Moscow, two stints in the Guyanese government, setting up the Free University for Black Studies in London, and his Hindu mother's belief in the value of education.
OPEN

SFTP/2/26

Ruth Eastwood

2013

Name: Ruth Eastwood
Date of Birth: 1942
Interviewer: Elizabeth Pillar
Brief Descriptive Note: Heckler, Jewish
Christian, regular attendee at Speakers' Corner

since her childhood in 1940s.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 04 March 2013

Recording Length: 0:56:28

Information: Ruth Eastwood was taught to question and to separate the truth of a statement from the identity of its utterer at an orthodox Jewish orphanage where she spent some of her childhood. She heckles in order to test the strength of arguments, not to destroy them. She says Speakers' Corner was where "she learned to think." Her father, also a thoughtful heckler, took her to Speakers' Corner as a child in the 1940s. Ruth remembers Methodist orator Donald Soper and the "meshugganahs" or "crazies" from that time. Ruth is now a Christian and still visits Speakers' Corner today with her husband Robin. Though Speakers' Corner has had a limited effect on mainstream politics, she says: "The day that Speakers' Corner goes down the tubes, England will be finished as a free society." She regrets that today's speakers are less willing to listen to others.

OPEN

SFTP/2/27

Sharley McLean

2013

Name: Sharley McLean

Date of Birth: 26 May 1923

Interviewer: Elizabeth Pillar

Brief Descriptive Note: Came to London as refugee from Nazi Germany, attended Speakers' Corner from 1939, started Hyde Park Gays and Sapphics platform

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 25 July 2013

Recording Length: 1:16:20

Information: Sharley McLean was born into a political family persecuted by the Third Reich and escaped to Britain in 1939, on a "Kindertransport", which rescued children from Nazi Germany. After the German family she lived with were interned, Sharley was supported by Catholic organisations and then trained as nurse. She was a Speakers' Corner regular from 1939 and during the war met other refugees from Germany by Donald Soper's platform. She made many friends including Robert Ogilvie "the free thinker" and met her socialist husband there, with whom she had two children. She

says Speakers' Corner saved her from the boredom of post-war working class Britain and helped her express her individuality. Sharley only started speaking at Speakers' Corner in the 1980s, on the "Hyde Parks Gays and Sapphics" platform, which she co-founded. They tried to demystify homosexuality, educate people about HIV and support gay people who had little understanding from those around them.

OPEN

SFTP/2/28

Tim Kendall

2013

Name: Tim Kendall

Date of Birth: unknown

Interviewer: Annette Fry

Brief Descriptive Note: Grandson of Reverend Kendal (Methodist Speaker 1930s-1950s)

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 26 February 2013

Recording Length: 1:19:47

Information: Tim Kendall is the grandson of the Reverend George Kendall who preached from 1926 to 1956 on the Public Morality platform which was established in the late nineteenth century. Earlier Reverend Kendall had overseen the exhumation of "The Unknown Warrior" in strictest secrecy. Tim reads from his grandfather's unpublished memoirs, a witty chronicle of Hyde Park at its busiest. "If you want to find your long lost husband or wife, your wandering son or daughter or even your creditor go to Marble Arch," says Reverend Kendall. He spoke frankly about sex and venereal disease to a disorderly crowd. Willing souls rubbed shoulders with "perverts" for whom his collar was like "a red rag to a bull." His contemporaries included nihilistic comedian Bonar Thompson, who eeked a living by soliciting illegal donations, and saintly Father Vincent MacNab.

OPEN

SFTP/2/29

Tom Tickell

2013

Name: Tom Tickell

Date of Birth: 21 April 1943

Interviewer: Lynda Finn

Brief Descriptive Note: Heckler, spoke when he was a teenager first at Speakers' Corner, has been going for 50 years.

Gender: Male
 Date of Recording: 08 March 2013
 Recording Length: 0:47:41
 Information: Tom Tickell, journalist and diarist, first visited Speakers' Corner at the age of sixteen, in 1958. He spoke on absurd topics like umbrella worship and yak transport in a variety of accents, partly in order to mock speakers he saw as "pop-eyed fanatics." Tom remembers eccentrics like Jacobus Van Dyn, who had a snake tattoo licking his upper lip. In those days Tom was a member of the Conservative Party, though he thought the Tory speakers were less effective than people who wanted to change the status quo. He still attends, largely to heckle: "A form of anger management." Tom speculates that heckling religious speakers might have been a way to attack his mother's Catholicism by proxy without hurting her feelings. He believes that the habit of listening and debate has declined along with a rise in hard-line fanaticism. The most intelligent conversations are to be had outside the speakers' meetings, with the exception of Marxist Heiko Khoo. He disagrees with everything Heiko says, but respects his mind. Tom says Speakers' Corner gets in the blood, like "a kind of drug."
OPEN

SFTP/2/30

Tony Allen

2013

Name: Tony Allen
 Date of Birth: 1945
 Interviewer: Rosa Vilbr
 Brief Descriptive Note: Anarchist performer and comedian. Speaker since the 1970s .
 Gender: Male
 Date of Recording: 01 March 2013
 Recording Length: 1:35:27
 Information: Tony Allen arrived at speaking via anarchist politics and the West London Theatre Workshop; an agitprop group. He was already aware of Speakers' Corner as "a way of educating yourself" and heckled there throughout the `70s. Heckling determines a controversial style of debate, he says, but it can also simplify the argument and lead speakers into repetition. In his first speech in 1978, as "an anarcho-feminist," he was arrested for swearing. The difference between acting and performing is

crucial; on the soapbox you perform but you are in a version of yourself, not a character. He started the Ruff Tuff Cream Puff Estate Agency for Squatters with author Heathcote Williams and devoted much of his early speaking to defending his alternative lifestyle. Over the years he has cut down on rhetoric and now goes to chat and learn from his audience. He believes the crowds have dwindled because of noisy rock concerts in Hyde Park and is disappointed that Speakers' Corner does not have "the vitality it promises." Tony also talks about "advocate heckling" on behalf of people who were "too shy or lazy" to heckle themselves.

OPEN

SFTP/3	Sounds from the Park: Project Archive	
	Project archive of the Sounds from the Park project including photographs, recordings and press cuttings, (2012-2013) OPEN	
SFTP/3/1	Consultation Meeting	2012
	Photographs of consultation before Sounds from the Park began, both at Speakers' Corner and at Bishopsgate Institute (2012) OPEN	
SFTP/3/2	Volunteer induction trip to Speakers' Corner	2012
	Photographs of volunteer induction trip to Speakers' Corner; volunteers listening to Bob Rogers speak about Speakers' Corner history, 2 December 2012. OPEN	
SFTP/3/3	Reminiscence Meeting	2012
	Photographs taken at first project event: reminiscence meeting about Speakers' Corner with around 40 people in attendance, 8 December 2012. OPEN	
SFTP/3/4	'Research and Remember Session'	2013
	Photographs of "Research and Remember" session at Bishopsgate Institute where items were collected for the archive and photographs were discussed and identified, 29 January 2013. OPEN	

SFTP/3/5	Public Speaking Workshop	2013
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OPEN

SFTP/3/5/1	Public Speaking Workshop: Photographs	2013
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Photographs of young people (including members of Adventurers History Club) at a public speaking workshop ran by Speakers' Corner orators Tony Allen and Heiko Khoo at Bishopsgate Institute, as part of the project Sounds from the Park, 2 April 2013.

OPEN

SFTP/3/5/2	Public Speaking Workshop: Videos	2013
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Videos of young people (including members of Adventurers History Club) made at a public speaking workshop run by Youth Media Agency, 2 April 2013.

OPEN

SFTP/3/6	Public Speaking Workshop: George Mitchell School	2013
	OPEN	
SFTP/3/6/1	George Mitchell School: Public Speaking Workshop: Photos	2013
	Photographs of George Mitchell students taking part in a public speaking workshop ran by Speakers' Corner orators Tony Allen and Heiko Khoo at Bishopsgate Institute, as part of the project Sounds from the Park. Taken by Rosa Vilbr (On the Record).	
	OPEN	
SFTP/3/6/2	George Mitchell School: Public Speaking Workshop: Recordings	2013
	Recordings of Year 10 George Mitchell students making speeches at a public speaking workshop ran by Speakers' Corner orators Tony Allen and Heiko Khoo at Bishopsgate Institute, as part of the project Sounds from the Park, 5 April 2013.	
	OPEN	
SFTP/3/6/3	George Mitchell School: Trip to Speakers' Corner: Photos	2013
	Photos of Sounds from the Park's trip to Speakers' Corner with year 10 history students from George Mitchell school in Waltham Forest (taught by Martin Spafford) and the Adventurers Youth Club (facilitated by Michelle Johansen). Photographs taken by Laura Mitchison (On the Record).	
	OPEN	
SFTP/3/6/4	George Mitchell School: Trip to Speakers' Corner: Recordings	2013
	17 recordings of speeches made by Year 10 George Mitchell students in a podcast making workshop, after their visit to Speakers' Corner, 8 April 2013.	
	OPEN	
	Material available at Bishopsgate Library.	

SFTP/3/6/5 George Mitchell School: Trip to Speakers' 2013
Corner: Soundscapes

Soundscapes made from sounds from Speakers' Corner and the earlier public speaking workshops using the "Feed app". Workshops run by Incidental with George Mitchell students. These were played at the project's final event, October- December 2013.

OPEN

Material available at Bishopsgate Library.

SFTP/3/7	Wish: workshop photographs and recordings	2013
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Interviews and photographs of the Wish: workshop, (2013)

SFTP/3/7/1	Wish: workshop interviews	2013
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Anonymised interviews conducted during a workshop with womens' organisation Wish, a voice for women's mental health. Notes on interviews included as pdf, 26 June 2013.
OPEN

SFTP/3/7/2	Wish: workshop photographs	2013
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Photographs of a Workshop with womens' organisation Wish, a voice for women's mental health, 26 June 2013.
OPEN

SFTP/3/8 Photographs of Project Interviewees 2013

Colour portrait photographs of project interviewees and scenes at Speakers' Corner. Portraits taken at Speakers' Corner, interviewees homes, or another meaningful place to the interviewee. Location and person specified in folder name. Taken on film and digitised, 2013.

OPEN

Available to view at Bishopsgate Library.

SFTP/3/9 Photographs of Project Final Event 2013

Photographs of final event for Sounds from the Park, 7 December 2013.

OPEN

SFTP/3/11 Recording at Speakers Corner 2013

Recordings and photographs from Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, (2013).

OPEN

SFTP/3/11/1 Recording at Speakers Corner: Recordings 2013

Recordings made at Speakers' Corner by On the Record staff and volunteers. Summary document in file, 2 June 2013.

OPEN

SFTP/3/11/2 Recording at Speakers Corner: Photographs 2013

Photographs taken while recording sound at Speakers' Corner. Some of the people in the recordings feature, 2 June 2013.

OPEN

SFTP/3/11/3 Recording at Speakers Corner: Recordings 2013

Recordings made at Speakers' Corner by On the Record staff and volunteers. Summary document in file, 2 June 2013.

OPEN

SFTP/3/12 Sounds from the Park leaflets 2012-2013

Sounds from the Park leaflets, 2012-2013.
OPEN

SFTP/3/13 Press Coverage 2012-2013

Press cuttings about Sounds from the Park including the Camden New Journal, the Family Tree magazine and Time Out, 2012-2013.
OPEN