

Large Print guide

2025 Banner Exhibition

Gallery Two

Text size: 14pt



This guide contains:

- Gallery directions to locate each banner displayed within Gallery Two.
- Large print of the banner labels within Gallery Two.
- Short descriptions of the banners and images within Gallery Two.

Large Print exhibition guides in 18pt and 24pt text versions, magnifiers and colour overlays are also available.

Please ask a staff member if you need any further assistance.

Gallery Two

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The banners displayed in the 2025 Banner Exhibition are displayed in Gallery One and Gallery Two. The main galleries are made up of colour coded zones covering themes.

In our gallery directions, we will refer to these zones to help you locate the banners.

This guide follows the order of the displays within Gallery Two.

When you have finished using this guide, please return it or give it to a member of staff. Thank you.

Please share with us any feedback on this resource. You can email access@phm.org.uk or share your feedback with a member of staff.

Pink Citizens Zone

[Gallery directions]

Enter Gallery Two through the entrance doors on the left side. Once inside, turn left then straight ahead is the ASLEF Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Members banner.

ASLEF Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Members banner, 2005

The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) is the train drivers' union. In 2000 ASLEF established equalities committees for its members, to represent women, LGBT people, and people of colour. The committees' roles were to challenge ignorance and prejudice within the union.

In December 2001, the union's LGBT Representative Committee distributed 'Facing Points', a newsletter for LGBT members. The title refers to members 'facing up' to their true identities, and being proud of who they are.

The newsletter highlighted the committee's key aims: to outlaw homophobic bullying in the workplace and to establish legal protections for trans people.

Materials: Double layered banner made from twill woven black cotton fabric with various synthetic fabrics appliquéd in layers on top. Trimmed with a synthetic gold effect fringe and cotton guide tapes at all corners.

Dimensions: 1,900mm wide x 1,820mm high

[Banner description]

An almost square banner with gold fringing on the bottom and two sides. The banner has a black background, but five coloured stripes cover most of the surface area. The stripes are red, orange, yellow, green and blue. The right side of each stripe has an irregular curved shape missing, which reveals the black background.

In the top left corner is a black and white circular logo. The outer white ring has the words 'ASLEF PROUD TO BE UNION' around it. The black centre circle has a white image of a train and two figures, made up of simple shapes. Below these are two clasped hands, one is black and the other white.

To the right of the logo are white letters 'ASLEF', they have been attached on top of the coloured stripes. Half way down the banner in smaller but similar lettering are 'Lesbian Gay Bisexual' and 'Transgender Members'.

At the bottom of the banner below the stripes are two lines in white bold lettering, which read 'FIGHTING PREJUDICE' and 'FIGHTING INTOLERANCE'

Did you know?

In 2018, ASLEF adopted a policy supporting self-declaration for trans and non-binary people.

[Gallery directions]

With the ASLEF Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Members banner on your right, head straight and on your left is the not dead yet UK banner.

not dead yet UK banner, 2016

Designed and made Brian Hilton and Wadiha Ahmed

Not Dead Yet UK (NDYUK) was formed in 2006 in response to the growing media focus on campaigns for assisted dying.

NDYUK saw these campaigns as an attempt at 'legitimising the killing of terminally ill and disabled people'. NDYUK have also raised concerns 'that disabled people, and people who are seriously ill, could feel pressure (real or imagined) to request an early death.'

In 2015 parliament voted to reject a bill on assisted dying. However, 2024 saw renewed debate around the issue with polls showing growing public support for a change in the law. On 29 November 2024, MPs voted 330 to 275 in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. The bill will face further debate and scrutiny before it becomes law.

Materials: Cotton applied work.

Dimensions: 2,773mm wide x 1,610mm high

[Banner description]

A landscape white banner with attached cut out lettering and silhouettes.

Running along the top of the banner is a thin black strip with white lettering that reads 'WE NEED SUPPORT TO LIVE, NOT ASSISTANCE TO DIE'. Just below it on the right side is a rectangular black strip with red letters, there is visible white stitching around the edges, the letters spell '#ndyuk'.

The central text is the largest on the banner and reads 'not dead yet UK'. The 'not' is white on a slanted red patch just to the left of the centre. The words 'dead yet' are on the line below, in black lettering that is attached directly to the

banner. The smaller red letters of 'UK' hovers above the 'e' in 'yet'.

The bottom quarter of the banner is a line of black silhouetted figures. They are all holding hands, some have placards, some are using wheelchairs, and one has a dog on a lead. The figures are on a slightly raised black mound, which runs along the bottom of the banner, on top of this is white lettering that reads 'DISABLED PEOPLE SAY NO TO ASSISTED SUICIDE'

Did you know?

This was the biggest banner we had made and in the end we needed to draft in my parents to help finish it.' - Brian Hilton reflecting on making the banner

Brian's parents are pictured in the photographs below measuring and tacking the banner.

Photographs of the not dead yet UK banner being made, 2016. Images courtesy of Brian Hilton.

[Image description of photograph on label]

A collage of images showing people working on a banner. In the top left, a person is holding a fabric piece with the hashtag '#ndyuk.' The top right shows two people sewing or organising materials. The bottom left captures hands working on a colourful fabric, while the bottom right features the banner on a wooden floor.

[Image credit]

Photographs of the not dead yet UK banner being made, 2016. Images courtesy of Brian Hilton.

[Gallery directions]

With the not dead yet UK banner on your left, turn right and head straight. On your left is the Camden Labour Briefing banner.

Camden Labour Briefing banner, 1985

Designed and made by Dave Bangs

In 1980 the 'London Labour Briefing' was set up as a magazine for grassroots Labour activists.

It soon spread across the country and became the national publication 'Labour Briefing'. Many local groups produced their own versions of the magazine, including in Camden.

'Labour Briefing' magazine finally stopped production in 2023, although many believed it had lost touch with its grassroots origins long before that.

Socialist mural artist Dave Bangs hand painted the Camden Labour Briefing banner. It was taken on demonstrations in support of the Miners' Strike of 1984 to 1985 and against the Poll Tax in 1990.

Materials: Undyed plain woven cotton canvas fabric with hand painted design using acrylic paint.

Dimensions: 1,760mm wide x 2,140mm high

[Banner description]

An off white portrait banner. The banner is dominated by a cartoon illustration of a crowd of people jeering at three miniature figures that are striding away in the foreground.

Two of the figures are wearing light grey suits and one is carrying a suitcase with 'WALDEGRAVE' written on it. The other figure in front of them is wearing a dark grey skirt and jacket, they are carrying a handbag. Next to them written in small red letters is 'I thought you said Camden was a pushover Ridley....!!!'

The crowd and figures are all painted in grey tones. Behind them is the reddish pink silhouette of the Houses of Parliament, with its tall clock tower. Imposed over the top of that is 'CAMDEN LABOUR' in a bold red font and 'BRIEFING' in a similar white font.

Did you know?

The group's 1989 'Camden stops the poll tax campaign' was particularly successful, with nearly 20,000 local people refusing to register for the new tax.

[Gallery directions]

With the Camden Labour Briefing banner behind you, head into the Strikes section ahead and turn right. On your right is the Young Communists say Coal Not Dole banner.

Young Communists say Coal Not Dole banner, 1984

The Young Communist League (YCL) was formed in 1921 as the youth section of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB). Members of the YCL went on demonstrations, attended educational classes, and produced their own magazine entitled 'Challenge'.

While YCL was mainly a political organisation spreading communist ideas, it also offered social opportunities such as music, sport, and discussion.

YCL members were very involved in supporting the Miners' Strike of 1984 to 1985. In 1985 Mark Ashton, co-founder of campaign group Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM), was the General Secretary of the YCL.

Materials: Nylon and acrylic paint.

Dimensions: 2,600mm wide x 900mm high

[Banner description]

A wide landscape banner made from shiny red material and hand painted with bright yellow lettering. There is gold trim on the top and bottom of the banner, though both have a section missing on the right side.

At the top of the banner the first line of text reads 'YOUNG COMMUNISTS', below that in a smaller slanted font is the word 'say'

Then underneath that in the largest lettering are the words 'COAL NOT DOLE'

Did you know?

The 2014 film 'Pride' tells the story behind Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners. The film does not include anything about Mark Ashton's involvement in the YCL. Many believe it

was left out so the film would appeal to an international audience.

[Gallery directions]

Heading back out of the Strikes section the way you came turn right. On the wall to the left is the Manchester Deaf Triangle Club banner.

Manchester Deaf Triangle Club banner, around 1985

This hand embroidered banner was made for the Triangle Club. It was a social club for Deaf gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender members established in 1985. The group held regular meetings at The Rembrandt pub in Manchester. The group was originally known as the Kings and Queens, and was one of the first Deaf LGBT organisations in Britain. The hands featuring on the banner spell 'Triangle Club' in British Sign Language (BSL).

On loan from British Deaf History Society.

Materials: Cotton and polyester applied work.

Dimensions: 1,956mm wide x 1,169mm high

[Banner description]

A white landscape banner with a red border.

At the top of the banner are bold black letters that spell out 'MANCHESTER DEAF TRIANGLE CLUB'.

Just to the left of the middle of the banner, are two downturned triangles, which overlap each other. The one in the front is a dark grey, and the one behind it is pink. To the left of the triangles is the word 'LESBIAN' and to the right is '& GAY Group' both are in black lettering.

At the bottom of the banner are two rows of hands, spelling out letters in sign language. The hands have been cut out of different coloured material and have been sewn on to the banner.

Did you know?

The pink triangle like the one on this banner has become a common symbol of the LGBTQIA+ community.

However it was first used as a symbol of persecution in 1930s and 1940s Germany to identify gay and bisexual men, and trans women in Nazi concentration camps. In the 1970s, LGBTQIA+ people began to reclaim the pink triangle as a symbol of liberation.

[Gallery directions]

With the Manchester Deaf Triangle Club banner on your left, head straight where the Nothing About Us Without Us banner will be facing you.

Nothing About Us Without Us banner, 2015

This banner was made for an exhibition at People's History Museum to mark the 20th anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) in 2015.

It was designed by a group of learning disabled artists from Venture Arts, a visual arts organisation based in Manchester.

The group sent out over 500 patches to other disabled people across the UK, who drew or stitched on their patch something that represented them. They were then brought together to form this banner. The red and gold colours were chosen to represent revolution and ambition.

Materials: Red fabrics of various types and gold lamé, used to make a hand sewn quilt of hexagonal patches with embroidered detail.

Dimensions: 1,190mm wide x 1,880mm high

[Banner description]

A long portrait banner made up of small red hexagonal patches. The patches have a slightly raised padded look. Many are different shades of red and made from a variety of different textured materials.

The patches all have different hand stitched designs, which include simple symbols, patterns, words and names. The

designs are very subtle and have been stitched in thin white or gold thread. Many are only visible when you get close to the banner.

The top half of the banner has the words 'NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US' in gold cut out letters spread out over four lines.

Below the text are two rows of gold hexagonal patches that run across the middle of the banner.

What do our Conservators say?

The gold lamé fabric on this banner is very effective visually, but quite susceptible to abrasion. It is already worn at the corners of the hexagonal patches and if touched it will be damaged further.

[Gallery directions]

With the Nothing About Us Without Us banner on your left, head straight and turn right at the Nuclear Disarmament section. Facing you is the Wokingham Peace Group banner.

Wokingham Peace Group banner, 1980s

Made by Kay Browning

The 1980s saw a rise in peace activism after the introduction of cruise missiles into the UK. This banner was used at demonstrations at Greenham Common, Burghfield, and Aldermaston, the sites of key Royal Air Force (RAF) facilities.

The dove design featured on the banner was taken from a piece of silver jewellery. Although the group replaced the banner with a much larger one they used on protests, this original one continued to be used on stalls at local carnivals and at other events to raise awareness.

Materials: Nylon and polyester applied work.

Dimensions: 850mm wide x 873mm high

[Banner description]

Teal blue square banner. The lettering and design have been cut out of a white fleecy material and been hand stitched on.

The banner reads 'WOKINGHAM PEACE GROUP'

The word peace has been made to look like a dove, in its beak is a thin embroidered green olive branch. The words above and below the dove curve around it.

In the bottom corners of the banner are two peace symbols, a circle with a vertical line down the middle and two diagonal lines extending from the centre making a triangular shape in the bottom half of the circle.

Did you know?

RAF Greenham Common closed in September 1992. The site was designated as public parkland in 1997 and its control tower is now a community events and exhibition space.

White Banners Zone

[Gallery directions]

With the Wokingham Peace Group banner on your right, turn left into the white Banners zone of the gallery. In front of you are three large banners, these are displayed so you can see both sides.

From left to right are the National Union Of General Workers, Bradford Branch banner, Lesbians & Gays Support The Miners banner and Tea Operatives & General Labourers Association banner.

National Union Of General Workers, Bradford Branch banner, 1920s

Formed in 1916, the National Union of General Workers (NUGW) was a combination of many different unions for manual labourers. One of these was the National Federation of Women Workers, which since 1906 had served as a general union for women.

This banner illustrates one of the key trade union principles, 'unity is strength'. One side shows four different labourers clasping hands. They each hold tools of different trades including a hoe, a shovel, a stick, and a glassblowing pipe. The NUGW was one of the most important unions of its time and was crucial in the campaign for the eight hour working day.

Materials: Hand painted oil based image on a single layer of silk fabric.

Dimensions: 1,981mm wide x 2,387mm high

[Banner description]

A double-sided portrait banner. Both sides have a red background with gold fringing at the bottom. The banner is hung on a pole using a white sleeve.

The central image on both sides of the banner is adorned with silver floral patterns and has scrolls of decorative text that reads "NATIONAL UNION of GENERAL WORKERS" at the top and "BRADFORD BRANCH" at the bottom. Also near the bottom is a ribbon that includes the phrase "RISE OH ENGLAND FOR THE DAY IS HERE."

[Front]

The central painted panel shows a figure wearing a billowing white gown with gold embellishment around the edges. The figure is wearing a headdress made of flowers. In its right hand is a trumpet, raised to its mouth. The background includes a yellow sunlit sky, green hills and the silhouette of a procession of people carrying banners.

[Reverse]

In the central painting, four men, dressed in work clothes, face each other in a huddle and shake hands. Three of them are wearing cloth caps and each is holding a different work tool. The background shows a cloudy blue sky.

Did you know?

When the first Trades Union Congress (TUC) meeting was held in 1868 (just down the road at the museum's original home in Manchester, 103 Princess Street) the average person worked 62 hours per week. Today it is 36.6 hours per week.

Lesbians & Gays Support The Miners banner, 1984

Made by Mark Ashton

Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) was formed during the Miners' Strike in 1984. LGSM's main aim was to raise money for the striking miners and their families.

The group raised about £20,000 with events such as the benefit concert 'Pits and Perverts'. This money helped miners' families survive the winter.

Although small, this campaign group was significant. A bond formed between miners and the LGBT+ community, which lasted long beyond the strike. Miners' groups were outspoken supporters in the 1988 campaign against Section 28, government legislation which banned schools and local authorities from 'promoting homosexuality'.

Materials: Painted cotton canvas.

Dimensions: 2,670mm wide x 975mm high

[Banner description]

A landscape rectangular banner. The design is hand painted on to a white canvas background, which is showing signs of dirt and staining, particularly around the edges.

[Front]

At the top of the banner is red text with a black outline that reads 'LESBIANS & GAYS', either side of the text are two black strips.

Below that and central to the banner design is large black text that reads 'SUPPORT THE MINERS', the 'O' in 'SUPPORT' contains a peace sign inside it.

Coloured strips frame the words: vertical burgundy red strips on either side and a much thicker horizontal yellow strip below it.

[Reverse]

The left side of the banner features a cartoonish police officer in a black uniform and a tall domed helmet.

The central part of the banner is filled with bold hand written text that reads 'WHEN THE UNIONS INSPIRATION THROUGH THE WORKERS' BLOOD SHALL RUN, THERE CAN BE NO POWER GREATER ANYWHERE BENEATH THE SUN. YET WHAT FORCE ON EARTH IS WEAKER THAN THE FEEBLE STRENGTH OF ONE? BUT THE UNION MAKES US STRONG!' around the text are musical notes and numerous painted black and yellow lines that seem to radiate out from the words.

On the right, there is an illustration of a woman's head and shoulders. Her hair is short and stylised but large in volume. She has a stern expression and one hand is visible. The word 'SNAP' is written above her extended finger and thumb.

Did you know?

On the banner's reverse is the first verse of 'Solidarity Forever', a song composed in 1915 by American Ralph Chaplin, inspired by a miners' strike in West Virginia, featured alongside a caricature of the UK Prime Minister at the time of the 1984 to 1985 Miners' Strike, Margaret Thatcher.

Tea Operatives & General Labourers Association banner, around 1889

The original version of this banner was used during the Great London Dock Strike of 1889. It was later sewn onto this commemorative silk banner featuring a portrait of Ben Tillett, the General Secretary of the Tea Operatives & General Labourers' Association. He helped to organise the Great London Dock Strike.

Most workers on the docks were casual labourers, only taken on for a day or for a few hours at a time. Many had no regular income and periods of unemployment were common.

The striking dockers demanded an increase in pay to sixpence per hour – known as a 'dockers' tanner' – and that all shifts were a minimum of four hours. After five weeks the strike was a success.

Materials: Double layered banner comprising original plain woven linen layer incorporated with an additional plain woven silk layer. Hand painted images on each layer.

Dimensions: 3,140mm wide x 1,860mm high

[Banner description]

A double sided landscape banner. A green border and a red outer border frame both sides of the banner. The bottom edge of the banner has a golden brown fringe.

[Front]

The central image is a circular painting of the head and shoulders of a man with short dark brown hair and a moustache. He is wearing a dark jacket and a white shirt with a raised collar and a grey tie.

Along the bottom curve of the circle are the words 'BEN TILLET' in a small gold font. A circular wreath of green leaves frames the image.

Above the image in gold lettering are the words 'SOUTH DOCK BRANCH THE PIONEER.' and 'THE ONLY & ORIGINAL DOCKERS BANNER'. Either side of the circular image is yellow zigzag ribbon design with black lettering. The

one on the left reads 'IN CONJUNCTION WITH' the one on right 'THE SOUTH DOCK MEN'.

Below the central image in gold lettering are the words 'IN THE GREAT STRIKE AUG 14TH. ENDING SEPTEMBER 18TH 1889'.

[Reverse]

The central rectangular panel is a yellowish brown from general staining; it is filled with black text. The text is in various fonts, both bold and italic it reads 'TEA OPERATIVES & GENERAL LABOURERS ASSOCIATION' 'A Registered Protective Union FOR General Labourers,' 'ALL GENERAL & DOCK LABOURERS JOIN AT ONCE and Defend the Rights of Manhood in a Practical AND direct manner. __' 'CONTRIBUTIONS 2d WEEKLY. ENTRANCE FEE 1s (Payable 12 weeks)'

Did you know?

The Great London Dock Strike was very close to failing. Funds were running extremely low, and the labourers and their families were starving. However, a last minute £30,000 donation from trade unions in Australia saved the day.

[Gallery directions]

With the three large banners on your right side, head straight and in front of you is the International Women's Day quilt.

International Women's Day quilt, 2010

This quilt was created at an International Women's Day (IWD) event in March 2010. Over 300 people came together at The Monastery in Gorton, Manchester to celebrate. The key themes of the event were that small actions can make bigger things happen, and that everyone has their own story. Everyone participating contributed a snippet of fabric, which had a personal story or meaning for them. They were then stitched together with the assistance of embroidery students from the Manchester School of Art at Manchester Metropolitan University.

This banner was selected to be included in the **2025 Banner Exhibition** by participants of the museum's The Fabric of Protest workshop.

Materials: Two layers of printed woven cotton with various applied fabric patches machine sewn to one side.

Dimensions: 1,600mm wide x 1,440mm high

[Banner description]

A colourful square quilt, made up of hundreds of small scraps of material. Each scrap has a different pattern or colour.

These include flowered, checked and striped designs. The four corners of the quilt have chunky tassels, which have been made out of similar offcuts of material

Did you know?

This quilt was first displayed at People's History Museum in 2011. It was part of an exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of IWD. The first official IWD took place on 19 March 1911, although there were earlier national versions of the day predating this.

[Gallery directions]

With the International Women's Day quilt on your left, head straight and in front of you is the Campaign Against The Immigration Laws (CAIL) banner.

Campaign Against The Immigration Laws (CAIL) banner, 1978

Campaign Against the Immigration Laws (CAIL) was formed in 1978.

Its main focus was the Immigration Act of 1971, which restricted the entry of Commonwealth citizens into the UK, which the group believed was an example of state racism. CAIL supported and co-ordinated actions against deportations and detentions. They held a series of demonstrations at prisons to protest about the number of people held inside under the immigration laws of the time.

Materials: Purple polyester satin with lettering made from white PVC and paper.

Dimensions: 3,250mm wide x 900mm high

[Banner description]

A long thin landscape banner. The background is a purple colour there are patches where the colour has bled, and it looks a darker purple. The overall colour appears very uneven.

The white lettering is a narrow bold font that has been cut out of plastic material. The first line reads 'CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE' and the line below it reads 'IMMIGRATION LAWS'.

What do our Conservators say?

Can you spot the different materials used to make this banner? 'THE' is spelled out using paper and glue rather than PVC plastic, which is evidence of the changing name of the campaign.

Gold Time Off? Zone

[Gallery directions]

With the Campaign Against The Immigration Laws (CAIL) banner on your left, head straight past the Conservation window on your left and then turn right. Turn left into the Friendly Societies section and head straight towards the Co-operative Society display. Head into The Co-op section and the Bethnal Green Mixed Co-operative Guild banner is facing you.

Bethnal Green Mixed Co-operative Guild banner, 1930s

This banner was presented to the Bethnal Green Mixed Co-operative Guild by the political committee of the London Co-operative Society.

Various traditional symbols are used in the design to signify values upheld by the co-operative movement. These include the dove of peace, a ship portraying prosperity through commerce, and radio waves to represent progress.

The green colour and shamrock leaf outline may have been used to reflect and identify with the Irish Catholic population living in Bethnal Green in London when the banner was made.

Materials: Emerald green silk lined with yellow sateen, a cotton woven to resemble satin. The design is hand painted in oil based paint, though the gold areas are probably gold leaf.

Dimensions: 1,118mm wide x 1,639mm high

[Banner description]

A green portrait banner with gold edging and tassels. The bottom of the banner has three triangular points, the middle one is the widest.

At the top of the banner is a gold scroll design, which incorporates the words 'BETHNAL GREEN MIXED' in green letters. At the bottom of the banner is a similar gold scroll design, that reads 'CO-OPERATIVE GUILD'

The central design is the gold outline of a four-leaf clover. Each leaf contains a different painted image or symbol. The top leaf contains a white bird with outstretched wings, gold rays emanate from its head. Below the bird is gold lettering that reads 'PEACE'.

Moving clockwise, the next leaf contains the image of a ship with a sail. It is painted in white with yellow and green highlights. At the top of the sail is a long flag with the word 'PROSPERITY' on it. To the left of the ship in gold lettering is the word 'COMMERCE'.

Continuing clockwise to the next leaf at the bottom of the design, there are two painted figures standing in front of it. Above them is the word 'UNITY'.

The figure to the right has blonde hair and is wearing a long white dress and a gold cape. They are holding a golden harp and, on the ground, next to them is an artist's palette and brushes. Just above the palette written in gold is the word 'ART'. The next figure has brown hair, a light blue shirt and trousers with a white apron. The apron's pockets are filled with large bolts or nails. On the ground, is a large grey cog and chain. Written to the left of that in gold is the word 'INDUSTRY'.

Inside the final section of the four-leaf clover, is a painted image of a hand reaching out of a white and grey cloud. The hand is gripping a gold hammer. Where the hammer makes contact with the sky, rainbow coloured bolts of lightning shoot off in different directions. In gold letters above it are the words 'TAPPING THE ETHER' and below it 'WIRELESS'. To the right is the word 'PROGRESS'.

Did you know?

This is a very rare example of a Mixed Co-operative Guild banner. There were numerous Women's Co-operative Guilds across the UK and many of their banners have survived, though mixed guilds were far less common.