

SATURDAY JULY 9 – WHOSE FOREST? EVENT at COLEFORD, FOREST OF DEAN

On Saturday July 9, from 11am to 5pm, the Coleford Festival of Words (in association with HOOF) presents at the Forest of Dean town's Baptist Church (in Newland Street) a showcase of HOOF so far, delves into historical battles, examines land rights issues, and will culminate in a public discussion on what we do in the future so we can finally achieve a complete victory!

Programme of events:

COLEFORD FESTIVAL OF WORDS PRESENTS... WHOSE FOREST?

In association with [Hands Off Our Forest](#) and the Warren James Group

...A chance for all of us to celebrate what we've achieved so far in the HOOF campaign, to discuss what the future may hold for our campaign to keep the Forest of Dean in public hands, and managed by the Forestry Commission, and also to take a look into history and international land rights struggles. The whole day is free, but we will be asking for donations for the upstairs afternoon session to cover costs...

11am-1.30pm

WALK and talk in Bircham Wood (near Whitecliff and Newland). This 50-acre wood about 2 miles from Coleford was recently sold to a mystery buyer (a settlement trust). However we still have the right to enter the wood on foot and walk around it under Countryside Rights of Way legislation. Bring a picnic if you like, as historian SIMON SANDALL talks about the Skimmington uprisings of the 17th century, some of which took place nearby.

11am-5pm

DOWNSTAIRS in the Baptist Church: There will be an exhibition of HOOF campaign artefacts, artworks, photos and films in the lobby (we are still appealing for people to lend homemade banners/ artworks/ letters etc for the display - please drop them off at Coleford Town Council office, open until 2pm weekdays or email oo.adams@gmail.com to arrange collection)

In the main room downstairs will be a craft workshop for children and families - a chance to help make a mural or two about our Forest and... THIS IS VITAL: there will be a chance to express yourself and answer questions in any way you want to submit to the Independent Panel on Forestry. HOOF wants all the 11,000+ people who signed our petition to have their say, we only have until July 31!

11am-1.30pm

UPSTAIRS in the Baptist Church: For all those lucky to get in, a chance to relive the Mark Harper public meeting of February 4 by watching it on the big screen (film by Michael Thomas) - for all the hundreds of people who didn't, see what happened.

2pm-5(ish)pm

UPSTAIRS in the Baptist Church:

2pm FILM by JOHN FRENCH

2.10pm MUSIC by MAX

2.25pm TALK by DAVE ROLLISON on the Aboriginal land rights struggle in Australia and how this connects to the battle in the Forest of Dean

2.40pm FILM of January 3 rally by NIAL ANDERSON

2.50pm MUSIC by BOB SMITH

3.05pm TALK by BARONESS JAN ROYALL OF BLAISDON on HOOF: the story so far

3.20pm FILM by WOODY MORRIS

3.35pm TALK by JONATHON PORRITT on future campaigning

3.50pm FILM or PHOTO REEL

4pm PUBLIC DISCUSSION chaired by RICH DANIELS (chair of HOOF), featuring councillor ANDREW GARDINER, BARONESS JAN ROYALL, JONATHON PORRITT, and anyone who wants to have their say

5pm-ish MUSIC by DICK BRICE

NOTES:

- The Coleford Festival of Words runs from July 3 to 9, see www.forestbookshop.com or call 01594 833334 for details
- For more on HOOF see www.handsoffourforest.org, and look up Hands Off Our Forest on Wikipedia for a chronology of events leading up to the Government's February 17 climbdown