

Testimonials

Helen Ford, Correspondent and presenter for ITV Tyne Tees and Border. Email to author

I was put in touch with Matt by Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, as I prepared a news feature for the ITV Tyne Tees 6pm programme, on the seventieth anniversary of the death of Ellen Wilkinson. Condensing the life and work of this complex political figure into a short report was a challenging prospect. Matt provided invaluable insight which helped me to focus on the areas most applicable to our North East audience. He drew parallels between the socio-economic conditions of the 1930s with those of today, which also gave the report added relevance. I particularly appreciated the fact that, in spite of a wealth of academic knowledge, Matt understood my requirements and provided me with pithy, concise and 'TV-friendly' ideas and comments.

Stuart Maconie, BBC radio broadcaster

I finally met up with Matt Perry of Newcastle University whose brilliant socio-historical study of the march is proving a real inspiration to me. I grabbed a few words with him and will I hope find time for more before the project is over. He's giving a talk on the March at Newcastle's Lit and Phil tomorrow (Mon 3rd Oct) if you're in the 'toon.

<https://maconiejarrow.wordpress.com/2016/10/02/to-jarrow-with-jeremy/>

Lucy Lunt Producer: Ramblings. BBC Radio 4.

BBC Radio 4's walking series, Ramblings, presented by Clare Balding, has been on air for over seventeen years, we make nineteen editions a year. The production values are very high and great effort is made to find engaging walks and guests.

To mark the eightieth anniversary of the Jarrow protest I decided we should do a section of the route the men may have taken. In my research I came across details of Dr Perry's book. I contacted him and he was kind enough to send me a copy.

The Jarrow Crusade: Protest and Legend formed much of the basis of the research notes I wrote for the presenter and informed her conversation and questions. It was also vital in helping shape the structure of the programme. Dr Perry and I had a couple of extended telephone conversations to help me formulate my ideas and clarify some aspects and he also kindly put me in touch with some of his students who talked to me about their study of the subject.

The resulting programme, broadcast earlier this year, was much enjoyed by our listeners and much praised by my editor. The programme is aired on a Thursday afternoon and repeated on Saturday, reaching approximately 1.2 million listeners.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07wtgh7>

I am most grateful for all the help Dr Perry gave me to construct an entertaining but historically accurate programme. November 22nd 2016

Colin Grant, Lecture Program Coordinator, The Richmond and District Civic Society

The Richmond and District Civic Society has approximately 140 members and meets monthly for an evening lecture on a wide range of topics mainly covering local history and heritage. I approached Dr Matt Perry in 2016 having listened to an interesting talk on the Jarrow Crusade on radio 4, marking as it did the 80th anniversary of the march, where Dr Perry was mentioned as a leading expert on the subject. Dr Perry gave an illustrated talk to an audience of about 100 of our members on Thursday 9th Feb in the Influence Church, Richmond. The talk covered a subject that is obviously a rich seam of social history, the conditions in Jarrow in the depression which led to the march, the march itself and the people who took part and the aftermath. The audience was captivated by the extensive research that

Dr Perry had undertaken and the records of the child mortality rates and the disparities in wealth that existed in Jarrow. Overall the talk was a great success and several of the members expressed an interest in taking a trip up to Jarrow to see the exhibition.

Kitty Walker, researcher for Paul Unwin, playwright, writing a West End play about the 1945 Labour Government

I contacted Dr Perry, hoping that he might be able to assist me with some research. I am currently researching the lives of Labour MPs involved in the 1945 election, for a play to be performed at the Old Vic. In particular I was interested in finding out more about Ellen Wilkinson. Dr Perry was kind enough to respond to my email and offered to speak to me the next day - answering a few questions I had. We spoke for quite a while, and our discussion was incredibly helpful to my research. Primarily, we spoke about the time leading up to Ellen Wilkinson's death, and her possible state of mind at that time. Having already researched most of the facts concerning Ellen Wilkinson's life, I needed someone with expert knowledge in this area to help me understand the grey areas. The areas of conjecture - with no real evidence or fact. I needed to understand the different camps of thought in these areas, and how likely each were. Dr Perry helped me greatly with this.

Dr Mikhail Karikis, Artist, Senior Lecturer & Associate Research Fellow, University of Brighton, email 17 July 2015

In response to the research I conducted for a recent commission from one of the UK's historical cinemas – Tyneside Cinema (Newcastle) – I studied Dr Matt Perry's research and consulted him in person in relation to his work on the Jarrow Crusade, history of labour in North East England and the political figure of MP Ellen Wilkinson. Dr Perry's research and his generous dissemination of ideas through writing, personal conversation and public discussion have been pivotal to my research and the generation of a body of work including a new multi-media art installation and printed works recently exhibited at Tyneside Cinema (20 May – 12 July 2015). Dr Matt Perry also presented his research and participated in a public panel discussion on 4th July 2015 at Tyneside Cinema within the context of curated public events that were part of the exhibition of *The Endeavour*.

Entitled *The Endeavour*, this project documents the work of the last wooden-boat builder in the North East in the weeks before the closure of his yard, and places this in the context of other vanishing professions in the UK alongside the disappearing vocabulary and sonic subcultures associated with these. During its recent first exhibition, this project was seen by approximately 1,500 people and reached an estimated audience of 700,000 on a BBC Radio Newcastle broadcast on 4th June 2015. Thus far, this project has received enthusiastic critical responses in esteemed international art and auditory culture magazines including Frieze, Wire and Corridor 8, as well as national and regional mainstream newspapers and magazines such as Morning Star, The Journal, Narc Magazine and elsewhere.