

The Guild of St George &  
The Ruskin Library and Research  
Centre (Lancaster University)  
*announce*

## Education for Education's Sake?

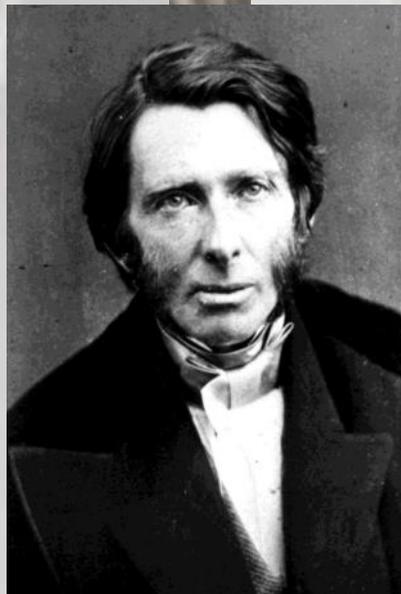
A Symposium  
at Toynbee Hall

28 Commercial St., London  
Saturday, 11 October, 2014  
(10am – 4.30pm)

Despite considerable amounts of time, money and attention devoted to educational issues and reform, we have much yet to learn about what defines a good

education. What's more, most of our problems are not new. We've inherited nineteenth-century debates about education and are further than ever from finding workable solutions. Instead, we put our faith in measurement, data, test results and technology. Education is too often viewed as a commodity, and students as consumers. Increasingly, education is understood as merely the accumulation of facts or skills, its ultimate end the production of graduates who will perpetuate the global economy.

Ruskin believed that education meant "leading human souls to what is best, and making what is best out of them." He warned of the danger of applying market principles to education, understanding that to do so would be to make education simply one more species of exchange. For Ruskin, education properly directed led to a deep and multifaceted way of understanding and engaging with the world. It should combine the practical with the experiential and creative and should be



mindful of students' individual aptitudes and circumstances. "Educate or govern," Ruskin told his readers, "they are one and the same word. ... You are to spend on National Education, and to be spent for it, and to make by it, not more money, but better men." Ruskin's ideas suggest new approaches to classroom instruction, practice, and curricula from which we can undoubtedly benefit, but to do so we must also understand the principles that anchor his methodology and that often conflict with today's educational ideology.

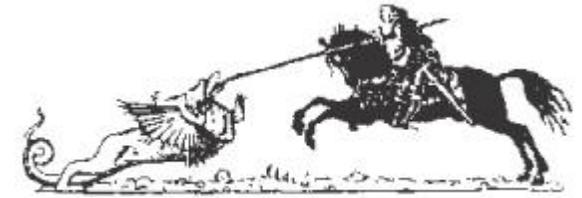
The purpose of this symposium will be to look closely at the problems confronting education today. In a time of great educational upheaval, as new types of school proliferate and disagreement persists about access, curricula, standards, teacher training and other subjects, we will consider how Ruskin's ideas might productively inform our debates.

*Organised by Sara Atwood and Paul Tucker.*

*The cost of the symposium, which includes tea/coffee on arrival and departure, and a buffet lunch, is £22 (full price) and £17 (students). Please fill in the form overleaf.*

*The event takes place in the lecture hall, with lunch in the adjacent Ashbee Hall.*

EDUCATION FOR EDUCATION'S SAKE? RUSKIN AND MODERN EDUCATION



## GUILD of St GEORGE

*The charity for arts, crafts and the rural economy,  
founded by John Ruskin in 1871.*

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Book **online\***  
at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/814612](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/814612)  
or send to [secretary@guildofstgeorge.org.uk](mailto:secretary@guildofstgeorge.org.uk)  
on **PayPal**  
*marking your payment as a gift and including the  
details below in your message*  
or pay by **cheque/BACS** and post the form below

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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No. of tickets @£22 (full) / £17 (students) [ ]

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a donation for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternatively you can pay electronically:

BACS payment details: Barclays Bank Plc  
a/c name: Guild of St George  
a/c no: 90023388 — sort code 20-98-61  
Please use your name as the reference.

**Please book before 3 October 2014.**

Please email your details to  
[secretary@guildofstgeorge.org.uk](mailto:secretary@guildofstgeorge.org.uk) (or ring 07921 907  
279)

or complete this form and send to:

Dr Stuart Eagles  
90 Water Road  
Reading RG30 2NN

\* a small fee applies for online bookings.

Please make all cheques payable to  
'Guild of St George'.



Images:

above, Ruskin Drawing School, Oxford;  
front, Toynbee Hall;  
overleaf, background image, 'The Dryad's Crown'.

### Speakers

#### KEYNOTE

##### Prof. Dinah Birch

(Professor of English Literature and  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool)  
*'The Demand for Perfection'*

##### Dr Sara Atwood (Guild of St George)

*'A pile of feathers':  
Valuing education in a market economy*

##### Paul Tucker (University of Florence/Guild of St George)

*'Thoughtful labour':  
Ruskin and the nature of education*

The panel discussion will be led by

##### Dr Andrew Tate (University of Lancaster).

*Participants will include*

##### Prof. Anthony O'Hear

##### Melissa Benn

##### Aonghus Gordon

*and speakers*

### Lunch Menu

A selection of sandwiches &  
filled artisan rolls  
Char-grilled chicken salad  
Chef's garden salad

Whole fruits  
Sweet cakes

Tea and coffee will be served on  
arrival and departure

### TOYNBEE HALL

We are thrilled to be holding this symposium at Toynbee Hall,  
where numerous activists shared in a Ruskinian spirit. C. R.  
Ashbee led a Ruskin Society here; former Guild Master, T.  
Edmund Harvey, was Warden. But it is J. H. Whitehouse who  
exemplifies the interconnections that make the venue so special.  
He was secretary of Toynbee Hall, a Companion and trustee of  
the Guild, and it is his collection of Ruskiniana, formed at  
Bembridge School, that is the basis of the Ruskin Library at the  
University of Lancaster. Howard Hull, a Companion, and  
Director of Brantwood, also worked at Toynbee. Few places  
could resonate more strongly with the purpose of our symposium.



Nearest tube station:

Aldgate East, Hammersmith & City and District lines.