

## How can I help?

The KSL is always in need of donations of anarchist material and other help, such as:

Stamps

Money

Articles

Coding pages for the website

Translations

Reviews

Distributing pamphlets and publications lists

Sending in posters, fliers, books etc.

## Website

The KSL can be found at <http://katesharpleylibrary.net>

The website contains news, articles, a publication list, requests for specific books, reviews and a comprehensive archive of the KSL Bulletin. Hopefully, it will soon have several "how to" guides such as those featured on the inside of this flier.

## Contact the KSL

By email: [info@katesharpleylibrary.net](mailto:info@katesharpleylibrary.net)

By mail : **England**

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# The Kate Sharpley Library

## What is it ?

The Kate Sharpley Library (KSL) is dedicated to researching and restoring the history of the anarchist movement and regularly publishes information on lost areas of anarchist history. It was named in honour of Kate Sharpley, a First World War anarchist and anti-war activist — one of the countless 'unknown' members of the movement so often ignored by 'official historians' of anarchism.

## What does it do?

The KSL is dedicated to restoring the history of the anarchist movement and regularly publishes lost areas of anarchist history.

It contains approximately 7000 English language volumes and a large number of periodicals dating from the nineteenth century onwards. These are currently catalogued on an in-house database. The library also holds material in a variety of foreign languages.

# The Humble Leaflet

In these days of instant communication, internet chat rooms, SMS messages and the domination of discussion by a highly centralised fourth estate, it's important not to forget the important role the humble leaflet can play.

Irrespective of what we think about the corporate world, they know what sells. Come home any night and your letterbox will be stuffed full of leaflets selling this or that wonder product. The corporate world wouldn't be wasting all that time and money to direct market if it didn't pay dividends. In the age of instant communication, we tend to underestimate the power of the leaflet and the pamphlet.

Leaflets can be very effective in localised campaigns. There is no point in 'standing like a shag on a rock' under a banner, unless you have something to hand out that puts forward your point of view and gives the reasons why you believe embarking on a particular course of action is important. The beauty of putting out a leaflet is that you can place it on your website and other people can download your ideas and use them on the other side of the world. The 'humble' leaflet gives you the excuse you need to find and chat with somebody face to face who has the same concerns you have. You can talk in as many chat rooms as you like, but unless you have face to face communication, it's difficult to set up activities to promote your idea.

Leaflets should be relatively simple; they should express ideas in logical, clear language. It's always a good idea to give a copy of your leaflet to someone who knows nothing about the subject you've written about, to see whether it makes sense. There is no point in printing thousands of leaflets if nobody understands what you're on about. You should also have contact details so people who are interested in the issue you have raised can get in touch with you. A mobile number, a post office box and an email address are relatively anonymous contact points.

Something's got under your skin? Want to change the world? Sick of internet chat rooms and talk back radio? Want to contact some real people? Then write a leaflet about what you want to change, get somebody to have a look at it. If it seems up to the job, sort out some contact points and hey presto, before you know it, you're a part of a mass movement.

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## Tell me a story - anarchist history project

Why don't you write your anarchist life story for the Kate Sharpley Library? It doesn't need to be a whopper like Berkman's 'Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist': it could be a pamphlet like George Cores' 'Personal Recollections of the Anarchist Past'. Look at 'Bash the Fash' for what can be done with 'recent history'.

No single account will give the full version of what really happened, but it's better than just relying on newspapers, which is what will happen otherwise. Not every anarchist has been involved in exciting events: you probably don't think you've had a particularly exciting life but the little things are what form history. You might want to give people the benefit of your experience. You might have some inspiring stories to tell - or maybe just funny ones! If you haven't kept a diary, some of the information might be a bit vague: but a few dates out of place doesn't mean it won't ever be useful.

You might not want to put some things in writing. Don't write anything you wouldn't want to come out in court! That said, it's better to give as much information as possible. Both because it's more interesting, and makes it easier to interpret. You can always give us your name, and ask us to use your initials. You can be anonymous. If you use a pseudonym, be a bit inventive: no more 'Emma Goldman's' please. Tell us if it's OK to publish bits, or if it's meant to be stuck in a drawer for twenty years.

We don't want to cramp your style by giving you a questionnaire, but here are some ideas:

**How did your involvement with anarchism start?** What books, pamphlets or papers were important? **What people and groups?** Where and how were you active? **Did it change over time?** What were the high and low points of your activity, or of the movement? **What campaigns did you take part in?** What did you read (and write)? **What ideas or particular strands of anarchism did you relate to - and how did that change?**

We don't mind you giving us the whole picture of your life if you want; you can be introspective as well as writing political analysis.

## What to do with it?

Anything you can put together will be welcome at the Kate Sharpley Library. At the very least, we will be able to preserve it for people to read in future. It's possible we could print selections: 'voices from London Anarchists', perhaps, or New York anarchists, or wherever. Let us know what you think - **and tell us a story...**