

These Are the Times: A Life of Thomas Paine, Sunday, October 21, 3pm, Sheffield Cathedral, High Street, S1, part of the **Off the Shelf literary Festival**.

RADICAL playwright Trevor Griffiths spoke about the life of one of the legends from South Yorkshire's past to a packed audience on Sunday. Thomas Paine, who was active in both the American and French revolutions, was the subject of a talk titled *These Are the Times: A Life of Thomas Paine* at Sheffield Cathedral attended by 80 people. Paine, author of one of the most widely reads books of all time, forged an unlikely partnership with one of Rotherham's most famous families. An architect of the American revolution and a prominent figure in the French revolution, Paine bridged politics and science with the help of the Walker brothers, ironmasters and founders of the iron trade in Rotherham. Paine, who was charged by King William with treason for publishing *The Rights Of Man*, was also the designer of an iron bridge built in Rotherham. In 1987 Griffiths began working with Sir Richard Attenborough on a film of the life of Thomas Paine titled *These Are The Times*, but his screenplay remains unmade. The title is taken from "These are the times that try men's souls," the famous opening lines of Paine's book *The Crisis*, written during the American Revolution.