



Lord John Bird MBE

Founder and Editor-in-Chief, *The Big Issue*

"By buying and taking The Big Issue, you equalise two people who are in a sense unequal in the world." John Bird

Lord Bird co-founded *The Big Issue*. The weekly magazine achieves its mass circulation by being sold on the streets of the UK by vendors who are homeless and vulnerably accommodated. *The Big Issue*, and similar magazines, is now published in 35 countries around the world.

TOPICS:

- Starting the "Big Issue"
- The John Bird Story
- Empowering Others through Self-empowerment
- Achieving the Impossible

LANGUAGES:

He presents in English.

PUBLICATIONS:

- 2012** The Necessity of Poverty
- 2011** The 10 Keys to Success
- 2006** How to Change Your Life in 7 Steps
- 2002** Some Luck

IN DETAIL:

John was brought up in an orphanage and served time in a young offenders' institution. During turbulent and difficult times, he slept rough as one of London's homeless. John was very much a part of the problems of society. Eventually, he realised that the only way to get out of the destructive circle into which he had grown up was to give himself a hand up, rather than wait for others to give him a hand out. Settling down in his 20's, John began to hold down regular jobs in factories and eventually, as a skilled printer. He never forgot the hardship and problems of his youth - and the ways in which similar deprivation afflicts thousands of others in similar positions at the bottom rung of society.

WHAT HE OFFERS YOU:

John Bird MBE remains an active voice in the realm of social change, often commenting on political policies and appearing at high profile fundraising and awareness events, as a motivational speaker he often lectures at corporate events and conferences on topics of leadership, personal development and business leadership.

HOW HE PRESENTS:

John's diverse experience, combined with his exuberant personality, erudition and often trenchant views make him a compelling and entertaining speaker.