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'Red Politics' Tower for Glastonbury

By Alan Jones, Industrial Correspondent, PA News

A giant steel tower was erected today as an icon of the union and labour movement in an area of the Glastonbury Festival site set aside for political debate and music.

Singer Billy Bragg helped launch the 70ft high structure which was designed by Festival owner Michael Eavis and Cornwall-based artists Kurt Jackson and Graham Jobbins.

The tower was hoisted at the entrance to the Left Field area and will be left on the site in Somerset all year round.

Bragg, who will be singing in the Left Field area at the Festival next week, said the tower would be a permanent presence for “red politics”.

He said: “Glastonbury has always been known for its green, alternative and anarchist politics.

“Michael Eavis has allowed us to have more traditional labour politics at the Festival.”

Geoff Martin of the Battersea and Wandsworth TUC, who will be running the Left Field area, said: “The tower will be seen from across the Festival site and will act as a real pointer to the way forward for the involvement of young people in unions and politics.”

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