

# Living and Working on Sheppey: Past, Present and Future

**Workshop - Saturday 12 June 2010**

Blue Town Heritage Centre

69 High Street, Blue Town, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1RW



This event will present the work of the Living and Working on Sheppey project and invite comment and discussion about it. The project team will give short talks and presentations about the different strands of work that have been undertaken. These are interviews conducted by local people with older members of the community about their memories of Blue Town and the naval dockyard before its closure in 1960 and their experiences of changing times; and essays written by local young people in which they imagine what their futures will hold in terms of work and family life. The artists group TEA will present a short film of a 'walk' along Blue Town High Street. This moving image tracks a High Street that is a montage of past, present, and future (as in the image above), a model of which is being constructed from archives, the 'reality' in 2010, and imagination. Several people from outside the project team have been invited to comment on the project, and there will be time for public discussion throughout the day.

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For further information on the project, please contact Alice Young, Project Coordinator, Blue Town Heritage Centre, 69 High Street, Blue Town, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1RW; telephone: 01795 662981; email: [seccproject@hotmail.com](mailto:seccproject@hotmail.com)

# PROGRAMME

## 10.00-11.30am Welcome and Introduction

Dawn Lyon on behalf of the 'Living and Working on Sheppey' project team

## Reminiscences of Working Lives

**Chair:** Graham Crow

**Tim Strangleman** (University of Kent) – Deindustrialisation and the demise of an 'occupational community' on Sheppey

**Alice Young** (Blue Town Heritage Centre), Rebecca Davidson (University of Kent) and Colin Harvey (author of Sheppey DVDs): Asking questions and telling stories: Interviews in the Living and Working on Sheppey project

**Comment:** David Byrne (University of Durham)

**Public discussion**

## Coffee

## 11.45am-1.15pm - Young People Imagining the Future

**Chair:** Peter Hatton

**Graham Crow** (University of Southampton) and Dawn Lyon (University of Kent): Hope and constraint: How young people on Sheppey imagine their lives in 1978 and 2010

**Bethany Morgan** (UK Data Archive, University of Essex): Relating to imagination (Title TBC)

**Comment:** Ros Edwards (London South Bank University)

**Public discussion**

## Lunch

## 2.15-3.45pm – Blue Town in Time and Space

**Chair:** Dawn Lyon

**Artists group**, TEA (Peter Hatton, Val Murray and Lynn Pilling): A short film on the material and imaginative life of Blue Town

**Jenny Hurkett** (Blue Town Heritage Centre): The Blue Town Heritage Centre and the future web archive of the Living and Working on Sheppey project

**Public discussion**

## Coffee

## 4-5pm – Roundtable: 'Always begin with history...': The Future Possibilities of Blue Town

**Chair:** Tim Strangleman

**Participants:** Ray Pahl (author of *Divisions of Labour*), Jenny Hurkett, Graham Crow, Ros Edwards, David Byrne and other representatives of local organisations (TBC)

**Public discussion**