

Living and Working on Sheppey Project: Past, present and future

The Living and Working on Sheppey Project has stimulated reflection on the past, present and future of life and work on the Isle of Sheppey, with a view to impact in a positive way on local health and wellbeing. In particular, the project focused on the experiences of older people in Sheppey, especially those with a connection to the former Naval Dockyard at Sheerness, 50 years on from its closure in 1960; and to explore the present (and past) ways that young people imagine the future. Both these strands of the project made use of existing materials collected on the Isle of Sheppey by researchers a generation ago in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and new materials generated through the project work. The team of people working on this project consisted of members of Remember Blue Town and the Blue Town Heritage Centre, the Universities of Kent and Southampton, the artists Tea, Swale CVS, Sheppey Matters, and the UK Data Archive.

Outputs to date include a DVD made by the artists, Tea; a web-based archive of 33 oral history interviews with older people undertaken by local interviewers, and 106 essays written by young people; and several other forms of dissemination including a workshop at the Blue Town Heritage Centre in June 2010 that attracted an audience of 60 mainly local people, nine conference presentations in the UK and beyond, and several other community events on Sheppey. With the additional funding for dissemination we were able to pursue the project in several ways: to work on publications in both academic journals and community magazines; to complete (subject to the relevant permissions) a visual document of the former Sheerness Naval Dockyard; to develop training materials and resources for schools; and to enhance the project website and archive.

Contact:

The Blue Town Heritage Centre
69 High Street, Blue Town, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1RW

Email: info@livingandworkingonsheppey.co.uk

Telephone: 01795 662981

Website: www.bluetownheritagecentre.com