

About: Our Working Lives, then and now project

Digital:works are working with a group of volunteers from Poole and Parkstone along with Poole museum local history centre. Together we are investigate the difference in working practices from when people started work in the 1940/50s and compare this with the present day. We are exploring the range of work on offer and the type of employment people have undertaken over the last sixty years and investigate how work patterns have changed from the 20th to the 21st century.

One of the volunteers, Rosemary, said; *“Understanding our heritage, what makes us who we are, where we came from, why places are as they are, and how a community was created. It enables us to embrace the future with understanding.”*

Another of the volunteers, Cliff, told us how the group plan to record people’s memories, saying: *“The recollections do not have to be from this area, as we know people have had to move around the country during their working life. Personally I started my working life near Bath and only moved to Poole much later in life.”*

Joe Stevens, digital:works worker, said: *“This project aims to explore who we are, where we’ve come from and where we’re going – as individuals and as communities. It is a “big picture,” multigenerational education initiative that provides avenues for lifelong learning for all ages. It will promote greater communication not just between the generations but also between the established community and new immigrants to this part of the country.”*

In the summer of 2010 we will be putting on an exhibition of our findings at Poole museum.

We have a website which tells you more about this project; www.ourworkinglives.org. We will also be posting the interviews here as well.

This project received a grant from the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. Nerys Watts, Head of Region for the Heritage Lottery Fund in the South West said: *“This is a fantastic project which will enable local people in Poole and Parkstone to explore their past and discover how working practices have changed over the years.”*

digital:works are an arts and educational charity with over 15 years experience. Our work rests on the principles of participation with local communities, working to give people a voice using a choice of creative mediums.

We work with schools, charities and local government departments to design and deliver projects that address issues important to particular communities and organisations. To find out more: www.digital-works.co.uk

If you would like to share your memories with us, or find out more about this project please get in touch with Joe on 07784 874112, or email joe@digital-works.co.uk.



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