

The Living Histories Project

The aim of the Living Histories Project is to celebrate Poole and its diversity by exploring its past, present and future as experienced by individuals within the community. It looks at the wider picture of change in Poole within our lifetimes, but also gives participants the opportunity to share their hopes, fears and concerns about future changes planned in Poole.

Background

The Living Histories project was originally devised by Bridging Communities and was developed in partnership with Poole Museum Service, Hamworthy Library, and many other community organisations, which are listed below.

The project set out to interview a wide range of people who have lived, worked and played in Poole Town and Hamworthy, on the theme of the past, present and future of these areas. People were interviewed and recorded in groups, or else wrote their responses down and submitted these. Objects and photographs were also appealed for. Throughout 2009, volunteers have interviewed at least 100 people. This has resulted in a mixture of objects, photographs, written answers and sound recordings detailing people's past and present experiences of Poole, and their hopes and fears for the future. Volunteers will work on creating indexes of the information contained on the recordings, and this group will go on to meet regularly to assist in the project.

The Living Histories Project also coincides with the first months of opening of a new Community library in Hamworthy. A time capsule is being developed that will be installed in the new Hamworthy Community library when it opens in Spring 2009.

The exhibition will tour community venues throughout Poole. The data collected as part of the project will be made into an archive, which will be kept and made accessible by Poole Museum Service.

Options are currently being explored to continue the Living Histories project as a website after the end of the exhibition.

Partners in this project are:

Bridging Communities
Borough of Poole
Youth Centres
Poole Libraries
Poole Museum Service
Community Development Team
The Media Machine
Churches Together
Hamworthy First School
Old Town First School
Poole Housing Partnership

Supported by:

Poole Arts Development
Turlin Moor & Old Town
The Media Machine

Bridging Communities is a Longfleet United Reformed Church project which is funded by the National United Reformed Church and Poole Borough Council. The project aims to promote community cohesion between the old and new communities of Poole. The project initially arose out of significant regeneration programmes in Poole Town and Hamworthy East. Through community development, Bridging Communities strives to contribute to the transformation of the regeneration areas.