

## Book launch and discussion evening

### Jobs, apprenticeships and creating an industrial strategy to revive former industrial heartlands

Thursday 28 June at 7pm – 9pm

Sheffield Trades & Labour Club, 200 Duke Street S2  
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#### Speakers:-

As a Grimsby trade unionist and former employer, **Peter Rowley's** new book ***Class Work***, which will be launched on 28 June, seeks to encourage a discussion aimed at creating an industrial strategy where money is invested in manufacturing, infrastructure, proper apprenticeships, job creation and high tech industries.

Joining Peter as speakers are **Granville Williams**, who is an author, journalist and NUJ activist. His books include *Shafted: The Media, the Miners' Strike and the Aftermath*. In the 1970s he was an industrial correspondent based in Birmingham and, since 1979, has been active with the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom.

He will speak about an urgent issue confronting trades unions - the topic of an important new book by James Bloodworth: *Hired: Six Months Undercover in Low-Wage Britain* - and consider how trades unionists respond to the challenges posed by precarious jobs, zero-hours contracts and insecure work.

**Charlie Clutterbuck**, soil scientist and Unite member, whose book *Bittersweet Brexit The Future of Food, Farming, Land and Labour* proposes that the current £3bn allocated under the Common Agricultural Policy towards landowners should go to labour. This would create 300,000 additional land and farming based permanent jobs by subsidising each one by £10,000 annually. Thus bringing down food prices, stimulating rural economies and reducing Britain's £30bn annual food trade deficit.

Organised as part of Unite Education book of the month project. <http://www.unitetheunion.org/growing-our-union/education/bookofthemonth/>  
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CLASS WORK will be launched at Sheffield Trades and Labour Club on 28 June at 7pm.

Peter Rowley's knowledge of Grimsby's East Marsh dates to the 60s when he taught at the local school.

East Marsh residents were heavily dependent on the local fishing industry for work. Wages were never great, but jobs were plentiful — you could leave school and be working on the Monday. The local community prided itself on being hard working, self sufficient and generously supportive of one another. It helped that there was a network of public sector organisations & welfare benefits for anyone requiring assistance.

As the fishing industry entered into permanent decline the mechanisms by which people supported one another began to fragment. Some people failed to make sense of their changed circumstances. Today, East Marsh has a strong drugs problem, which the police seem reluctant to tackle with any serious intent.

Rowley reveals how local community leaders have provided a practical focal point for extensive social activities, thus helping to retain local pride. Vicar John Ellis established, in the early 70s, the Shalom Youth Centre. This - and Your Place Community Church - will share all the profits from the sale of CLASS WORK, available on 28 June for £7.95.

Peter explains why things have become so difficult. He returns to the Heath Government of the 70s. He shows — that less than 30 years after the end of WWII - the Tories were determined to attack the social contract that ensured decent public services for all such as the NHS.

By adopting the ideas of the Chicago Schools of Economics, Thatcher & Reagan advanced the neoliberal project. This comes down to letting the rich get richer whilst contending, with no evidence, that everyone else benefits from the 'trickle down' effect whereby money from the rich makes its way down to the bottom of the heap.

The current Government is tied to such nonsense. They've pushed the idea that being unemployed is an individual's fault rather than being caused by an economic system that has failed to provide sufficient jobs.

More than 40 years later, Peter Rowley has interviewed many of his former pupils. Their stories are uplifting. Rowley likes these people and he allows their working class voices to come through in his book.

The words of those interviewed also contain embryonic ideas for how best to economically regenerate the East Marsh & Grimsby generally. Rowley wants these ideas developed. He has interviewed people such as Tony McLernon, who have run training programmes aimed at improving young people's skills & confidence.

Peter has included in Class Work some of his business and economic thoughts. After a twenty year career in education, Peter set up his own company, Peter Rowley Limited.

This specialised in manufacturing performance improvement, Lean manufacturing techniques and education and factory turn-rounds. Employing forty staff nationwide they became the UK Centre of Excellence for Lean Manufacturing with top multi-sector clients.

Providing a fresh economic approach is vital if people and places like Grimsby are going to do better.

Peter thus backs shadow Chancellor John McDonnell's plans to move away from neoliberalism if Labour becomes the next government. A People's Quantitative Easing Programme would see money invested in infrastructure, job creation and high tech industries. Alongside this the Welfare State, the NHS and Education would be restored and supported. Some privatised industries will be taken back under state control.

