

Derek Bishton

Derek Bishton is a Birmingham-born writer and former journalist, community activist, photographer, publisher and internet pioneer. He was one of the founders of *Ten.8* magazine in Birmingham. He edited many issues and was a member of the editorial group throughout the life of the publication (1978-1993). He is the author of several books including *Black Heart Man* and *Home Front* (with John Reardon). He was director of the Triangle Gallery (1985-87) and in 1994 led the team who developed and launched *electronic telegraph*, the UK's first internet newspaper. From 1999-2012 he was Group Consultant Editor at Telegraph Media Group. He is currently working on a book about his work in Handsworth during the 1970s and 80s.

Talk on July 11th

Ten.8 and the Critical Decade (1978-1992)

In this talk, Derek Bishton is going to take us on a visual journey into a key period of photographic activity in Birmingham. ***Ten.8*** magazine started life as an attempt to create a photographic community in the city, to bring together those who were interested in the politics of image-making. The founding group comprised a diverse group of community activists, alternative publishers, academics, documentary photographers and teachers. Working from a small community design and publishing studio in Handsworth run by Derek Bishton and Brian Homer, the group produced a magazine that grew from a local publication with a West Midlands focus into an international quarterly journal, attracting contributors from around the world and influencing the way photography was taught at degree level in universities and colleges everywhere. Like so many things produced in Birmingham, it is something of a hidden gem. Next year, Tate Britain is hosting an exhibition called *The Critical Decade* which has been inspired by the work published in *Ten.8*, so perhaps it's time to celebrate.