



Adult Learning Within Reach

Member Lecture – 22 April 2021

Coasting along Sussex: a landscape kaleidoscope
Geoffrey Mead, WEA tutor

Questions answered post-lecture.

Q1 Could you give some information about Peacehaven, when was it built?

The land was sold off from the Earl of Chichester's estate in 1912 and was acquired initially by the Duke of Devonshire, but sold on to a speculator Charles Neville in 1915. Peacehaven was developed at the end of World War 1 and was originally 'New Anzac on Sea' after an army camp just along the coast. By the early 1920s it was named Peacehaven, and several of the roads were renamed (originally they were named after WW1 battles - Mons, Louvain, Ypres, Marne).

There is still a Louvain Nursery there. It is a classic 'plotland' with no attempt at a unified or very well-planned appearance. As such, it was the subject of much criticism from planners and architects for a long time after. It was a scattered settlement and at that time they were referred to as 'track & shack' developments, 'plotlands', 'hutments' or simply 'shanty towns', although that term is very much frowned on these days. Today it is much improved and it is one of the cheapest housing areas in the greater Brighton conurbation.

Useful links and further reading

'Arcadia for All' by Dennis Hardy & Colin Ward [1984]

Forthcoming WEA courses

South East England at work (C3746486) – starting 1 June 2021

Resorting to the coast: aspects of the seaside holiday (C2422443) – starting 2 June 2021

Landscapes of South East England (C2422416) – starting 3 June 2021