



Course details

Course title

History: How we used to Live (3) – Urban Housing

Course code

Q00018369

Course date

Start: 15/01/25

End: 05/02/25

Number of classes

4 sessions

Timetable

Wed 15th Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 22nd Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 29th Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 5th Feb, 14:00 to 16:00

Tutor

Katherine Croft

Fee range

Free to £33.60

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes at the venue indicated. Some materials may be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

In venue

Venue

St Olave's Church Hall (York)
Marygate Lane
York
YO30 7BJ

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

This course will give you an outline of the history of urban and suburban housing in Britain over the last 200 years. As Britain's industrial cities expanded, thousands of people wanted somewhere suitable to live. For the expanding middle classes of clerks, bankers and other professionals, this meant a respectable home to buy or rent. We will explore how the expansion of the railways led to the development of suburbs as workers could travel further to their workplace. We will see how the aspiration of owning one's own home became achievable with the development of building societies and how Britain became a home-owning society.

Course description

The Industrial Revolution led to a huge influx of workers from the country to the city, and an explosion in the population. It also led to the rapid expansion of the professional and 'middle' classes who wanted housing to reflect their new roles and social status. Much of this need was met through private builders and developers who took advantage of the expanding railway network to offer housing at a further distance from city centres: the suburb was born, and the rise of the commuter was on the way.

We will see how this market developed and expanded in the Victorian period, and how changes to the law enabled a much wider range of people to borrow money for their own home through building society mortgages. We will then discuss the Garden City movement and how this aimed to combine the best of urban and rural living in a designed environment, as well as examining the 'Metroland' phenomenon of the 1920s and 30s. We will finish with a look at the New Towns and the planning regimes that developed after World War II and consider how we might meet the pressure on housing today. What should we be building today and where?

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

Source URL: <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/humanities-science/history/15-january-history-how-we-used-live-3-urban-housing>