

## Course details

### Course title

History: How we used to Live – Country Houses

### Course code

Q00018367

### Course date

Start: 25/09/24

End: 16/10/24

### Number of classes

4 sessions

### Timetable

Wed 25th Sep, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 2nd Oct, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 9th Oct, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 16th Oct, 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 development of country houses from medieval times through to the 20th century. We will look at how these houses were designed and what they were used for, as well as the lifestyles of those living in them, both owners and servants. We will see how the role of the architect developed and how this growing profession influenced, and reacted to, the expectations and demands of their clients. In the 20th century, we will look at the challenges and threats faced by country houses and ask whether country houses can survive in the future.

## **Course description**

Country houses have been a source of aspiration, ambition and power for over 500 years in Britain, especially in England. Using a range of sources, from house plans and photographs to diaries and social commentaries, we will see how these buildings adapted and altered over time to meet changing social and political needs. We will look at a number of eminent country house architects, such as William Burn, Richard Adams and Edwin Lutyens, as well as the Arts and Crafts movement.

Examining how country houses changed from fortified centres of power to the epitome of elegant living that 'new money' aspired to, we will consider how these homes have impacted how we live today. We will also consider country houses as workplaces and the roles and lives of the servants who enabled them to function and support those who owned them, before looking at the impact of the two world wars in the 20th century. How have country houses survived and why do they still attract thousands of visitors every year? And what will country houses of the future be like – if they continue to be built at all?

## **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/25-september-history-how-we-used-live-country-houses>