



Course details

Course title

History: Leisure and Entertainment in Twentieth Century London: A Social History

Course code

Q00019999

Course date

Start: 17/01/25

End: 14/02/25

Number of classes

5 sessions

Timetable

Fri 17th Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Fri 24th Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Fri 31st Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Fri 7th Feb, 10:00 to 12:00

Fri 14th Feb, 10:00 to 12:00

Branch

Enfield and Southgate

Tutor

George O'Reilly

Fee range

Free to £42.00

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

Enfield Baptist Church (Enfield) (Enfiel
Cecil Road
Enfield
EN2 6TG

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

The course will examine the varied opportunities for leisure and entertainment in twentieth century London. Shorter working days, two day weekends, paid holidays and higher living standards all created opportunities for more leisure. Leisure activities constantly evolved throughout the century. Cinema replaced the music hall. Radio survived but was overtaken by television, which in turn became a form of home cinema. The public house, the public park, the public library and professional football remained popular throughout the century, as did the West End theatre, but other activities like greyhound racing and speedway faded away. The course will outline the social history of many of these activities.

Course description

Leisure often related to social class. For some, the main events of the Season were an attraction – the Chelsea Flower Show, the Royal Tournament, the Horse Show and Wimbledon. Others might prefer the greyhound track or the football terrace – White City could attract up to 100,000 for a race night, and 335,0000 spectators were watching football each week in London in the 1948/9 season. Clubbing and shopping became leisure activities, as the dance hall was replaced by the night club and as the department stores of the West End and the suburban high street increased in numbers, aided by improved bus and tube transport. Music, dancing and night life changed too. Labels, often misleading, were given to decades – the Roaring 20's, the Swinging 60's, the Cool Britannia of the 90's. From the circuses at the Hippodrome, to horse racing at Alexandra Palace, to roller skating at Brixton, London offered endless possibilities for leisure. Classes are interactive with plenty of discussion. Reading and research beyond the class room are encouraged and research which is written up can be shared with class members via the online Canvas programme. Learners are expected to submit a small amount of written work in response to class subject matter.

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.

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