

The Victorian Criminal – from Fagin to Jack the Ripper

Start date	05 May 2017	End date	07 May 2017
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Liz Carter	Course code	1617NRX078

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Liz Carter was born and educated in North Somerset and moved to Cambridgeshire, via London, in 1975. She turned an interest in family history into a small, home-based business 'Backtracks' in 1988. She is a member of the Society of Genealogists, London, as well as various local and family history societies. She joined the University of Cambridge ICE team in 1996 as a part-time tutor and is also a sessional tutor for the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) for Eastern and East Midlands regions and one of the team of tutors with the Bedford Retirement Education Centre offering a wide variety of local and social history courses. She is also currently a leading tutor with Pharos, an online company offering courses in genealogy and undertakes study days, workshops and short lectures for different groups around the country including the Society of Genealogists.

Liz's other interests include hill walking, patchwork quilting and reading plus caring for two large allotments.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	The Victorian Criminal – fact v. fiction
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Catching the Criminal – growth of the police force
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Up before the Beak – business of county courts
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Murder & Mayhem – scandalous High Court cases.
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Out of Sight, Out of Mind – transportation
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Penal Servitude – the Victorian Prison
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Fact or Fiction? The Victorian appetite for crime novels.
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

To investigate, using case studies, the different types of crime committed in Victorian England & Wales and how the criminal was, once caught, punished and how changing attitudes towards crime affected that punishment. We will also, throughout, note how real-life events influenced Victorian writers and fed a growing appetite for crime writing.

Content:

The weekend will start with an overview of Victorian crime, using both fictional characters and real crimes to illustrate how social attitudes and government legislation affected the criminal fraternity. Having set the scene, we turn to law enforcement and the growth of the police force in Victorian England along with the introduction of the detective, both in reality and in fiction. After 'collaring' our suspected criminal, we then use selected court cases to look at the organisation and workload of the local courts. We then turn our attention to the High Courts and study some high-profile, scandalous cases of the 19th century, making links with both literary and cinematic interpretations. The topics of transportation and imprisonment, with the building and running of the new Victorian prisons and links with yet more high-profile characters, will take us through Saturday into Sunday, again using case studies and literary extracts to illustrate how the public was kept informed of crime and punishment. We finish the weekend with a look at the origins of the Victorian crime novel and links with real-life cases.

Presentation of the course:

The course comprises 7 sessions of 1.5 hrs, illustrated with copied original documents, contemporary literature and photographs. There will be some document evaluation, discussion groups and the re-enactment of a court case using original material. Extracts from contemporary reports, surveys and crime novels will also be used for discussion. Handouts containing vital dates and information will be provided, along with website address for further online research. The tutor will provide a small book box from which students may borrow books over the weekend.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Construct a timeline to illustrate key changes to legislation relating to crime and punishment in 19th century England & Wales, showing how these changes affected the life of criminals.
2. Using case studies provided in the course, explain the role of the different law courts in Victorian England & Wales.
3. Identify the major events that influenced Victorian and modern-day crime writers.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Flanders, Judith	The Invention of Murder	Harper Press, 2011.
Higginbotham, Peter	The Prison Cookbook	History Press, 2010.
Marston, Edwards	Prison, 500 years of life behind bars	The National Archives, 2009.
Summerscale, Kate	The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher	Bloomsbury Publishing, 2009.
Worsley, Lucy	A Very British Murder	BBC Books, 2014.

The tutor will provide a book box (library) of relevant books from which students may borrow over the weekend.

Website addresses

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 03 February 2017