

An introduction to Medieval and Early Modern Towns

Date	7 th March 2020	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Joanne Sear Dr Ken Sneath	Course code	1920NDX307

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact The Arts and Sciences Team on artscience@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 761322

Tutors biographies

Dr Joanne Sear

Jo lectures in local history for the Institute with a particular emphasis on the late medieval period. She has taught on the 'Introduction to Local History' and 'World of Material Goods' courses for the certificate as well as presenting 'Medieval Towns' at the diploma level and 'Manors' for the MSt in History.

Jo is working on a volume for the Suffolk Records Society on the manorial records of late medieval Newmarket which she is co-authoring with Dr James Davis of Queen's University, Belfast.

She likes to combine a range of approaches and media when presenting and makes particular use of handouts and visual images. She encourages students to ask questions and to debate and always welcomes input and observations. In addition, she is keen to encourage and facilitate students in undertaking their own research and tries hard to identify websites, online tutorials, etc. which can be easily accessed and explored.

Dr Ken Sneath

Ken lectures in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century history and in local history at the Institute. Until his recent retirement, he was also Assistant Director of Studies for Economic History at Peterhouse College, Cambridge. He has supervised on both the History and Economics Tripos and gave the

Wolfson Lecture in local history, 'A consumer revolution in Huntingdonshire?' in 2009 (published in *The Local Historian*, 2011).

He has written four books on the history of Godmanchester. He has also contributed to the forthcoming volume on the Huntingdonshire Hearth Tax scheduled for publication in 2020.

His teaching style might be described as enthusiastic and lavishly illustrated.

Jo and Ken have recently written *The Origins of the Consumer Revolution: From Brass Pots to Clocks* which is published by Routledge in March 2020:

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Origins-of-the-Consumer-Revolution-in-England-From-Brass-Pots-to-Clocks/Sear-Sneath/p/book/9780367341114>

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: Urban Planning in the Middle Ages: how and why did towns emerge?
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: Towns after the Black Death; sources for the study of medieval towns.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: The expansion of urbanisation in the early modern period
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Contrasting early modern towns
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To help students gain an understanding of the foundation and development of towns.
- To place urban local history in its wider national context.
- To introduce students to the use and interpretation of primary sources in pursuing the above aims.

Content:

When the Domesday Book was compiled in 1086, there were only about 100 towns in England. By 1300, this number had increased to around 600–700 although even by the end of the medieval period, only around 10 per cent of the of people were urban dwellers. By the end of the nineteenth century, more than half of England's population lived in towns and the rest of the world soon followed.

What caused this revolutionary change in the way we live and why was England one of the first to pioneer the rapid expansion of urban living?

This course will introduce students to the origin and development of towns and to various aspects of urban life in England. Comparison will be made between towns to emphasise the varied nature of development.

To study these themes, we will look at the findings of various historians and also at relevant sources which will include maps, newspapers, parish records, taxation lists and trade directories.

Presentation of the course:

The course will consist of tutor-led lectures combined with class discussion. There will also be some practical activities based on how to use primary source evidence to examine urban communities in both their local and national contexts.

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

- Develop a broad understanding of the origins and development of English towns;
- Place the local urban experience within a broader historiographical context;
- Show an awareness of the range of source material available for the study of local urban history.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Peter Clark (ed.)	<i>The Cambridge Urban History of Britain Vol. II</i>	CUP 2000
Joyce Ellis	<i>The Georgian Town 1680-1840</i>	Palgrave 2001
Susan Reynolds	<i>An Introduction to the History of English Medieval Towns</i>	OUP 1977
Pam & Ken Sneath	<i>Godmanchester; A celebration of 800 years</i>	EAH Press 2011 (Available on Kindle)
Heather Swanson	<i>Medieval British Towns</i>	Macmillan 1999

Website addresses

Urban History Journal

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/urban-history>

Publications of Jeremy Haslam

<https://jeremyhaslam.wordpress.com>

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

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: 27 November 2019