This course considers everyday life in seventeenth century England. Using original documents and images, we will explore five themes to develop our understanding of some of the most important aspects of life in the C17th: farming and agriculture; cooking and eating; houses and buildings; crime and punishment; schooling and reading.

This course examines five fascinating aspects of everyday life in seventeenth century England. In particular, it considers how people interacted with each other and their physical surroundings, relating original manuscripts and objects to the records of how life was organised and experienced in the rural and urban communities of early modern England.

We will examine:

- 'A Farming Life': including an examination of how rural communities worked; farming practices; rural festivals.

- 'The Kitchen Cabinet': including an examination of what people ate and how they cooked; the impact of foreign imports on consumption; social customs around dining.

- 'In House or Hovel: including an examination of what C17th houses looked like (focusing on Kent or Sussex), how they were furnished and the differences in lifestyle between rural and urban communities.

- 'Policing the People': including an examination of how communities were policed before the Police, an understanding of the unwritten rules of everyday life in the village; the assize courts and the church courts; slander, libel, drunkenness and the politics of behaviour.

- ‘Spelling, Scandal and Scholarship’: including an examination of the written word and its uses, how children were schooled, what and why people were reading, and the range of written material available to ordinary citizens in different walks of life.
Additional information

- No prior knowledge is necessary but a basic understanding of English history will be helpful.
- Suitable for all levels of interest.
- This course allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment.
- There will be discussion activities during the course.

Intended learning outcomes

By the end of this course you can expect to be familiar with:

- Social relationships within early modern communities and how communities were regulated and governed.
- the appearance of the early modern landscape in the south-east, and how rural resources were used to build, feed and clothe communities.
- the standards of living in local communities, from the way they dined and the food they ate to the houses they lived in.
- how people learned about the world about them from print and education.

You will also have spent time examining a range of contemporary documents, from wills and inventories, to letters, pamphlets, diaries, books, recipe collections, court transcripts, and paintings.

About the tutor

Rebecca is an early modern historian, specialising in the religious history of the British Civil Wars and the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. Her PhD focused on the English church in the 1650s. Her Masters’ thesis investigated the relationship between Church and State, focusing on the city of Canterbury in the fifteenth century. She has taught several undergraduate courses at the Canterbury campus on a range of late medieval and early modern topics, and a number of courses on seventeenth century history at the Tonbridge Centre. She has given numerous papers on different aspects of late medieval and early modern religious history to academic and general interest audiences. She also has degrees in Landscape Architecture and maintains a strong interest in landscape and architectural history.
Short Course Programme

General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- **Online Booking is preferred.** Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- **By post** to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not purchase books or other course materials until that particular course is confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:

a) exclude any student if the student’s presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge
For details of our other courses, news, events and location visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge.

- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from www.tmbc.gov.uk. No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

*Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.*

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