

**Course Title:** History of Worthing and District

**Number of credits:**

**Tutor:** Chris Hare

**Partner Organisation:** CCE

**Venue:** Worthing College

**Convenor:** Geoffrey Mead

**Programme Group:** LANDLOC

**Day:** Monday

**Start Date:** 29 September 2008

**Finish Date:**

**Starting Time:** 7pm

**Finishing Time:** 9pm

**No. sessions:** 20

**No. of hours:** 40

**Field trip grade:**

**Structure:**

## **Introduction**

Worthing grew from being an obscure agricultural and fishing hamlet into the largest town in West Sussex in the space of one hundred years. This course charts that eventful history.

## **Course Description**

For many centuries, Worthing existed as a small agricultural hamlet residing within the parish of Broadwater. Its history up until the late eighteenth century was bound up with the life of the fields. Its population remained fairly constant at around 400 persons – occasionally rising at times of economic prosperity, and falling during periods of distress. By today's standards, change was slow and far from dramatic.

The growth in popularity of seaside resorts provided Worthing its opportunity to be transformed. It was not an opportunity that was missed. Royal visitors and the closeness of Brighton, ensured that Worthing developed from hamlet to town within a

generation. Agricultural buildings gave way to boarding houses, fashionable terraces and paved streets.

This course will focus in on that period of rapid expansion, highlighting key moments, including the coming of the railway and the incorporation of the Borough. Moments of tension will also be explored, including the Swing Riots, smuggling and the anti-Salvation Army disturbances. Time will be given to consider the causes of conflict and the factors that led to their resolution.

The course will reflect on the relationship between Worthing and its rural hinterland, considering the economic and social aspects of this relationship. Movement of population from the countryside into the town will be discussed.

Twentieth century history will also be examined. In particular there will be a study of popular culture between the wars and the “back-to-the-land” community established at Washington by Vera Pragnall.

### **Bibilography**

#### **Author, Date, Title, Place of publication, Publisher**

- 1 Hare, Chris, 1991, Historic Worthing – the untold story, Windrush Press.
- 2 Elleray, D. Robert, 1998, A Millennium Encyclopaedia of Worthing History, Worthing, Optimus Books.
- 3 Kerridge, Ronald; Standing, Michael, 2000, Worthing, from Saxon Settlement to Seaside Town, Worthing, Optimus Books.

### **Course Learning Outcomes: 3 specific and 2 generic (provided)**

By the end of the course successful students will be able to:

1. identify the defining moments in Worthing’s history
2. explain how and why change took place
3. discuss different interpretations of historical events
4. demonstrate the skills of observation recording and analysis
5. engage critically with the subject

### **Teaching & Learning Methods:**

Students will be taught through illustrated lectures, handouts from primary and secondary sources, classroom discussion, group and individual study. Students will be encouraged to undertake research outside the classroom.

**Assessment: Students will be assessed on their contribution to class discussions and on individual study, reported back to the class. In**

**addition, two short essays or projects will be set in each term, which will be assessed by the tutor, who will provide feedback to the student.**

All CCE courses require students' active participation in the course. In addition students will produce (state minimum, e.g. 12 credits one piece of work 1,000 words or equivalent (oe), 18 credits one (or possibly two) 1,500 words oe, 24 credits two pieces of work 2,000 words oe, 30 credits two/three pieces of work 2,500 words oe)