

# 18th Century England: Pleasures of Provincial Life



**Wednesdays, 3 October – 28 November 2018**

**British Galleries Upper Cinema Room, 122c**

**(Half Term: 24 October)**

**10.30-13.00**

**Course Leader: Caroline Knight, FSA, independent architectural historian, and formerly Director of the V&A's High Renaissance to Baroque Year Course**

Provincial towns developed substantially over the 18th century, with elegant new buildings providing spaces for social life: assembly rooms for dances and card playing, theatres for plays and concerts, grandstands to watch races. In county towns especially, the gentry had houses for use over the winter and for special occasions, meaning families could socialise, shop and avoid the isolation of the country life.

The course will cover specific towns, such as York, Norwich and Nottingham, as well as looking at the rise of resorts, such as Bath and Brighton. We will also consider various aspects of town life: silversmiths outside the capital, furniture making in Lancaster, portrait painting in Bath, theatre companies outside London, and the rise of sea bathing in Weymouth and Brighton. These towns were vibrant places to live in or to visit, and before the coming of the railways were a magnet for local families.

## **Week 1: 3 October**

- 10.30 Introduction: The Pleasures of Provincial Life – Caroline Knight
- 12.00 Travel outside London: The Coaching Age – Caroline Knight

## **Week 2: 10 October**

- 10.30 York, Capital of the North – Caroline Knight
- 12.00 York's Town Houses & Fairfax House – Caroline Knight

**Week 3: 17 October**

- 10.30 East Anglia: Bury St Edmunds & the City of Norwich – Caroline Knight
- 12.00 Nottingham's Town Houses 1660-1800 – Pete Smith, FSA

**Half Term: 24 October****Week 4: 31 October**

- 10.30 The Rise of the Georgian Theatre – Giles Ramsay
- 12.00 The Lives of Georgian Actors – Giles Ramsay

**Week 5: 7 November**

- 10.30 The Creation of Georgian Bath – Dr Amy Frost
- 12.00 Bath & Regional Portraiture – Dr Susan Owens

**Week 6: 14 November**

- 10.30 Lancaster: a Town of Many Trades - Susan Stuart, M. Phil.
- 12.00 Gillows, Cabinet Makers of Lancaster & London: A Tale of Two Cities – Susan Stuart

**Week 7: 21 November**

- 10.30 Bury Fairings, Birmingham Toys, Sheffield Plate: Shopping for Metalware beyond London & Westminster – Dr Philippa Glanville, FSA
- 12.00 **Gallery Talks:**  
Acquiring Small Luxuries, from Newcastle to Plymouth – Philippa Glanville, FSA  
China Factories in the Midlands - Dr Susan Bracken

**Week 8: 28 November**

- 10.30 The Development of the Georgian & Regency Seaside Resort 1750-1830 – Dr Susan Berry
- 12.00 Brighton, from Decayed Port to Leading Resort c1750-1830 – Dr Susan Berry

*This programme is subject to change.*