

Seaside 7 - Holiday camps

Learning Objectives

- Learn about holiday camps and caravan sites from the 1920s to the 1980s
- Develop children's research skills in interpreting historical images, in particular with a view to recognising which are older and which are more recent

Sources



Source 1. Holidaymakers at Lancing Holiday Camp, c1923



Source 2. Lancing Holiday Camp, c1928



Source 3. Butlin's Holiday camp, Bognor Regis, c1960



Source 4. Butlin's Holiday camp, Bognor Regis, c1960



Source 5. Riviera Lido Holiday Club, Nyetimber, c1971



Source 6. Riviera Lido Holiday Club, Nyetimber, c1971



Source 7. "Canadian Village" holiday bungalows, Littlehampton, c1983



Source 8. Caravan holiday, Mill Farm, Nyetimber, 1954

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Source 9. Green Lawns caravan park, Selsey, c1965



Source 10. Brookside caravan site, Lyminster, c1974



Source 11. Titnore Road caravan site, Worthing, c1977

Sources 1 and 2

Lancing Holiday Camp was founded in 1922 and was situated between the railway and the A259 road at Lancing.

As can be seen from these two postcards, the facilities were quite spartan compared to holiday camps today!

Sources 3 and 4

The first Butlins holiday camp was built in Skegness in 1936, and eight more were built in the next 30 years. These large holiday camps were like small towns, with shops, sports facilities, and on-site entertainment. They were very popular in the post-World War Two years and into the 1970s, when they began to lose business due to competition from package holidays to foreign destinations.

The camp at Bognor Regis was the 7th, built in 1960. Butlins at Bognor still exists today, having had two major re-developments in 1987 and 1998.

Sources 5, 6 and 7

These postcards from the early 1970s (5 and 6), and advertisement from the Worthing Guide of 1983 (7) show interior and exterior views of a "holiday club" in Nyetimber and a "village" of holiday bungalows in Rope Walk on the west side of the River Arun in Littlehampton. Interesting to compare the 1970s fashions and dance style with today's! The advertisement for "Canadian Village" includes the information: "All Bungalows have colour television and are all-electric. Fitted carpets, and divan beds in all bedrooms".

Sources 8 to 11

Caravan sites in the 1950s very often consisted simply of space made available in a farmer's field, with very basic amenities provided. In Source 8, the caravans are parked on the grass around the edge of the field.

The 1965 "caravan park" shown in Source 9 has concrete standing provided for the caravans, but still looks quite spartan.

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TEACHERS' NOTES

Sources 8 to 11 cont.

By the 1970s, some sites were much more developed, with landscaping, larger caravans, and more amenities. The Brookside site shown in Source 10 advertised "Modern holiday caravans, swings and sandpit for children, large games lawns, and up-to-date amenities: baths, toilets, laundry room". Some caravans would have remained on the site all year (note the television aerials in the background).

However, as can be seen in Source 11, some sites remained less developed, with smaller caravans parked on grass. Note that most of these caravans have awning-style extensions giving more living or sleeping space.