



Freemasons Hall



St Michael's Church



Trinity House



15th cent. bookshop



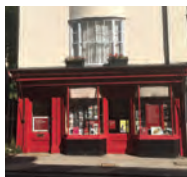
Castlegate



Lewes House



Fitzroy House



Reeves



The Law Courts



Bull House



The Town Hall



Dial House



Westgate Chapel



The White Hart



Cliffe Bridge

Lewes still has its Saxon and medieval street patterns and the side streets and alley-ways (twittens) off the High Street are also well worth exploring, but beware of uneven surfaces

For more information on the history of the town and its people, visit the Tourist Information Centre and local bookshops or friends-of-lewes.org.uk and leweshistory.org.uk



15th century bookshop

You will often get a better view of the buildings described from the opposite side of the street – but please take care crossing! Some of the buildings are occasionally open to the public for events such as concerts and talks, and during the Art Wave and Heritage Open Days events in September

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The Friends of Lewes is a charity (reg no 258756) set up to promote and enhance the townscape of Lewes. For more details, and to become a member, see friends-of-lewes.org.uk

Lewes Heritage

A walk along the High Street



Freemasons Hall (1868) in Victorian Gothic style, has part of the town wall bastion gate visible in its basement. In nearby **Pipe Passage** are the remains of a Victorian clay-pipe kiln. More of the medieval wall can be seen along **Westgate Street**, where a White Lion marks the site of a former inn of that name

St Michael's Church is late 12th century, with a distinctive round tower with shingled spire, a knapped-flint frontage and Horsham stone roof. Inside can be seen fine Victorian stained glass windows and monuments from the 15th century

Castlegate leads to the 11th century castle. On the eastern corner is Barbican House, 16th century with an 18th century frontage, and now a museum. Across Castlegate is Bartholomew House, fronted with black mathematical tiles (see also 199-200 *High Street*). Back on the High Street, Nos 165-7 are by local architect Amon Wilds. See the plaque for information on Gideon Mantell (1790-1852), discoverer of the iguanodon

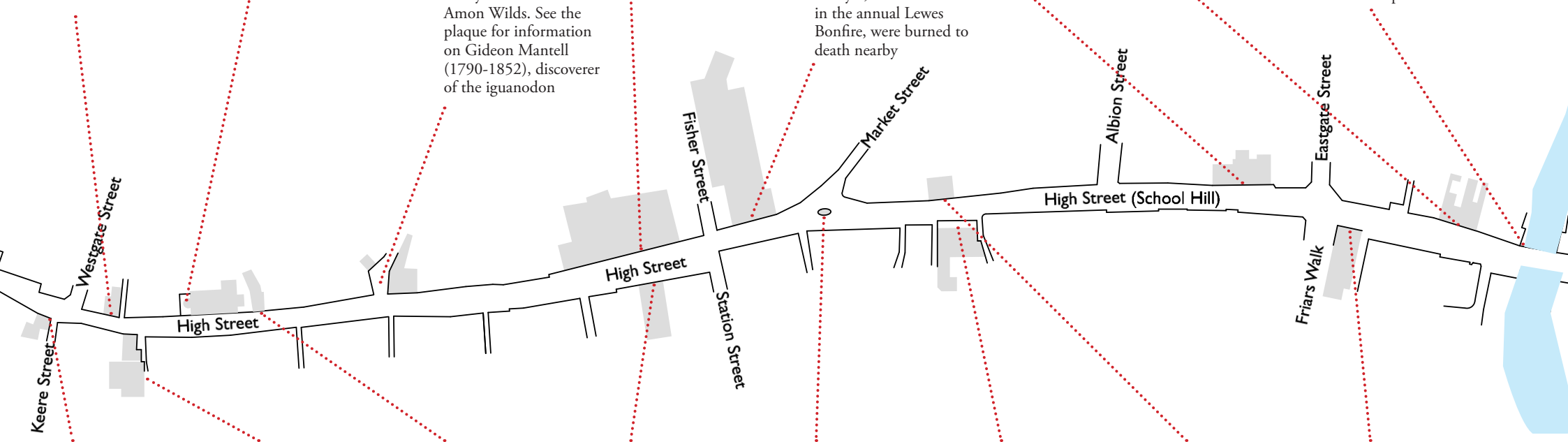
The Law Courts (1812) were originally designed as both a County Hall and an Assize Court. The Coade stone figures at the top of the Portland stone facade represent the judicial virtues of Wisdom, Justice and Mercy. The handsome Georgian and Victorian interiors were restored in the 1990s

The Town Hall (formerly the Star Inn), converted in 1893 by local architect Samuel Denman to provide municipal premises for the county town. The **Tourist Information Centre** is next door. The medieval vaults can be glimpsed through the glass panel in the pavement. The Protestant martyrs, commemorated in the annual Lewes Bonfire, were burned to death nearby

No 213, **Trinity House**, part of a small row of early-Georgian houses. Once the town armoury and home of the local commander during the Civil War, it has been associated with lawyers for centuries. Note the pomegranate tree at the eastern end of the building

No 220/1, **Dial House**, built around 1740. Faced in Caen stone, the central sun-dial has the Latin inscription *Nosce te ipsum* (Know thyself). Most of this precinct area was redeveloped in the 1970s and 80s after the railway line to Uckfield was closed and the railway bridge over the street was demolished

Cliffe Bridge, built in 1727 and since widened. Looking downstream, on your right are old wharves, now converted into housing. Beyond is the **Linklater Pavilion**, marking the entrance to the Railway Land nature reserve. **Riverside** was an 18th century timber warehouse and then a garage before becoming shops



The timber-framed 15th century **bookshop** has a milestone in its front wall. Next to it is **Keere Street**, with its steep descent to Southover and view over the Ouse estuary. Tradition has it that George IV, when Prince of Wales, drove a coach down the street for a wager. The town wall rises up from behind the houses on your left

Westgate Chapel was converted around 1700 from part of a late-16th century house, as a non-conformist chapel with vestry and meeting room. Next door is 15th century **Bull House**, with crouching satyrs above the main doorway. Tom Paine, radical politician and one of the inspirations for US independence in 1776, lived here from 1768-74

No 159, **Reeves**, established in 1858, is the longest-established photographic business in the world. It has an impressive glass-plate archive of the town's history. *Many of the buildings from Nos 159 to 167 have evidence of Saxon origins, and so would have been built before the castle. Several have cellars that extend under the road, some of medieval origin*

The **White Hart** hotel, with a facade dating from about 1840, contains Tudor panels and fireplaces. Formerly the home of the Pelhams, it was a coaching inn by the 1790s. The plaque near the entrance notes that Tom Paine (see *Westgate Chapel*) debated here with the Headstrong Club. Further west, opposite Castlegate, note the 14th century tracery on the building cornering St Martin's Lane

In the centre of the street the **war memorial** is a 'winged victory' bronze by Vernon March, placed here in 1922 after a design competition and making an impressive statement with the Downs as background. Along Market Street, the Market Tower contains Gabriel, the town bell. There are town history information boards on the ground floor

No 32, **Lewes House** has medieval origins, but was remodelled around 1810. Its most famous resident was the American art collector Edward Perry Warren (see the plaque on the front wall) who also created the gallery 'Thebes' in the rear garden, accessed via Church Twitten

Nos 199 & 200 (1790) are fine examples of bow-windowed town-houses fronted with mathematical tiles, which look like bricks but are in fact thin over-lapping clay tiles attached to a timber frame. The High Street has several other examples

No 10, **Fitzroy House** (1862), designed by George Gilbert Scott in Victorian Gothic style, as a memorial library to the Lewes MP, Henry Fitzroy. The central galleried space has an octagonal roof light. Lewes's first railway station, built in 1846, was nearby along Friars Walk