



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021



Postman in the snow - picture by Nick Robinson

Ruth O Keeffe - Chair of Friends of Lewes

Welcome to the Friends of Lewes Winter Newsletter 2021.

I am going to be cautiously optimistic about Christmas 2021 at the point of writing and express the hope that it will turn out to be a festive season that can go in for a little more festivity than last year, even if we might not be 'back to normal' yet. Hopefully we won't just be receiving news and parcels from the Christmas Postman but also able to see at least a few people in person.

Your Friends of Lewes newsletter is as always full of good cheer and interest, whatever else may happen!

Read on for news about a new Friend who has joined the Executive Committee, Martin Ackland (page 3) and an update from Roger Maskew on the North Street Quarter (page 5), which for many is really more of an old acquaintance that seems to keep being re-drawn. We may all need to re-name it again, to the Phoenix Quarter.

An important aspect of the work of the Friends of Lewes concerns planning matters, and Peter Earl gives an update on these on page 4.

Next up (on page 6) are updates on some topics that have been generating a lot of concern and correspondence, the Lewes Bus Station and the Bus Service Improvement Plan, followed by news about flint walls in Lewes on page 7.

Peter Earl has an update on the successful Heritage Open Day and diary dates for next year, 9th-11th September, for the next one, page 8, followed by a request from Bronagh Liddicoat for your help from the Aquifer partnership who are looking for Raingarden champions, with the possibility of a neighbourhood scheme in Lewes, intent on raising awareness of the value of water in an urban environment, and the importance of groundwater as a resource on page 9. Around 70% of our local water comes from the chalk aquifer so this is especially important in an area like East Sussex.

The Trees Committee, ably led by Audrey Jarvis, have been out and about in the town planting and you can find their report on pages 10-11 with plenty of pictures of them in action.

If you haven't already been to one of the regular Coffee Time Talks by zoom and are free on a Tuesday morning or can clear your commitments once every 6 weeks or so, you should give these a try. Have a look at pages 12-13 for more details including the chance to tell us who you would like to hear giving a talk. Jane Slater is adept at getting in touch with a wide variety of speakers; and on 14th December comes a foray into a kind of "blended" talk with some people at the home of the speaker Ewa Burman sampling her Christmas cooking for the rest of us to look on hungrily!

Finally, there is the diary section on the last pages of the newsletter including not only Friends of Lewes events but also Lewes History Group events, with dates extending to April of 2022. Thanks are due to Barbara Merchant for her expert curation of our website <https://friends-of-lewes.org.uk/> where you can find news of events regularly brought up to the minute.

With the very best of wishes for the Christmas season to all the Friends of Lewes

Ruth

New Friends from Martin Ackland

These things often begin by chance. I had recently moved to Lewes. I wanted to get involved in something local and worthwhile.

A neighbour mentioned Friends of Lewes. "They need people like you" she said.

"What, handsome, debonair and charming?" I said. She gave me a slow, appraising look.

"No", she said. "Experienced people with a bit of time and expertise to offer"



I smiled and nodded. It was the nodding that did it. There followed an interview in an office in St. Nicholas Lane. And then, in February 2020, it was my first meeting at the Town Hall. I had read all the papers but was still unsure what to expect. What they were for, these Friends?

The first meeting left me with one certainty. Trees are important to the Friends of Lewes; funding them, planting them, nurturing them, celebrating them. The work has palpable results. Trees have appeared where they had not been before. In the planting season, you may see about the town teams of enthusiastic volunteers in brightly coloured anoraks armed with trowels and bags of compost going about their work. They do seem to enjoy it.

After that first meeting, Covid 19 occupied the streets and changed all our lives. We were confined to the Zoom Zone. No more face to face. Getting to know people on screen was not easy. We did our best. The work went on. There were Zoom coffee mornings, Zoom talks on all manner of things, and a panel discussion on the future of the High Street. Fascinating. So many views in the room. So much to learn. There was a lady on the panel representing the disabled community. She spoke about pavement perils for the blind. Please forgive the pun but it was a real eye opener. And what about the traffic everybody? Is it a good thing or a bad thing? "Good" say the shopkeepers and hoteliers. "Bad" say the cyclists and walkers. Is there a middle way? I wondered.

Then came the easing of restrictions. The Heritage Open Days happened: a reminder of what an attractive town Lewes is. I began to meet some of my colleagues face to face, sometimes by chance, sometimes by design. The pleasure of meeting people in person is immeasurable. Real life. Nothing beats that.

Involvement in the planning process is a big part of the Friends' role. I was curious about this. How does it work? Why should anyone listen to us? I attended meetings of the Planning Committee. Most planning applications get a look. The amount of work involved in all this scrutiny is considerable. The Committee boasts mixed expertise: an architect or two, town planners, at least one engineer, former council officers. They take the job seriously. They consider all the material with skill and care. It is impressive work. And then there are the strategic planning documents, dense forests of print dappled with obscurity and littered with jargon. But they underpin the whole planning process. Unavoidable then. We consider, we comment and we hope to be heard.

"Does the Planning Authority take any notice of what we say?" I asked.

There are different answers. The one I feel comes closest to a truth is this. "When it suits them."

Many of the applications are relatively minor. But there have been a few to quicken the pulse: the Phoenix Project, of course, a project with as many regenerations as Dr Who; new homes to replace the Auction Rooms in Garden Street; new houses at Old Mallings Farm; and the current cause celebre, the potential loss of the Bus Station. The Friends are not alone in taking an interest in such matters. Lewes is a town of activists. There are many local interest groups in play and a bewildering array of acronyms. It is sometimes difficult to know which to take seriously. Happily, that has never been a problem with the Friends of Lewes.

Planning matters *from Peter Earl*

It's been a busy time for the Friends of Lewes Planning Committee with quite a few significant planning proposals being considered, including the redevelopment of the Phoenix Quarter in North Street, the removal of buildings from the Wenban Smith site (next to Waitrose and the Eastgate car park) and Lewes Bus station, also in Eastgate. In addition, further housing proposals are coming forward within the Malling industrial estate.

These large development proposals will shape Lewes in the future and therefore it is important to ensure that the different uses are acceptable, and of a design and scale that is appropriate, with impacts from traffic contained to avoid any further deterioration in traffic congestion and air quality within the town centre.

The Friends of Lewes are concerned about the possibility that these developments in the centre of Lewes might be progressed and assessed individually rather than as part of an integrated package of proposals that should comply with objectives of both the South Downs Local Plan and the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan. Together these developments have the potential to put enormous pressure on the flow of traffic through the town and need to be considered together rather than in isolation.

The Friends of Lewes have proposed a meeting be convened between the SDNPA, Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council as the Highway Authority to discuss how the above development proposals can be best progressed in a coordinated manner in order to achieve an effective and integrated townscape to the benefit of Lewes as a whole.

The Planning Committee not only look at applications in relation to the relevant planning policy considerations for the town, the appropriateness of the use and the proposed built form of any structures and changes. The committee also examine planning applications with a view to increasing the tree cover within the town and biodiversity to improve the overall environmental quality. Another consideration is the flood-resilience of development to ensure that it does not add to surface water run-off and therefore potentially increasing the vulnerability of the town to flooding. Such risks are not limited to the lower parts of the town but also to other parts as well where there is the potential for water to gather from extreme weather events. There are many challenges!

The formal comments of the Planning Committee are sent to the planning authority so they can take account of them in coming to their decisions. The Lewes Conservation Area Management Plan produced by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) recognises the contribution of the views from The Friends of Lewes and the Lewes Conservation Area Advisory Group. Both groups are seen as critical friends to the SDNPA.

Planning Enforcement matters

The Friends of Lewes, in conjunction with the Lewes Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG), maintain a list of enforcement issues which are drawn to the attention of officers at the South Downs National Park and their colleagues at Lewes District Council who operate on an agency basis on most planning matters across the town. In addition to highlighting any breaches of planning control, buildings in poor condition, or considered at risk, are also highlighted, to ensure the avoidance of any further deterioration and damage.

The Society, with members of CAAG, meet officers on a regular basis to progress cases and identify priority cases. At the present time there are some 48 cases across the town where a need for action has been identified.

The North Street Quarter *from Roger Maskew*

Following the design festival in September, the Friends of Lewes have been liaising with Human Nature with regard to the progression of the Phoenix Project and a face-to-face meeting recently took place on the 22nd November at Phoenix House.

Since their Design Festival, Human Nature is progressing the project as a working hypothesis, involving both the analysis of responses from the festival and with extensive consultation with a wide range of local interests.

An extract from the latest newsletter from Human Nature states that "We are hard at work, alongside the South Downs National Park, with our plans for this new neighbourhood with the intent of submitting a planning application in late spring 2022. This development will be a phased development over five to six years, with detailed plans for different areas of the site coming forward sequentially."

The main ethos for the project is to promote the concept of a pedestrian and cycling friendly neighbourhood, well landscaped with a significant reduction in vehicular traffic with lower pollution levels due to the extensive use of electric vehicles.

It is planned to establish a high degree of connectivity within a 15 min walk from each residence with daily needs being within a 5 min walk. In addition, there will be a wide range of facilities proposed throughout the site including outlets for people to meet to eat and drink in well-designed good quality landscaped spaces.

A proposed Mobility Hub will be a vital component of the success of the proposed neighbourhood, providing car parking spaces for visitors and shoppers, facilities for electric car share and the use of electric scooters and bicycle hire. It will also be the drop off point for all deliveries to the site. As such, an assessment of the likely traffic impact of the Mobility Hub on the existing street network in the centre of Lewes, will be a critical factor in establishing its acceptability.

A health centre is proposed on the car park close to the current Gorrings auction rooms. Whilst supporting its provision the Society will seek to ensure that it is accessible to all via public transport and private vehicles.

In the wider context there appears to be a need to consider the impact of the proposals for this site with proposals for other sites in the Eastgate area and in particular the implications for redeveloping the existing bus station. Indeed, any planning application for the Phoenix Project will need to demonstrate how the proposals will comply the policies in both the South Downs Local Plan and the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan. The Friends of Lewes would like to emphasise that the Society considers that this site has a strategic significance and should not be considered as a self-contained isolated development.

The Friends of Lewes have been briefed on some of the more detailed aspects of the scheme which are still under development and looks forward with interest to assessing the more specific proposals of the design in due course.

In conclusion, Human Nature are proposing to have a public exhibition of their proposals for the Phoenix Project early in the New Year prior to the submission of a planning application to the National Park in late spring 2022, as mentioned in the third paragraph above.

Lewes bus station update from Peter Earl

Potential developer, the Generator Group, has submitted a pre-application for the demolition of the existing garage and interchange buildings to construct a mixed-use including office/retail use and residential units, together with landscaping, parking and cycle parking. reference **SDNP/21/03284/PRE**.

Friends of Lewes has submitted an objection to the South Downs National Park over the planned redevelopment of Lewes Bus Station. The plans contain no proposals for a replacement bus station either on site or elsewhere. A central bus interchange is considered essential in Lewes if the Government's call for increased use of public transport is to be met. It was agreed that the relocation of the bus situation has to be resolved before the planning permission is agreed.

The Society also considers the proposed development is completely out of scale for this site and the buildings would dominate the whole of this central area of Lewes. It believes Eastgate Street should be looked at in a much more constructive way with the new development built right up to the pavement and fill in the gap to visually link East Street and Eastgate Street.

Subsequently, the developers have submitted some amended proposals with a reduction in size of the development with a smaller number of residential units (50 to 37 (34 apartments and three houses)). These details have yet to be added to the SDNPA public access system and therefore are not currently in the public realm for comment.

Meanwhile requests have been made by the 20th Century Society and others for the bus interchange building to be listed as it is of considerable historic and architectural interest meeting the criteria for Grade II listing.

The Lewes bus station was built for the Southdown Bus Company to a design by Clayton, Black and Daviel of Brighton and constructed by Ringmer Building Works. The bus station, garage and administration block were opened on 26 March 1954 when it was deemed a great success, and much emphasis was put on the fact that it provided "at least a partial solution of some of the everyday traffic problems in town by avoiding the necessity for buses to wait in the congested bit of the High Street and to pass through narrow one-way streets" (Sussex Express & County Herald, 1954).

As many inter-war and post-war bus stations and garages have been lost to re-purposing and demolition the Lewes interchange building is considered to be a rare and best surviving example of a small-town bus station of its era with its island design within a one-way system. The building is considered an excellent example of a modest, post-war purpose-built town bus station, its island plot, curved corners and cantilevered upper floor expressing its original function. The 20th century Society point to the considerable local interest in protecting the bus station, as evidenced by two petitions to save it, each with about 1,000 signatures. The petitions object to the loss of a functioning bus station, but also to the demolition of "iconic fifties architecture, both familiar and well-loved by many residents".



Bus Service Improvement Plan from Peter Earl

In response to a County Council survey as the Public Transport Authority, the Friends of Lewes made a number of suggestions in terms of the improvements. We would like to see the focus of improvements on measures that deliver an increased use of public transport throughout East Sussex and a reduction in the number of vehicles passing through Lewes, with a corresponding reduction in vehicle emissions, all as part of a coherent traffic plan for Lewes, which is currently absent. In addition, the need for a public transport hub serving the town, with links to the railway station was suggested to persuade Lewes residents and visitors to reduce car journeys and maximise the uptake of public transport.

Flint wall update from Peter Earl

A particular characteristic of the town are its flint walls. Like all buildings and structures, they need maintenance, which is often imperative to avoid significant rebuilding works. If any members are aware of any deteriorating walls, please let us know so that we can get a repair sorted quickly. The following highlights the situation with some important walls:-

Lewes Castle Wall - East Sussex County Council have been working with Historic England to provide trial samples of the wall to inform the restoration works. At the same time negotiations have taken place to gain access to the various plots of land surround the walls. The first phase of works started on 22nd November 2021 and will take 9 weeks with samples gathered and trial pits dug for archaeological checks, together with work to the surroundings walls. Work to the collapsed wall will begin from 24th January 2022 when access will be possible to the Old Coach House land following completion of the rebuild to that property. The County Council expect work to progress through to August 2022 depending on the weather.

Paddock Road/Lane - Following observation by the Friends of Lewes in March 2020 a dangerous section of wall was removed. The County Council are responsible for this wall have now received detailed surveys which have, identified a multitude of works. The design and specification for the re-build is being prepared and is expected by February 2022 following the results of a final survey. The County Council are therefore hoping to progress with the work in the spring and summer when contractors have the correct weather for carrying out the flint and lime mortar works.

Rotten Row - Works have been held up to enable specialist consultants to look at the trees, ground, underground services, foundations, local geography, and soil conditions to provide some suitable options for repair. East Sussex County Council, as landowner, has confirmed that it is still awaiting the specialist surveys which are now held up due to the extensive foliage in the area. Tree surgeons have cleared some of the worst foliage, but are unable to remove any further undergrowth as an ecologist has advised that they need to carry out their own surveys first to monitor for wildlife such as badgers, bats, reptiles and birds. Once this is completed the tree surgeons can cut back the trees, foliage and undergrowth to allow the main surveys to take place before a report setting out suggestions and recommendations. This is likely to take some time and no timescales have been indicated by ESCC.

Offham Road - In June 2021 substantial cracking was observed to the wall on its southern side at its corner with Prince Edward's Road. The County Council has confirmed that the wall is not within the Highway Authority's responsibility and contact is now being made with the owner of the adjacent properties. On the northside of the same road adjacent to the pedestrian crossing a hole has appeared in the flint wall and action is awaited on this following clarification of ownership.

Earwig Corner, Malling Down - Works have been taking place to widen the carriageway involving the demolition of an existing flint wall. This has been replaced with a blocked flint wall which, in due course, will be finished with the use of lime mortar to point the flint blocks and capping bricks in a traditional manner to help replicate the finish of other flint walls in the area. The two historic signs welcoming visitors to the town (one from 1931, and a much more recent one which includes reference to our twin towns) are currently in safe storage. Because the new wall is higher and is to include a fence and hedge the Town Council have suggested that the signs be moved to a more visible location and are in discussion with the District Council to agree relocation to the green area on Malling Hill. Watch out for the return of the signs!

Heritage Open Days from Peter Earl

The 2021 event took place between 10th and 12th of September and involved the opening of 13 properties and one open space with 7 different tours on offer. This was slightly fewer than some previous years reflecting the understandable reluctance of some owners to open during the Covid restrictions, particularly public buildings, such as the Prison and the Law Courts. As the event has to be planned months ahead, there was an element of second-guessing what the pandemic situation would be at the beginning of September. The organising team were hugely grateful to those who came forward to offer their properties, their time as leaders of the tours and also those who offered their skills as stewards. 3000 colour leaflets were printed and distributed to over 50 venues with huge thanks going to George Hedges from East Sussex College for his graphic skills. The event was also publicised in the Lewes District brochure of Heritage Open Days (HOD) events, the Sussex Express and Lewes News. 2,400 people visited the HOD web pages within the Friends of Lewes website site and 2,600 looked at details on its Facebook pages.

The event coincided with the beginning of Artwave, the North Street Quarter Design Festival and good weather, with many relishing the opportunity to attend their first event following the relaxation of Covid controls. Even so, there was a need for caution with mask-wearing at many of the properties. The event was generously supported by two sponsors; Adams and Remers and Rise Joinery. Lewes District Council kindly met the full costs of printing the leaflet. New venues this year included The Werks in Fisher Street and 4 Park Road. The event visitor sheets and other responses confirmed visitors came from near and far with the total number of visits to buildings and tours being 4290. To put the Lewes event in perspective nationally, there are some 3866 events with 738,000 visits.

There were a lot of positive comments including:

‘I learnt something interesting today’, ‘Thank you for sharing’, ‘Opportunity to see inside greatly appreciated’, ‘Enjoying a delightful day’, ‘Important event’, ‘Just lovely to see so many historical places’, ‘Nice to see the promotion of Lewes’, ‘Great to celebrate Lewes history’, ‘Absolutely beautiful-what a treat’, ‘Wonderful opportunity and very enlightening; a privilege to see inside’ ‘Amazing place - what a surprise!’

The 2022 event is to take place between Friday 9th and Sunday 11th September. Members may wish to make a note of this in their diaries. Those with suitable properties or businesses, both new and old, may wish to consider making them part of the event, in which case please contact the organising committee via the Secretary of the Friends of Lewes.



Miles Jenner, Michael Chartier, Maria Caulfield, Adrian Ross & Peter Earl at the HoD launch in Lewes House Garden

Preparing for the TAP Raingarden Campaign - March 2022

from Bronagh Liddicoat

Can you help?

The Aquifer Partnership (TAP) was set up in 2016 to promote a collaborative approach to protecting the Brighton aquifer (the layer of rock beneath the surface of the earth that holds water) – extending from the Adur in the West to the Ouse in the East. Partners include Brighton & Hove City Council, The Environment Agency, Southern Water and the South Downs National Park Authority, working with other organisations, universities, schools, community groups and local authorities. TAP's five-year plan encompasses rural, urban, communication and research strands and this year they are developing a **Raingarden Campaign**, to raise awareness of the value of water in the urban environment, of groundwater as an important resource and to demonstrate activities and actions local people and businesses can do while offering practical advice, training and information.

The Raingarden Campaign will be designed to build awareness, understanding, engagement, longer term behaviour change around sustainable water management, as well as building local knowledge, capability and skills. Launch date is planned for World Water Day on 22nd March 2022 for greatest impact, with resources in place, and coms/engagement leading up to the launch.

The Raingarden Campaign plan will include:

- **Information and resources:** awareness materials; illustrations, how to videos, documents and guides on the TAP website; case studies and good examples
- **Learning and engagement:** practical and engaging workshops; events, and joining in with relevant events and activities locally
- **Champions:** a mix of business, residents, handy people, gardening and landscape/building/driveway specialists.



Raingarden planter at Trinity Church, Southover, installed by Transition Town Lewes.

TAP will be looking for champions, case studies, opportunities to be involved in relevant events, local businesses (landscapers, gardeners, builders, garden supplies) who they could work with to promote change, for example in addressing the demand for paving/astroturfing gardens. They are keen to promote a neighbourhood scheme (along similar lines to the community energy-saving Tidy Street project in Brighton).

Could you be a champion? TAP is looking for people who are good at DIY and gardening to work with us in promoting the Raingarden Campaign and delivering workshops, as well as businesses who have expertise in permeable paving and raingardens. It could be anything from helping to spread the word through your networks to delivering training, and anything in between!

Please contact TAP via the TAP website at <https://wearetap.org.uk> or email

Susie: TAP@southdowns.gov.uk

Trees Committee Update from Audrey Jarvis

We have planted 31 more street trees in Lewes! After four months of consultation with residents, several site visits, and repeated sessions of CAT scanning to locate the vast array of underground services, we were ready to begin this project of planting round the Wallands area in November 2021. Thanks are due to the 12 members of the Trees Committee for their dedicated teamwork in delivering the very large heavy trees to the planting sites and taking away the spoil - as well as the thoroughly enjoyable part of actually planting the trees! We were very fortunate that most of the costs of the trees were met through a successful grant application to Sussex Community Foundation.

On 7th November, we had a bright sunny day for our first working party in King Henry's Road where we planted 3 x Tulip trees, (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), 3 x Japanese Pagoda trees, (*Sophora japonica*), 3 x Hop Hornbeam, (*Ostrya carpinifolia*), and 1 x Chinese Elm, (*Zelkova serrata*). The funding for these trees was supplemented by generous donations from Sparks Property, residents, and bequests.

On 14th November we had more good weather for our working party in Gundreda Road. Fuelled by welcome cups of tea from residents, we planted 4 x Cockspurthorn, (*Crataegus x prunifolia*), 3 x Field Maple, (*Acer campestre* "Louisa Red Shine"), 3 x Nettle tree, (*Celtis australis*), and 3 x Hop Hornbeam, (*Ostrya carpinifolia*).

Finally, on the wintry day of 21st November, we planted 3 x Sweet Gum, (*Liquidambar styraciflua* Worplesdon), 3 x Nettle tree, (*Celtis australis*), and 2 x Maidenhair tree, (*Ginkgo biloba*), in Prince Edward's Road.

A Google map, shared on our website, shows the location of all the 112 trees and 1,260 hedge whips that we have planted so far: <https://friends-of-lewes.org.uk/natural-environment/lewes-urban-arboretum/>



Photographs show members of the Trees Committee during the November working parties



If you can see a space for one or more trees on a grass verge or open space near you, please do get in touch with the Trees Committee so that we can research the site and find out if tree planting is possible there. Contact us via: arboretum@friends-of-lewes.org.uk. We have already collected some good ideas from people who visited our stalls at the Planet Party on the Railway Land in September and the COP@Depot exhibition in Depot Studio in November!

At the Tree Summit at the Railway Land back in March 2020, members of the Trees Committee shared the hope of having a community tree nursery in Lewes. We kept in touch over the intervening lockdowns and have joined with Wildflower Lewes and Railway Land Wildlife Trust to develop a wildflower and tree nursery. Thanks to kind residents who have given us the use of a corner of their garden, we now have some space to grow more plants and trees. Work on preparing the ground has already begun! Our aim is to select and grow the wildflowers and tree whips as we need them for specific sites around Lewes – so that each plant is grown for a purpose.

The plans for our tree and wildflower nursery were designed by Keith Sacre, a member of our Trees Committee. He has also taken on the task of writing an article about trees for the monthly free magazine, “The Lewesian” and two of the trees already featured in the series are the Tulip tree and Japanese Pagoda tree, which were part of our planting plans in November.

Through our affiliation with Lewes Climate Hub, we were delighted to be involved in the Biodiversity Day which they hosted at Depot in November. Students from Brighton Film School videoed Trees Committee members about their projects and the video clip was shown as part of the “Right Here, Right Now” screening at Depot on 12th November. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our vision of Lewes as “a town in the trees” - and to explain why Lewes needs more trees!

Keeping you in the 'Loop' from Jane Slater

Friends of Lewes Civic Society has through our regular Coffee Time Talks tried to keep our Members informed. The last two years have been difficult for us all following the pandemic. Hopefully we are now all beginning to look to the future as most of us have benefited from the Covid vaccine

However, life may never quite be the same again but I imagine that the meetings that we have introduced such as our Zoom Coffee Time Talks, which are free to all Members, will still be a useful way of keeping us all up-to-date.

If you would like to join in and attend our talks you can find details on our Membership page on the website and we will send you a Zoom link a few days before each talk.

At the height of the pandemic, I rang up most of our Members to see how they were managing and there are some very fascinating people who told me a little bit about themselves. In the new year I hope to ring you all again to see how you are and see if you have any suggestions for future events.

If any of you would like to tell the Members about your favourite hobby or have a suggestion for an interesting speaker for our Talks, please do get in touch with our Secretary Diana via email: enquiries@friends-of-lewes.org.uk

Look out for some exciting Coffee Time Talks in the future months

Coffee Time Talk dates for December 2021 to July 2022

Tuesdays from 10.30 to 11.45 am

Future Speakers to include

December 14th - Ewa Burman will show us how Christmas is celebrated in Poland and demonstrate the special meals including a fish feast and a celebration apple pie

Ewa says:

I work as an Advocate on secure psychiatric units in East Sussex. In my work I see and hear lots of sad stories so in a way I find food a big comfort and something that cannot be taken away from you as can material things.

Our outings and holidays always are carefully planned around places where we enjoy eating and I do love to cook and bake for friends and my family

P.S. I enjoy all food except for raspberries and coriander!!

Poland has a 12 - dish meal at Christmas called the Wigilia Feast that is completely meatless. Traditionally, the meal was symbolic of the 12 apostles, but now the number of dishes can vary with the number of guests expected for Christmas Eve dinner. Red borscht usually starts off the meal and is followed by other soups, carp, herring, and pierogi. For dessert there is a poppy seed cake, and a dried fruit compote beverage that is intended to ease digestion.

Taken from the internet

All dates and speakers to be confirmed in January 2022

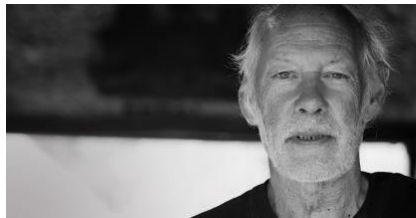
8th March - Marcus Taylor

Cockshut and Winterbourne – the streams of western Lewes”.

Marcus Taylor looks at two streams in Lewes which, though very short, have had a significant effect on the town over the centuries. One made possible the building of Lewes Priory and supplied its advanced drainage systems and ponds with water. The other, with its seasonal flow and thus a dry channel for much of the year, has brought disruptive flooding to Southover on many occasions.

17th May - Peter Hall

Breaky Bottom Vineyard



Peter says

It is my good fortune to have had a French/Italian mother and a French grandfather; Alex Mercier was a great restaurateur in Soho, Le Petit Savoyard, even before the First World War. It was perhaps inevitable that I should develop a deep interest in good wines, and food, since childhood.

Breaky Bottom sits in a beautiful secluded fold in the Sussex Downs – wonderfully remote; I planted the vineyard in 1974, seeing the potential offered by a climate similar to that of Champagne and the Loire. At the same time modern plant science was developing early-ripening varieties, and demand was emerging for clean, elegant cool-climate wines.

12th July - Tam Large –

The London to Brighton Vintage Car Run plus vintage cars and bicycles



Events

Upcoming Friends of Lewes Events

Tuesday 18 January 2022, 7:30pm

Aimee Felus of The Aquifer Partnership (TAP) will tell us about their work to protect the aquifer which supplies Lewes with our drinking water, and will explain how we can all help with this.

These Friends of Lewes talks will be via Zoom, and our Membership Secretary will send notifications with links to all Friends of Lewes members.

Details of all our talks are on our Diary web page at friends-of-lewes.org.uk/diary/

Upcoming Lewes History Group Events

Monday 10 January 2022, 7:30pm

Diana Wilkins describes the impact of the First World War on the Jewish community in Sussex.

Monday 14 February 2022, 7:30pm

Sue Berry looks at how changes in farming impacted on the Ouse Valley landscape between 1770 and 1940.

Monday 14 March 2022, 7:30pm

Alison Grant and Anthea Arnold on the story of Fitzroy House, Lewes.

Monday 11 April 2022, 7:30pm

Francis Burrows will tell us about the Battle of Lewes and the 13th century, with the help of Battle of Lewes re-enactors – ahead of the full contact battle re-enactment through the streets of Lewes on 14-15 May 2022.

Monday 9 May 2022, 7:30pm

Mary Rudling on The Poor Law in Lewes – ‘A measure of extreme harshness and cruelty ?

These Lewes History Group talks will be via Zoom, at least through to March 2022, and thereafter reviewed. These talks are free to History Group members who will be emailed links to join the talks. Non-members can buy a ticket (£4) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/lhg Details of all Lewes History Group talks are at leweshistory.org.uk/meetings/

VOLUNTARY DONATION

We depend largely on our members' subscriptions to carry out our work, and welcome additional help from donations and legacies of any amount, however small.

You can also support Friends of Lewes by participating the Lewes District Council Local Lottery at: <https://www.leweslocallottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-lewes>