

Guided walks

Other events this weekend

For more details of the walks see the website. You must book in advance - see opposite flap. Meet at Lewes House (19 on map) unless shown.

Malling Deanery Arboretum (Church Lane, South Malling) Tour of the collection, Sunday, 2pm to 4pm, meet South Malling Church.

Lewes High Street walk with Michael Chartier, Saturday, 10.30am.

Railways in Lewes walk with Robert Cheesman, Saturday, 10.15am and 2.15pm.

Flintman walk with David Smith looks at Lewes's distinctive flint walls. Saturday, 10am and 12 midday, meet Castle Barbican.

How to date a historic building Walk led by Sue Berry, Saturday, 2.30pm and Sunday, 12.30pm.

A History of Bonfire: the Story of the Gunpowder Plot 1509-1690. Speakers, costumes, bonfire archive, historic timeline, drinks in the Duck & Drake. Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, Town Hall Corn Exchange and Assembly Rooms. Other parts of the Town Hall are open Sunday, 11am to 4pm (20 on map).

Stories Seen through a Glass Plate: Working Lives Historic photos from the Reeves archive displayed in shop windows around the town. 11 September to 5 October, map guide available.

Artwave Work by local artists and makers shown in homes and other buildings around Lewes, 6 to 21 September - see artwavefestival.org.

Access and parking

Space is limited at some sites and you may have to wait for access. Some sites have steep stairs or difficult access - see website listings for access information.

Lewes is well-served by public transport. See parkopedia.com for car-park details.

This event is sponsored by

Adams & Remers



RISE Joinery



Lewes District Council



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

Design: George Hedges @ screenwrx.com

Front cover, from top: Hugh Rae corner post; Lewes Victoria Hospital c. 1909; 4 Park Road (1961, extended 2021). Thanks to Oakley Property, Lewes History Group and Jolyon Brewis for images.

Lewes Heritage Open Days

12-14 September 2025



www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk
www.heritageopendays.org.uk



Heritage Open Days gives free access to properties that are usually closed to the public, or charge for admission

For a full list of properties open nationwide, see heritageopendays.org.uk

Booking

For events needing advance booking go to friends-of-lewes.org.uk/hod2025/ or scan this QR code for full details. At other sites you may need to wait or come back later:



Some buildings have stairs and some walks include steep or uneven streets - see the listings on heritageopendays.org.uk for details, plus late changes to the programme.

Lewes House (32 High Street, 19 on map) **meeting point for most walks.** Open Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm, with exhibitions by Friends of Lewes and Lewes History Group. Basket-making demonstration and Ovesco eco-homes stand. Tours of the garden, Sunday, 11.30am and 2.30pm (no booking required) by Lewes House Garden Group, who are also providing refreshments Saturday and Sunday.



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Lewes Heritage Open Days 12-14 September 2025



Lewes Victoria Hospital (Nevill Road) The Lewes Dispensary (1847, later a bank, now Gail's Bakery) moved to this Queen Anne-style building in 1909. Now a community hospital offering a wide range of healthcare services.
Tours Saturday, 10am to 2.30pm, must book, max 6 people each tour



4 Park Road This 1961 house (by Lewes architectural practice John Schwerdt & Partners) has a first-storey addition designed by the present owner Jolyon Brewis.
Open Sunday, 10am to 3pm



The Round House (Pipe Passage) Brick and flint base of an 1802 corn windmill, converted into a private house, briefly owned by Virginia and Leonard Woolf. Ground floor open with displays of historic material.
Open Saturday, 2pm to 5pm



Freemasons Hall (149 High Street) Grade II 1868 building still owned by the South Saxon Lodge, one of the oldest in Sussex. Built on the remains of the medieval Westgate tower. First floor temple.
Open Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm



Bull House (92 High Street) 15th century timber-framed house, once lived in by Thomas Paine, author of The Rights of Man and a key influence in the American War of Independence. Talks on the building's history each day at midday.
Open Friday to Sunday, 11am to 3pm



Edward Reeves (159 High Street) Victorian photographic studio and special exhibition. **Friday to Sunday, 11am-4pm**, plus historic glass-plate photos in windows around town. Nearby, **The Workshop** (164 High Street) Timbered 18th century interior; basement jewellery workshop with historic features.
Friday and Saturday, 9.30am-5pm



Hugh Rae (74/75 High Street) Part 14th century, one of the town's oldest buildings, now featuring a textile museum. Explore its complex history and past uses as a haberdashers and men's outfitters, plus the history of the Clothkits business in Lewes.
Tours Friday, 11am, 1pm and 3pm, must book, max 8 people



Jireh Chapel (Malling Street) Grade I listed chapel dating from 1805, enlarged in 1827, and still in regular use. The simple interior has galleries with corner staircases, plastered vault ceiling, octagonal pulpit and pine box-pews.
Open Friday and Saturday, tours every half hour 10am to midday, no booking needed



Lewes Little Theatre (Lancaster Street) First formed in 1929 as the Lewes Players, the present theatre (since expanded) was converted from a chapel in the late 1930s with the support of John Maynard Keynes. Display about its history in the foyer; plus backstage tours.
Open Saturday, 11am to 4pm



W F Bruce (5 North Street) Lewes was home to several fine clockmakers in the 18th and 19th centuries. Visit the historic basement workshop where specialist clock restoration and conservation is undertaken.
Open Friday and Saturday, 10am to 4pm



Crown Court (High Street) First designed as the County Hall in 1812, with neo-classical facade in Portland stone and Coade-stone figures of Wisdom, Justice and Mercy. Panelled 19th century court rooms.
Open Saturday, 10am to 2.30pm



Trinity House (213 High Street) 1607/8 timber-framed building with Georgian facade clad in red mathematical tiles. Once the town armoury and home of the local commander in the Civil War.
Tours Saturday, 10.30am and 1pm, must book, max 15 people



Quaker Meeting House (Friars Walk, entrance in Styles Way) Grade II listed, dating from 1784 with later additions. Original room for Quaker worship remains, with other parts extended and refurbished in 2022-24.
Open Saturday, 10am to 4pm



Eastgate Baptist Church (Eastgate Street) An earlier meeting house was replaced by the present Norman-style church in 1843. Sunken baptistry below the altar; galleried first floor and helical tower staircase which spirals in two directions.
Open Saturday, 10am to 3pm, refreshments



Harveys (off Cliffe High Street) is the oldest independent brewery in Sussex and its distinctive Victorian tower is a local landmark.
Tour Sunday midday, must book, max 25 people, meet outside Harveys shop in Cliffe High Street



St Thomas à Becket Church (Cliffe High Street) Grade II*, probably founded as a chapel soon after the martyr's death in 1170. 14th century nave arcade and 15th century tower. 1670 clock by Ditchling blacksmith James Looker.
Tours Friday and Saturday, 11.30am, must book, max 12 people



Lamb House (3 Chapel Hill) Grade II* listed. A chance to see the 18th century Chinese lacquer screen rediscovered in the house in the 1960s and restored by English Heritage.
Open Sunday, 2pm to 5pm



Priory School Chapel (Mountfield Road, between Priory School and East Sussex College) War memorial chapel (1960) by Edward Maufe, who designed Guildford Cathedral and several Sussex churches. Organ music and bell ringing.
Open Sunday, 1 to 5pm. Parking

For venues where you need to book, scan the QR code above the map, go to friends-of-lewes.org.uk/hod2025/ or search on the national Heritage Open Days website heritageopendays.org.uk