

About the Lewes Urban Arboretum project

The late Paul Millmore, a Friends of Lewes Trustee, first proposed planting more trees to make Lewes a "town in the trees" when Friends of Lewes received a bequest. After Paul Millmore died we received a second bequest from his will to fund tree maintenance and early years' care, and a donation in his memory from Brighton and Hove Friends of the Earth.

The Friends of Lewes re-formed its Trees Committee in 2012 to take the Lewes Urban Arboretum project forward. It consults with residents and landowners across Lewes to identify places to plant new trees or replace existing ones to restore or improve the overall streetscape and environment. It monitors, and responds to, all planning applications which include tree works.

Up to publication of this leaflet, in 2026, we have planted 326 street trees and over 3,000 whips as wildlife hedges. In addition to the original bequests, the planting and maintenance of these trees and hedges has been funded by donations or bequests from residents, proceeds from the LDC Local Lottery, matched funding from Lewes District Council and ESCC, and grants from Lewes Town Council, Tesco Bags of Help, SDNP Trust Beelines, Sussex Community Foundation, Sparks Property, the Rotary Club of Lewes, the Inner Wheel Club of Lewes, Ouse Valley Climate Action, the Local Authorities Treescapes Fund, Chalk Cliff Trust, The Mosaic Project and Friends of Lewes.

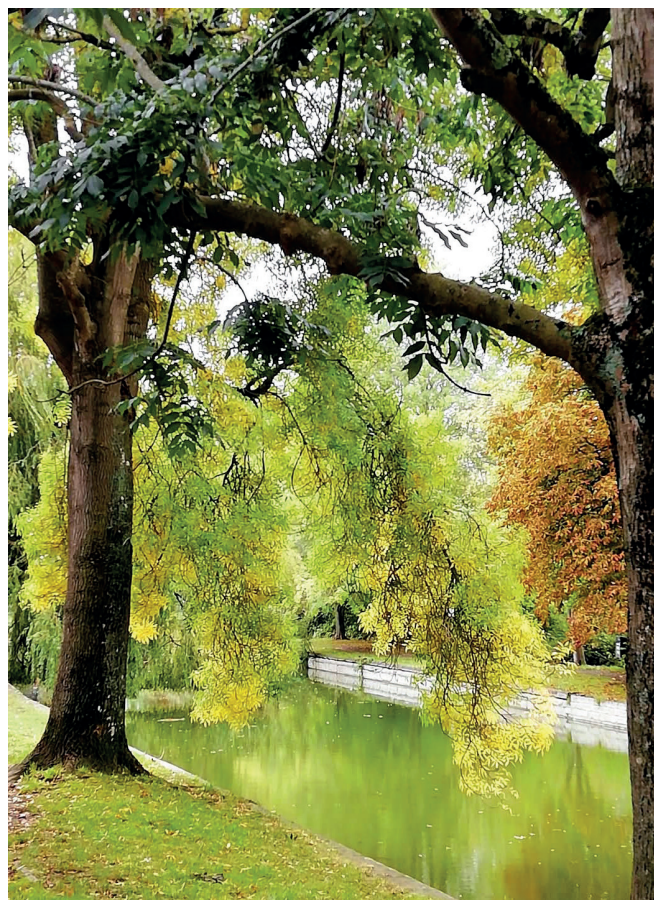
In May 2023 we were awarded Arboretum Town status by the international ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Programme: <https://arbnet.org/morton-register/lewes-urban-arboretum>

Almost all other accredited arboreta are individual gardens and sites. Unusually, our Lewes Urban Arboretum status extends across the whole of the town of Lewes, one of only two UK towns with this rating alongside Sidmouth. The criteria which contributed to our award included our plans and organisation, volunteer support, and the number of varied species of trees, (69), that we have planted.

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Lewes Tree Festival 2026
is sponsored by the
Rotary Club of Lewes
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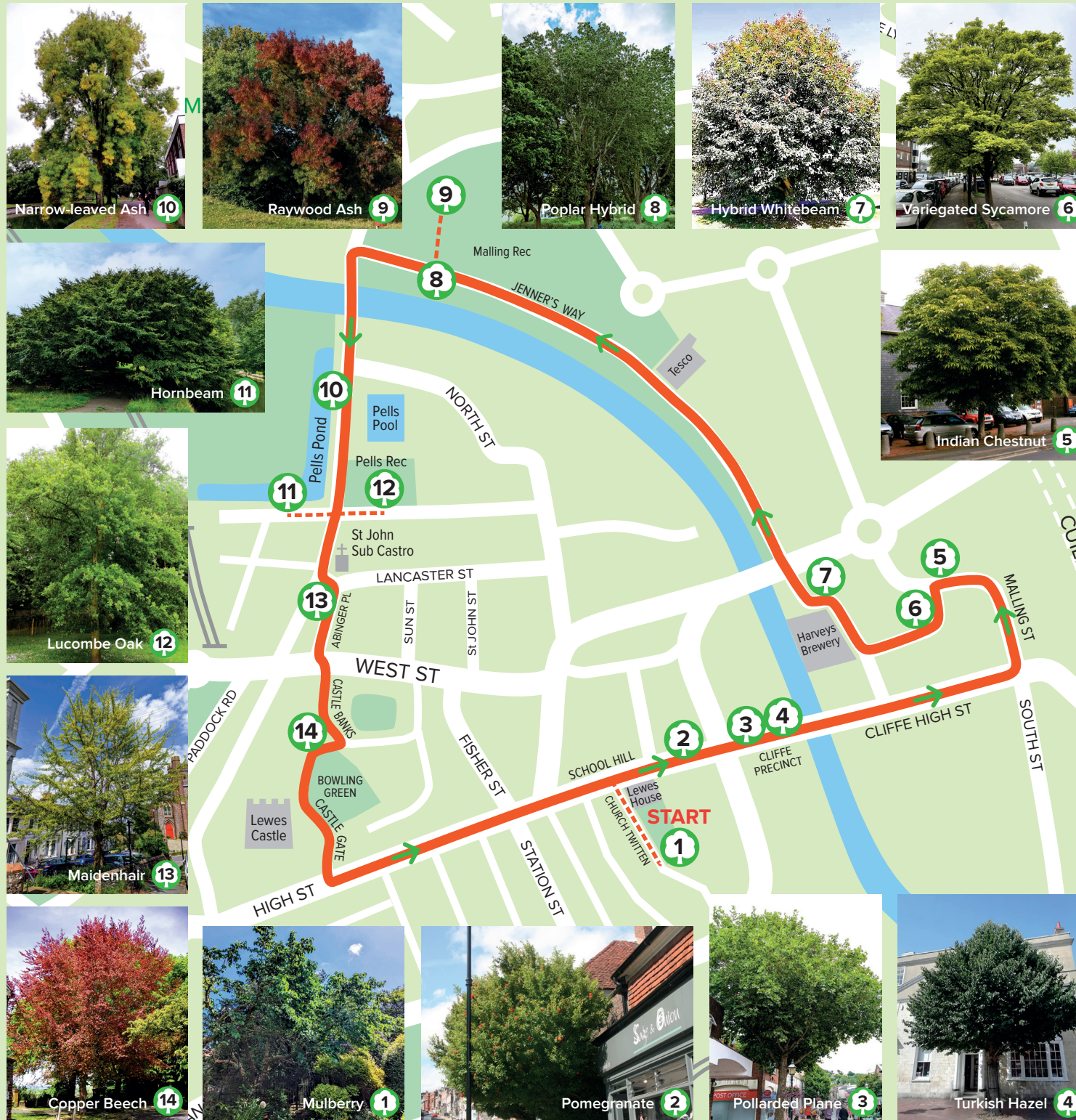
Celebrating the trees in our Arboretum Town!



Self-guided tree walk

by Lewes Urban Arboretum (Trees Committee of Friends of Lewes)

Lewes Urban Arboretum self guided tree walk



1 Lewes Climate Hub, 32 High Street. Lovely garden at the rear of the house with a small **Mulberry Tree**, (*Morus nigra*). Access via Church Twitten.

2 Bottom of School Hill, outside Adams and Remers. A **Pomegranate Tree**, (*Punica granatum*), growing against the wall. Red/orange "pom-pom" blossoms in Summer.

3 Pedestrian Precinct, outside Red Cross Shop, 217 High Street. A **Pollarded Plane**, (*Platanus x hispanica*). Tall-growing and long-living. Recognisable by the "camouflage" pattern of the bark. Noted for cleaning the air because the bark and leaves attract and hold pollution particles.

4 Pedestrian Precinct, outside Waterstone's, 220-221 High Street. Fine **Turkish Hazel**, (*Corylus colurna*). Interesting "hairy" nuts that are edible.

5 Jireh Chapel, 26 Malling Street. Two **Indian Chestnut Trees**, (*Aesculus indica*). Introduced to Britain in 1851. Palmate leaves and flowers similar to Horse Chestnut.

6 Phoenix Causeway car park, Harvey's Way. **Variegated Sycamore**, (*Acer pseudoplatanus Leopoldii*). Introduced in 1864 and named for King Leopold. Eye-catching yellow-pink leaves turn green with yellow and pink speckles.

7 Outside River Lodge, Foundry Health Centre. **Hybrid Whitebeam**, (*Sorbus thuringiaca*). A cross between the Rowan and the Whitebeam that combines the best features of both trees.

8 Malling Recreation Ground, between Tesco's and Willey's Bridge. **Poplar hybrid**, (*Populus* species). Bright pink buds and catkins in Spring.

9 Malling Recreation Ground, view towards Malling Community Centre. **Raywood Ash**, (*Fraxinus oxycarpa* "Raywood"). Glorious red foliage in Autumn.

10 Pells Pond, between pond and swimming pool. **Narrow-leaved Ash**, (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) draping over the pond. Sometimes called the "Golden Ash" because of the Autumn colour.

11 Pells Pond, between pond and Pelham Terrace. **Hornbeam**, (*Carpinus betulus*), with an unusual spreading habit.

12 Pells Recreation Ground, near border with Brook Street. **Lucombe Oak**, (*Quercus x crenata* "Lucombeana"). A natural hybrid of the Cork Oak and Turkey Oak, named by William Lucombe in 1762.

13 Abinger Place, junction with St. John's Terrace. **Maidenhair Tree**, (*Ginkgo biloba*). Glows with orange colour in Autumn. An ancient species with fossils of this tree discovered that date back to over 290 million years ago.

14 Top of Castle Banks. **Copper Beech**, (*Fagus sylvatica purpurea*), known as the "Liberty Tree" or "Tom Paine Tree". Planted in 1989 to replace a tree lost in the great storm of 1987. A cultivar of Common Beech with red/purple leaves in Autumn. Foliage valuable to caterpillars of moths and seeds are eaten by small mammals.