

Friends of Lewes

the Lewes Civic Society



Autumn 2010 Newsletter

LINKLATER PAVILION

Congratulations to the Railway Land Wildlife Trust for persevering in raising the finance to build and now open this splendid pavilion at the main entrance to the Railway Land. The Pavilion is named after Peter Linklater who was involved in the Society from its early days and spent a total of 23 years as its Chairman. He was also instrumental in saving the Railway Land from becoming a supermarket and camp site as well as campaigning for its designation as a Local Nature Reserve. Over the years the Society has made a number of financial contributions to the project and will shortly be providing a set of bicycle racks for installation outside the building.

PARKING

The responsibility for parking in Lewes is confusing in that on-street parking is the concern of the County Council whilst off-street parking is the concern of the District Council. The former have said that they will be consulting about possible modifications to the on-street scheme in November whilst the latter have already consulted about the provision of car parks in the town. The Society has not yet formed a view about the on-street consultation and members with comments may like to copy them to the Society. As far as car park provision is concerned our response was to suggest that there should be a net increase in the number of spaces and that decking of car parks such as that adjacent to Phoenix Causeway should be considered in order to provide for this. If

this permitted the closure of some small car parks we agreed that the street scape could be improved as a result.

PLANNING

Despite the Society's objections, which were mentioned in the summer newsletter, the District Council approved the plans for the Police Station in West Street and the East Street car park wall. The former building is now for sale and it will be interesting to see whether the purchaser carries out the approved development or is prepared to make changes to the Sun Street façade to meet the Society's point about improving the appearance in that street.

Boots have applied to change their sign boards and as the plans suggested that the replacements would be very garish on such a prominent building the Society objected to them. More recently Aldi have made revised proposals for developing their site next to Tesco and the Society is currently considering them.

CLIFFE BRIDGE & CLIFFE HIGH STREET

The Society has taken up with the County Council the use of inappropriate material for re-setting the balustrade railing on the north side of Cliffe Bridge. It has also taken up with the County Council and Norman Baker whether there is adequate signage indicating that Cliffe High Street is one way eastbound as far as Morris Road for all classes of traffic except pedal cycles. Whilst the many

transgressions are a matter of enforcement the signage appears to be one of the reasons why these transgressions occur.

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

The Society was disappointed to learn that the National Park Authority have selected Midhurst for their Headquarters as it does not have a railway station. It is hoped that they might site a Divisional office for the eastern part of the National Park in or near Lewes.

SOCIETY AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS

The Society recently gave awards to the following recently completed projects in recognition of their good design.



Cluny Parish Rooms, Irelands Lane; House extension 15 Friars Walk; Repaving of Cliffe High Street; and Restoration of Malthouse, Davey's Lane. Commendations went to the new house at 42 Prince Edward's Road; the restoration of 10 Castle Banks; and the enhancement of Lewes Railway Station by planting.

Members are invited to make suggestions of other projects which could be considered for an award or commendation in the future.

TOWN PLAQUES

The Town Council would be prepared to consider erecting more historical plaques around the town to commemorate either the building or a famous person who once lived or worked there. The Society is drawing up a

list of suitable locations where such plaques might be erected and would welcome member's suggestions including the reason why a particular site should be considered.

HON SECRETARY

Recently the Executive Committee were pleased to appoint Marcus Taylor as Honorary Secretary. He can be contacted by letter at the Town Hall or by e-mail to marcusstaylor@btopenworld.com.

MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE

With this newsletter comes a questionnaire which we would like you to complete and return as indicated. This will help the Executive Committee plan for the future and in particular ensure that it is meeting your expectations of how it should fulfill the Society's objectives.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All meetings are in the Lecture Room of Lewes Town Hall starting promptly at 7.45pm.

Fri 19 November - "Pictures from the past". An illustrated talk by John Davey in which he will show many pictures of Lewes from his late father's collection.

Wed 19 January – The County Records office by one of their archivists

Thu 24 March – Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 7 April Talk by John Ford titled "Charles Dickens in Sussex"

