

Friends of Lewes



the Lewes Civic Society

Summer 2012 Newsletter

Planning issues

North Street re-development

The Society remains in touch with the Santon Group and understands that they envisage putting forward options for discussion in the autumn, hopefully to coincide with the publication of the core strategy being drafted jointly by the District Council and National Park Authority. The Society considers that there should be a holistic approach to any development on the site and that ideally it should also



incorporate the adjacent Waitrose and Bus Station sites. Any development should be preceded by adequate flood protection measures whilst retail development needs to be integrated with the rest of the town centre by, for example, a riverside walkway. The Society has also participated in discussions with representatives of the District Council, Chamber of Commerce and Community Land Trust to try and establish common ground on what would be best for Lewes on this site.

Site opposite Sackville House

The developer who has acquired the brown field site opposite Sackville House has put forward plans for a housing/commercial development there. Whilst it is an improvement on the plans for which the previous owner obtained planning permission, there are aspects of the present proposals, such as the massing and design of the development, which the Society does not like. However the concept of residential development on this site is accepted, as it is preferable that such sites are used rather than greenfield ones.

Proposed houses in Mill Road chalk pit

The Society spoke at the meeting of the National Park Authority's Planning Committee which considered this proposal to point out that it would be an incursion into the downland surrounding the town. Fortunately the Committee agreed unanimously to refuse the application.

Former Canon O'Donnell Centre

The appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission for the demolition of this building and its replacement with housing was heard by an Inspector and the Society spoke in support of the refusal. Subsequently the Inspector confirmed the refusal but the intentions of the owner, as a result of this, are not known.

Conservation Area enhancement works

The Society is supporting an initiative by the District Council to obtain a grant from the National Park Authority's Sustainable Communities Fund to provide for enhancements to the Conservation Areas in the District. Whilst the detail of such enhancements has to be decided they are likely to include improvements to the street scene such as better quality pavement surfaces, undergrounding cables, removal of unnecessary clutter and tidying up eyesores. Although not related to this initiative the Society has commended ASK on the recent improvements to its frontage.

Keere Street

A meeting has been held with the County Council's Highway Steward to point out the unsatisfactory nature of the surface of Keere Street, including loose bricks and cobbles, which have not been fixed with appropriate materials, and the use of black top or concrete in such an iconic street. He accepted that work needed to be done but whether it will deal with all these issues remains to be seen.

Lewes - Kingston Road and cycle link

The Society has supported the petition to ban heavy goods vehicles from the Kingston Road and Winterbourne Hollow (other than those requiring access to premises). It has also supported the proposed new cycle link but has suggested that on safety grounds a refuge is needed in the Kingston Road at the point where it crosses it.

Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

The Lewes to Kingston cycle link may be partially funded through the grant that the County Council has been offered from the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This may also enable the provision of real time information at bus stops in Lewes, enhancing the road outside the railway station, altering the priorities at the Fisher Street/West Street junction and bringing in more cycling and pedestrian lining.

20mph

The Society has supported the long awaited formal consultation about introducing a 20mph speed limit in the town centre, which it originally requested nearly 10 years ago. However the fact that Station Approach has been left out of the scheme is a cause for concern and the Society has requested its inclusion, along with the bends at the



western end of Southover High Street.

Parking

The revisions proposed to the parking scheme appear to be generally acceptable and the proposal to treat Bank Holidays in the same way as Sundays is to be welcomed. The Society understands that a proposal to ban pavement parking in the controlled parking zone may be included in the revisions when they are implemented

White Lion sign

This sign, which prior to its demolition in 1939 was fixed to the White Lion Inn in Westgate Street, has been taken down from its present site for cleaning and replacement of its tail. The Society has been instrumental in working with the Town Council over this restoration project as it was responsible for its erection in the current position almost 60 years ago.

New Twittens book

The Society has just published a new book on the Lewes Twittens which was written by Kim Clark. It will be available for sale, at a special price of £ 4.50, at the Society meetings mentioned below and at certain of the Heritage sites open between 7th and 9th September

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 7th to Sunday 9th September: Heritage Open Days

Thursday September 27th: Autumn General Meeting

See separate notice. (members only)

Thursday October 18th: [The Twittens: the Saxon and Norman Lanes of Lewes](#)

Kim Clark talks about these distinctive by-ways, described in her new book (see above)

Thursday November 15th: The History of Lewes Old Grammar School

by David Arscott, author of a recent book on this topic

Wednesday January 9th: The Wildlife of Lewes

Michael Blencowe, Sussex Wildlife Trust's Community Wildlife Officer

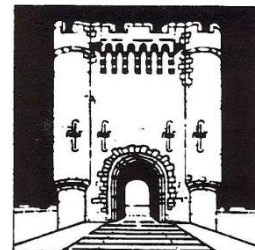
Thursday February 28th: The Lost Parish of St Mary in the Market Place

Debby Matthews, a resident of the street, shares her research telling the story of St Mary's Lane in Lewes (now Station Street) from the earliest times until the 1800s.

All meetings and Lectures held in Town Hall Lecture Room @ 7.45pm

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2012 AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Autumn General Meeting will be held on Thursday 27 September 2012 in the Lecture Room, Town Hall, Lewes at 7.45pm.

Please note that this meeting is for members only.

The agenda will be:

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To consider other matters on which prior written notice has been given.
3. Talk by Ptolemy Dean - **“More than just a collection of buildings”**

There will also be a table with Society items for sale.

Marcus Taylor Hon Secretary



Historic preservation architect, author and television presenter (*Restoration, The Perfect Village*) Ptolemy Dean has recently been appointed Westminster Abbey's new surveyor of the fabric.

PTO for Dates for Diary

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PRESIDENT: Mrs. Phyllida Stewart-Roberts CVO OBE