



# NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN 2016

### North Street Quarter development

The occupants of the former ironworks buildings have left and hoarding has been put around the site. Demolition has been delayed by the need to comply with certain planning conditions but should take place shortly. Once it is possible to provide a way into the site from Phoenix Causeway this will be constructed, so that works traffic does not have to use North Street. One of the first buildings to be erected on the site will be a health centre to which the medical practices of St Andrews, School Hill and River Lodge, as well as the North Street dental practice, will move. The health centre will contain historic artefacts from the former ironworks so as to remind people of it.

Consultation is taking place on possible improvements to the Pells and Malling fields recreational areas which are being financed by the developer through a section 106 agreement.

### Springman House

This former health service building has been acquired by the District Council as part of their North Street estate. It is to be demolished, probably at the same time as the demolition of the former ironworks buildings, and a new fire station provided on the site. The Society has not yet seen plans for this, but it is understood that access to the site will be from Lancaster Street but the exit from it will be onto North Street.

### Neighbourhood Plan

Work on drafting the Neighbourhood Plan continues and public consultation on it is scheduled to take place in January. The Society is broadly content with the drafts it has seen to date, but work is continuing on sites where housing could be built. The Plan is expected to provide sites for 220 houses in the period until 2030, over and above the number that will be provided by the North Street Quarter and Old Malling Farm developments. However the South Downs Road development and, hopefully, one on the former St Anne's school site can be counted and it is quite possible that the balance can be found from a number of smaller sites. The Society is firmly opposed to building on greenfield sites but, if there is a shortfall, considers that building social housing above one of the car parks in the lower part of the town would be a sustainable solution.

### Buildings at risk

The Society keeps a list of buildings which it perceives to be at risk due to becoming disused and or badly maintained. In September a meeting was held with representatives of the National Park Authority, Town and District Councils to consider ways in which these properties could be deleted from the list, priority being given to those that are of historic importance.

## FRIENDS OF LEWES

c/o Lewes Town Council Offices, Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2QS  
enquires@friends-of-lewes.org.uk www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk

PRESIDENT: Baroness Kay Andrews of Southover OBE Registered Charity No. 258756

### Planning advice notes

The Society has recently updated the advice note on shopfronts which the District Council first produced in 1992. It can be viewed on the Society's website. In preparation are advice notes on dormer windows and garden rooms. It is hoped that those contemplating such projects will follow the advice. It is also hoped that the points made in the notes will be used by both the District Council and National Park Authority in determining planning applications.

### Awards event

Every few years the Society makes awards or commendations to building project which it considers have enhanced the townscape. This year awards have gone to 142 South Street, the extension to Lewes Mansions in Castle Ditch Lane, Dial House (Waterstones) and the garden wall at 55, Grange Road. Commendations have gone to the façade restoration on 21 Priory Street and Crosshaven Place, Church lane, Malling.

### Pavement outside the crown Court

Heavy delivery lorries parking partly on the pavement have caused many of the paving slabs to have cracked or broken and these have been replaced by the County Council with tarmac pending a permanent solution being found. This is very unsightly in such a key location and the Society has been in touch with the County Council Highways Department about it.



The possibility of having bollards to prevent pavement parking has been suggested but that would probably cause more traffic congestion. Essentially the problem is due to the sub-base below the slabs not being strong enough to withstand the weight of lorries. Whilst this could be remedied it is expensive and more details of costs are being sought.

### The Magic Circle

This is the area between the former Maltings car park in Castle Precincts through to the top of the steps from Castle Ditch Lane. The route through this area has recently been designated by the County Council as a right of way and so the Society is able to move forward with drawing up plans to improve the area. In addition to obtaining relevant permissions, grants will be sought for the project.

### Trees

New or replacement trees will be planted in South Downs Road, Abergavenny Road, Middle Way and Valence Road towards the end of November, the Trees Committee having secured the necessary planting permissions. These sites were all recommended by Lewes residents, and the trees to be planted were chosen through consultation with them.



At the Societies Fair in September many more ideas for future plantings of street trees around the town were put forward, aiming towards our vision of Lewes as a “town in the trees” or an

urban arboretum, which was an idea of the late Paul Millmore.

If you have noticed a place in Lewes where new trees are needed, please let the Society have your ideas.



The Society was concerned to learn that two of the trees on St. Anne's Hill were to be felled because they had not responded to treatment for Dutch Elm Disease. Thanks to funding promised by the Town and County Councils and a contribution by the Society, the two diseased trees will be replaced by DED-resistant Elm trees.

#### Heritage Open Days



This September's Heritage Open Days, organised by the Society, attracted over 2000 visits in the town: the highlights included the opening of two private homes, a selection of conducted walks, and a demonstration of bell-ringing at Southover Church. All pre-bookable events were full well in advance of the weekend. Many thanks go to the organisers, the property owners, those who led the tours and also to the District and Town Councils, Adams & Remers, Stapleton Consulting

& Mackellar Schwerdt as sponsors. A full review of this year's activities is on the Society web-site.

**Next year's HOD weekend is from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September, with planning beginning from early February. If you would like to be involved, or would like to propose a new venue or event, then please contact [leweshod@gmail.com](mailto:leweshod@gmail.com) HeritageOpenDays**

#### Display boards

Three new 'pop-up' banners promoting our activities and projects are nearing completion.

#### Competitions

The first prize of £50 in our Summer 2016 Family Quiz, aimed at identifying some of the wide range of Lewes landmarks which had been supported or saved by the Society, was won by Emma Brinkhurst. Congratulations to Emma and thank you to everyone else who took part.



As part of the Lewes Christmas Festival, organised by Lewes Town Partnership, (1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December), the Society's competition for 4 -18 year olds is to make a Christmas Tree decoration using recycled, re-used or reclaimed materials. The closing date is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, and there will be three prizes of £25 to the winning entries. The winners will be presented with their prizes by the Mayor on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and all of the entries are to be displayed in the window of the Tourist Information Centre from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December.

## Talks

In October, John Davey led an exploration of the characters behind the notorious Piltdown Man hoax, which was well-received.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November two speakers, Christopher Whittick from the Keep and Pamela Day from the ESCC Registration Service, will present the history of Southover Grange and describe its current renovation and restoration.

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, continuing this theme of conservation of significant buildings in the town, the recent renovation works on Lewes Station will be described.

Robert Cheesman will describe the history of the station and then engineers from BAM Nuttall will talk about their task.

It will be fascinating to hear about the works on the road bridge last year and the challenges of working for many months on a listed building in constant use!

## Lewes History Group Meetings:

12 December	<b>The Women's Land Army &amp; AGM</b> Ian Everest
2017	
9 January	<b>The Lewes Martyrs</b> Paul Quinn
13 February	<b>John Every's Phoenix Ironworks</b> John Blackwell