



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

Premier Inn

We have been pleased by the many positive comments made about the design of the building now that the hoardings are down. However, we were disappointed that the National Park Authority has agreed to internally illuminated advertisements being placed on the building despite the long standing policy of the Society and District Council against such advertising in the conservation area. We have also objected to the proposal to have up-lighting on the building.



North Street Quarter

As a condition of their planning approval Santon will be providing funding for various facilities in the town during the construction period, including over £800k towards additional facilities at Priory School, £640k for subsidising the rents on creative workspace, £ 79k towards a community heritage facility and contributions

towards a new pedestrian crossing in Offham Road, improving Fisher Street and completing a cycle route through the town. Demolition of that part of the site between the Fire Station and Phoenix Causeway will start in September so that building work for phase 1 can follow on. A temporary access road for the contractors will be provided from Phoenix Causeway once relevant demolition has taken place. The Society is represented on a Sounding Board set up to advise Santon and the District Council on detailed aspects of the development.

Joint Lewes District and National Park Authority Core Strategy

The amended version of this, which regrettably includes provision for housing at Old Malling Farm, was found sound by the Inspector and has finally been approved by the District Council and National Park Authority. It therefore becomes the planning policy document against which planning applications in Lewes are determined until such time as the National Park Authority's own Local Plan is adopted.

Neighbourhood Plan

Research is currently being carried out on the possible availability of sites for housing development that were put forward during the public consultations held earlier in the year.

FRIENDS OF LEWES

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

However it is understood that the National Park Authority would oppose zoning the downland behind Houndean Rise for housing and this might also apply to any building behind Downside to which, in response to an enquiry, the Society said they would be opposed. Once adopted, this Plan, which has to be consistent with the Core Strategy, will also be used in determining planning applications.

Chandler's Wharf

The development on this site is now complete and the public path beside the river wall which was a condition of the planning permission is open. The Society has also been in touch with UK Power Networks, who own the transformer immediately to the north of Chandlers Wharf, about continuing this path past this transformer into Bear Yard. Whilst UK Power Networks are willing to negotiate on this the Society has suggested that it would be better if this was done by the Town Council as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

St Anne's School

The County Council have not yet indicated how they intend to proceed over this site following the withdrawal of Subud from leasing it.

Southover Grange



Work by the County Council to renovate this building and make it more user-friendly for the

Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages is in hand. This has involved some cutting back of the yew hedge in front of the building to reinstate railings and the Society is in touch with the County Council about this.

Plaques

Five new historic plaques will be placed this year: three funded by the Town Council and two by the Society. These will be at the Dripping Pan, the old slaughterhouse in St Martin's Lane, the site of the Red, White & Blue public house in Friars Walk, the Stables on Ireland's Lane and the Riverside building, which once housed the Tabernacle Sunday School.

Pipe Passage lighting

The Society has agreed to partially fund the replacement of two ordinary lamp standards in Pipe Passage with those appropriate for the conservation area. It is regrettable that the County Council, as the body responsible for street lighting, is not prepared to give enhanced status to it here despite legislation, s.62 of the Environment Act 1995, that requires them to have regard to the national park and the conservation area in reaching their decisions.

Post Office relocation

In response to the recent consultation the Society has drawn attention to the fact that when there was a post office facility in the shop now trading as WH Smith it was closed as the shop was concerned about the queues that often occurred to the detriment of those wishing to shop. In light of this it has questioned whether this move back to the same premises is sensible.

Trees

As part of our aim to make Lewes a "town in the trees" or an urban arboretum, the Society's Trees Committee have been working throughout the year with residents, local tree specialists, the

County and District Councils to plan further street planting around Lewes. This includes plans to replace damaged trees in Valence Road, Abergavenny Road and Middle Way in October 2016. A grant has recently been sought so that we might restore the avenues of Lewes in the Wallands area where the appearance is at risk from felled trees which have not been replaced and older trees which will need replacing soon. On our stall at the Societies Fair 2016 we hope that the people of Lewes will share new ideas about where trees could be planted around our town.

Be a part of this year's September Heritage Open Days in Lewes

Take a walk with the Flint Man, or examine Quirky Lewes with Kevin Gordon. Be the first to look at the progress of the new Depot cinema or sign up for a tour around Lewes prison. Find out how Gideon Mantell, Tom Paine and Virginia Woolf feature in this year's programme.

This year's Heritage Open Days weekend is from Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th September.



The Round House on Pipe Passage

Volunteers from the Society have put together a programme, and a leaflet is available from the tourist office, library, bus and train stations: you'll also notice posters around the town nearer the weekend. All these have been paid for by commercial sponsors, together with the District and Town Councils, for which we are very grateful. You can also see both the local and

national Heritage Open Days programmes on www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Please note: some of the events require pre-booking, and may be already full: you can enquire via leweshod@gmail.com

If you are interested in helping out with this event in future years, or can suggest a new venue or activity, then we would be pleased to hear from you at the above email address.

FoL Summer Quiz.

The closing date for this is September 26th, so there is time enough to download the questions from the FoL website or Facebook page. Ideal for families over the summer holiday: learn, walk, enjoy and maybe win....

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 3 September – Societies Fair - Assembly Room, Town Hall from 10am to 1pm

Thursday 29 September - Autumn General Meeting – 7.45pm Dr Freddie Gick Chairman of Civic Voice will be speaking about what this national organisation does and how they can help local civic societies.

FRIENDS OF LEWES TALKS:

Wednesday 12th October:
Lewes' biggest ever crime? - John Davey

Wednesday 23rd November:
Southover Grange: History and recent changes – Christopher Whittick & Pamela Day

LEWES HISTORY GROUP:

Monday, 12th September
So you think you know Lewes? - Bob Cairns

Monday, 10th October
Lewes 1916: Lives seen through the Edward Reeves Archive glass plates - Brigitte Lardinois

Monday, 14th November
The Darker Side of Sun Street – Joyce Fisher