



# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER, 2017

## Neighbourhood Plan

The Society gave a positive response to the draft Neighbourhood Plan for which a public consultation was held earlier in the summer. It supported the concept of Lewes low cost housing but did raise a number of other points where it considered there were omissions as well as many points of detail. In particular it considered that there should be a policy on heritage with emphasis given to the conservation areas and listed buildings, recognition given to the modern high-tech businesses in the town, provision for a dedicated coach park and references made to the existing plans for flood defence. It supported improvements being made to the public realm and the provision of more trees and suggested that the maps provided in the Plan should be clearer to make them more understandable.

A copy of the Society's response is on its website. Since making the response it has had a discussion with some of those concerned with drafting the Neighbourhood Plan and it is to be hoped that the points made will be taken on board so that when there is a further public consultation the result will be a Plan of which the town can be proud.

## Major Developments

It has been good to see that after a long gestation period work has started on the

provision of new housing on the land between Lewes House and the Library.

The District Council, which owns the Springman House site, are proceeding with appointing architects to design a new fire station there and the Society has been invited to take part in this. The building work may mean some disruption to the car park behind the Police Station but the Society has expressed the view that this should ultimately be retained as car parking in this part of the town is very limited.

The Society supported the final consultation about the changes to be made to the Pells and Malling Fields recreation grounds, although it suggested that in the latter the paths to be provided should follow the natural desire lines already obvious on the ground. These improvements are part of the package of conditions imposed on Santon when being granted planning permission for the North Street development.

## Community Infrastructure Levy

Most proposed developments have to pay a community infrastructure levy based on their size. This money goes to the National Park Authority to use on infrastructure projects. However 15% of the money raised in the town of Lewes is returned to the Town Council which is able to spend it on infrastructure projects of their choosing.

## **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

Once a Neighbourhood Plan for the town has been adopted this % will rise to 25. The Town Council have asked for suggestions of suitable projects to spend this money on when it arrives and the Society has submitted suggestions. Among them is having riverside paths where they currently do not exist, improving the pavements in the conservation areas and completing the cycle paths through the town and down the Ouse valley. The full list submitted by the Society is on its website.

### The former racecourse

For many years the Society has been concerned about creeping development of buildings at the former racecourse. During the summer a blatant attempt has been made to move the public bridleway from Spital Road on to a new alignment in the vicinity of the existing buildings in order that an extended paddock can be provided. This action was done without having sought permission from the County Council to move the right of way or the National Park Authority for the work involved in creating the new route. The Society has expressed its concern over this and also the move and corralling of the right of way going north towards Blackcap by a different landowner. Discussions on resolving these issues are continuing.

### Grange Road

The Society was informed that when the Virgin Media work was completed in Grange Road the County Council intended to replace the pavement surface with asphalt rather than reinstate the existing pavers. However after making representations which reminded the County Council that Grange Road is a part of the conservation area for which they are supposed to provide enhancements the County Council have agreed to reinstate the pavement as before. This should take place within 6 months which is the period the contractors are allowed for restoration.

### Trees

This summer the challenge for the Trees Committee has been watering the new trees, which were planted in December 2016 and March 2017, during the spells of drought. Thank you to everyone who helped by donating plastic bottles! They all seem to have survived so far, except for one of the Field Maples at the top of Abergavenny Road, which died after it had the bark stripped from it.



*Red Crab Apple, Whitebeam & Wild Cherry at the junction of Middle Way, South Way & North Way*

With the support of the County Council, we are in the process of applying for grants towards replacing the third Elm tree on St. Anne's Hill, Western Road, which has not recovered following treatment for Dutch Elm Disease. In the longer term we hope to restore the "avenue" of seven Elm trees along this path, as shown above right in this 1916 postcard, shared with us by Mick Symes of Lewes Past

A few years ago we were given ten Elm whips by Mary Parker, who had grown them from seed which she had collected from trees which had survived Dutch Elm Disease in Brighton, Falmer and Hove. These are doing well and have now grown to almost 150 cm high. We would be interested to hear from anyone who could give one, or more, of these young trees a home.



They are currently in eleven-inch pots, but are not yet large enough to plant out as street trees.

#### Eastgate flower bed

The Society has recently renewed its sponsorship of the Eastgate flower bed for a further 2 years from 2018 as it considers that this provides an effective means of advertising the Society.

#### Heritage Open Days 2017 : 7-10 September

New to this year's open buildings are Trinity House (Adams & Remers) – which contains the remains of a civil war armoury, Fitzroy House in the precinct, and Police Headquarters at Malling House. A guided walk featuring the Lewes 18<sup>th</sup> century clocks industry is also new. Popular venues such as the Freemasons' Hall, Lewes Prison and the Jireh chapel are again open. The leaflet for this free annual event, organised by the Society, has now been published and copies are available from the Tourist Information Centre, the Town Hall, and other venues around Lewes. To see what is available in this year's programme go on to either the Society's or the [heritageopendays.org.uk](http://heritageopendays.org.uk) web-sites, and they can provide you with information on the full offer, and how to sign up for those events which require advance booking: these tend to book up quickly. We hope you enjoy the weekend, and do let us know if you have ideas for new entries for future Heritage Open Days programmes

#### Peace garden (formerly known as the Magic Circle)

Following discussions with the Town Council it is intended that this Society project should be completed in time to commemorate 100 years since the Treaty of Versailles was signed after the First World War. At present informal consultations are taking place with the various authorities concerned with the site and an archaeological survey has been commissioned as a result of this. It is hoped that this will pave the way for a formal planning application to be made shortly. Full details of the project will be available at the meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>, when it is intended to launch a campaign to raise funds for the project to meet the difference between the cost and what the Town and District Councils and any grant making trusts are likely to contribute.

In the meantime the District Council, which owns the site, has cut back the bushes there at the request of the police in an effort to curb the anti-social behaviour that has been taking place.

#### **Friends of Lewes Competition, Summer 2017.**

Our competition for Summer 2017 is: "In how many different places can you find the name "Friends of Lewes" and/or our logo, (current or previous versions), around Lewes?" To enter, number and list all of the examples of our name or logo which you can find and send the list by post, hand delivery or e-mail to Friends of Lewes by the closing date of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

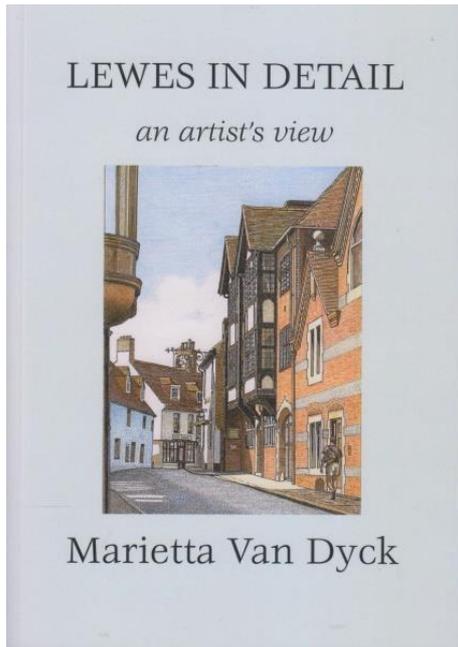
By e-mail: [enquiries@friends-of-lewes.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@friends-of-lewes.org.uk)  
by post, or hand delivery:

FOL Quiz 2017, Friends of Lewes,  
c/o Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, BN7 2QS  
Don't forget to include your contact details:  
name, address, telephone number and/or  
your e-mail address with your entry.

The prizes are: first prize of £40; second prize of £20; third prize of £10; possible bonus prize of £10 for an unusual example which the judges had not thought of!

New book – Lewes in detail

Marietta Van Dyck has recently produced a new book containing some of the detailed pen and ink drawings she has produced over the years for Lewes News.



Copies are available at a number of outlets in the town at £ 5 and will also be available at the meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> at a discounted rate.

**Dates for your diary.**

**Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> : Launch of Peace Garden Project.** There will be a display and presentation in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm, open to FoL members and the public. Please read the attached flier about this important event.

**Autumn & Winter talks:**

**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> :**

"The Ouse Catchment: Flooding, Nature and Management". A two-presenter talk: Peter King from the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust & a speaker from the Environment Agency. 7.45 in the Town Hall Lecture Room, as usual.

**Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> :**

An Evening with Jim Franks' Camera.



Marcus Taylor will bring us a selection of slides of Lewes, taken by Jim over the period 1969 – 1999 which have recently been given to the Society.

Given the level of interest in a similar evening a couple of years ago, this will be held in a larger venue - Southover Church - at 7.45pm.