

FREE TO
EXPLORE


heritage open days

Lewes Heritage Open Days



Please note that spaces are limited and booking may be required for some of the heritage sites taking part.

If you have a property of architectural/heritage interest in Lewes that you think others would be interested in seeing on this annual weekend, please let us know, and we'll try to include you in the 2012 programme; all properties registered in the scheme get free public liability insurance for the weekend. Email ann.spike@lewes.gov.uk

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Every year on four days in September, buildings of every age, style and function throw open their doors, ranging from castles to factories, town halls to tithe barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples. It is a once-a-year chance to discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities which bring to life local history and culture.

Free of charge and literally on people's doorstep, Heritage Open Days is an event for everyone, whatever their background, age and ability.

For a complete list of properties in the area open on Heritage Open Days please go to

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

The Friends of Lewes is a charity (reg. no. 258756) set up to promote and enhance the townscape of Lewes. For more details, and to become a member, see www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk, or telephone 01273 474521



8-11 September
2011

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So you can help others and have fun

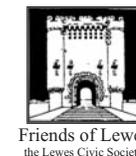
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1 Ashcombe Toll House (adjacent A27, by Kingston roundabout) is the survivor of a pair that marked the start of the Brighton turnpike. Built around 1820, it was used as a bakehouse and storage whilst its counterpart on the north side of the road had accommodation for the turnpike-keeper and his family. The road was de-turmpiked at the end of the 1870s.



Open Saturday and Sunday 10am–5pm.

14 The Priory of St Pancras was founded by William de Warenne (who built Lewes Castle) and his wife Gundrada at the end of the 11th century. It was the first and greatest of the Cluniac monasteries in England and was demolished in the Reformation.

Priory Park is open free of charge all year round. Guided tours and hands-on activities have been organised for Sunday 11 September between 1 and 5 pm to celebrate Heritage Open Days.



13 Gundrada Chapel (Southover Church, Southover High Street) is a Grade I listed building, with work from the 12th to the 21st century. This chapel was built in the late 1840s to house the rare tomb slab of Gundrada, the wife of William de Warenne and founder of Lewes Priory. Open Sunday 2–5pm.



12 The All Saints Centre (Friars Walk) is currently a community arts and youth centre. The former church will be open for you to look at more closely. Friday: The Oyster Project café with local live music. Saturday: The William Hill organ will be played by a range of local people. Sunday: A local archaeologist will also be conducting tours of the graveyard. Booking essential.

Open Friday to Sunday 10am–2pm.



11 Lewes Friends Meeting House (8–15 Friars Walk) The oldest part of the building dates back to 1784 and is a good example of a Quaker Meeting House from the period. There is a diagram showing when changes and additions were made to the building, and leaflets with a brief history will be available.

Open Saturday 10am–4pm.



2 County Hall (St Anne's Crescent) may not be a great building, but the specially designed wall sculptures are worth seeing. They are by William Mitchell, whose work can also be seen at Clifton and Liverpool Cathedrals – and the Egyptian staircase at Harrods! The bronze-coated fibreglass panels are typical of the 60s, when new civic buildings often incorporated innovative public art. Open access.



3 Bull House (92 High Street) Grade II* listed 15th century building now the headquarters of the Sussex Archaeological Society. From 1768–1774, it housed the revolutionary writer Tom Paine, the author of *The Rights of Man* and one of the intellectual inspirations behind the American revolution. Open Saturday, timed tours.



4 Westgate Chapel (92a High Street) was originally built as a town manor house in 1593 for Sir Henry Goring. By 1700 it had become a home for the first non-conformist congregations in Lewes and has played a major part in the town's history. Grade II listed building.

Open Saturday 10.30am–4.30pm. Guided tour at 12pm and 2pm.



5 St. Michael's Church (156–158 High Street) is distinguished by its 13th century round tower – one of only three in Sussex. Other parts date from the 14th, 18th and 19th centuries. Undergoing restoration work, the church will be opened specially for Heritage Open Days. Open Saturday and Sunday 10am–5pm. Short talks on Saturday at 11am on the building's history and 3pm on the stained glass. Sunday service 10.30–11.45am.



6 George Justice (12a Market Street) was originally part of a stable block, built in approximately 1796. During the 1830s the stable block was converted into two dwelling houses and offices. George Justice's workshop has been at the premises since 1919.

Open Friday to Sunday 9am–4pm.



7 Lewes House (32 High Street) is currently the HQ of Lewes District Council. This imposing property c1620 is located in the centre of the historic town of Lewes and was once the residence of Edward Perry Warren – an American art collector who commissioned Rodin to sculpt the finest example of 'The Kiss' which is now a national treasure and displayed in the Tate Modern Gallery in London. There will be guided tours of the house, stable block and beautiful walled garden (approx 1 hour) at 11am, 1pm and 3.30pm, bookable in advance.

Open Saturday 10.30am–4.30pm.



9 Lamb House (3 Chapel Hill). This is a unique opportunity to see the 18th century Chinese lacquer wall panels re-discovered in the late 1960s and restored to their former glory by English Heritage.

Open Sunday 10am–5pm.



8 The Malthouse (Daveys Lane) was formerly part of the 19th century maltings attached to the Southdown Brewery, at one time one of seven breweries within Lewes. Following demolition of much of the brewery site in 1969, the Malthouse found use as offices and light storage before being left semi-derelict after the floods of 2000. Acquired by Steamer Trading Cookshop along with the adjacent former brewery building, the Malthouse underwent extensive restoration and modernisation.

Open Saturday, escorted tours at 10am, 11am, 12pm and 2pm.



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