



# NEWSLETTER

**AUTUMN, 2018**

## South Downs Local Plan

The Inspector appointed to consider this draft plan has already started his hearings into it but consideration of the inclusion of the site at Old Malling Farm for housing will not take place until December. The Society has sought to speak at this part of the hearings to oppose inclusion of this site on the grounds that it is inconsistent with the landscape-led approach of the Plan. Not only is the site very conspicuous but development would also use up good quality agricultural land and spoil the tranquillity of the adjoining Malling Deanery Conservation Area. In addition the provisional plans envisage the entrance to the site being at its northern extremity which would increase pollution by lengthening any journey to and from the town.

## Lewes Neighbourhood Plan

Comments by the Examiner considering the Neighbourhood Plan are currently awaited. When they are available it will become clearer whether the Plan can proceed to a referendum with amendments or whether it needs more substantial re-working.

## North Street Quarter

It is understood that the pre-commencement planning conditions have almost been satisfied and once the remaining tenants on the site have moved demolition work can begin. Gosnell's new building on Malling Brooks (below) is now operational; although they are unable to completely relocate from Phoenix Place until a licensing issue is resolved.



Wenban-Smith also will have to move its store/warehouse, but it seems unlikely that it intends moving to Malling Brooks, as no other buildings are under construction there.

An exhibition was held recently mainly to obtain views from the public on the design for phases 2 and 3 which were only approved in outline by the National Park Authority's Planning Committee. It also stated that demolition and construction of phase 1 should start in the New Year.

### Springman House

The Society await seeing draft plans for the emergency services hub planned there. It is understood that the District Council, who own the land, intend to include a hotel in the development. The Society has expressed concern about the possible loss of the car parking spaces on this site.

### Former Julian Dawson/Gorringes Auction Rooms site in Garden Street

A meeting has taken place with the developer who, subject to obtaining planning permission, intends to remove the existing sheds and build semi-detached houses and flats on the site. Although the Society is not opposed to development of this site for housing, concern has been expressed that the proposals are particularly intensive.

### The Garden of Peace

The plum tree between the site and the car park has been felled and the ground will be levelled as that will make it easier to move forward with restoring the area to a Garden of Peace. Drawings of the proposed landscape work are in hand and the District Council, who own the site, has agreed to carry out the relevant work, albeit on the basis that the Society and Town Council will provide a substantial part of the cost involved. It is hoped that the work will have been completed in time for the town to mark the centenary of the Peace on the site in June next year.

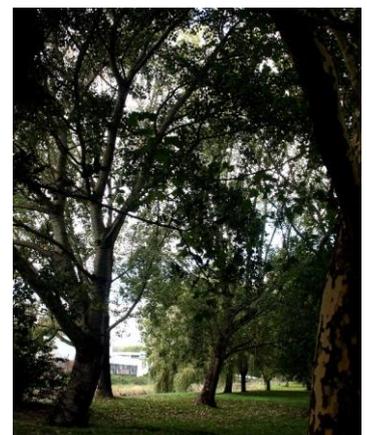
### Cockshut Road

When the Lewes Buildings Preservation Trust was wound up earlier this year they donated their residual money of over £ 1,000 to the Society. This money is being applied to the restoration of the collapsing flint wall at the entrance to Church End, Cockshut Road and in doing so the entrance to the small private car park at Church End is being slightly widened.

### Trees

The Trees Committee's planting schedule in November includes a Whitebeam, a Field Maple and a Ginkgo outside Mount Harry Stores and an extra Liquidambar in Houndean Rise. It is still exploring sites where it can safely plant lime trees near the Lewes town boundary: Lime trees have been chosen because there is some evidence that they were used as boundary trees in the past. Over the winter a fourth Elm tree will be added to the row of three already replaced on St. Anne's Hill. This will be funded by the Society through our grant funding and donations from the public, for which we are very grateful.

Anecdotes and information about trees in Lewes were shared by David Saunders, who completed a survey of significant trees for the Society which is available on the website: <https://friends-of-lewes.org.uk/natural-environment/lewes-urban-arboretum/> This survey was also referred to by Carolyn Trant and Lewes Printmakers to choose trees to stimulate the wood and lino cuts in their new book "Sylva". The survey was exhibited at the Linklater Pavilion in October when David Saunders discussed Lewes trees and plans for their future conservation, with reference to John Evelyn, 17<sup>th</sup> Century diarist, radical arboriculturist and former resident of Southover Grange.



Walking through the Pells

Keep up to date with our planting by visiting this page [www.facebook.com/LewesUrbanArboretum](https://www.facebook.com/LewesUrbanArboretum)

Several members of the Trees Committee contributed to a pilot of the "Tingle's Way" walk through Lewes, from the Railway Land Nature Reserve to Landport Bottom.

### Design seminar

Those involved professionally with planning applications in Lewes were invited to a seminar in October to learn more about the National Park Authority's approach to design issues. Their Design Officer, Mark Waller-Gutierrez explained the background of a landscape led approach to considering planning applications and that he would be drafting a Special Planning Document on design for approval by the Authority's Planning Committee.



Lindsay Frost, who was the Director of Planning for Lewes District Council until he retired almost 5 years ago, chaired the seminar and during the course of the event participants had the opportunity of considering in small groups the design aspects of two planning applications outside Lewes that had already been determined by the National Park Authority. The seminar was welcomed by those attending as an opportunity to learn more about the National Park Authority's policy towards design issues as well as to meet and network with others involved in the planning process.

### Heritage Open Days

The Society organised another very successful four days in September, offering a total of twenty open building and walks. Those requiring pre-booking were quickly filled, with many people choosing to use the FoL website to access information about the weekend. Over 3000 visits were again logged, and the sunny weather ensured that not only Lewesians, but many visitors to the town either saw the posters, or picked up a leaflet, and set out to explore the offer: some buildings recorded over 400 visitors. The Society's thanks go not only to our sponsors, but to the many volunteers who either open up their buildings or provide stewarding. The 2019 Heritage Open Days dates will be announced in the next newsletter, although a theme has provisionally been identified as the building materials of Lewes, including flint and mathematical tiles. If you have suggestions as to buildings that could be included in this theme, or would like to help with organising the event, then please contact our year-round email address - [leweshod@gmail.com](mailto:leweshod@gmail.com)

## Marketing the Society

In light of a declining membership efforts are being made to recruit new members some of whom it is hoped will be willing to undertake tasks for the Society. To facilitate this, a special event is being held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 5 December from 7pm to promote the work of the Society and hopefully persuade those attending to join as members. If you can bring along a prospective new member you are welcome to attend but please advise Marcus Taylor of your intention to do so beforehand.

## Vacancy

Despite an appeal in the last newsletter for a voluntary book-keeper, or indeed someone who could undertake the full Treasurer's job, no offers have come forward. Please therefore consider carefully whether you could recommend anyone who could undertake either of these positions and contact the chairman, Robert Cheesman at [robertcheesman@btinternet.com](mailto:robertcheesman@btinternet.com) with their details.

## Dates for your diary

January 17, 2019 TALK: "Lewes - looking back and looking forward" – Norman Baker

February 13 Eco-themed evening, with presentations on the Society's work with: Litter-Free Lewes, The i-trees survey for the Urban Arboretum Project and plans for Tingles Way – a proposed Lewes eco-walk.

Also:

Lewes History Group dates:

Monday 12 November	Michael Parrish, Andrew Buxton & John Kay	Lewes Business Stories
Monday 10 December	AGM	plus talk by Diana Wilkins on womens' vote

## Faces of the Great War: Lewes exhibition – 5 to 17 November, Mon – Sat 9am to 5pm

Dr Graham Mayhew will be putting on an exhibition in Lewes Town Hall, Baxter Corridor, from 5th – 17th November featuring 114 photographs and short biographies of Lewes individuals who died as a result of their service in the Great War.

It is a result of four years of research by Cllr Mayhew for Lewes Town Council on the county town's casualties of the First World War, and is being staged to mark the Armistice on 11 November 1918, which marked the end of the fighting on the Western Front.

Graham is also giving a talk in the Town Hall's Council Chamber on Monday 12th at 2.30 pm, repeated at 7.30 pm, based on letters sent home by Lewes men and women from the Front.