

LEWES u3a SPRING SEASONAL SOCIAL TALK

'GIDEON MANTELL'S TIME IN LEWES AND SOME OF HIS IMPORTANT FINDS'.

Many people know about Gideon Mantell and his fossil finds which eventually resulted in him identifying and publicising the existence of *Iguanodon*, one of the first dinosaurs to be named and described. People, however, often know less about his many antiquarian and natural history interests. Debby Matthews will highlight these in her talk, with an emphasis on what he found in and around Lewes.

Interest in Mantell

Debby's interest in Mantell arose from finding out that he had been born in her house on Station Street in 1790. She studied history at Sussex University in the School of Cultural and Community Studies and has always had a keen interest in anything historic so this was a happy opportunity to drop into her lap.



Lewes Priory by Gideon Mantell

Lewes History Group

She is currently working on a history of Station Street with support from the Lewes History Group, book due out soon. Before retiring in 2024, Debby had worked at the Lewes Tourist Information Centre for nine years.

France

Debby is a member of u3a and part of one of the French groups which helps her keep her French language going, now there aren't the same opportunities to speak to the many French tourists who used to visit the TIC before COVID. She had worked as an au pair in Paris in the 1970s and likes to visit France whenever possible.

**HEAR DEBBY'S TALK AT THE LEWES U3A SPRING SEASONAL SOCIAL, FRIDAY, 11TH APRIL AT ST JOHN'S
SUB CASTRO, ABINGER PLACE. DOORS OPEN 2.30PM. FREE ENTRY, REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.**

GLOBETROTTERS



Group Leader Margaret Sweatman expands:

'We provide 5 illustrated travel presentations in the summer on Fridays from 10–12 am at the Lecture Room in Lewes Town Hall. ***Log in to Lewesu3a.uk to join the group.***

Here's our programme:

25th April

"Budapest to Bucharest along the Danube" by Terry & Martyn Wallwork and "Exploring some Hebridean Islands," by Roger & Hilary Smith.

9th May

"Paraguay," by Nancy Wigington.

6th June

"Off the tourist trail in India including a safari and tribal festival" by Margaret Sweatman & Sue Clyde.

20th June

"Ukraine and their Orange Revolution – their culture early in the 21st century," by Sonya Baksi.

4th July

"Planet Japan," by Vivien Yule and "The u3a holiday to Birmingham and the West Midlands in June 2024," by Molly Tideman.

Be an armchair traveller and explore the world with us!

u3a GUIDED WALKS, SPRING 2025 PROGRAMME



Lewes Guided Walks are offering a series of Walks this Spring 2025.

To participate you must email the appropriate guide, either Mary Burke burke.mf@gmail.com or Kim Bishop kimbis@btopenworld.com

There is a limit of 12 people per walk – on a first come first served basis. The walks are free, but you must be a member of the Lewes u3a. Walks last about 90mins. We will confirm with you by email.

All walks start at 10am (No dogs).

27th March

Lewes Twittens—Mary Burke
Meet outside Fitzroy House.

3rd April

School Hill—Kim Bishop
Meet outside Crown Courts.

10th April

A Southover Stroll—
Kim Bishop
Meet outside Anne of Cleves Museum.



17th April

Tom Paine in Lewes—Mary Burke
Meet at entrance to The White Hart.

24th April

A walk round Cliffe—Mary Burke
Meet on Cliffe Bridge.

1st May

Mrs Dudeney—Kim Bishop
Meet at Castle Gateway.

SOUTH EAST U3A FORUM SUMMER SCHOOL

Residential or non-residential

Monday 1st September—Thursday 4th September 2025

At University of Chichester

<https://southeastu3aforum.u3asite.uk/2025-2/>

This is an annual residential school run by the South East u3a Forum, *not* Lewes u3a or u3a organisation.

A date for your diary:

Thursday 10th April –

Bookings will go 'live' by midday.

COURSES ON OFFER FOR 2025:

AI – *Artificial Intelligence*

History – *Roman*

Italian – *Intermediates*

Latin – *Roman Britain & Beyond*

Mah Jong – *Intermediates*

Mathematics – People & Paradoxes

Memory, Perception & Thinking – *how it normally works well, but can go wrong*

'Operatunity' – Opera Appreciation

Patchwork – *Beginners*

Philosophy – *Introduction*

Poetry – *Australian poets*

Walking – *A Coastal Delight*

Yoga – *Mat, Standing & Seated*

Enquiries – General Summer School – Martin Livesey –

sesummerschool@gmail.com

Bookings Summer School – Kevin Stock – sebooksummerschool@gmail.com

Please use email in the first instance, but if you **do not** have email, please contact the Forum on –

Phone: 07749 233766



Listings

'The new groups listings has now gone 'live' and been sent digitally to all members registered.

Thank you to all the group leaders who sent in their updates promptly and checked their room bookings and entries! Hopefully the information contained is correct – it can only ever be as accurate as that which is supplied.....'

Eleanor Austin, Listings Editor

As the spring turns into Summer....

AN OUTDOOR GROUP

If sitting in a Lecture Room is not your thing, then you may like to look at **Planthunters**.

This small, friendly group meets monthly and investigates the wild flowers in different parts of Lewes. It's very much about collaborative learning.

Discuss our observations

'We share our findings, record them, and discuss our observations over a cup of tea. In late autumn, when the wild flowers have gone, we revisit our records, maybe do in-depth research about a particular plant family, hear a talk from an expert, and share our resources of reference books' explains one member.

Infectious

'It's all very gentle, easy-paced and supportive. Having said that, the collective enthusiasm about our finds is infectious and makes the sessions very enjoyable'.

If you would like to join in, or can volunteer some occasional expertise, contact Group Leader Susanna Longley through the Group pages on the Lewes u3a website.



WE NEED MORE GROUPS



With many groups now full, even if they have a waiting list, the

number of actual groups open and accessible to all members is less than those shown on the Group pages.

Start another one!

For this reason, if you have an idea, but see there is already a group doing the same thing which is full or for some reason does not suit you, then why not start another one? We already have several groups with the same or overlapping subject matters, (Bridge and French are just two examples) and there is always room for more.

Outside groups for the summer

Although all types of groups are welcome, we are particularly keen to attract practical, outside groups—even if only for the summer months—such as gardening, photography, walking, or a sport.

Email

groupscoordinator@lewesu3a.uk with your idea to start the process.



Comments, enquiries or suggestions? Email Bulletin@lewesu3a.uk