

# Newsletter

July 2010



**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

## Introducing the Mayor...



*Portrait courtesy of Edward Reeves Photography, Lewes*

**At the Council's annual ceremony of Mayor-making** on 13<sup>th</sup> May, Cllr Dr Micheal Turner was elected to serve for the 2010/11 municipal year; taking over from Amanda Dean. Whilst Mike was keen to point-out right from the start that he would most definitely NOT be jumping out of any aeroplanes (however good the charitable cause!), and nor would he attempt any river crossings using only Scout-constructed rope-bridges, this is what he had to say about himself.....

*Cllr Dr. MICHEAL ANTHONY TURNER RBTC Dip., B.ED Hons, M.A., D. Phil*

I was born in Crowborough in 1941 and lived in Sussex for my first 18 years. I represented Sussex Youth in Athletics and Sussex Scouts at the 1957 World Jamboree. My father ran a building and plastering business and my five brothers all followed him into various aspects of the building trade. I trained as an Actor and Drama Teacher at Rose Bruford College (alongside Tom Baker, Laurie Taylor and Nerys Hughes). My working life was in Education and I taught in primary and secondary

schools in Kent for 13 years before becoming a lecturer in English and Drama at Brentwood College of Education (later to become Anglia Ruskin University). There I taught teachers, supervised research, made training videos with the BBC and OU and followed my own research and publication programme. In my spare time I founded a staff & student dramatic society and directed 40 plays; including some I had written. I concluded my career in 1996 as a Principal Lecturer in charge of School-based Teacher Training. During my 22 years in Brentwood I founded the Warley Ramblers walking group and led the team who raised funds for building Brentwood Theatre – of which I was Chair of the Trustees for 10 years. I was voted Citizen of the Year for my efforts. I still have a strong connection to Brentwood through my partnership in Warley Vineyard. Since coming to Lewes I have worked at Lewes Theatre and directed 10 plays there, acted in 3 and worked backstage on set construction on about 60 productions. I am at present Newsletter Editor. I have also written 4 plays – 3 of which have been performed in Lewes. I have been a Councillor for 3 years and active in the community since I came to live here in 1995. My earliest involvement was working for the Rodin project and next was working as a governor for Pells School (10 years as Chairman). Town twinning has been one of my interests for many years. Since living here I have been on the committee of Lewes Twinning Association and involved in organising exchanges with Blois and Waldshut-Tiengen. We have had art exhibitions (I remember especially John Ham's steel sculpture *The Kiss* at the Mairie de Blois), and concerts like the Big Blow, when Ringmer School Band joined with Waldshut's Stadtmusik and LGB Brass). We have reunions, joint meetings and exchanges. Organisations involved include Lewes Rugby Club, Lewes Tennis Club, Lewes Badminton Club and the Parish of St Pancras. Recent years have seen work experience students "exchanged" between Blois and Lewes. Blois College of Catering & Hotel Management is seeking a closer relationship with Lewes & Eastbourne branches of Sussex Downs College.



## An organ in search of an organist...

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*...the organ needs regular use to ensure its "health".*

*...telephone 01273 486391 to book a practice session - free of charge, as you would be helping to preserve this fantastic instrument*

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**Hidden behind the curtains** on stage at the All Saints Centre rests a treasured musical instrument – an 1885 William Hill Organ.

Venue Manager Lesley Thurston-Brown is appealing for anyone who would be interested in practice sessions on the organ to contact her, as it needs to be played to keep it “healthy”.

The organ was commissioned from William Hill & Son of London for £400 and erected in the chancel of the All Saints Church in 1885. Its maker is regarded as one of the most significant organ builders of his generation.

Skip ahead nearly 100 years and the former church became a community arts and youth centre. Internal structural changes necessitated the removal of the organ from its location. According to expert Michael Gamble, who has helped in looking after the organ for the last 30 years, the choices were stark – see the organ demolished or find £22,000 to carry out the work to move it. But there was a third choice - a small but dedicated Organ Committee was formed to carry out the monumental task of dismantling the organ from the chancel and reinstalling it in its present location above the stage in the Main Hall. They secured a grant of £5,000 from the Carnegie Trust and set to work under the guidance of organ builder Patrick Christian.

Since then the instrument has featured periodically in recitals and concerts. All Saints in 2010 is bustling with a range of activities: weekly music, theatre, circus skills & fitness classes, theatre rehearsals and performances, live music events and films. But the organ still needs regular use to ensure its health. Please ring Lesley or Assistant Manager Iana Jacobson on 01273 486 391 for more details if you'd like to play this magnificent instrument – free of charge, because you would be helping us to keep it working.

**Coming soon...** The All Saints Centre will be open on Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup> for national Heritage Open Day – with guided tours of the graveyard by local archaeologist Sue Crooks. Sign up for our monthly “What’s On?” listing by emailing [asc.lewes@btconnect.com](mailto:asc.lewes@btconnect.com) for further details!



*No...Mayor Mike Turner is not trying to finish the job that Henry VIII's demolition engineer started! Work began on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010 to strengthen the remains of the ancient Priory of St Pancras and make them safe for public access. Work will take about six months.*

## Lewes Priory works begin

The long-awaited work to re-open the 11<sup>th</sup> Century ruins of Lewes Priory has begun.

When completed, the remains of the buildings will no longer be locked-away behind safety fencing, and there will be pathways, seats, and interpretation boards explaining the rich history of the Priory of St Pancras and its part in Lewes life over the centuries. This will all be supported by a carefully-planned education programme for schools and others, and allow access for everyone.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has granted £600,000 towards the project, which will cost over £809,000 in total.

Contractors Kier Southern took control of the site on 7<sup>th</sup> June, and will be responsible for it until the completion of the works, which should take around 24 weeks.

Unfortunately, the public will not be able to enter the site during most of this time, although there will be short periods at certain stages of the work when it may be temporarily re-opened.

For more information, contact Nick Cragg of Cragg Management Services (tel 01444 880344).

## BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR GARDEN

**Cllr David Gray passes-on some tips he has learned in 30 years as a gardening professional**

Insects have been around for some 300 million years. We have been here about 2 million years. It is time we knew how to live with them and not against them.

When the diversity of insects increases so will birds, bats, frogs, lizards, etc. The more diverse all the organisms become the less likely that any one will be a particular nuisance and the more likely some others will find ways to control them.

Unmown grass makes a perfect habitat for invertebrates – The larvae of the stag beetle (a globally threatened species) will be happy

hanging out in last years log pile. When it comes to habitats, untidy is the spice of life.

Forget the garden rule book and don't clear away all the debris. And don't dead-head everything in winter. If you clear away all the debris so that 'bad things' won't have a place to hide or over winter then, neither do the 'good things'.

Plant a wide selection of different shapes, sizes and colours to make your garden irresistible to wildlife. Look for plants that flower, fruit or provide seed early and later in the season and particularly through the winter. Avoid convoluted forms and over-hybridized plants with double flowers, as the nectar may be inaccessible to insects. Some cultivars are so inbred as to be sterile.

The effect of putting in water is practically instant; you can sit back and watch the wildlife come in without lifting a finger. Whatever the size, even a very small pond in a tiny garden will make a difference (tubs, ½ barrels, etc.)

If you want maximum biodiversity don't put in fish as they will eat everything else.

Even a birdbath will make a difference.

A compost heap (Or a bin or food digester - more info: telephone 484999) is an all-win proposition. Composting kitchen and garden waste helps the planet, spares the landfill and is of huge benefit to garden soil.

Observe and learn - walk around a garden centre or nursery once a week, or so, during the entire growing cycle. See what is blooming and what is attracting insects. Those are the plants you want in your garden.

The more you learn the more you will enjoy the rich and amazing variety of life both big and small and play your part to ensure that we don't lose it.



## Increasing Biodiversity

Things you can do in your garden

- Abandon all herbicides and insecticides
- Respect insects
- Be untidy



- Grow native plants



- Grow lots of different plants
- Grow all year round plants

- Put in a pond

- Make a compost heap

- Join a local wildlife / conservation group

- Observe and learn



**Some diary dates...****July**

- ✧ Tuesdays 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Market
- ✧ Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee 7pm
- ✧ Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> National Blood Transfusion Service\*
- ✧ Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Town Council (Bridge ward) by-election
- ✧ Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Council meeting 7:30pm

**August**

- ✧ Tuesdays 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Market
- ✧ Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Book Fair, 10am-4pm Corn Exchange
- ✧ Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Planning Committee 7pm
- ✧ Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Western Front Association lecture 7pm
- ✧ Friday 20<sup>th</sup> National Blood Transfusion Service\*

\* regular Donor sessions are held in the Assembly Room, Fisher Street, from 12 noon until 9pm. Please contact us for more dates.

**All Saints Centre**

Too many events to list here!

For “What’s On?” at the All Saints Centre, please see our regular publication (also on our website), or contact us for details.

You can have our regular “What’s On?” newsletters e-mailed direct to your inbox, simply register at

[asc.lewes@btconnect.com](mailto:asc.lewes@btconnect.com)

or telephone **01273 486391**

**How to contact us** You are welcome to contact your local Councillors, but initial enquiries or suggestions should usually be directed to staff at the Town Hall, who will be pleased to help.

**Lewes Town Council**

Town Hall  
High Street  
LEWES  
East Sussex  
BN7 2QS



Phone: 01273 471469 Fax: 01273 480919

E-mail: [info@lewes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@lewes-tc.gov.uk)

website: [www.lewes-tc.gov.uk](http://www.lewes-tc.gov.uk)

**office hours:**

Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm

Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

**GENERAL ENQUIRIES**

Ms Faye WILLIS Reception (am)

Mrs Julie DEAN Reception (pm)

Chris KEMP Town Ranger

e-mail [info@lewes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@lewes-tc.gov.uk)

**TOWN HALL bookings & enquiries**

Lee SYMONS Town Hall Manager

Mick LARKIN Town Hall Keeper

e-mail [townhall@lewes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@lewes-tc.gov.uk)

**MAYOR'S OFFICE & Civic events etc.**

Mrs Fiona GARTH Civic Officer & Ass't Town Clerk

e-mail [mayors.sec@lewes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mayors.sec@lewes-tc.gov.uk)

**FINANCE enquiries**

Ms Viv McLACHLAN Finance & Administration Officer

e-mail [finance.admin@lewes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:finance.admin@lewes-tc.gov.uk)

**ADMINISTRATION & Allotments enquiries**

Ms Emma MARTIN Administration Officer

e-mail [customer.services@lewes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@lewes-tc.gov.uk)

**ALL SAINTS CENTRE bookings & enquiries**

Mrs Lesley THURSTON-BROWN Centre Manager

Ms Iana JACOBSON Assistant Manager

e-mail [asc.lewes@btconnect.com](mailto:asc.lewes@btconnect.com) direct tel 01273 486391

**TOWN CLERK**

Steve BRIGDEN

e-mail [townclerk@lewes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@lewes-tc.gov.uk)

**Town Councillors** (*Political affiliation/ electoral Ward*)  
in alphabetical order

**Cllr Adam BARKER** (*Lib Dem/ Priory*)

14 Mount Harry Road BN7 1NY

**Cllr Carol BOROWSKI** (*Lib Dem/ Priory*)

9 Eastport Lane BN7 1TL

**Cllr Michael CHARTIER** (*Lib Dem/ Castle*)

78 Prince Edwards Road BN7 1BH

**Cllr Jim DALY** (*Lib Dem/ Bridge*)

31 Lancaster Street BN7 2PX

**Cllr Amanda DEAN** (*Lib Dem/ Priory*)

89 DeMontfort Road BN7 1ST

**Cllr Jonathan FREEMAN** (*Lib Dem/ Priory*)

47 Southover High Street BN7 1HX

**Cllr David GRAY** (*Lib Dem/ Castle*)

5 Newton Road BN7 2SH

**Cllr Leung Fuk LI** (*Lib Dem/ Bridge*)

7 Fisher Street BN7 2DG

**Cllr Nicola McGILLIGAN** (*Green/ Castle*)

1 Castle Banks BN7 1UZ

**Cllr Merlin MILNER** (*Lib Dem/ Bridge*)

8 South Street BN7 2BP

**Cllr Roger MURRAY** (*Green/ Castle*)

16 Clare Road BN7 1PN

**Cllr Susan MURRAY** (*Green/ Castle*)

16 Clare Road BN7 1PN

**Cllr Ruth O'KEEFFE** (*Independent/ Priory*)

28 Mountfield Road BN7 2UR

**Cllr Barbara RIDDIHOUGH** (*LibDem/ Bridge*)

5 White Way Cottages, White Way Lane,

Northeast BN7 3EX

**Cllr Jim SINCLAIR** (*Lib Dem/ Bridge*)

7 South Place Flats, St John Street BN7 2QF

**Cllr Mike TURNER** (*Lib Dem/ Castle*)

The Old Bakery, Talbot Terrace BN7 2DS

**Cllr Jeremy WAINWRIGHT** (*Lib Dem/ Priory*)

1 Milldown, Kingston Road BN7 3NB

*At time of publication of this newsletter one seat (in Bridge ward) was vacant pending a by-election.*