

# Our Great Medieval Monastery **LEWES PRIORY**

Looking back 900 years - new insights

---

Lewes Priory Trust's season of 16 short talks  
in four evening symposia **Online on Zoom**  
Free of charge - All welcome

All at 7.30pm - 9pm approx, including question time

---



**Symposium 1** Tuesday 4th May  
WHAT DID THE CLUNIACS EVER DO FOR US?

**Symposium 2** Friday 7th May  
THE DESTRUCTION AND REDISCOVERY OF THE  
PRIORY

**Symposium 3** Tuesday 11th May  
CARING FOR A HERITAGE SITE INTO THE FUTURE

**Symposium 4** Friday 14th May  
WHAT THE LATEST RESEARCH IS TELLING US

**Rounded off on Saturday 15th May with**  
A GUIDED TOUR OF THE PRIORY REMAINS



## PROGRAMME

---

### **Symposium 1** Tuesday 4th May, 7.30pm **WHAT DID THE CLUNIACS EVER DO FOR US?**

**Sy Morse-Brown**, Chairman of Lewes Priory Trust  
A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE TRUST'S ORIGIN AND ORGANISATION.

**Sy Morse-Brown**  
THE PRIORY – A SUMMARY  
The magnificence that was; what remains; what it might be in the future.

**Dr Graham Mayhew FRHistS**, Retired lecturer and author of *The Monks of Saint Pancras* (2014)  
THE PRIORY OF SAINT PANCRAS AND CLUNIAN MONASTICISM IN ENGLAND – THE  
PATHWAY TO HEAVEN.  
Lewes Priory made a major mark on England, especially in Yorkshire and Norfolk, and on its  
doorstep in Sussex. Just what was so special about Cluniac monasticism?

**Tony Freeman**, Lewes Priory Trustee  
LEWES PRIORY'S INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION  
Cluny was a great monastic network across Western Europe, in existence for 150 years before  
it reached Britain. A renowned focus of spirituality, the Cluniac order attracted the greatest  
scholars and administrators and put Lewes firmly on the European map.

Questions and discussion

---

### **Symposium 2** Friday 7th May, 7.30pm **THE DESTRUCTION AND REDISCOVERY OF THE PRIORY**

**Chris McGovern**, Educational Contrarian  
GIOVANNI PORTINARI: THOMAS CROMWELL'S ENGINEER WHO BLEW UP THE PRIORY  
The monasterial Guido Fawkes - what he did to Lewes Priory, and who he was.

**Chris Grove**, Lewes Priory Trustee  
THE INVASION OF THE RAILWAY AND REDISCOVERY OF THE PRIORY  
The construction of the railway in 1844-6, and how the excavations at the  
end of the nineteenth century have left what we see today.

**Arthur Franklin**, Lewes Priory Trustee and member of the Research Group  
THE PRIORY ALL AROUND US  
Plundered and recycled since 1537, the remains of the Priory can be discovered in and  
around the town of Lewes.

**Marcus Taylor**, Custodian of the Gundrada Chapel  
WILLIAM AND GUNDRADA DE WARENNE  
A partnership of power and piety that produced Lewes Priory.

Questions and discussion

---

---

**Symposium 3** Tuesday 11th May, 7.30pm  
**CARING FOR A HERITAGE SITE INTO THE FUTURE**

**Steve Brigden**, Town Clerk

LOOKING AFTER A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT IN A PUBLIC PARK

Lewes Town Council – the latest of the many dynasties of Priory owners and benefactors – provides core funding and support for maintenance of the Priory remains and park.

**Richard Andrews**, Architect to the Trust

THE PRIORY REMAINS – WHAT SHOULD WE BE TRYING TO PRESERVE?

Care of the Priory started under Walter Godfrey in 1949 and was continued by his son Emil Godfrey who involved Richard in 1975. He has remained in post ever since.

**David Smith**, The Flintman Company

A FLINT KNAPPER'S VIEW OF THE PRIORY

An insight into building and conservation of stone, flint and chalk.

**Sy Morse-Brown**, Chairman

THE PRIORY EARNING ITS KEEP

The Trust's community engagement and education programmes

Questions and discussion

---

**Symposium 4** Friday 14th May, 7.30pm  
**WHAT THE LATEST RESEARCH IS TELLING US**

**Paul R. Benjamin**, University Professor and Lewes Priory Trustee

THE LAVATORIUM COMPLEX AND ITS UNIQUE MEDIEVAL TUNNEL

Photographs, 3D laser images and computer reconstructions demonstrate how the water supply to the lavatorium cistern and basin and its tunnel drainage system were organized in the 12th/13th century for the monks of St Pancras to take part in a religious ceremony before meals – the washing of hands and faces.

**Tom Sholl**, Retired family dentist and active historian

MEET A MONK

How recognisable facial features, in effigy, are created.

**Arthur Franklin**, Lewes Priory Trustee and member of the Research Group

WHAT ST JOHN HOPE DID NOT TELL US ABOUT THE INFIRMARY

Despite the extensive 1901-2 excavations by St John Hope there is still much more to discover. Proposals for a programme of new investigations have received a positive response from Historic England.

**Colin Brent**, Member of the Priory Research Group

THE FATE OF THE FIRST CHURCH: INFIRMARY CHAPEL, OR THOMAS BECKET'S CHAPEL?

A re-statement of the evidence of 1375 for a Lady Chapel in the Great Church and for a Chapel of Saint Thomas Becket in its precinct – the latter perhaps in the still intact first monastic church.

Concluding questions and discussion

---

---

Saturday 15th May, 2.30pm,  
Gathering at Mountfield Road car park

## **A guided tour of the Priory remains**

**A fitting end to the series of symposia:**

Guided tours led by Tony Freeman and Arthur Franklin.

Booking opens from Monday 8th March by email to: [enquiries@lewespriory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lewespriory.org.uk)  
NOT via Zoom. £5 cash donation requested at assembly point.

---

### **BOOKING FOR THE ZOOM SYMPOSIA**

We hope you will put 7.30pm on 4th, 7th, 11th and 14th May in your diary now.

You will be able to register for any or all of the four Zoom Symposia.  
There is no charge.

If you receive this programme by email, you will receive another email in April, inviting you to register via Zoom. If you have not received this programme via email and are interested in registering for the Symposia, please send your email address to: [enquiries@lewespriory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lewespriory.org.uk)

---

Programme subject to change  
Lewes Priory Trust, December 2020

