

HISTORY

Bring the Priory to life with audio

A new audio drama bringing the sounds and activities of Lewes Priory to life will be unveiled by the Lewes Priory Trust this week.

The drama gives an insight into the work of servants and has been voiced by local actors Jonathan Cullen, Owen Aaronovitch and Liz Pickard.

It can be accessed through QR codes on the interpretation panels on the site and via the Lewes Priory Trust.

Sy Morse Brown, Chairman of Lewes Priory Trust, expressed his delight at the project. He said: "The Cluniac monks were at the heart of the Priory but it is important to be aware of all the other people involved in the running of this vast institution. Our drama gives them a voice.

"You can listen to the com-



Lewes Priory reconstruction

plete version or follow a simple trail which will take you to areas of the site where the action would have taken place.

"Very little remains above ground of these workshops but we have a good idea where they would have been. The drama will transport you into the hustle and bustle of days gone by and also gives a glimpse of what happened after the Priory was demolished.

"We are grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding this production."

Nowadays, the ruins of Lewes Priory in Priory Park are a place of quiet contemplation punctuated by the sounds of children, families and dogs enjoying this beautiful space. However, before 1538 (when the Priory was destroyed on the orders of Henry VIII) the air would have resounded with the noise of all the activities that sustained the life of the monastery. Although the monks spent much of their days in silence, there were many servants at the Priory carving the stones for the buildings, brewing ale for the monks and milling the grains for the monks' daily bread.

For further information see www.lewespriory.org.uk. Illustration by Andy Gammon.