

Local studies at Lewes Library



Local studies at Lewes Library

The mezzanine at Lewes Library houses a large collection of books and pamphlets, mainly about East Sussex but with some information about West Sussex. There is also information about researching local and family history.

The topics covered in some detail include bonfire, Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury, George Baxter and Baxter prints, Thomas Paine, Daisy Ashford.

The reference collection holds maps, press cuttings and other materials relating to Lewes and the surrounding parishes. These include:

- Barcombe
- Chailey
- Ditchling
- East Chiltington
- Firle
- Glynde and Beddingham
- Hamsey
- Iford
- Kingston
- Laughton
- Newick
- Plumpton
- Ringmer
- Rodmell
- St Anne Without
- St John Without
- Southease
- Streat

- Westmeston
- Wivelsfield

You can use the [E-library](#) to find out which books are available on local and family history at Lewes library, and our periodicals list to see full details of what newspapers and magazines we can offer you. A brief list of the main newspapers and magazines at Lewes library is given below.

If you are doing lengthy research or just have a general interest in the county's past - contact us. Library staff are happy to help you.

Lewes Library
Styles Field
Friars Walk
Lewes BN7 2LZ
Phone: 0345 60 80 196
Email: library.lewes@eastsussex.gov.uk
Fax: 01273 477881

You can email our Enquiry Team at library.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk to ask for information on any of the following:

- finding out about the history of the place, or house where you live
- researching your family history
- writing a thesis or essay on any aspect of the history of the area
- doing a school project on a local theme

Newspapers

Lewes Library has a range of local newspapers you can use to find out about local history.

- Sussex County Herald (Lewes edition) 1920, 1922-1938
- Sussex Express (Lewes edition) 1920-1944, 1946-
- Sussex Weekly Advertiser 1749-1786, 1791-1826, 1833-1844, 1847-1887, 1890-1893, 1895-1897 (some years incomplete)
- Uckfield Weekly August 1903-December 1909
- Crowborough Weekly 1910, 1912

The library tries to keep a complete set of newspapers. However, some copies may be missing.

Some of the newspapers are available in print and some on microfilm.

It is not usually possible to make photocopies from bound volumes of newspapers. Copies can be made from microfilms. There is a small charge for printing.

General periodicals

Lewes Library has a range of general magazines and other periodicals on local and family history in East Sussex. These include:

- Sussex Archaeological Collections 1848-
- Sussex County Magazine 1926-1956
- Sussex Family Historian 1973-
- Sussex Genealogist and Local Historian 1979-1986
- Sussex History 1976-1991
- Sussex Industrial History 1970-

- Sussex Life 1965-
- Sussex Notes and Queries 1926-1971
- Sussex Past and Present 1970-
- Sussex Record Society

See our [Periodicals list](#) for a full list of what is available at Lewes Library.

Current periodicals

Lewes Library currently receives a range of magazines and periodicals on the history of Lewes and the surrounding area. Other topics covered are local and family history.

The periodicals at Lewes Library include:

- Fireworks
- Genealogists' Magazine
- Lewes Archaeological Group Newsletter
- Lewes News
- Local Historian
- New Baxter Society Journal
- Ringmer History Newsletter
- Southern History
- Sussex Post
- Journal of Radical History and Bulletin of the Thomas Paine Society
- Virginia Woolf Bulletin
- Wealden Iron
- West Sussex History

See our [Periodicals list](#) for a full list of what is available at Lewes Library.

Directories and electoral registers

Lewes Library has a range of directories and electoral registers which you can use to find out about local and family history.

There are restrictions on the availability of recent electoral registers. Earlier editions are available for reference. The information at Lewes Library includes:

Lewes directories

- Holman's Lewes Directory 1883
- Pike's Lewes, Seaford and Newhaven Blue Book
 - various years 1906-1938/40
 - from 1920/21 includes Glynde, Hamsey, Offham and Ringmer
 - from 1931/32 includes Iford, Kingston, Piddington and Rodmell
 - from 1934/36 includes Firle and Southease
 - from 1938/40 includes Alciston, Alfriston, Berwick, Falmer, Selhurst and Stanmer
- Lewes, Seaford, Newhaven and District Directory 1951/2
- Kelly's Directory of Lewes 1957, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1968-1974

Sussex Directories (mostly microfiche)

- Various years 1823/4-1938

- Clarke's Mid-Sussex Directory (microfiche) various years 1883-1967 originally covered Haywards Heath, Cuckfield, Lindfield, Burgess Hill, Hurstpierpoint and Hassocks by 1901 also covered Ardingly, Balcombe, Bolney, Burgess Hill, Cuckfield, Ditchling, Handcross, Hassocks, Haywards Heath, Horsted Keynes, Hurstpierpoint, Lindfield, Staplefield, Wivelsfield
- Eastbourne Directories (microfiche) 1877 - 1898
- Hastings and St Leonards Directories (microfiche) 1852 – 1901

Census Returns

Every 10 years the UK carries out a census to find out information about the population. This is a great source of information for researching your family history. Details from census returns are made available to the public 100 years after the census has taken place.

The latest information to be released was from the 1911 Census for England and Wales. It is available online at www.1911census.co.uk/

The online 1911 Census allows you to search individuals' names and view images of the original census pages. There are charges for some of the information. You can buy vouchers for the census service in your library. The vouchers can be used either in the library or at your home.

Ancestry (library edition) is available free of charge online in our libraries.

Lewes Library also has the following census information:

- Census Returns for Sussex 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 (microfilm and microfiche)

The 1881 Census, International Genealogical Index and other family history databases can be searched on the internet at www.familysearch.org

Illustrations, press cuttings and pamphlets

There is a small collection of photographs, press cuttings, periodical articles and ephemera relating to Lewes and the surrounding area. These items are not included on the E-library online catalogue or the periodicals list.

Contact us at library.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk to find out more about what information is available.

Maps

Lewes Library has a collection of modern and historical maps covering Lewes and the surrounding parishes which you can use to help you find out about local history and tracing the history of your house. We have large scale Ordnance Survey maps including:

- Ordnance Survey maps of the 1870s for Lewes town area (1:500 scale / 10.56 feet to one mile)
- Ordnance Survey maps from the 1870s to the 1930s (1:10000 scale / 6 inches to one mile)
- Ordnance Survey maps from the 1870s to the 1930s (1:2500 scale / 25 inches to one mile)
- modern maps (scale 1:2500)
- modern maps (scale 1:1250)

A few older maps of Lewes are also available.