



Fishbourne Roman Palace



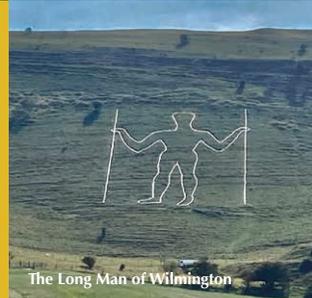
The Priest House



Marlipins



Lewes Castle & Museum



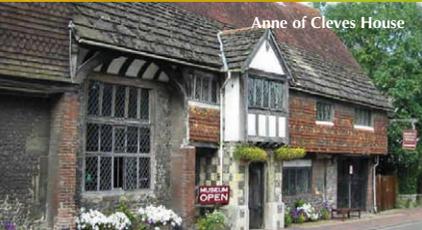
The Long Man of Wilmington

# SUSSEX PAST

2,000 years of history and heritage



Michelham Priory House & Gardens



Anne of Cleves House

Group Booking Information

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Welcome to Sussex Past, the home of a range of remarkable properties showcasing nearly 2,000 years of history and heritage.

# Welcome

From the lavish surroundings of Britain's largest Roman home to an imposing Norman Castle built after the Battle of Hastings and magnificent Tudor properties owned by royalty, each of our sites gives visitors the chance to get up close and personal to the stories of the past.

More than 150,000 people of all ages visit our properties each year and our expert and passionate teams take pride in providing a warm welcome and clear information to ensure an enjoyable stay.

This guide gives you an overview of our six special attractions, along with information on planning a group visit and our special group experiences.

We look forward to sharing our passion for our properties with you soon.

# Our offer

With a fascinating portfolio of properties covering almost two millennia, we are able to cater for groups of all sizes and interests.

Our expert teams will work with you to tailor a visit to your needs and plan your group's perfect day.

Group discounts apply across all of our sites. Guided tours with experienced and knowledgeable experts are available at every site. Guide books with detailed information on the history of the properties and

collections are also available.

We will also help you with any images and information that you need to help promote your tour.

Sussex Past is the operating company of the Sussex Archaeological Society, the oldest group of its type in the country which has just celebrated its 175-year anniversary. Promoting knowledge and understanding of the history of Sussex is our passion and it would be a privilege to share that with you.

# Fishbourne Roman Palace

Welcome to the largest Roman home in Britain. Stroll around the recreated Roman gardens – the earliest gardens found anywhere in the country – and enjoy the largest collection of mosaics in situ in the UK.



## Roman Way, Fishbourne, Chichester PO19 3QR

- ❖ Duration of visit: 2 to 3 hours
- ❖ Located near Chichester, 25 minutes from Portsmouth
- ❖ Please contact us – 01243 785859  
adminfish@sussexpast.co.uk
- Facebook [@FishbourneRomanPalace](#)
- Twitter [@RomanPalace](#)
- Instagram [@FishbourneRomanPalace](#)



## Five things to do

1. Marvel at the magnificent mosaics including the spectacular Cupid riding on a Dolphin
2. Observe conservation work of Roman artefacts as it happens in our Collections Discovery Centre
3. Relax in our recreated Roman Gardens – the earliest known gardens in the country
4. Delve deeper into Fishbourne's past – including how it was literally saved from the bulldozers during the 1960s – in our dedicated cinema room
5. Enjoy the fantastic local produce in our café with locally-sourced coffee, cakes and light bites available all day



## Facilities

- ❖ Group rates for 10 or more people
- ❖ Free parking
- ❖ Gift shop full of local produce
- ❖ Fully-accessible site with assistance and wheelchairs available
- ❖ Fully-accessible toilets
- ❖ Dog-friendly



# Lewes Castle & Museum

Climb to the top of Lewes Castle – a Norman Castle built after the Battle of Hastings by supporters of William the Conqueror – for stunning panoramic views across Sussex.



**169 High Street, Lewes,  
East Sussex BN7 1YE**

- ❖ Duration of visit: 1½ to 2½ hours
- ❖ Located in Lewes high street, 15 minutes from Brighton
- ❖ Close to Gatwick Airport and international port of Newhaven
- ❖ Please contact us – 01273 486290  
adminlewes@sussexpast.co.uk

Facebook: @LewesCastle  
Twitter: @Sussex\_Society  
Instagram: @SussexPast

## Five things to do

1. Enjoy stunning views of the town and Downs after climbing more than 100 steps to the castle's keep
2. Spot Brack Mount, an innocent looking mound in the centre of the town which housed Lewes' first castle
3. Visit the Museum of Sussex Archaeology to view thousands of fascinating artefacts from prehistoric to medieval Sussex
4. Discover how the castle and town played a key role in the formation of English democracy in a delightful short film about the history of Lewes
5. Lap up the sunshine in our gun garden, complete with a magnificent Russian cannon which was captured in the Crimean War

## Facilities

- ❖ Group rates for 10 or more people
- ❖ Gift shop full of local produce
- ❖ Assistance available for those with limited mobility (Please be aware there are lots of steps to the top of the castle)

## Upper Dicker, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3QS

- ❖ Duration of visit: 2 to 4 hours
- ❖ 15 minutes from Eastbourne;  
30 minutes from Brighton
- ❖ Close to Gatwick Airport and  
international ports of Newhaven  
and Dover
- ❖ Please contact us – 01323 844224  
tradingmich@sussexpast.co.uk

Facebook @MichelhamPriory  
Twitter @Sussex\_Society  
Instagram @SussexPast

### Five things to do

1. Enjoy seven acres of beautiful grounds surrounded by England's largest medieval water-filled moat
2. Explore the World War Two evacuees' bedroom, where children from central London lived during the 1940s
3. Discover the magical healing properties of herbs and plants in our medieval Physic Garden
4. Sample the fantastic local produce in our café with fruit, vegetables, herbs and honey all cultivated on site
5. Feed our resident ducks who are the friendliest feathered friends you're ever likely to meet

### Facilities

- ❖ Group rates for 10 or more people
- ❖ Free parking
- ❖ Elizabethan Barn – perfect for hosting large groups, events and private hire
- ❖ Café – fresh cakes and local produce
- ❖ Fully-accessible grounds with assistance and wheelchairs available
- ❖ Fully-accessible toilets
- ❖ Dog-friendly



# Michelham Priory House & Gardens



Explore 800 years of history at Michelham Priory House and Gardens – a magnificent Tudor mansion set on a picturesque moated island, complete with medieval gatehouse, watermill and more.

## 52 Southover Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1JA

- ❖ Duration of visit: 1½ to 2 hours
- ❖ Located in central Lewes;  
15 minutes from Brighton
- ❖ Close to Gatwick Airport and  
international port of Newhaven
- ❖ Please contact us – 01273 486290  
adminlewes@sussexpast.co.uk

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t @Sussex\_Society  
i @SussexPast

### Five things to do

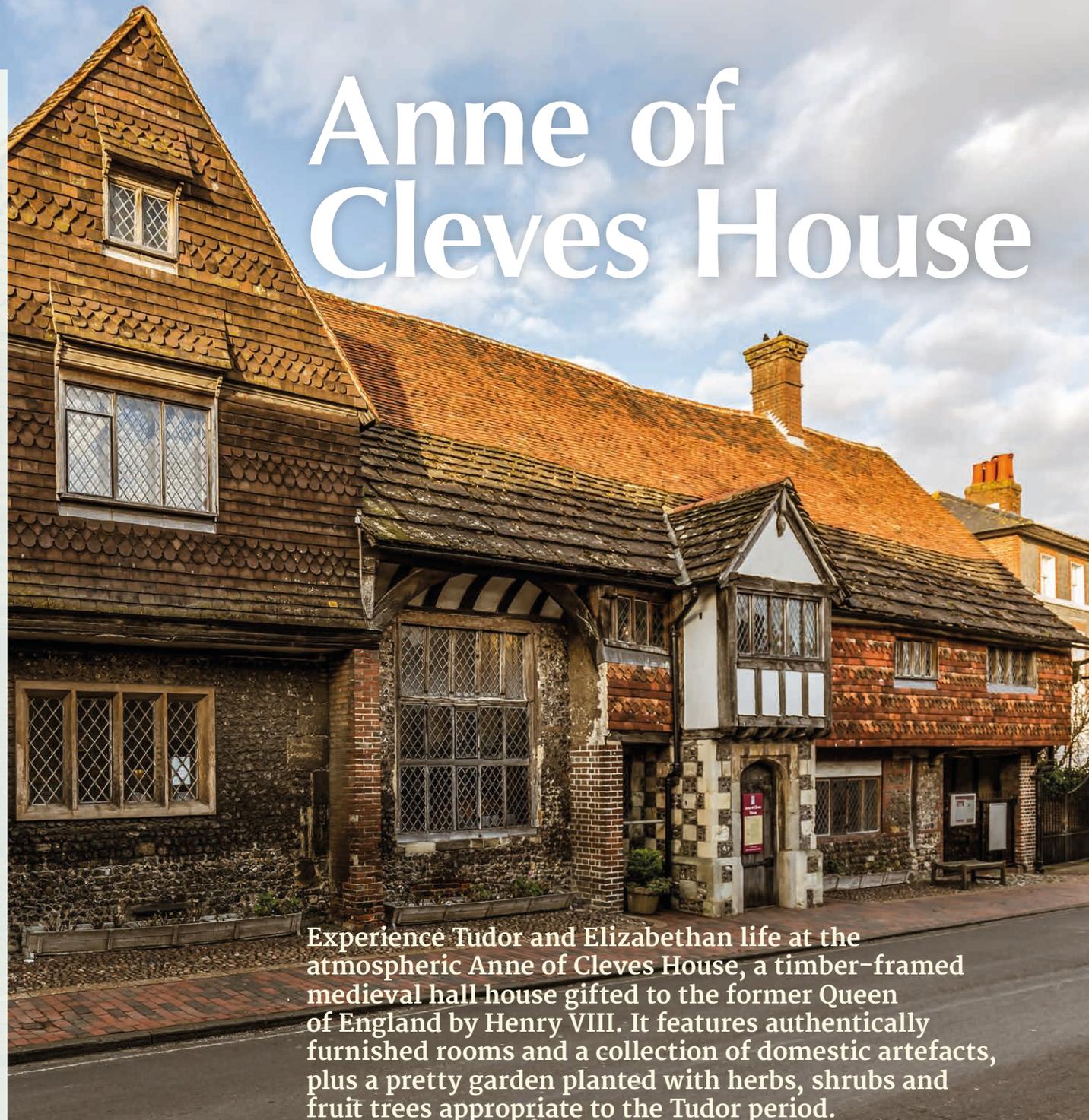
1. Explore the historic rooms and  
imagine the house as it was – with  
the sleeping quarters furnished to  
resemble their appearance at the  
time of Anne's ownership
2. Get in the Tudor spirit by dressing  
up in authentic costume
3. Interact with our wonderful Tudor  
housewife in residence who will guide  
you through food, drink and ailments  
of the time
4. Explore the building's fascinating  
history – from being owned by  
royalty to being home to nearly  
40 people – with an expert and  
exclusive guided tour
5. Relax in the pretty Tudor gardens  
planted with herbs, shrubs and fruit  
trees appropriate to the late 16th  
Century

### Facilities

- ❖ Group rates for 10 or more people
- ❖ Discounted parking for coaches
- ❖ Gift shop
- ❖ Limited level access – please  
call ahead
- ❖ Fully-accessible toilets

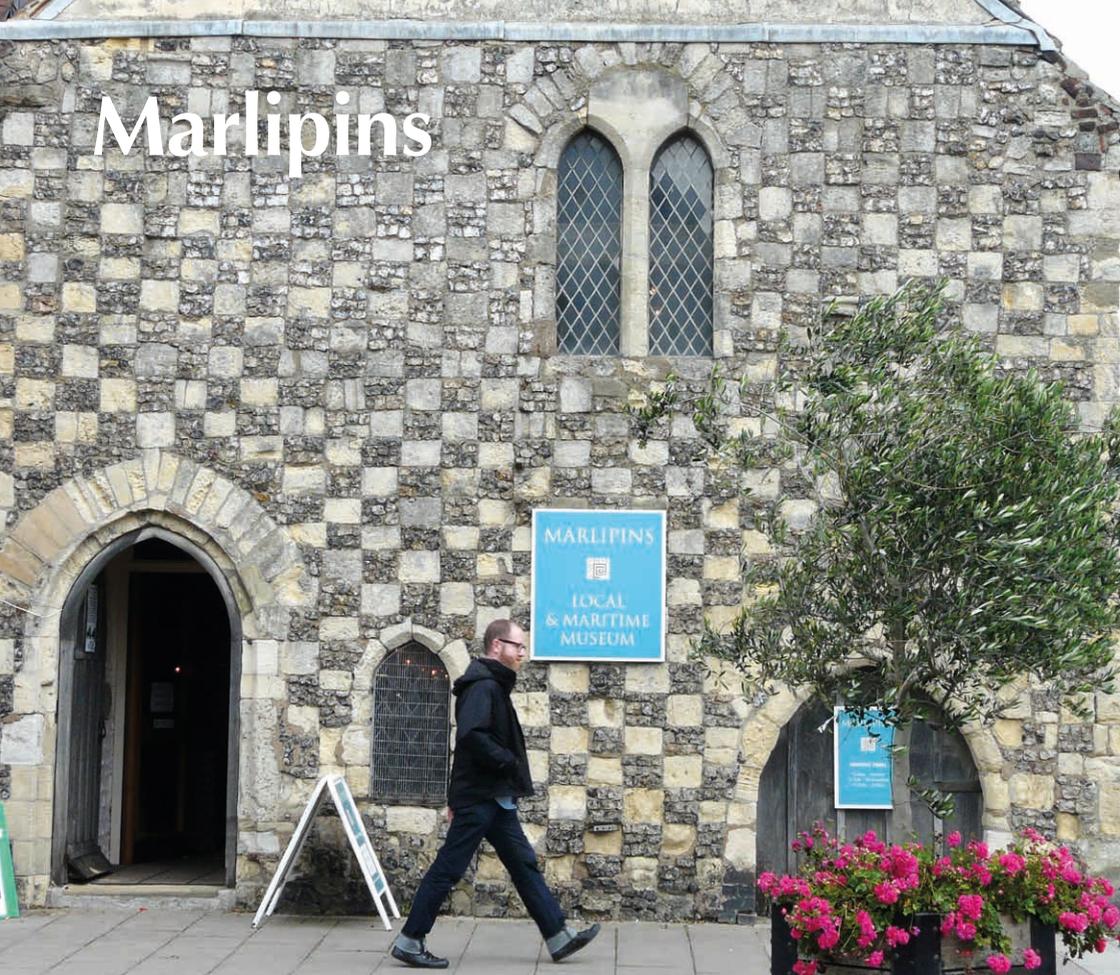


# Anne of Cleves House



Experience Tudor and Elizabethan life at the atmospheric Anne of Cleves House, a timber-framed medieval hall house gifted to the former Queen of England by Henry VIII. It features authentically furnished rooms and a collection of domestic artefacts, plus a pretty garden planted with herbs, shrubs and fruit trees appropriate to the Tudor period.

# Marlipins



36 High Street, Shoreham BN43 5DA

- ❖ Duration of visit: 1 hour
- ❖ 15 minutes from Brighton; 30 minutes from Gatwick
- ❖ Free entry, private guided tours available (prior booking)
- ❖ Please contact us – 01273 462994 [marlipins@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:marlipins@sussexpast.co.uk)

**T**he oldest secular building in Britain, famed for its striking Norman building famous for its flint and limestone chequerboard façade. This intimate museum in the coastal town of Shoreham-by-Sea houses a range of unique historical displays and items representing the town's rich maritime history.

# The Priest House



North Lane, West Hoathly, East Grinstead RH19 4PP

- ❖ Duration of visit: 1 to 2 hours
- ❖ 15 minutes from Gatwick
- ❖ Group rates for 10 or more people
- ❖ Private guided tours available
- ❖ Please contact us – 01342 810479 [priest@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:priest@sussexpast.co.uk)

**E**xplore the royal and religious history of The Priest House – built by the church, seized by the crown, and owned by one king and three queens. The timber-framed house in a small West Sussex village was built in the 1420s and is home to a range of 18th and 19th Century artefacts. The resident curator gives tours of the house and cottage garden upon request.

# Group Products

Every visit to our property is unique – which is why we pride ourselves on offering a range of bespoke services to make your group's trip a truly memorable experience.

Below are just some of the special experiences we can offer. Please contact us in advance to discuss your needs.

- ❖ Afternoon Cream Tea
- ❖ Guided tours – gardens
- ❖ Guided tours – properties
- ❖ Curator talks
- ❖ Exclusive hire
- ❖ Authentic historical experiences

Limited availability across all sites, request details on booking, please book in advance



Michelham Priory House & Gardens



Anne of Cleves House



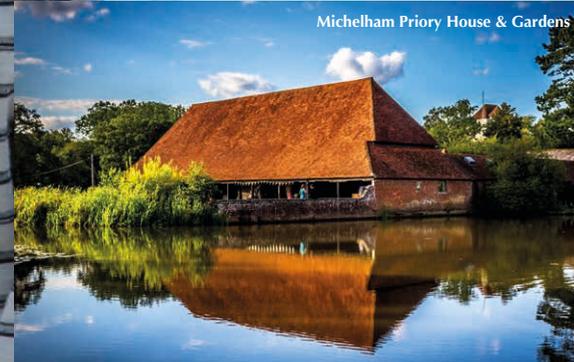
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Lewes Castle & Museum



Lewes Castle & Museum

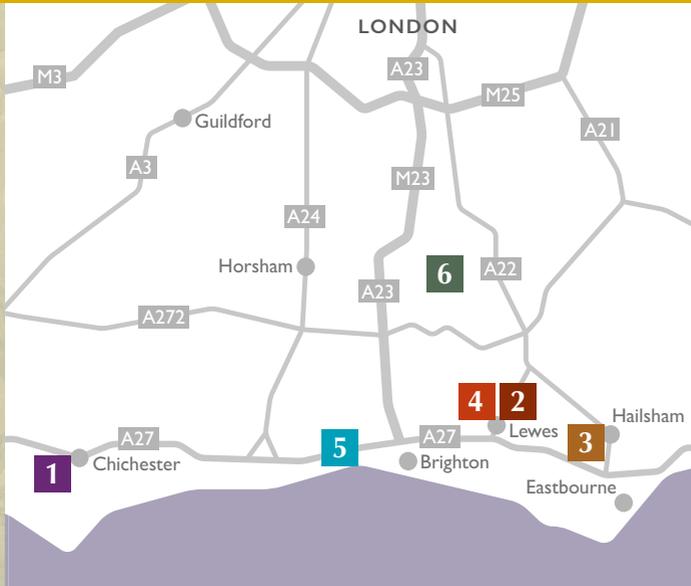


Michelham Priory House & Gardens



Anne of Cleves House

# Where to find us



- 1** Fishbourne Roman Palace
- 2** Lewes Castle & Museum
- 3** Michelham Priory House & Gardens
- 4** Anne of Cleves House
- 5** Marlipins
- 6** The Priest House

Contact us today to discuss your needs

[enquiries@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sussexpast.co.uk)

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[www.sussexpast.co.uk](http://www.sussexpast.co.uk)



Sussex Past is the 'trading name' for The Sussex Archaeological Society Ltd, a self-funding charity.

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