

Questions and Answers – The Sussex Archaeological Society Annual General Meeting 2023

1. Why have the museum items that were in store in the Margary Building not been put back and the building returned to its former and intended use?

The collections have not been returned to the Margary store because it is increasingly likely the building needs to be realised as a commercial asset. Permission for the sale of the Margary building was granted by the members in early 2020 and the financial necessity to place it on the open market remains a real possibility.

2. When is the Iron Gallery in Anne of Cleves House going to be restored to full public access? /If the Council of the Society has other plans for the display of the Every Collection and other items relating to the iron industry, what are those plans?

It is planned that a discrete collection of iron firebacks alongside other domestic cast/wrought iron items will be moved to Michelham Priory and open to the public from early summer next year. This new display will be installed in the area currently occupied by the rope museum (a loan into the Society). The display will focus on a number of firebacks from across the centuries, as representative of the wider fireback collection. Key significant items such as the Lenard fireback and wooden fireback moulds will be included.

The selection of firebacks and objects will begin early in the new year. The location of the new display area, adjacent to the forge, will make easier the interpretation and exploration/connections with tools, skills and making.

3. What is the date when all the sycamore trees and saplings are going to be removed from Lewes Castle's Keep mound?

A tree inspection has taken place around Lewes Castle and the Gun Garden. We have received a quotation to maintain the areas and are currently awaiting further quotations before the work is undertaken. The Head Gardener from Michelham Priory continues to attend to the gardens at the Lewes properties, working with a team of dedicated volunteers, and he is well placed to ensure we do our best to maintain the areas appropriately. We will update you with further information when we have it.

4. What is the date for the removal of the scaffolding at the castle's keep?

The scaffolding tower was erected in the summer as part of the ongoing maintenance of the South Tower and we are working with specialist advisors to agree the next steps as part of the Society-wide maintenance plan. We do not have an exact date to share as yet.

5. Has a plan been put in place for the marketing of our stock of books in the 'South Downs Series' at present held by the Society?

This important series of books are on sale at all of the Society's properties and we are in the process of updating our online shop to include the full series - the Country Houses title already being featured there.