



---

# LEWESTOWNE EXPRESS

---

Volume 2 June 2020

## *Upcoming Events*

When area businesses crack their doors and windows to let in fresh air and local customers, the Lewes Historical Society is planning to meet you on the sidewalk! The Society will cater to Delaware residents who seek to take advantage of the nice weather and slim crowds by offering four different historic tour options in Lewes:

### June 13 and 14

Community members can participate in any, or all four, tour offerings: Introduction to Lewes: A Maritime Destination, Lewes Legends, Historic Architecture: A View into the Past, and Lewes Ashore & Afloat: Extended Maritime. (See page 6 for schedule)

Each tour ranges in price from \$10 to \$20, but on this first weekend “out” the Society will offer special pricing of just \$40 to anyone participating in all four tours over the two-day period. Only locals will be given the opportunity to glimpse inside five historic homes. We plan to display unique, period pieces from the Lewes Historical Society Collections in several of the properties during this first re-emergence weekend tour only.

*Safety is the Lewes Historical Society's focus and they will be limiting the number of attendees in each tour. All participants will be required to wear a face covering for the duration of each tour. Each attendee must maintain a social distance of six feet between individuals of different households.*



### Mid July through September

The Society will be offering both Maritime Tours to visitors and in-state residents, from mid-July through September, at 10 am and 2 pm on Saturdays, and 2 pm on Sundays. Other walking tours

may make an appearance this summer as well, depending upon the change in state regulations moving forward.

## August 1<sup>st</sup>

Look for more details about the Society's introduction of a new program: **Living History in Residence**, making its debut on August 1. These immersive vignettes shed light on aspects of Lewes's past while highlighting the Lewes Historical Society properties and different eras through first persona portrayals. Each program is free and will allow the public to interact with historical characters depicting personas, occurrences, and stories from Lewes' past. The first Living History in Residence event, entitled Leading Ladies of Lewes: Suffragettes and Social Reformers, will take place on the Shipcarpenter Campus.



## September 18 and 19

Visitors and locals can look forward to the ever-popular Tavern Talks that are scheduled to swing back into gear on September 18 and 19. The inaugural fall performances, "1920 – Suffrage starts with You!" will take participants back to the monthly meeting of the Congressional Union for Woman's Suffrage. The event will be hosted by an actor portraying Miss Katherine Ingram and a lively, interactive discussion involving liberty and libations is sure to ensue!

All tickets can be purchased online at [www.historiclewes.org](http://www.historiclewes.org). Space is limited for both events. During the coronavirus epidemic, dates and times are subject to change so please check the website for updates.

## *New Arrivals*

---

### The Menhaden Net Wheel

Work has been continuing on the restoration of the Menhaden Net Wheel and preparation of its display area on our Shipcarpenter campus. We hope to have it displayed in all its glory by our opening weekend!

The Net Wheel is a rare survivor from the years before and after the Second World War when the Menhaden (also known as mossbunk or bunker) industry identified Lewes as a leading fishing port of the United States. (In 1953, Lewes was the largest seafood port in the country.) The eighteen-foot long, open-frame wheel was designed to dry the vast nets used in catching Menhaden and also allowed for the identification of needed repairs. Such wheels would have been activated and subsequently powered by two men, climbing into the interior and walking in even pace to rotate the whole, securing and wrapping the wet nets for air drying.



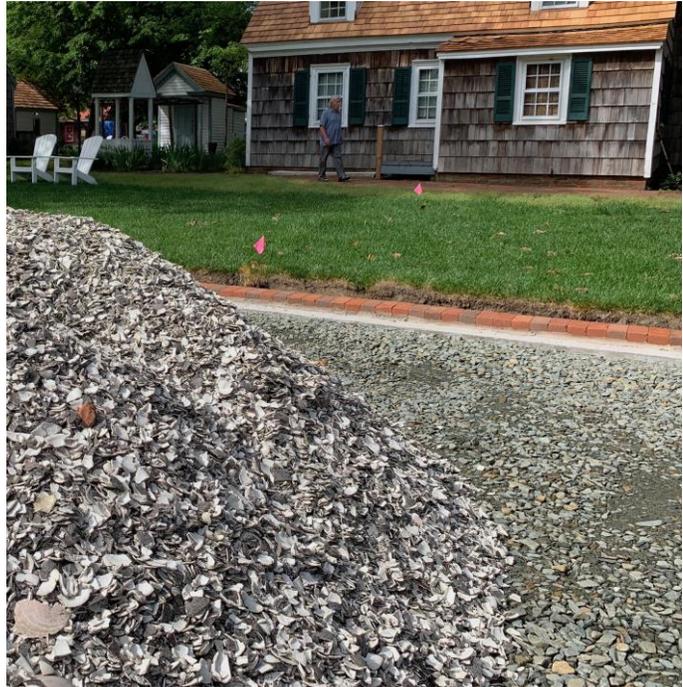
*Photograph courtesy of Delaware Republic/Myna Gordon*

This wheel also serves as a symbol of a pre-Civil Rights-era industry that afforded an integration of both white and black workers. The relocation - and the accompanying restoration including

replacement of key timbers and hardware - is intended to bring greater attention to the African-American historical context.



Center of Net wheel restored



Clam shells delivered for display site

The new site, bordering the Third Street boundary of LHS's main campus, includes a brick-framed exhibition pad filled with clam shells.

### New Summer Intern

We have a new intern for this summer - Ms. Lucie Allen. Lucie is a rising senior at Moore College of Art & Design in Philadelphia. She has internship/volunteer experience with the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Lewes Public Library. Lucie will be researching 19th century decorative arts and design as they apply to the interior of the Burton-Ingram House. Her findings will lay the groundwork for the planned reinterpretation of Burton-Ingram, with an emphasis on a 'continuum' (a succession of decades or periods)

approach to the interpretation of the house's six historic spaces.



## Save the Dates:

---

The Annual Lewes Historical Society Golf Classic, Thursday, October 8th, 2020 at the Peninsula Golf Course, Millsboro, DE, Best Ball/Scramble - Tee Off at 9 am. For more information or for sponsorship opportunities email: [mwhitehouse@historiclewes.org](mailto:mwhitehouse@historiclewes.org)

Maritime Living History Festival and 56th Annual Outdoor Antiques Show has been changed to Saturday, September 5

Re-opening of several of the Lewes Historical Society properties the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>:

The LHS Gift Shop & Information Center - opening Tuesday thru Sunday, from 12 noon to 3 pm

Ryves Holt House - opening Wednesday thru Sunday from 12 noon to 3 pm

LHS Campus - We will have volunteer Ambassadors (see *below*) on the Shipcarpenter Campus to serve as guides Tuesdays thru Friday from 12 noon to 3 pm



The Mid-Atlantic Sea Glass & Coastal Arts Festival has been changed to the weekend of September 26 & 27, 2020.

*Per state regulations we will not be exchanging cash - credit card sales only*

**Campus Ambassadors:** This is a new docent group created by Executive Director Jim Abbott.

When the campus reopens, you will see that the Hiram Rodney Burton House has been reawakened, and transformed into a welcome center, with a comprehensive description of each of the houses, as well as an art gallery featuring Lewes and regional artwork. The docents will be on

campus to welcome visitors and tell the history that each of these houses contain, while highlighting all that LHS does with newly published informational brochures. The houses will be open to the public, and the docents will also assist in overseeing the safety of visitors, as well as keeping an eye on the houses and all that they contain. In terms of our new “normal,” the upside is that the docents will spend a good part of their shifts outdoors.

*NOTE: We are looking for volunteers for Campus Ambassadors and for leading tours. If anyone is interested please contact [tri@historiclewes.org](mailto:tri@historiclewes.org).*

## Endowments

---

The Lewes Historical Society, owing to its tax-exempt status, receives the full benefit of all bequests. Making a planned gift through your will or other instrument is perhaps the easiest way to make such a gift to the Endowment. For more information, please contact your estate planner, attorney or financial consultant. If you wish to notify the Society of a planned gift so we may acknowledge it, please contact the Lewes Historical Society at (302) 645-7670.

## TOUR SCHEDULES

Saturday & Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – Local Resident Tours “Lewes from all Angles”

- **Lewes Legends**

- June 14<sup>th</sup> thru June 28<sup>th</sup> - Sundays only at 6 pm

- July 15<sup>th</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup> - Wednesdays only at 6 pm

- October 1<sup>st</sup> thru October 22<sup>nd</sup> every Wednesday and Thursday at 6 pm

- \$15 adults, children 8 -12 & students \$5, Duration: 1-½ hour

- **Historic Architecture: A View into the Past**

- Sundays, June 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> only at 4 pm

- Every Thursday from July 16<sup>th</sup> thru October 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm

- \$10 adults, children 12 and under & students \$5, Duration: 1 hour

- **Lewes Ashore and Afloat: Extended Maritime**

- June 13<sup>th</sup> thru June 27<sup>th</sup> – Saturdays only at 2 pm (check back for updates)

- \$20 adults, ages 21+, Duration: 1-½ hour

- **Introduction to Lewes: A Maritime Destination**

- June 13 thru October 24<sup>th</sup> – Saturdays only at 10 am (No July 4<sup>th</sup> Tour)

- \$10 adults, children 12 and under & students \$5, Duration: 1 hour

\*Additional tours offered between 9 am and 5 pm during the September 5<sup>th</sup> Maritime Festival & Antiques Show.

Tours leave from the Ryves Holt House located at the corner of Second and Mulberry Streets in historic Lewes, DE. All Tours must be booked 24 hours in advance, at [www.historiclewes.org](http://www.historiclewes.org).

