

AT OUR SPRING SEASONAL SOCIAL, WE WILL PRESENT A TALK BY SUE BERRY ENTITLED

## COUNTRY HOUSES OF THE SUSSEX DOWNS

based on her research into the rise and, for many, decline of the country house estate and their houses.

The country house estate developed during the medieval period once a land market had developed and most thrived into the later nineteenth century.

### *Aspiration*

As England became wealthier, so the ownership of an estate with a country house became an aspiration of people who had made their wealth through business or by profiting from their government office. Some grand country houses were built on the Sussex Downs during the later Tudor period. Most were updated between the later 1600s and about 1840.

### *The role changed*

From the 1840s the role of the landowner changed significantly, their political influence began to decline



*Glynde Place by J. Lambert of Lewes in the later 1700s  
With thanks to the Sussex Archaeological Society*

and their income was threatened by economic change. From the later 1800s, many sold up. We will look at the reasons why and what happened to some of the houses.

*Dr Sue Berry* is a historian who writes mainly about the 18th and 19th centuries. Sue has given talks for the Lewes History Group, The Georgian Group and other organisations. You will find articles by her in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* and other journals.

She enjoys photography, which complements her interest in landscape history.

*See page 4 for details of the Spring Seasonal Social.*

# LEWES U3A THEATRE GROUP



is run by Pat Williams who regularly emails some 188 members

about matinee productions, usually occurring once a month. Pat says:

'The Theatre Group was resurrected in 2018 and has since flourished, with



many memorable productions - Antony and Cleopatra at the

National, A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic, Guys and Dolls at The Bridge and recently She Stoops to Conquer

at the Orange Tree in Richmond - to name but a few.



The trips usually

proceed smoothly, though we have had a couple of 'blips' with coaches, such as a worryingly smaller one than booked but which could fortunately be replaced. We had to endure the understudy of the understudy of Caroline Quentin reading from the script of Mrs Warren's Profession (in fact she did very well!). A 9.30 a.m. cancellation call from Chichester Theatre was rather too late to prevent the arrival of many members at the station hoping to see Doubt.'

A regular theatre-goer member describes the trips as 'the highlight of many a month.'

Join the Theatre Group mailing list from the Groups tab in the Lewes u3a website.



## Short Story Writing Group

Formerly Creative Writing Group

Have you ever wanted to write short stories? This group offers some inspiring ideas to get your creativity flowing.

We welcome everyone with enthusiasm for the written word, whether you are a beginner or have previous experience.

To contact Group Leader Catriona, go to the Groups Page on the Lewes u3a website after logging in. [Short Story Writing Group - \(lewesu3a.uk\)](https://www.lewesu3a.uk/short-story-writing-group)

### LEWES U3A'S SPRING SEASONAL SOCIAL

Thursday 25th April

2.30—4.30

*Doors open 2.30pm, talk begins approx. 3pm. Café open until 3pm.*

Talk by Dr Sue Berry:

**COUNTRY HOUSES OF THE SUSSEX  
DOWNS**

**At St John sub Castro, Abinger Place,  
Lewes**

**From the Café: there will be hot soup and the Daily Lunch Special available until 3pm, when the Café will close.**

**So why not have lunch before the event?**

***The Social is free for members and their guests.***

# COMRADES

*A PLAY IN ONE ACT, BY ROGER COCKRELL*

Roger Cockrell plans to produce a short play, and is looking for help with various tasks, including acting, directing, sound, stage management and programme production.

Here is the basis of the production:

## Background

The Second Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Party was convened in a house just off Tottenham Court Road. This was to prove to be a momentous event in the history of the Party. For in the course of the Congress a crucial division began between the group of delegates led by Lenin (who came to be known as the Bolsheviks, the majority) and another group led by Martov (the Mensheviks, the minority).

## Conflicts, tensions

The driving force of the play: there is hardly a moment when there is not some conflict or tension between two or more of these characters.

## Characters

Some guidelines to the way the characters should be played:

**Axelrod/Gloomy Man:** Manic depressive, self-absorbed.

**Koba/Stalin:** Menacing throughout, even though generally static.

**Krupskaya:** Apparently allows herself to be bullied and put upon, but far from a passive personality.

**Lenin:** Forceful, charismatic personality. Prime mover. Always gesturing.

**Martov:** Well-meaning, basically a conciliator, but in the end ineffectual.

**Rosa Luxemburg:** Vivacious and impetuous, a free spirit and a genuine revolutionary.

**Trotsky:** Impulsive, never still, physically or mentally. Openly arrogant and sarcastic.

**Vera Ivanovna Zasluch:** Annoyingly imperturbable. Engrossed for the most part in her own world.



Pictured from top: Lenin, Martov, Trotsky- and Luxemburg

## Time and Place

Summer 1907 in a second-floor room above a doss house, Fieldgate Street, Whitechapel, London E1

## Contact

For further details and/or if you would like to get involved email: rogercockrell15@gmail.com

**NEW GROUP**

## The Iconic Dalai

### Lama and the Tibetans

A series of four talks by Val Franklin, about Tibet and the lives and customs of its people, unique culture and Buddhist religion.

Also the fascinating biography of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama



(pictured) until his escape to India in 1959, after the brutal Chinese invasion.



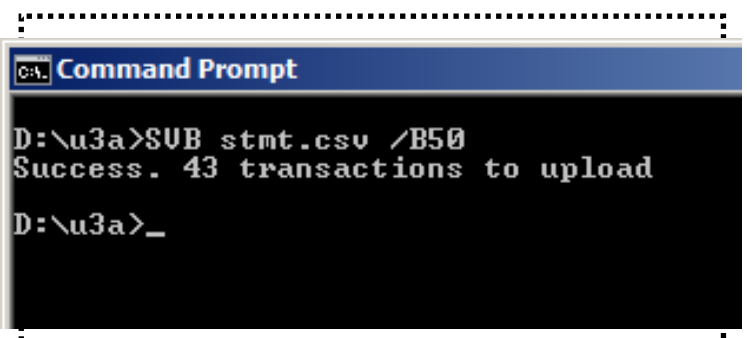
#### Extraordinary achievements

There will be descriptions of the extraordinary achievements of the Dalai Lama and refugees, arriving penniless and traumatised in Dharamsala, northern India; starting their lives again and building a new government and community in exile, including organisations and monasteries, vibrant works of art and exuberant music and dance.

#### Anecdotes

In 2001, four decades later, Val arrived in Dharamsala to discover an astonishing community of lively, friendly Tibetans, totally devoted to their leader and their enormous faith. She will give anecdotes of how her life interweaved with theirs for 18 years.

*Starting Thursday 2nd May, 11am for 4 sessions.*



### Computer Skills Needed!

If you're comfortable with running programs from the Command Prompt, instead of tapping on icons, perhaps you could help to support some of the back-room operations behind Simple Membership?

Please contact Richard Hudson  
Richard@sharedenergy.org.uk or  
01273 477870

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**LEWES U3A ANNUAL  
OPEN MORNING**

**WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER**

**10AM—1PM**

**THE CORN EXCHANGE,  
LEWES TOWN HALL**

*VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED FOR PRACTICAL HELP, REFRESHMENTS AND PUBLICITY TO MAKE THIS A STAND OUT EVENT*

**LOOK OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE NEXT BULLETIN**



Would you like to publicise your Group? Do you have any other enquiries, comments or suggestions?

Email [Bulletin@Lewesu3a.uk](mailto:Bulletin@Lewesu3a.uk)