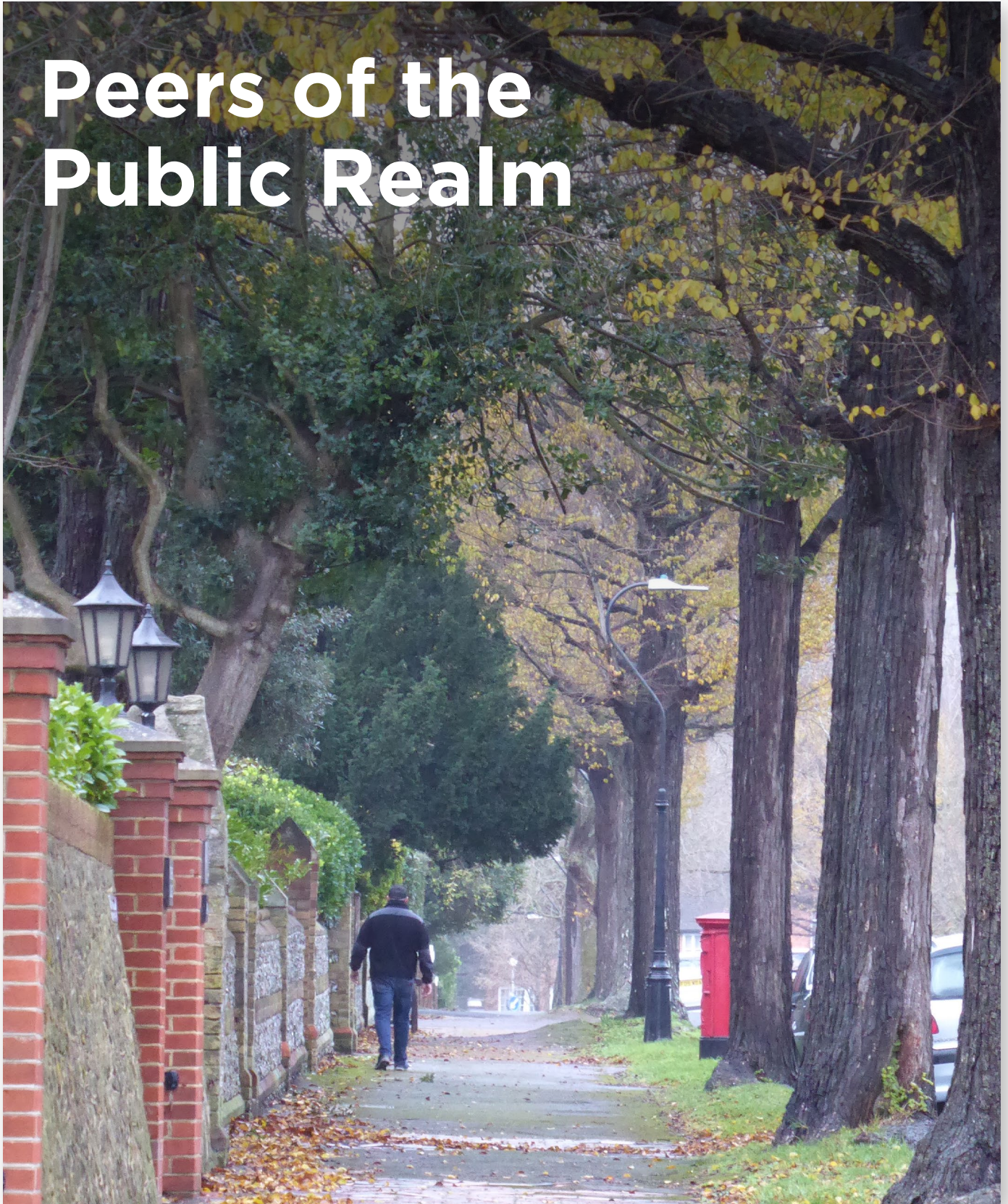




Sussex
Heritage
Trust

The Sussex Heritage Trust is a registered charity established in 1977 to preserve, improve and encourage the appreciation of the architectural and natural landscape of Sussex

Peers of the Public Realm



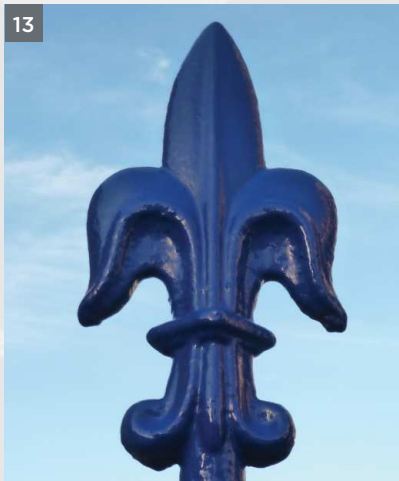
Over the last few years there has been an increasing awareness of the importance of the 'public realm,' but what is it? English Heritage has recently stated that the public realm relates to all parts of the built environment where the public has free access. This therefore embraces all the external public spaces of our highways and byways, villages, towns and cities.



In Sussex we have outstanding streetscapes which need to be appreciated, preserved and enhanced. The 'peers' of our public realm consist of the everyday objects we often take for granted such as trees, heritage lamp posts, our unique signposts (timber with a cast iron cap and metal letters), cast iron mile posts (indicating the distance to Bow Church in London), brick paving (very much a Sussex tradition), water hydrants, market crosses, pillar boxes and locally cast street furniture (railings, gutter grids, coal hole covers and crossovers).



In Eastbourne, for example, the College and Meads Conservation Areas (which were laid out to a plan of 1872 by the 7th Duke of Devonshire's architect Henry Currey) are of national importance, not so much due to their buildings but because of their broad tree-lined boulevards with grass verges, brick pavements and a unique collection of locally designed and cast iron lamp posts and other street furniture.



We thoroughly endorse the government's recent pledge to provide funding for tree planting which, apart from being attractive, will also improve our air quality and increase biodiversity.

However, much of the character in the public realm is undoubtedly under threat due to budget constraints on Local Authorities. Our campaign seeks to highlight the importance of retaining our historic street furniture that adds so much to the public realm and subliminally creates a sense of wellbeing. These peers of the public realm should be preserved and maintained for us and future generations to enjoy.



Front cover:

Tree-lined boulevard at St John's Road, Eastbourne with heritage lamp post, pillar box and brick paving.

1. Cast iron lamp post. Ditchling.
 2. Cast iron lamp post. Cliffe High Street, Lewes.
 3. Sussex mile post in cast iron. 18th century. Part of the longest sequence of posts in England installed by several Turnpike Trusts. Post shows 40 miles to Bow Church, London (pun is Bow Bells – hence the decoration!). Lampool Roundabout, A22, north of Maresfield. For further information contact The Milestone Society – www.milestonesociety.co.uk
 4. Hand-made Sussex finger post. Painted timber with cast iron cap and metal letters and numbers individually screwed on.
 5. Sussex brick pavement. Ditchling.
 6. Detail of finger post.
 7. Water hydrant by Ham Baker and Co., Westminster and Sussex brick pavement. Grassington Road, Eastbourne.
 8. Ships figurehead, probably from warship sunk 1690 at Battle of Beachy Head, Alfriston.
 9. Village sign. Alfriston.
 10. Ebenezer Morris & Son, foundry in Lewes. Eastbourne cast iron square-based (to house gas meter) lamp post. Christ Church, Eastbourne. 1852-1899.
 11. Ornamental boot scraper. Lewes.
 12. Plain boot scraper. Lewes.
 13. Ebenezer Morris, fleur de lys railing head. Eastbourne.
 14. Ebenezer Morris, club railing head. Eastbourne.
 15. Victorian cast iron Bath Chair Stand plate. Grand Parade, Eastbourne.
 16. Ebenezer Morris, cast iron gutter grid and overflow weir. Silverdale Road, Eastbourne. 1852-1901.
 17. Ebenezer Morris, bollard. Grand Parade, Eastbourne.
 18. Sussex brick pavement. Alfriston.
 19. Cast iron lamp post and lantern. Ditchling, East Sussex.
 20. Market cross. Alfriston.
 21. Ebenezer Morris, cast iron coal hole cover. Eastbourne.
 22. Acanthus decoration. Detail of Morris square-based lamp post. Eastbourne. 1852-1899.
 23. Cast iron drinking fountain. Seahouses Square, Eastbourne. 1865.
 24. Victorian enamel street nameplate. Eastbourne.
 25. VR (Victoria Regina) cast iron pillar box. South Cliff, Eastbourne. Cast 1887-1901 by A Handyside & Co. of Derby.
 26. Ebenezer Morris, seafront railings. South Cliff, Eastbourne.
 27. John Every foundry in Lewes, Edwardian round-based cast iron lamp post. Eastbourne.
 28. Tree-lined boulevard. St John's Road, Eastbourne. Wheatley elms that have survived Dutch Elm Disease.
 29. Drinking fountain. Friars Walk, Lewes. 1874.
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Any incidents or repair notifications should initially be reported to Sussex Association of Local Councils on **01273 830200** or visit their website on **www.sussexalc.org.uk**

**Sussex Heritage Trust**

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