



STEYNING MUSEUM

The Museum, Church Street, Steypning, West Sussex BN44 3FJ Registered Charity 1169540
Issue May 2021

Message from the Chairman - Muriel Wright

Hello Everyone, I hope you are all fit and well.

Thank you to everyone who returned their voting slips. We received 75 returns for the AGM proposals all of whom approved the proposals. Thank you to all of you who sent some lovely messages with their voting returns. It was much appreciated. I owe a big apology to Paul Norris whose name I missed off my covering letter, (sent out with all the paperwork) luckily it was on the Agenda. He has forgiven me.

Paul Norris, Chris Tod, Jacquie Buttriss, Helen Coutrouzas, Muriel Wright (The Trustees) will now re-appoint the Current Management Committee

The 200 Club received 61 returns all approving the proposals.

Since our last newsletter the Museum received some sad news regarding four of our loyal members. Denise Bedford, Aileen Fairbanks, Dave Stevens and John Woolgar who have all sadly passed away. The Museum sends condolences to all the respective families.

Subject to Government Guidelines we hope to re-open the Museum on Wednesday 2nd June 2021 between 10am-4pm. We are looking forward to seeing our Stewards and Visitors again. (Fingers crossed) all goes to plan.

With many thanks for all your support over a difficult time.

200 Club

February Draw

1st Prize Mr S R Webber £35
2nd Prize Joan Denwood £25
3rd Prize Mrs J Brackpool £15

March Draw

1st Prize Mrs P Smalley £35
2nd Prize Mrs J Pennington £25
3rd Prize Mrs M Wright £15

April Draw

1st Prize Mr C Harries £35
2nd Prize Mrs B Chandler £25
3rd Prize Mrs S Lesser £15

May Draw

1st Prize Carol Lathleiff £35
2nd Prize Pam Perry £25
3rd Prize Mr E F Jones £15

Social Events – Maggie Hollands and Social Committee

Unless there are new government restrictions our first social event of 2021 will be our popular **CREAM TEA** in Sarah Leigh's lovely garden at Rosebank, Jarvis Lane

The date for this is **SATURDAY 10th JULY at 3pm.**

As usual there will be homemade scones and live music from the CHEER UP MOLLYS

There will also be a raffle.

Tickets at £5 per person and these will be available for purchase in the Museum

It would be helpful for those who are able to, to bring a chair.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you who can come.

Our New Research Hub - Jacquie Buttriss

As many of you will have read in our chairman's report to members, included in the AGM papers, although the museum has been closed for several months, there has been a considerable amount of work going on in the background, principally:

- a) fitting out the new Carman Room for the management of our collections and
- b) renovating and fitting out the old office, which has now been transformed into our new Research Hub.

None of this could have been possible were it not for the hard work and ingenuity of Paul Norris and Guy Standing. I'm sure you will join me in thanking them very much.

I want also to thank Lois Roemer who has been a great help, as together we embarked on the lengthy task of reorganising our wonderful archives, maintaining and augmenting David Thompson's invaluable collection and indexes, whilst also colour-coding the files, to make them more user-friendly. This is still a work in progress, but we hope to be able to open our lovely new Research Hub for use soon after the museum reopens in early June.

A Message to Stewards - Many of you will remember the training you did with us on how to use the archives to help visitors with straightforward queries. Later this year, regulations permitting, we will invite any stewards who may wish to come to join in with some refresher training on how we have reorganised our archives and where you can find some easy-access information to help visitors learn more about their forebears, houses and events.



Coronavirus Memories - Joan Denwood

Who would have thought that this is still going on, over a year since we first heard about it. Also, that we have had 3 lockdowns.

Thank you so much to all those who contributed to our Coronavirus Memories file. We received some really thoughtful articles, as well as interesting photos, comments on the memory cloud post-its in the museum entrance, poems, plays (courtesy of Steyning Drama Club), local media coverage, themed greetings cards, testing information and more.

I would like to say a particular thank you to one of our stewards, Cliff White, who was the first to write an article on 23rd March 2020 and followed it a year later 17th March 2021 with another very thoughtful article. He finished his last piece with a glimpse of his famous humour "But we will not despair. Despite mental health (where did that come from?) being up, (or is it down?), community spirit is up, love of the outdoors is up, dog numbers are up, and bikes are massively up. It's not all bad". So he starts and finishes our file. Thank you Cliff.

Let us all hope now that, with our vaccinations in place, we can look forward to the future with more confidence and that we have created a useful resource for the future too.

Lockdown Reflection – Erica Gayler

Many of us have embraced the internet during Lockdown with most recently the long winter evenings and celebrations spent apart from family and friends.

With some friends I arranged a Quiz on a Friday afternoon where we all took it in turns being the Quizmaster. It was all just for fun, we shared our results, but no competition. One of the categories we used was Local History and I thought I would share some of our questions with you – the answers are on the back page.

It was a great way to test our knowledge and learn things as well.

1. Who was burnt at the stake on Chantry Green in 1555 for refusing to renounce his beliefs during the reign of Queen Mary?
2. What do Sir George's Place and Breach Close have in common?
3. In the wall before The Star public house there is a hole in the wall close to the pavement. Why is it there?
4. What road in our area forms part of The Monarchs Way?
5. What was the former use for Penns House?
6. Penfold Hall, Penfold House and Penfold Cottage – why are they so named?
7. Where can you see a Jacobean staircase?
8. How did a set of false teeth come to be in a wall in Steyning and where are they?
9. How many coaching blocks are there in Steyning and where are they?
10. Where were the 2 former homes of the Museum?

It may be of interest to everyone that a historical walk around old Steyning town is available to view on the Museum's website steyningmuseum.org.uk

Lockdown Project, Cowerson Headstone - Joan Denwood

As a lockdown project I wondered about trying to get the Cowerson's Headstone in the church yard cleaned and the lettering re-done. I thought it was such a shame that a famous headstone in the history of Steyning was in such a bad way that it couldn't be read at all. This was initially triggered by the last Steyning Society newsletter explaining about their grants and when to apply for them.

Then I contacted the Vicar, Father Mark, to see about getting permission for the headstone to be improved. This is now ongoing with Father Mark on-side and contacting the necessary church organisations. I am awaiting detailed estimates as to how much it would cost.

We have an article about Cowerson and his grave in the museum, underneath our smuggler's window and as you can imagine the story about our Steyning smuggler, is popular with all visitors, adults and children alike

Children's Corner - New Display Joan Denwood

We have a new display celebrating our local children's author, Julia Donaldson. This has made the corner bright and colourful and includes the 4 characters below.



Curator of Exhibitions - Andrew Woodfield

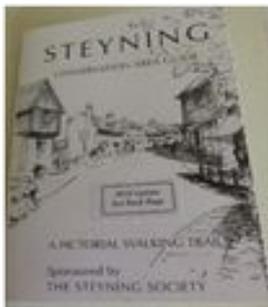
Postponed from May 8th last year owing to the pandemic lockdowns, our commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2 is now installed - **Victory**. The exhibition covers Celebrations, Danger from the Air, Evacuees, the Canadian Troops, Burma, Gert and Daisy go to War and the local war effort. There is also a tribute to the local men who did not return from the conflict. The Exhibition is linked by quotations from a mass observation diary by a Steyning resident.

20s PLENTY - a new exhibition currently in the preparation stage is a collaboration with the current road action group who have obtained, from local residents, memories of road traffic in former days. Some truly interesting stories will be illustrated with photographs from the museum archives. Further exhibition details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Answers to the Quiz

1. John Launder – beside the steps leading to the Museum beside Penfold Hall there is a blue plaque. The actual event took place on Chantry Green and this was considered the closest place to the actual spot recognising Health & Safety and the fact that the Green is now private property.
2. Both were named after George Breach a much-respected Steyning resident and owner of the Tanyard. Although not knighted he was known as Sir out of respect.
3. Hoses from steam traction engines would be put through the hole to collect water from the stream. The Steyning Brewery had a steam lorry and that was also topped up at the stream. In the past this hole has also helped water drain away when that end of Steyning used to flood.
4. The Street, Bramber
5. Quakers Meeting House and in 1678 William Penn, the Quaker who founded the state of Pennsylvania in the USA came to preach here. He lived in nearby Warminghurst. There was a graveyard for quakers in the meeting house garden.
6. Penfold sisters were part of a well-known family who were great benefactors of the town. They provided money for the Church to buy the old National School building, now the Penfold Hall, and presented two bells to the Church
7. Inside the 16th Century building – The Norfolk Arms, Church Street
8. This story was relayed to Chris Tod by a Wiston Estate worker. Apparently when the men were building the wall in the 1940's they found that someone, feeling worse for wear after an evening in The Star had been unwell. The workmen sluiced down the mess, found the teeth and incorporated them into the wall - the top set in one place and the bottom set in another. When the present row of houses was built a few years ago a gateway, cut through the wall, eliminated one part of the dentures, prompted by Chris Tod they publicised their need for replacement teeth and got several offers - one of which is now in the wall. The remaining original half denture is extremely hard to find because generations of school children gradually winkled out all the teeth and only the gums are left - but it is still there.
9. 3 – High Street near the Post Office, Dog Lane and outside Springwells beside the water trough
10. The Old Museum House, High Street and Saxon Cottage, Church Street

Some of the questions were found in this book available from the Museum Shop £2.50



May 2021 compiled by Erica Gayler