



STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST

The Museum, Church Street, Steyning, West Sussex. BN44 3YB

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Registered Charity Number: 1169540

Newsletter May 2022

Message from the Chairman - Muriel Wright

I hope you all have managed to enjoy the lovely weather we had at Easter let's hope it continues. I know several of our members have succumbed to Covid over the last months I wish you all a speedy recovery.

On behalf of the Trustees and Management Committee I would like to thank all those Stewards who volunteered for extra duties during April which enabled the Museum to keep open. We had several Stewards who were unwell and couldn't cover their duties. We appreciate your support.

A warm welcome to our new members: Shirley Blomfield, Roger Tribe, Dr Andrew Anthony and Philip Hoare. Thank you for joining Steyning Museum, I know some of you have already agreed to join our volunteers; I look forward to meeting you.

Sadly, since our last newsletter we have been advised that Yvonne Goacher has died.

As some of you will be aware I haven't been in the Museum or at the AGM or the recent coffee morning. Unfortunately, I have had health problems. I have now received a diagnosis and will begin chemotherapy in May (fingers crossed) it will be a positive outcome. I hope to be fighting fit by the beginning of November.

I would like to thank Jacquie Buttriss (Vice chairman) and the Trustees and Management Committee for keeping me informed about the day to day running of the Museum.

I hope you all stay fit and well over the coming months.
Muriel

Curator of Exhibitions – Andrew Woodfield

ACCESSION Opens Wednesday, May 18th

This exhibition marks the death of King George and Elizabeth being pronounced Queen. An exhibition to celebrate the Coronation is scheduled for next year.

STEYNING ARTS TRAIL 2022

Opens Friday, May 27th and will be on show until Sunday, June 5th

The museum becomes the Hub for the annual display of art by our local artists.

Oral History Team news - Joan Denwood

As mentioned in February's Newsletter we now have extracts from our interviews of long-term residents on the museum website - steyningmuseum.org.uk, then go to Box Files, Stories from Local Voices, Oral History Project. Tony Holmes - coal merchants' family and as a lad he was at School in Church Street when the bomb was dropped. Christopher Passmore - farmer. Geoffrey Chalcraft - TV Engineer.

We hope you have enjoyed listening to the varied extracts on the listening post by the Grammar School Church Street display in the museum.

Thank you to all those who replied to our 'Request for Memories' in February's Newsletter. We had a good selection for both the death of King George VI, which are now compiled into a booklet to be displayed soon and for the Coronation ready for a future display.

Shop – Joan Denwood

From time to time we have books which are no longer required by the museum for a variety of reasons, quite often because we have multiple copies already. Also, we are reducing the price of some of our books for sale. It is definitely worth a look around our shop to pick up a bargain or two. Have you spotted the BBC History Magazines kindly donated by a steward, Margaret Wellby? They are glossy, expensive and all we ask is a small donation if you want to take any home. They make good reading for stewards on duty too.

Education – Joan Denwood

We actually had 2 classes visiting the museum in February, for the first time for 2 years because of Covid. It felt really good to have children back in the museum and many thanks to our stewards Lyn Wakeford, Wendy Moss and Jill Weston for their valuable assistance.

EASTER WEEKEND FAMILY QUIZ - thank you so much to those stewards on duty who dealt with the visitors, the quizzes and the best part, giving out the eggs! It was really successful, and 32 quizzes were tackled over the 4 days. Many families enjoyed having a go and as one steward said, 'the quiz caused lots of discussion between the members of a family which was wonderful'. Also, some of our lovely stewards popped in with their grandchildren to take part too. We had a grand total of 128 visitors over the 4-day weekend. All in all, a successful weekend.



Events & Fund-Raising Committee – Maggie Hollands

Thank you to everyone who attended the Spring Coffee morning on the 2nd April at the Penfold Hall. It was lovely to see everyone making it a very enjoyable morning.

Our profit for museum funds was £139.33. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the raffle and cake stall and for the help on the stalls and serving coffee etc.

Our next event is our very popular Cream Tea at The Steyning Centre on Saturday 23rd July at 3:30pm. With live music from The Cheer Up Mollys. Tickets will be on sale at the museum from 1st July. Please come along and join us for this fun event.

Publicity – Ray Powell

Museum building signage – You may have noticed that we have recently erected two new signs on the outside walls of the Museum. These feature our colourful logo and were procured through Pavilion Signs. We think they look splendid and hope you do too.



Membership and 200 Club Secretary - Erica Gayler

The following are the results from 200 Club draws since our last newsletter.

March Draw

- 1st Prize Mike Denwood
- 2nd Prize John Cowley
- 3rd Prize Sarah Linfield

April

- 1st Prize Laurie Keen
- 2nd Prize Tony Ketteyman
- 3rd Prize Russell Bowman

May

- 1st Prize Edwin Bray
- 2nd Prize Harold Bradley
- 3rd Prize Janet Pennington

Sadly, we have decided to close the 200 Club Lottery at the end of March 2023. We have been running on greatly reduced membership for the last few years (currently 142) and the final straw, reducing our profit even more, has been the introduction of Bank Charges which is costing us £7-10 per month. There was a suggestion at our AGM that we consider changing Banks. However, not only will that incur a lot of admin time as we go through the usual account opening procedures with a new bank – ID etc but will also mean that our members have to change their standing order. I'm sure a lot of you remember the problems we had when Barclays asked us to move our membership account to a Business Branch with new details 2 years ago.

PLEASE CANCEL YOUR STANDING ORDER/S TO STEYNING MUSEUM 200 CLUB WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. Please be very precise about the account title to ensure that your Museum Membership standing order is not affected.

Over the next few newsletters, we will be letting you know of a way in which you can continue to help the Museum through The Horsham District Lottery.

News from the Research Hub – Jacquie Buttriss

Many of you may remember our dedicated archivist David Thompson, who faithfully served this museum for 23 years, expanding and indexing our archives into the wonderful resource we now have in the Research Hub. As he approached his 90th birthday in April, David offered the Trustees the whole of his personal history library of books mainly relating to Steyning and Sussex, along with a very generous sum to pay for the necessary additional shelving and professional repairs to a few of the older books. Jacquie collected his entire library, taking wheelbarrow loads (yes really!) of bagged up books across the road, then stacking her car almost up to the roof and driving slowly back from Burgess Hill. Finally, the books reached their new home and we now have them shared between the Research Hub and the Carman Room. Paul and Guy will shortly build in some new shelves in the Research Hub to accommodate as many of them as possible together.

As the Steyning Festival approaches, Lois Roemer and Nick Quinn are finalising their preparations for the 1st June launch of the museum's audio-tour of the churchyard, entitled 'Graveyard Gossip'. This new initiative focuses on some of the most intriguing former residents buried there. Lois has written all the scripts to be read by volunteers, giving potted versions of these people's lives, and Nick is recording several of our volunteers reading out these stories for anyone to hear on a mobile phone app as they tour the graveyard. NB If you don't have an app-friendly mobile phone, these scripts will also be available to read in the museum from early June onwards.

Newsletter compiled by Erica Gayler