



MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

April 2005

Lottery Success

After months of preparation and nail biting on our part, the Heritage Lottery Fund met on the 19th March to decide the fate of our extension project. By the end of the afternoon we had the answer - they agreed that we could have £107,500, which represents 69% of the total cost.

We always knew that we had to provide part of the funding ourselves, as well as showing that the local community was behind the scheme. Over the last few months we have been able to achieve both. Viridor Waste Management have granted us £25,000 under the government's tax relief scheme, and the Buy a Brick campaign has exceeded all expectations in showing that the people of Steyning are wholly behind us. At the time of writing the total contributed stands at over £8,500.

We therefore have our part of the funding, and the building work can proceed in late July once the Grammar School have started the summer holiday. The major part of the work needs to be carried out during the school holiday so as to create the minimum interruption to the normal life of the school.

The archaeologists have dug a trial trench on the site of the extension, but little of importance was found. They will be back, however, to maintain a watching brief while the contractors start the first building excavation. If anything interesting turns up, the work will be suspended for a short while to give the archaeologists a chance to investigate and record.

This is the appropriate place to record our thanks to the small team who have been behind the hours of work needed to prepare the Lottery bid. The Management Committee have been talking

for years about the need for more space, but it was the arrival of Lawrie Smalley as our Chairman, that moved affairs from talk to action. He has master-minded the project so far and brought in Peter Meanley and Tony Kitson. Together they have been responsible for carrying the project through the early stages of design and planning approval. Peter spent many hours using his expertise in design and project planning to produce a design and specification for the extension, and Tony has undertaken the co-ordination of all the documentation needed to satisfy the requirements laid down by the Heritage Lottery fund. He has also been our contact man, building up a good relationship with the Lottery personnel.

The three of them, however, needed the knowledge of the Museum which only Chris Tod could supply to bring the project to the point of a Lottery application. Chris spent many hours in producing the numerous statistics and reports which were an essential part of the application. It was the thoroughness of work put in by the four of them which contributed so much to the good impression gained by the Lottery officials.

The Lottery organisation posed many searching and thought-provoking questions before they were satisfied that a grant towards our project would be well spent. One of the major factors in our favour was the degree of local support that we could demonstrate. They were impressed that we have over 370 Museum Friends and that under Buy a Brick we have collected an average of over £1 per head of the total population of the town.

There are still tasks for us to carry out to satisfy the Lottery. We need to

organise focus groups in Steyning to tap into local feeling about how the Museum can be developed to serve the community. We were also advised to offer training to Museum personnel to enhance the education services we offer. We will keep you informed about both these developments.

Web Site

We have felt for some time that Steyning Museum should promote itself through a web site. The stumbling block has been finding someone to construct it and keep it up to date once it has been launched. We are delighted to say that Linda Denyer and Doug Thompson have offered their services. Linda has been hard at work on the design and produced a site for us. We look forward to being launched into cyber space very soon.

The Annual General Meeting

The announcement that we had been granted Lottery funding ensured a buoyant mood for the AGM meeting. The reports presented for the business part of the afternoon, painted a picture of a very successful year for the Museum, and thanks were warmly expressed for all those of you who give so generously of your time to make that possible.

Lawrie Smalley stepped down from the position of Chairman. Warm thanks were expressed to him for his efforts, especially in guiding the Committee towards launching the Lottery bid.

After tea and cake, Sally White (formerly of Worthing Museum) rounded off the afternoon with an amusing picture of the development of sea bathing in Worthing.

Sarah Leigh was approved as Lawrie's successor, and as there were no nominations for the Management Committee, all the existing members were re-appointed.

The Committee for 2005/06 is therefore:

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| Chairman | Sarah Leigh |
| Vice Chairman | Peter Hoare |
| Treasurer | Paul Norris |
| Secretary | Tony Ketterman |
| Curator | Chris Tod |
| Stewards | (Sarah Leigh - pro tem) |

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| Publicity | Jill Kemp |
| Social Events | Helen Coutrouzas |
| Shop Sales | Liane Watt |

Social Events Sub-Committee:

Diana Smyth, Iris Taylor, Pat Tod, Sheila Wright.

Chaired by Helen Coutrouzas

Fund Raising

The Book Sale will be over by the time most of you receive this newsletter. At the time of writing, there are over 100 boxes of books crowding out Sarah Leigh's barn, with more coming in all the time. I hope to have good news about what we raise in the next newsletter.

Seats for the concert by Kaleidoscope at St. Mary's House are all virtually booked, so we are sure of a good boost to the extension fund.

Museum Diary

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| 23.04.05 | Concert by 'Kaleidoscope' St. Mary's House - 7.30pm |
| 29.10.05 | Autumn Coffee Morning Penfold Hall 10.30- 12.00 |
| 21.01.06 | Stewards and Helpers Social Penfold Hall 11.30am |

I'll have the date of the summer garden coffee morning for you by the time of the June newsletter.

200 Club Draw

February Draw:

1st prize = Mr RC Finch (£35)
2nd prize = Margaret Easton (£25)
3rd prize = Anthony Allan (£15)

March Draw:

1st prize = Pat Price (£35)
2nd prize = Peter Winstone (£25)
3rd prize = Joan Dart (£15)

Next Exhibition

Just a reminder that the end of April will see the launch of the new exhibition to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. There is no fixed target date for the exhibition to open, but Chris Tod will be making a start on assembling it once he has had a breather after his Lottery efforts.

Tony Ketterman (Editor)