



MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

April 2007

Museum Diary

14.04.07 Spring Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00

27.10.07 Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00

A date for the summer Garden Coffee Morning has still to be settled.

AGM

The AGM on 17th March began as usual with the business meeting. We are required by our constitution to hold elections to the management committee at the AGM. No nominations for posts had been received, but the existing committee members agreed to carry on for another year. The committee (approved by a show of hands) will therefore be:

Chairman (& Stewards)	Sarah Leigh
Vice Chairman	Peter Hoare
Secretary	Tony Kettelman
Treasurer	Paul Norris
Curator	Chris Tod
Social Events	Helen Coutrouzas
Shop Sales	Liane Watt
Education	Jacquie Buttriss
Publicity	David Haseldine

The members of the Social Events Sub-Committee had also agreed to stand. For 2007/08 the committee will be:

Margaret Blundell, Diana Smyth, Iris Taylor, Sheila Wright,

Chaired by Helen Coutrouzas

Museum Running Costs

A topic aired at the AGM by Paul Norris, our Treasurer, was the matter of how we can increase the Museum's sources of income. The extension has, as expected, increased running

costs, so we do need ideas as to how we can raise funds without entailing too much time in labour. The book sale generated a good profit, but it entailed many hours of labour, a task which fell on the shoulders of a few people.

At present, our chief source of income is through subscription payments, both from Friends and the 200 Club. Four coffee mornings also bring in a sizeable sum, and invested capital also generates funding through regular interest payments. Visitors generate another income source through shop sales and through donations. We hope to increase visitor numbers by placing advertisements in local publications and with a new coloured leaflet distributed in tourist centres. Both these ideas are being costed at present. We hope we may be able to obtain grants to help finance both ideas. In the hope of increasing donations, we are displaying posters around the Museum urging visitors to make a donation.

Do please let us know if you have any other ideas for raising income which we haven't yet tried? (remembering that as a voluntary organisation, any new methods cannot entail too much labour.) One idea raised at the meeting was encouraging people to leave money to the Museum in their wills. This happens at present to some extent, but the committee will look at the best way to encourage more people to do the same.

200 Club

February Draw:

- 1st prize = Tom Aubrey (£35)
- 2nd prize = Jenny Toomey (£25)
- 3rd prize = Mrs D Bedford (£15)

March Draw:

- 1st prize = Elizabeth Iverson (£35)
- 2nd prize = Mrs CM Holmes (£25)
- 3rd prize = Jill McCaskie (£15)

Many thanks to all the club members who responded to our request to adjust their

subscription payment date to April. This does make life much easier to run the Club as most payments now arrive in January or April. Also many thanks to all who were so helpful in agreeing to pay by standing order.

The White Horse Inn

Janet Pennington has uncovered some new information on the White Horse Inn since she wrote her article for us in the December newsletter. She writes:

There is a careless historical error in my article about the history of the White Horse Inn, Steyning. I wrote that the 1949 fire occurred on the night of Steyning Fire Brigade's annual supper there. I very much regret that this is not accurate. It was the evening of the Fire Brigade's annual dance, but it was held at St. Andrew's Hall in Jarvis Lane, not at the White Horse, on the evening of Saturday, 19th March 1949. Brothers Cohn and Ian Garlick (from the Chequer Inn, Steyning and the Marquis of Granby public house at Sompting respectively) ran the bar, and Ian Garlick tells me that the dance (he said it was a dance, not a supper, though food and drink were involved) was over and the firemen and their partners had gone home by the time the fire at the White Horse broke out. It was discovered by the only guest staying there that weekend, at 2.15 am on the Sunday morning, when he was awakened by smoke fumes in his top floor bedroom. Ian Garlick said that the firemen worked heroically to contain the fire, which could have raged on down the High Street. Luckily the wind was blowing in the other direction, which helped. Steyning's firemen and those from other districts, managed to put out the fire during that terrible early Sunday morning 58 years ago. As a small girl I remember seeing the smouldering ruins later that day, a horrible sight, and a horrible smell, which has stayed with me over the years. However, the facts did not (!) and I am glad to put the story right.

Theft at Henfield Museum

In mid February two young men with rucksacks slung over their shoulders made two visits to Henfield Museum on one afternoon. On the second occasion they seem to have sought out 2 unattached items at the end of the museum (presumably spotted on their previous visit) and carried them out in their rucksacks. They were not particularly valuable or unique items and would not have brought in much in a car boot sale, but it has prompted us to look again at our

own defences. We don't have much that is not tied down, and certainly nothing of great value which would fit in a rucksack. However we are doing an audit of what we do have and will be taking steps to anchor a number of items more firmly than they are at present.

Would stewards please ask visitors whether they would mind leaving their rucksacks by the steward's desk while they are looking round. It is something which is a commonplace in all big museums so should provoke no antipathy. Chris suggests that we can reasonably say that, with our museum being so small, we ask for rucksacks to be left at the desk so that nothing in the display risks getting knocked and damaged.

A History and Descriptive Survey of Steyning by GH Recknell

We have been given a dozen copies of this excellent history written in 1965. If an Museum Friend would like a (free) copy, please let Chris Tod know.

End Piece

Our Museum Friends are an interesting group of people with a wide experience of life. We have tapped into some of their memories in our published books of reminiscences to be found on the Museum shelves.

For an End Piece this month, I want to share with you some of the memories of another Museum Friend, Phyllis Gilbert, who was a member and steward for several years until her death last year. We are indebted to her son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Barbara Johnson, who have kindly given permission for me to select extracts from the diaries kept by Phyllis in the early years of her life.

One of the joys of reading diaries is the appreciation that, though our lives have changed outwardly, we are essentially the same sort of people. If, as here, diaries are from the 20th century, they can also remind us of our own or our parents' earlier lives and jog memories of things long forgotten.

I have mostly left Phyllis' own entries to speak for themselves, with only a brief introduction and an occasional remark from me by way of explanation. Any words of mine appear in italics.

There is only room to cover four months of the diaries in this newsletter, so you can look forward to some more in the June edition.

Tony Ketteyman (Editor)