



# Museum News

Steyning Museum Newsletter

April 2013

## Museum Diary

13.04.13 Spring Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall  
10.30 - 12.00

26.10.13 Autumn Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall  
10.30 - 12.00

## 200 Club

February Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Elaine Dawson (£35)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Adrian Norridge (£25)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Mrs CM Holmes (£15)

March Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Daphne Elliott (£35)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Pauline Smalley (£25)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Norman Checkley (£15)

## Children's Activity Day

*From Joan Denwood:*

Steyning Museum are very pleased with the success of their second ever Children's Activity Day, held during February half term holiday. 54 children attended with many parents staying to join in the fun and look around the Museum.

The children played with old and new toys and games. They also had a go at brass rubbing and dressing up in historical costumes. Their art and craft skills were employed in making Easter cards and baskets. Many thanks go to the helpers who kindly gave up their time to make the day so successful.

The picture is of Madeleine Lott aged 10 who enjoyed dressing up as a Tudor Lady.



## Spring Coffee Morning

*From Gillian Kille:*

The Spring coffee morning will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April in the Penfold Hall. We will have our usual cake stall, bric-a-brac and books stall and our popular Spring plant stall, so please do bring along any unwanted items – and especially some plants and any cuttings you may have been nurturing, in spite of the very cold and wet winter we have had. All will be very gratefully received. We would also be delighted to receive any home made cakes for our cake stall.

As a special feature this time we will display a selection of attractive, new, special edition and some discontinued, quality mugs, which have been kindly donated by a Friend of the Museum. Some mugs were specially manufactured for The British Library under 'Museum Selection' for sale at British Museum shops and other reputable outlets and are mainly fine bone china. Prices will be from approximately £5 upwards, but will be

considerably less than their original RRP. The mugs would be ideal as gifts, additions to existing collections, or simply for use at home.

We look forward to seeing you at the Spring coffee morning on the 13<sup>th</sup> April – and any guests of yours will be most welcome too.

### Saints and Sinners

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March started very wet, but fortunately, the weather improved in time for the Museum's benefit concert in Steyning Church in the afternoon. The two well known local choirs, Kaleidoscope and Cantatrice, had very kindly offered their services to us in aid of Museum funds. Unfortunately, Zoe Peate, their conductor, was unwell, but other members of the choir ably carried the baton in her place. We had a full house, so people weren't deterred by the earlier poor weather and they sang vigorously when it came to the audience's turn to sing. The beautiful singing was interspersed with readings and the whole added up to a stirring afternoon.

We must thank Gill Kille for arranging the very successful occasion with Zoe Peate and of course for joining with her helpers in providing tea and cake for all in the Steyning Centre afterwards.

It was a benefit concert so, once the expenses have been calculated, we can look forward to several hundred pounds coming into Museum funds.

### New Stock in the museum shop

*From Muriel Wright:*

We now have more greetings cards in stock. They are suitable for many occasions and the pictures are a mixture of local scenes, flowers, and wildlife.

We also have more tea towels in stock. Having sold out of all our tea towels, we had to explore a new supplier and are pleased to report that the new stock is now in the Museum. The tea towels are a slightly different design and are on sale for £3.50. We are sure you will agree that they are very attractive and would make an ideal present. In fact many of the items in our shop would make lovely presents, so come along and have a browse.

### End Piece

The Museum sets out to record the past life of Steyning and the surrounding villages, and a major source of that information comes through the written records which have survived. We also try to play our part in adding to that resource by recording the memories of current residents who have lived in Steyning for a major part of their lives. This month, we have a contribution from Ros Golds, who has kindly recorded memories of her early life in the town.

Tony Ketteyman  
Editor

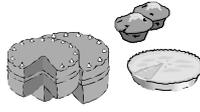
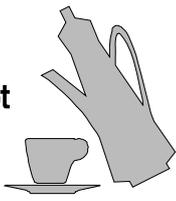
**Friends of Steyning Museum**  
**Saturday 13th April**  
10.30 - 12.00

**Raffle, Cakes, Books**  
**Spring plants**  
**and Bric-a-Brac**

**Penfold Hall**  
**Church Street**  
**Steyning**

**Entrance - £1**

**ALL WELCOME**



## **Ros Golds interview recorded 25 September 2012**

My name is Ros Golds. I live at 'Gosmark', Station Road, Steyning which was my family home - my Grandmother lived there. My Grand-parents, Mr and Mrs George Mitchell, were married at Ashurst Church in 1883 and I can remember my Gran living in Gosmark and an Uncle.

I was born in 1934, the youngest child of Ernie and Lily Adcock. I had three sisters and one brother. There's only my brother Trevor and me left. I was five when the war started and all my sisters were in the war at certain levels, ENSA, munitions and Secretary to the Canadians in London, but they were all musical and they used to play for the dances in the old Town Hall and St Andrew's Hall in Steyning. I went to my first dance in St Andrew's Hall and my sisters were playing.

I went to the little Infants School which was in School Lane, (it isn't there any more), past the Grammar School. When the war came we had to go down into Bolton's Field which is now the car park and we had underground shelters. We had to go down and I used to entertain the others with my singing. I think I was singing when I was born. It seems to have always been with me. At home I always stood on the music stall when my sisters played to sing all the little songs that came from the war.

I won a scholarship in 1945 to go to Horsham High School on the train and I went there until 1950. Between 1945 and 1950 I had a wonderful life riding all the ponies that belonged to the richer people in Steyning whose children went to Boarding School; I could ride all these ponies. Mr Leslie Burt had a young daughter Susan, who had two ponies up at Nash Farm, Ashurst, and I used to walk up there and they were wonderful to me. I went to Pony Club, Gymkhanas, hunting, and they paid for all my expenses - really, really lovely. I had a wonderful childhood.

In 1950 while I was taking my school certificate I had time off and I was an extra in the film "Mr Drake's Duck" which was shot at Steyning Market and I got, £2 - 10 shillings (£2.50) a day which was wonderful. I bought a bike I remember. In the September I started work at Hills of Hove for £1 - 20 week and I travelled by bus. I met my future husband (Les).

I must go back to the war. When I was seven in 1941, I went up the road to collect my sweet ration. It was about mid-day. I went up from Station Road, walking up, and said to my Mother "I'm going to Mr Winters" which was by the black railings - there was a shop there. But no, being me, I changed my mind and I went to Eatons which was a little shop opposite Chantry Green. I got my sweets and thought shall I turn right and come home? I turned left and went up Church Street to go down School Lane. While I was up the road opposite the Model Bakery I heard this plane come over. I turned round and there was the plane nearly touching the roof-tops by Vyne Cottage. I could see the cross so I knew it was German, and while I was standing there the dust! - there was a terrific bang and the dust was swirling towards me up the road. Suddenly was yanked off my feet and into Curtis Cottage. Mrs Blackie took me in there and shoved me under the stairs with her year old son Michael. We stayed there until it got quiet and then she brought us out and we looked out of the window and there were bricks all

over the road. How I was missed I don't know. Then Mum came up and she was picking her way over the bricks. Mrs Blackie rushed out and told her I was safe for which she was very thankful. That was my bit of the war which I can remember vividly.

I'll go on now to 1950 when I left school and went to work at Hills of Hove. I was still doing my riding in the holidays and the girls at work used to say "what do you do in Steyning, there is nothing there", but I said I had a wonderful life. While I was riding along, this young man used to go by on an Indian Motor Bike (Harley-Davidson) and we used to smile at one another. I must have been about 17 when we suddenly spoke and we went to dances at St Andrew's Hall and were married in 1956.

We lived in a caravan in Ashington for four years on his nursery. The name was Golds, a name in Ashington, Washington, all round, a very well known name. We had four wonderful children. We had Kevin the eldest, two years later Richard, two years on Joanna and two years on Stella. Three of them were born when we were in the caravan in Ashington, but we were very lucky Gosmark became vacant which was the family home, and Uncle Charles let us move into there. We rented from him until we eventually bought it. But it was like a miracle after having three children in the caravan. Stella came while we were in Gosmark.

My father, Ernie Adcock, was Verger at the Church (St Andrew's) for thirty years and in 1947 I joined the Choir. There were five of us girls who went to Horsham High School on the train and because there were hardly any boys in the Choir and we all enjoyed singing, I went down and asked the Vicar's wife if we could join the Choir and she said 'yes'. We wore our School uniforms with hats when we first started. Eventually all my children were in the Choir, it was quite a family thing.

I love my singing. I think I've always done. I can remember going with my Dad to entertain the British Legion dinners when I was quite young, under 10. I sang with Mrs Tuck who used to have the Dairy in the High Street. She was the accompanist and Dad sang as well. His favourite was "Red Red Robin". He was also Secretary to the Legion. For one year Mum paid for me to have lessons with a lady in Hove, but it became too expensive and I couldn't carry on, but I did learn a few things. From then on I joined the WI Choir with Mrs Payne. We sang at the Albert Hall two or three times and went into competitions. I really enjoyed myself. I'm still in the (Church) Choir. I've been in as I said since 1947, but not while I was having the children of course. I went back immediately afterwards.

I was very lucky. I went for an audition with Worthing Philharmonic Choir and I was in there for 12 to 14 years. Because we had a large family we never went away for holidays so it was rather nice to go to France two or three times with the Worthing Philharmonic. I stayed in a Chateau and I stayed in a cottage in a lovely village, really super, really super family. With the coach trip going through Paris it was just lovely.

I'm now going back to memories of when I was up to 10 I suppose. My Aunt and Uncle who didn't have children, I know they helped my Mother a lot with Trev and me (we come later in Mum's life) with clothes and that. My Mum had one of her coats turned inside out and made a wonderful coat for me. It was a Scottish tartan and I had a little

forage cap. That was in the war and I really felt like the cat's whiskers in that. It was made from an old coat of Mum's.

Aunty Bet was very good with her needle. I do remember going up and being measured in her dining room, which was very neat because there were no children. She lived in St Brelans which is the second villa in King's Barn Villas. It was next to the laundry. She had a wonderful orchard and a lawn which went right up to the back of King's Barn Villas to the first set of houses where Mr. Parrott lived. She had a tennis lawn and there were parties. I've got photos of parties before I was born that were in that garden. They also played tennis at the Railway Hotel which isn't there any more. There was a lovely tennis club there. People used to go up and play tennis that was along Jarvis Lane just before the bridge and backed out onto Southdown Terrace.

I left school in July 1950 and in September my aunt got me an interview with this very posh department store in Hove called William Hill and it was marvellous. I got the job. I travelled in on the no 22 bus. It used to cost 2 shillings return I remember. I went in at eight o'clock and got back at 6. I had to wear navy blue. My Mother dyed my Confirmation dress and that was the dress I wore for some time. I started in the material department on the dress material part. There were suitings on the other side where I helped out Mr Rimmell when he was very busy. Funnily enough I never took up dress making though I was in the material department; all these lovely, lovely material, brocades, Chinese brocades. At Christmas I was put out onto either haberdashery or scarves where they sold those wonderful Jacqmar scarves. It was a wonderful store. They had a coffee restaurant and they had these mannequins walking around in the latest models, in the New Look. Really marvellous. I stayed there until 1956 when I got married. Eventually we went to live in the caravan on the nursery and between children I helped out.

When the nursery wasn't making much money and I had to go out to work. I think Stella was still at school. I went for an interview with Quality Seconds in Shoreham and I was very proud that I got that after all these years. I managed the remnants store with another lady for two years and then they used up all the remnants and I was transferred to the garments which was in Shoreham. Next door was the Stationers that was run by the same people who had the Steyning Stationers. Eventually a job came up in Steyning and I was able to go there. I was there for ten years and very happy. And then I saw that Bunces the ironmongers in Worthing was opening in the old Seeboard shop. I went for an interview there and I was lucky enough to get that and I was in the new store for seventeen and a half years. I was never off sick once in all the years I worked for Quality Seconds and the Stationers, and if ever they wanted anybody to come in because somebody else was sick I would come in because I liked to work.

My brother Trevor was very ill with appendicitis, which turned into peritonitis, when he was two going on three and he had to go into the Children's Hospital in Brighton where they treated him. Mum always said the Doctor saved his life. That Doctor was Dr Dingeman. When he heard that Mum lived in Steyning he said to her "Well, I shall see more of you because we are moving to Steyning and I'm taking up a practice there with Marjory". I don't know if he was married to Marjory at that time, but she was the Nurse. Mum said "Put Trevor down as your patient" and as she was expecting me she said, "my baby as well". So that was how we knew Dr. Dingeman and of course he was our

doctor right up to when he retired. He, with his children had a pony and I exercised the pony which was kept in a field which now has houses on right next door to the Roman Catholic Church which was a barn at the time. They kept chickens where they sold eggs. That was Marjory Dingeman's father Mr. Spong who had that. I remember there was a big double gate with an enormous egg and as you opened the gate the egg broke in half. They were one of the people whose pony I rode.

There was also Mr. Newgass who lived in the new Rectory at Wiston. I rode his pony Snowball. That was lovely. He was a poet and author. He had written a poem about Snowball because she had a brand "OK" on her flank. She was a lovely pony.

My father, because he was too old to go in the Second World War, was in the Observer Corps. He was also a gardener and was brought up because his father was a gardener. He had a nursery in Goring Road. He was gardener to Bertram Nicholls who was an artist. He lived half-way up Goring Road just on the corner of College Hill. Off it was the kitchen garden and all through the war that was where we got our vegetables from. I used to go up with Dad and collect the vegetables on Sunday morning and walk home.

There was another man, Mr. Danby, who lived up at Maudlyn. He had a lovely garden. He had a pond and I used to go and watch the fish. He had two enormous fish called Romulus and Remus. They lived to a great age. He moved to Washington to a bungalow on the Downs. Dad went over there on the bus to garden for him. There I used to ride Snowball over the top and have a cup of tea or something and then ride back.

Sir Olaf Caroe who lived at 'Newham', was very good to us in the Choir because he would allow us to have coffee mornings in the lovely garden there. When his wife died he asked me to sing a solo, which I did. She was a lovely lady.

One memory is quite vivid. There was a big house called 'Elmhurst' which was on the corner of Cripps Lane and Jarvis Lane. The garden went right down to the stream behind a privet hedge. I used to take their dog out when I was quite young. Their name was Brown, Mrs Brown. There was a drive, a gravel drive that went up to the house. We used to go carol singing there with the Youth Club. There was one evening when we were going up there carol singing we had borrowed a market garden three wheel truck to take this organ accompanying us singing and it belonged to my Uncle who had 'Yewtree' in Bramber. We borrowed it. Jack Ash was our youth leader, and we took this cart round Steyning collecting money for the Youth Club. We were coming back down with the boys and went down quite fast and the truck tipped over and the organ fell off and I'm afraid it broke a bit. Anyway, Uncle was quite good about it. But now that house isn't there anymore. It's where King Alfred Close is. When they took the house down they ploughed up the garden. My youngest was about three, and we walked up there just to see it. I found some peonies poking up and I dug some up. They are now in my garden, the most beautiful, sweet smelling peonies I have ever seen. I've had those for about forty six years.