



# Museum News

Steyping Museum Newsletter

April 2014

## Museum Diary

- 12.04.14 Spring Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall  
10.30 - 12.00
- 17.05.14 Beetle Drive  
Penfold Hall  
2.00 - 4.00
- 12.06.14 Fund Raising Dinner  
Sussex Produce Company  
7.30pm
- July Garden Coffee Morning  
*(Details to follow)*
- 08.11.14 Autumn Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall  
10.30 - 12.00

## 200 Club

### February Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Irene Ashdown (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Violet Meacham (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Tom Aubrey (£15)

### March Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Gwen Lowe (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Heather Ward (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Sylvia Crowder (£15)

## Steyping Museum Children's Activity Day

*from Joan Denwood*

We held another successful Children's Activity Day on Thursday in February half term.

The children were able to try on historical costumes and play with old fashioned toys and games. They made cards and baskets on the ever popular art and craft table and produced

brass rubbings. They even had the opportunity to look at 3D pictures through old stereoscopes.

Over 40 children attended during the day, plus nearly as many parents. The atmosphere was fun, lively and buzzing.

Many, many thanks for the efforts of all our helpers.



## **Forthcoming Events**

*from Erica Gayler*

Forthcoming fund raising events for the Museum include a Beetle Drive and a fund raising dinner at The Sussex Produce Company.

The Beetle Drive is being held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm in the Penfold Hall. It should prove to be a great fun afternoon for all ages. There will be a prize for the winner in each category – Adult and under 16's. Tickets will be on sale from 15<sup>th</sup> April from the Museum Shop (£4 adult and £2 under 16's) which will include tea or squash and biscuits. There will also be a raffle table.

Coming up in June, The Sussex Produce Company have kindly agreed to make us their Charity of the Month which will include a meal at their restaurant in the evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June. This will be a ticketed event with a set menu. £5 from each ticket sold will be donated by The Sussex Produce Company to the Steyning Museum Trust. The tickets will be on sale during May at The Sussex Produce Company – watch out for our posters which will be on display in the Museum and around the town, and in the meantime keep the date free in your diary.

For the Autumn we are planning a Quiz evening; more details will follow nearer the time.

## **Coffee Morning**

*from Maggie Holland*

As most of you know I have taken over as chair person on the social sub committee. I am really looking forward to taking on this role and hopefully I can do it as well as Gill did.

Just a reminder we have our Spring coffee morning on 12<sup>th</sup> April at the Penfold Hall between 10:30 and 12.00

We will have a plant stall so any cuttings are most welcome. We have the usual book stall, bric a brac, cake stall and of course the raffle.

Any donations are most welcome....thank you.

Also a future date for your diaries:-

Sarah Leigh has agreed to have the summer coffee morning in her garden in July....watch this space for the date.

## **400th Anniversary**

This year, Steyning Grammar School is celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the endowment of the school by William Holland. The original half-timbered building of the school is a dominating feature of Church Street and has been much photographed, drawn and painted. The anniversary will be celebrated in various ways during the year, and the Museum will play its part with an exhibition which Chris Tod has called "The Scholar's Tale". It provides a broad picture of schooling in Steyning generally down the years.

The Museum has played another part in the anniversary year by publishing a new book from Joyce Sleight, who is a long-standing member of the Museum Friends and former staff member of the Grammar School. She has drawn upon her research to provide a picture of the changing fortunes of the school during its early years under various headmasters since William Holland's original endowment.

You will find Joyce's book for sale on the shelves of the Museum shop. The title is "William Holland and the Early Years of Steyning Grammar School".

For our newsletter end piece this month, Janet Pennington has provided us with an article linked to the school which she has called "William Holland and the School Logo".

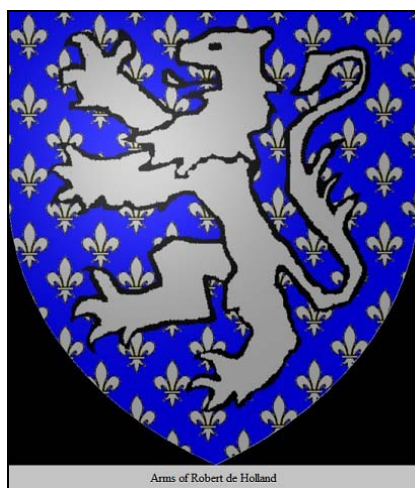
Tony Kettelman (Editor)

## STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### William Holland and the School Logo

William Holland, born in Steyning and the founder of Steyning Grammar School in 1614, the year of his death, did not have a coat of arms.

Robert de Holland (c.1280-1328) of Upholland, Lancashire, a member of the earliest branch of a Holland family known in England, had a coat of arms. The shield has a blue background displaying numerous fleur-de-lis, and a rampant silver lion (i.e. upright but not facing the viewer). There is no crest.



*Fig 1. Coat of Arms of Robert de Holland*

It appears in a stained glass window in Upholland church, though there is no evidence that the Steyning Hollands were directly descended from this Lancashire family.

In the Heraldic Visitation of Lancashire of 1567, the Holland family of Denton is described as having a similar coat of arms, but with the addition of a red bend (two diagonal lines 'from dexter chief to sinister base') across the shield. I cannot find an illustration of this heraldry, only a written description.

William Holland of Steyning may be descended from a Sir Richard Holland (knighted in 1544), of Denton, Lancashire. Coats of arms descend to the eldest surviving son (which William was not) and there is no evidence to suggest that he ever displayed any heraldry. William's father, Thomas Holland, who died in 1558, was not an eldest son of Sir Richard, nor did he display any heraldry.

The Earls of Kent, whose surname was Holland, had a similar coat of arms to the Denton branch, though there was no red bend.

There were also Hollands in Angmering, Sussex (no relation of the Steyning Hollands) who also had a coat of arms on a blue background (granted by the Garter King of Arms in 1581), though with eight fleur-de-lis and no red bend, and the silver lion is 'rampant guardant', i.e. the head is turned towards the viewer.



*Fig. 2. Coat of Arms of the Holland of Angmering*

William Powell Breach (1853-1920), who joined Steyning Grammar School as a pupil in 1860, became a Trustee (a school governor in modern terminology) in 1892. His family owned Steyning Tanyard and he lived at Newham House. In 1900 he published a well-researched article about the founder and his family, entitled 'William Holland, Alderman of Chichester, and the Steyning Grammar School', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, Volume 43 (1900), 59-83.



*Fig.3. Painting of a Coat of Arms in W.P.Breach's personalised article about William Holland*

It would seem that about this time Breach was keen to find or 'manufacture' a coat of arms for William Holland that could be used as a symbol to represent the school. Attached to the inside front cover of Breach's bound personalised copy of the SAC article (in Steyning Museum) is a water-colour depiction of a coat of arms (see *Fig. 3* above) with eight black fleur-de-lis. A pencilled arrow points to these, saying 'argent' (i.e. they should be silver). A red bend has been applied to the shield above a silver rampant guardant lion. It is not certain whether he painted this himself, but it has been cut out from the title page of his draft article for SAC (which is in SGS Archives) and he has written 'Omit' against the space where it had been. Above the cut-out section is a little drawing of a crowned lion, a possible crest to the coat of arms.

William Holland and his wife had no children, but a great-niece, Frances Holland, married John Ashburnham of Ashburnham Place, near Battle in Sussex, c.1640. Breach wrote to their descendant Lord Ashburnham c.1898-99 asking whether any Holland arms appeared upon John Ashburnham's monument in the church there. On 28<sup>th</sup> January 1899 Lord Ashburnham replied in the negative; this letter is attached to the inside back cover of Breach's bound article copy.

Breach had presumably perused various coats of arms for different Holland branches in England and may also have looked at the Steyning constable's staff (now in Steyning Museum) that displays a red bend across a plain shield (see *Fig. 4* below). It probably dates from 1685 and may have been the Steyning coat of arms, if there were such a device. The parish constable was not like a police constable today, but a man chosen for a year to represent the town at the Assize Courts, as well as undertaking various administrative functions relating to the law and raising of taxes.



Fig. 4. The coat of arms on the Steyning constable's staff, under glass in Steyning Museum

It would appear that William Powell Breach 'invented' a coat of arms for William Holland, as in Fig. 3 but with silver fleur-de-lis, drawing together a variety of Holland coats of arms. The School Prospectus for 1912 displays it and a similar device is embossed on the cover of a Latin prize book awarded to H. M. Iverson in December 1913, and on the 1914 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book, all in the SGS Archives (see Fig. 5 below).



Fig. 5. Prospectus, 1912; Prize Book, 1913; 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book 1914

This badge or emblem was certainly in use in the late-1970s when my son was at SGS, and I remember it on the pocket of his blazer. Over the ensuing years it has been altered until in 2013 it had a *faux* helmet (this is not a crest) above the shield, a strangely gesturing lion that (to quote various inhabitants of Steyning) looks more like a poodle with a man's face, placed above a red bend instead of below it, with two red fleur-de-lis, instead of eight silver ones, on a blue background. Two swags of pinkish-red ribbon have been added to the whole and a red 'shadow' placed on one side of the shield – see Fig. 6 below. While this is artistic, it is not a heraldic device, but should perhaps be called a school logo.

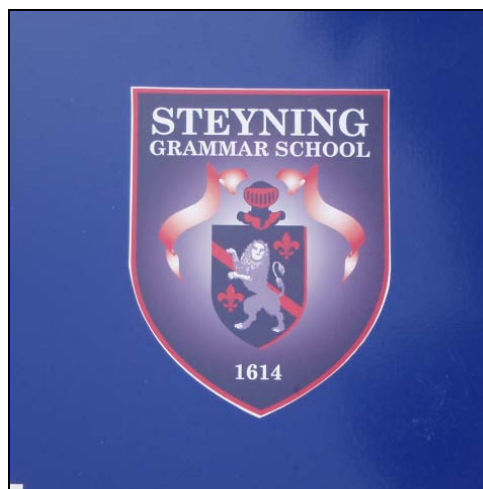


Fig. 6. The School Logo, 2013

Letters recently discovered in SGS Archives have revealed a renewed search for a Holland coat of arms from 1952 onwards, probably because the new Secondary Modern school was about to be opened on the Shooting Field site in 1953. John Scragg was Head Master of SGS from 1944 to 1968 and would naturally have been keen to emphasise the historic background of the school in Church Street. A Mr Brackenbury of Steyning spent much time in 1952 searching for evidence of a William Holland coat of arms, but had no luck. John Scragg writes in 1954 that to the best of his knowledge the ‘badge’, as he describes it, was adopted by the school in 1906 [though I am not sure where he gets this date from - JP] taking a basic Holland coat of arms [such as the Hollands of Angmering – JP] and adding a red bend [from the Hollands of Denton – JP]. The red bend, he says, ‘...was in all probability assumed without authority’, as indeed it was.

Other enquiries were made, and in 1958 an Old Boy wrote to say that on a school prize received in 1898 ‘there are the gothic letters W.H. in monogram, surrounded by a border inscribed ‘*Schola Steyningensis Condita* A.D.MDCXIV’, and to the best of his recollection, his cap badge just had ‘S.G.S’ displayed on it. This would have been a disappointment to Mr Scragg, who was apparently still looking for evidence of a coat of arms being in use before 1906.

In 1964 Francis Steer, the county archivist for West Sussex who had undertaken to help in the on-going search, sent Mr Scragg a letter from Sir Anthony Wagner, Garter Principal King of Arms of the College of Arms. There seems to be a general consensus that the copied coat of arms comes from the Holland family of Denton, from whom William Holland probably descended, though the coat of arms did not descend with him. Sir Anthony stated ‘It is quite clear that unless it can be shown that the founder was entitled to the Arms ...they could not be granted to the School unless they were heavily differenced [change/added to] first’.

I feel that all the evidence points to William Powell Breach, Old Boy and Trustee, as the originator of a spurious coat of arms for Steyning Grammar School.c.1900 or soon after that date, perhaps spurred on by Head Master the Revd A Harré (1883-1908). It was certainly in use by 1912 when new or adapted school buildings in Church Street were opened by West Sussex County Council Education Authority.

If Steyning Grammar School applied to the College of Heralds for a legitimate and ‘differenced’ coat of arms today, the cost would be in the region of £4,000.

©Janet Pennington  
Steyning  
January 2014

**POSTSCRIPT A new logo is at present being designed for the school. It will not be a *bona fide* coat of arms – that would be too costly – but it will include all the best of the above research. In February 2014 it was in the final stages of design and approval. It is hoped to include the finished logo in a future edition of the Newsletter, and it is sure to be included in the Museum’s Anniversary Exhibition.**

## Sources

*Boutell’s Heraldry*, rev. by C. W. Scott-Giles (1950); William Powell Breach, ‘William Holland, Alderman of Chichester, and the Steyning Grammar School’, *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 43, (1900), 59-83; Breach’s personal copy of the foregoing article, annotated with a coat-of arms painting, and the letter from Lord Ashburnham added, now in Steyning Museum; Breach’s draft article of the foregoing, in Steyning Grammar School Archives; J. F. Huxford, *Arms of Sussex Families* (1982); J.M. Sleight *William Holland and The Early Years of Steyning Grammar School* (2013); Correspondence and other items in Steyning Grammar School Archives; West Sussex Record Office, Chichester, Steyning Grammar School files.

I am particularly grateful to Cathie Ballard and Caroline Meeson for their researches into the SGS Archives, Joyce Sleight, author, former teacher, librarian of SGS, Chris Tod, curator of Steyning Museum and George Barker OB of SGS for help and ideas. John Hawkins of Bognor Regis, West Sussex, heraldic researcher, spent many hours looking at William Holland’s ancestry and any possible links with other Holland families and their coats of arms.