



Museum News

Steyning Museum Newsletter

April 2015

Museum Diary

06.06.15 1940's Garden Cream Tea
at Jarvis, Jarvis Lane
3.00pm - 5.00pm

200 Club

February Draw:

- 1st prize = Wendy Moss (£35)
- 2nd prize = April Henebury (£25)
- 3rd prize = Leslie Coyne (£15)

March Draw:

- 1st prize = Ken Stotesbury (£35)
- 2nd prize = Ann Butler (£25)
- 3rd prize = Jane Alvarez (£15)

200 Club Subscriptions

Most members of the 200 Club don't need to remember when subscriptions fall due as they pay by standing order which come through automatically. I remind cash payers each March that they should pay their subscription if they wish to be entered for the monthly draw. I have therefore attached reminders to the newsletters of those whose cash subscriptions are now due.

Activities Day

The children's activity days at the Museum which Joan Denwood and Muriel Wright

organise in the school half terms are proving to be very popular. They are a good way for the Museum to strengthen its links with the community. We are always pleased to see how parents and grandparents take the opportunity to come in to see what we have to offer - often encouraged to come by the children who have previously enjoyed a visit with their school.

Joan Denwood reports on the recent half-term day:

Children's Activity Day was on Thursday 19th February and an interesting, fun day was had by all at our Museum. More than 50 children enjoyed extra activities, put out for the morning and afternoon sessions.

Apart from exploring all the hands-on attractions our museum usually has to offer, the children had extra fun, such as playing bagatelle and shove ha'penny, finding out about old cameras, making and decorating Spring baskets, dressing up in historical costumes, playing with old and newer toys, and the ever popular brass rubbing, using a variety of brasses.

None of this could have been possible without the wonderful band of volunteers who manned each activity, explaining and helping the children to get the most out of their session.

Thank you so much to all who helped on the day.

There was a lovely, lively, fun atmosphere in our Museum, just as it should be, with the children, parents, and grandparents having a great time and realising how much Steyning museum has to offer for everyone.

You will find below some photographs of the day.



Craft Table



Brass Rubbing



Dressing Up



Bagatelle

Help!!

Richard Coatsworth has for some time been shouldering the task of looking after the 200 Club and collecting the Friends subscriptions. As he is now planning to hand over the job, it is appropriate for us to wish him well and extend our warm thanks for shouldering the task on behalf of the Museum.

Richard's departure means that we have to find someone else to take over the task of the 200 Club and Friends subs. We are very grateful that Erica Gaylor has

volunteered for this, and with her experience in banking, she is well qualified.

That leaves us with finding someone to pick up Erica's work with publicity, hence my heading of "Help". As with all jobs with the Museum, we will leave anyone who volunteers to shape the task in their own way so as to play to their own strengths. The essential tasks will be to distribute publicity posters (which I usually produce) and submit items to *Your Steyning* and the local press. Erica of course will be on hand to guide and advise in the early stages.

So we are back to "HELP". If you think you might be able to help, please leave me a note in the Museum with your name and phone number and I will contact you. We won't expect you to make a definite commitment until you have talked through with Erica what will be involved, and you feel happy to give it a try.

Chris Tod would also welcome someone who could offer assistance with curating. If you feel you might be interested, Chris would be happy to discuss what would be involved, so please contact him at the Museum

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting provides an opportunity for Museum Friends to hear what has been going on in the previous year in the running of the Museum. The Friends make it possible for the Museum to exist at all as they provide the finance and give voluntary help with meeting the public and school parties.

As Friends, you are responsible for electing the management committee and approving the financial accounts. Both these tasks are decided at the AGM.

The meeting on 21st March approved the accounts and the members of the committee for the next year as follows:

Jacque Buttriss (Chairman), Jackie Campbell (Vice Chairman), Chris Tod (Curator), Paul Norris (Treasurer), Helen Coutrouzas (Minute Secretary), Tony Ketteman (Friends and Communication), Sarah Leigh (Stewards), Joan Denwood (Education), Muriel Wright (Shop), Erica Gaylor (Publicity), Liane Watt (Oral History) Maggie Hollands has become Chair of the Social events sub-committee, ably supported by Mariella Alexander, Pam Perry, and Paddy Robson.

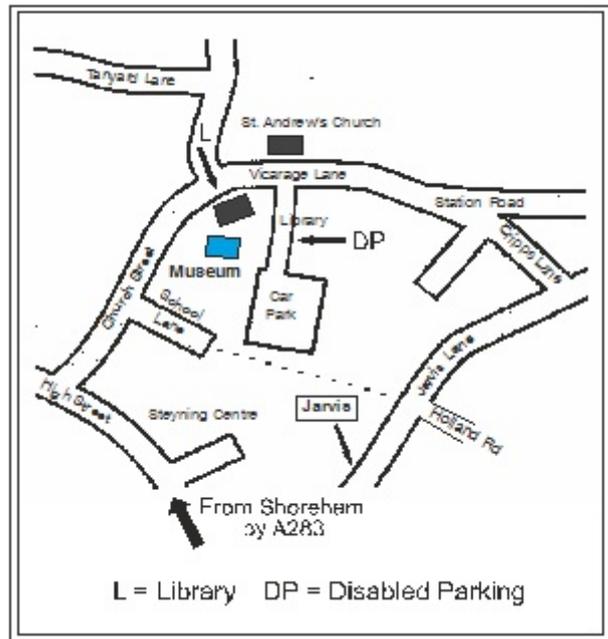
40's Cream Tea

Maggie Hollands has written:

Please come along on June 6th and join us for a 1940's cream tea with homemade scones. We are holding this between 3pm and 5pm in the garden of Martin and Jenny Toomey's house at Jarvis, Jarvis Lane, Steyning.

The cost of the cream tea will be £4 in advance or £5 at the gate on the day. Tickets are will be available for sale from the Museum four weeks beforehand.

It will help if you can bring a chair. You will find a map below for anyone who is not familiar with the Toomey's house.



New Church Guide

Sarah Leigh has been researching for some time the history of Steyning Church of St. Andrew and St. Cuthman. Her labours have now born fruit in the form of a new church guide for visitors. Over the page Sarah has provided us with a short piece on progress.

Tony Ketteman
(Editor)

The End in Sight – for the Church Guide

Or at least the Beginning of the End, as the Man said – I'm likely to be writing about the church for years to come, but at least by the end of April this year there will be, just by our splendid 800 year old font, an actual Church Guide which people can actually buy.

This has been a joint Church and Museum project and I've had a huge amount of support from our doughty Curator, from our archivist David Thompson, and above all from Tony Kettman, our editor. It was Tony who first suggested obtaining the services of a Proper Publisher, which idea had never occurred to me.

We went to Jarrolds and our editor there actually came down here to see the Church. He was taken round it by our non-resident Romanesque sculpture expert Professor Malcolm Thurlby (he's actually resident in Canada).

It turns out that Proper Publishers these days produce glamorous church guides with dozens of photographs and ours will be no exception – it will have about 80 illustrations. Most of these were produced by Chris Fitton our resident churchwarden/photographer who has provided photos which show bits of the church which even the most observant and assiduous visitor will never have seen.

Two of the illustrations will be drawings by Maggie Keen of the church as it probably was when originally finished in around 1180 – unrecognisable from today's structure. We learnt from Malcolm's mammoth lecture last April that this is the remains of a magnificent and highly ambitious church. (You can still download the PowerPoint version of the lecture from the History page of the Museum website). It's very unusual both in its level of decoration and in its design – to have a clerestory (upper level) is very unusual in this generation of churches. We also learnt the family background of the two Abbots of Fécamp who commissioned the building.

The Guide (with a smaller walk-round version) will be published on 30 April and we are having a party to launch it which all lovers of the Church are welcome to attend – at 5 pm on 30 April, in the Church of course. We will be exhibiting Chris' photographs (including several which didn't get into the Guide). On this occasion we will also be launching a new enterprise, the Friends of St Andrew and St Cuthman, which will in future be responsible for looking after the building's relationship with the world, organising guided visits and other material, and hopefully raising money to keep the building in good order. We need to hear from anyone who would like to be involved.

Also on 30 April we hope to exhibit the results of a competition. We're asking people who live within sight of the Church and have an interesting view which can't be seen from a public place to take a photograph. The results will be assessed by a judge provided by Steyning Camera Club. Please email me at sarah.c.leigh@btopenworld.com if you would like to take part.