



MUSEUM NEWS

Steaying Museum Newsletter

December 2005

The Extension

For the sake of those of you who haven't visited the Museum in the last month, the old and new parts of the building have now been joined together and the decoration and carpeting of the extension completed.

If you have seen the local press, you will know that, to mark the hand-over of the building to the Trust, we held a key ceremony on 15th January. Simon Stringer (of Stringer and Kitson, who carried out the construction) was on hand to hand over to Chris Tod a large key (made by Tony Kitson).

Anna Grundy, who has been our contact with the Heritage Lottery Fund, joined us and congratulated all who had been involved in the planning, money raising and overseeing the construction. She had been very impressed with the way the Museum, as a voluntary organisation, had been able to carry out such a an efficient project.

Update on the Work on the Extension

Now that the building phase of the extension has been completed, we are getting racking set up in both the upstairs and downstairs stores. This will enable us to relocate the collection, and for the first time it will all be under one roof. It will become infinitely more accessible and will be stored in good conditions. Part of the downstairs store will be a working area where we will have an opportunity to work on the rest of the fitting out. Once the collection is relocated we will move on to getting the research area sorted out and eventually, in the New Year, get started on the display material and fixtures for the new public space.

Stewards' Training

There will be a series of short training sessions for stewards when the new displays are getting close to completion. They will be devoted principally to explaining how this new space will be run. We hope that the sessions will be mainly a matter of reassurance, because the space has been designed to keep things extremely simple. The details of this training will be given in the next newsletter.

Coffee Morning

We again had a very successful coffee morning on Saturday 29th October. Helen Coutrousz reports:

The Friends always support our social events with enthusiasm and generosity, but at the recent coffee morning, they excelled themselves. A record number of people attended, and the raffle alone raised £129 - more than ever before. As a result, the morning's takings exceeded the £300 barrier for the first time, which is most encouraging to the team of organisers. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to a most successful event.

There is always a need for more helpers to join Helen's team. Please consider lending a hand. If you can offer your services, you can leave a note for Helen at the Museum.

200 Club

October Draw:

- 1st prize = Mrs Y Goacher (£35)
- 2nd prize = Elizabeth Harris (£25)
- 3rd prize = Mrs HM Jolliffe (£15)

November Draw:

- 1st prize = Mary Holland (£35)
- 2nd prize = Margaret Martin (£25)
- 3rd prize = Mrs B McFarlane (£15)

I reported last time that Brian Hill had taken on the job of club secretary. Unfortunately, Brian finds that family circumstances don't now allow him to take up the task after all. Vanda Williamson has nobly agreed to combine the tasks of Secretary of the Friends and Secretary of the 200 Club. For this we owe her our warm thanks. It has also reassured Lawrie Smalley who thought he would have to resume the role.

We still have quite a few 200 Club members who pay their subscriptions in cash. To ease Vanda's burden of running two organisations, I will be writing to those members as their payments fall due to urge them to pay by standing order instead. It really does lessen considerably the administration of finances if payments come in regularly through standing orders.

Museum Diary

- 21.01.06 Stewards' and Helpers' Social
Penfold Hall 11.30 am
- 01.04.06 AGM
Penfold Hall 2.30 pm
- 08.04.06 Spring Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00
- 28.10.06 Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00

Subscriptions

January brings the time for paying subscriptions if you are one of those who make cash payments. If this applies to you, I have enclosed with your newsletter a separate letter and payment form.

End Piece

We are lucky enough to have another Janet Pennington article as our end piece this month. In case you were wondering, yes there was a mistake on the map supporting Janet's article last month. The 'Chequer Inn' label should, of course been the 'White Horse'. That mistake was mine and nothing to do with Janet! This month Janet is writing about the history of the King's Head Inn in Upper Beeding - and I'm not risking a map this time!

We also have a bonus as Janet has unearthed two short items to interest and amuse.

Firstly, she writes:

While researching the article on the Market House last time, I came across an unsigned manuscript verse about Richard Penfold. This was the man who had proposed taking down the Market House in 1771 and erecting a new one on land given by Sir John Honeywood. Penfold died in 1785 and was buried on 1st June, five years before the Tilley and Young v. Curtis case. His large grave can be seen in front of the south porch of St. Andrew's Church. Perhaps the unnamed poet was a supporter of the Duke of Norfolk, certainly someone who had not much liked the Steyning surgeon. Could it even have been Joseph Curtis ...?

Epitaph on the late Richard Penfold (Surgeon; Steyning):

Physical Dick here he lies
nobody Laughs Nobody Cries
Where his Souls gone, or how it fares,
Nobody Knows nobody cares.⁽¹⁾

(1) Horsham Museum MS. 126A; 126.2.11; 126.1.12; 126.2.13; 126.2.19

Secondly, we have 'A Sad Tale from the Steyning Parish Registers':-

West Sussex Record Office, Par 183/2/22 - '1784 Moses Steyning a Foundling from the Workhouse baptised 18 Jan [uary]'. Was he found in a basket on the doorstep? The Vicar presumably named him. Mouse Lane was often running with water, as it does nowadays, and the mill stream was nearby. Little Moses had a short life, as a later entry reads '1787 Buried Moses Steyning pauper 25 Apr[il]'. He was only three years old.

Tony Ketterman
Editor