



# MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

December 2006

Four events have been occupying the Museum community since our last newsletter - the Hobbies and Leisure Showcase, the Big Draw, the Autumn Coffee Morning and the Colin Garlick exhibition - so they take up most of the space in this month's newsletter.

## The Hobbies and Leisure Showcase

The first of our big events was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September. The Steyning Centre was overflowing with stalls from many of Steyning's societies and clubs. The Museum stall was well positioned in the Saxon Room and many people were drawn to our display of the work done by the Friends of the Museum. We had organised brass rubbing to attract the children particularly, as well as an historical lucky dip to serve as an ice breaker with the public to give us a chance to persuade them to give their support as a Friend. We signed up several new Friends, so we felt it was a valuable experience.

## The Big Draw

The important occasion was the Big Draw, and if you have been into the Museum recently you will have seen on the wall of the lobby the panels which were produced on the day. Jacquie Buttriss, co-ordinated the event for us, and has provided the following:

*Steyning Museum's first Big Draw day was held on Saturday 14th October - the national day for a variety of art events in public places and heritage sites all over the country. We wanted to take part in the Big Draw for two main reasons. The first was to encourage and welcome a wider audience into the museum, especially families with young children, who might not otherwise come inside our doors. The second reason was to unite our local community, welcoming people of all ages and all abilities into the museum to take part in an enjoyable and creative endeavour which would result in a colourful mural for display.*

*We were awarded a small grant from the Co-op's Community Dividend Fund, which*

*enabled us to purchase all the materials and resources we would need, to supply refreshments and to hire the Penfold Hall as an overflow area, which we were very glad of at our busiest time.*

*Some of our brave stewards dressed up for the occasion in a variety of period costumes, to inspire us as we drew, painted, made, cut and stuck our small works of art, which were then assembled to complete the mural of Market Day in Steyning across the ages. The workshops were led by local artist Janet Keystone, with the support of Elizabeth Harden and Jacquie Buttriss. Other friends of the museum helped on the day, including our former Chairman, Lawrie Smalley.*

*The event began gently, with just a few participants in the morning. This number grew through the day until we filled both the museum and the Penfold Hall for most of the afternoon. One visitor came with her family in the morning and they all joined in. Her husband then kindly took all the children home to lunch and she stayed on for the rest of the day! Another participant kept receiving calls on her mobile to come home as she had the key and no-one could get in!*

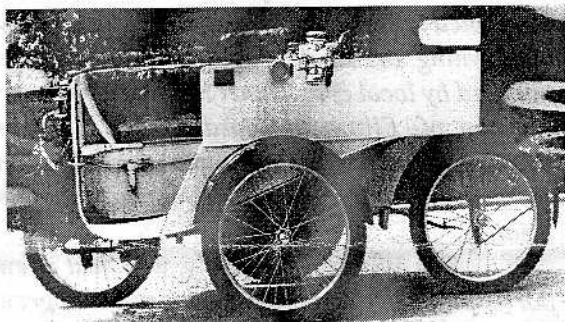
*A young child met a friend as she left and skipped across the car-park proclaiming: "I had a lovely time at the museum!" One adult visitor was overheard leaving the museum: "I really enjoyed that - I haven't done it for years. I drew a cow." A grandmother with her family commented: "The children thought it was brilliant and I enjoyed it extremely. I didn't want to go home. None of us did."*

*Thanks to a brilliant team of helpers, our Big Draw day was a great success, with the gratifying total of 119 visitors, nearly all of whom came to join in. The resulting work of art is now hanging for all to see in the entrance to the museum. Have you been to admire it yet?*

### The Garlick Collection

On 15<sup>th</sup> October, Chris Tod completed the exhibition devoted to the life of Colin Garlick, landlord of the Chequer Inn for many years. We owe our thanks to his wife, Sylvia, for generously providing so much material for the display. The exhibition has certainly attracted much attention from the public. Such has been the interest that quite a few visitors have come from Brighton to see the display and share their memories of Colin.

One particular point of interest has arisen from one of the photographs which shows Colin as a baby with his mother. In the background is a lady sitting in a singular looking vehicle. Chris was intrigued enough to write to the National Motor Museum to ask what the vehicle was. They reported that it was a Sunbeam-Mabley car, built in 1901/1902. Its unusual appearance arises from the fact that it was constructed with the wheels mounted in a diamond formation. There was one wheel at



The Sunbeam-Mabley

the front, one at the back, (both for steering) with a pair mounted in the centre driven by the engine. At a price of £130, it was a very expensive car for its day. Just how expensive it was can be illustrated from a sale notice from a Steyning estate agent for 1928 announcing the sale of three cottages in Bank Passage. The asking price was £130! Above you can see a photo (of very poor quality) of the "luxury" car.

### Autumn Coffee Morning

28th October saw the latest Museum coffee morning in the Penfold Hall. It was well attended and proved to be the most profitable so far, with takings of £324. The Christmas cards were on sale and made £100. Warm thanks to Helen Coutrouzas and her team.

### Wilton Park

Following the Colin Garlick display, Chris Tod will be assembling an exhibition on Wilton Park as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the conference centre. As I reported in the October newsletter, part of the celebration will be a joint

talk and supper with The Steyning Society on 15<sup>th</sup> December. So many of you responded to the invitation in the last newsletter to join us on that evening that Peter Harris has now closed the list. Many thanks for such warm support.

### Museum Diary

- 20.01.07 Stewards' and Helpers' Social  
Penfold Hall 11.30am
- 17.03.07 Annual General Meeting  
Penfold Hall 2.30pm
- 14.04.07 Spring Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00

(You will note that I now have the right date for the Spring Coffee Morning - its on the 14<sup>th</sup> not the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.)

### Beeding and Bramber Local History Society:

- 01.11.06 The flint miners of Cissbury  
(Meetings will be in Beeding & Bramber Village Hall. Details from Pat Nightingale on Tel: 812847)

### Steyning History Society:

- 31.01.07 The Way we Were
- 28.02.07 Patterns of Colonisation  
(Meetings in the Penfold Hall at 7.30pm)

### 200 Club

#### October Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Margaret Martin (£35)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Robin Brooks (£25)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Jo Thornton (£15)

#### November Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Laurie Keen (£35)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Jean Scragg (£25)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Phyl Rowntree (£15)

### Subscriptions

The date for renewing subscriptions to the Friends comes up on 1<sup>st</sup> January so I have enclosed a renewal form for those of you who pay in cash. I make my annual plea for you please to complete a standing order for future payments from January 2007 (you will find a form attached). We have around 370 Friends now, so having standing orders does save the time which otherwise we spend reminding those who forget their cash payment.

### End Piece

I expect you have been following the progress of work on the White Horse this summer. Janet Pennington has kindly written a brief history of the old White Horse for us as our end piece this month.

Tony Kettelman - Editor