



MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

December 2007

The Big Draw

On 13th October, Jacquie Buttris again organised a very successful Big Draw Day. Here is her account of the occasion:

Our second Big Draw art-workshop was a great success with many members of our community. People of all ages, including whole families, came to look around the museum and interpret our artefacts in a variety of ways. Everyone drew, painted or made collages on individual squares, which are now mounted together into one giant patchwork of Steyning's past. Come and see it on display in the foyer of the museum.

The day began at 11 and ended at 5. Between these times, individuals and families came in to take part in this year's Big Draw. Extra stewards helped ensure we could keep the museum open all day. We had volunteers in the museum to show people around and help them choose what they would like to sketch. Once 'rough' sketches had been made, participants then came through to the Penfold Hall, where we had several more volunteers and artists ready to help them interpret their sketches in whatever medium they wished. Popular choices were pastels, paints, soft pencils and collages. One family even managed to make 3D pictures, which are included in our patchwork and really help to liven it up.

One of the most rewarding things about this year's Big Draw day was the variety of

individuals and family groups of all ages who came to join in - from a few months old to 90 years plus! Some were serious artists and others were self-confessed beginners - all produced creative and distinctly individual squares for our patchwork. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and many participants stayed to do additional squares.

One of the main aims of the day was to encourage new visitors into the museum to enjoy our displays and to find their own ways of interpreting different aspects of Steyning's past. By this yardstick, the museum's Big Draw 2007 was certainly a successful day.

The positive responses were typified by one mum with her family: "I think it's a great idea. The children really take time to look at things so that they can draw them. We've had a super time and really enjoyed ourselves." Another said "Thank you for all you've done to make it such a good day for us all."

A big thank you also from the Big Draw organiser to all members of the team who worked hard to make it such a successful event and bring new people into the museum. Particular thanks to our artists, Janet Keystone and Elizabeth Harden, who freely gave so much of their time and commitment.

As the Big Draw workshop finished at the end of the afternoon, it was summed up by one little girl who staged a sit-down protest just outside the museum entrance, yelling at the top of her voice: "I don't want to go home!"

