



# MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

December 2008

## Museum Diary

- 19.12.08 Joint Social with  
The Steyning Society  
Steyning Centre - 7.30
- 17.01.09 Stewards & Helpers Social  
Penfold Hall - 11.30
- 21.03.09 AGM  
St. Mary's House  
Bramber - 2.00pm
- 18.04.09 Spring Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall  
10.30 - 12.00
- 24.10.09 Autumn Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall  
10.30 - 12.00

## November Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Pat Tod (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Anna Norman (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Charles Westoby (£15)

We are always looking for new members for the Club, so please consider joining if you are not a member. (Some application forms are kept in the Museum.) At least half of the monies collected as subscriptions from members provide the prize money each month and the remainder is passed to the Museum. The more members we have, therefore, the greater is the income available to run the Museum.

## Big Draw Art Day 2008

From Jacquie Buttriss, who was the Big Draw co-ordinator for the day:

*On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, the sun shone on Steyning's buildings which was an enormous help as the Big Draw Art Day began. Our theme this year was indeed the buildings of Steyning and visitors came throughout the day, many of them taking museum clip-boards out to sketch buildings or their features. Other participants sketched displays, models or photos in the museum or came straight into the Penfold Hall, where a wide variety of media were available to help all-comers paint or make their finished artworks. Participants ranged from toddlers upwards, through all the age-ranges. Many came in family groups and all had fun trying out new materials or different angles, producing drawings, paintings, collages, rubbings and 3D models. They have all now been mounted together to make a striking display in the foyer of the museum. Do look out*

## A Very Successful Autumn Coffee Morning

From Sally Lefroy:

*Our coffee morning on the 25<sup>th</sup> October gave us a beautiful autumn morning with blue skies and sunshine which was much appreciated. We attracted a good crowd of 64 people who enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere at Penfold Hall and we raised a total of £206.96. Many thanks to you all for coming and supporting us. I would also like to say a very big thank you to all the helpers and those who provided items for sale. Our next coffee morning will be in the Spring on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the Penfold Hall, when we will again be having a plant stall which proved a big success earlier this year. We look forward to seeing you there.*

## 200 Club

October Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Miss Jolliffe (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Anne Ketteman (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Pam Perry (£15)

for it next time you visit.

*"My house, my house, my house," proclaimed 3-year old Leonard triumphantly as he held up his colourful collage, complete with the number on the front door (with a little help from his family). "It's a good chance to be creative," commented an enthusiastic adult visitor from Upper Beeding. "It's doing it with other people – More people should come. You have all the facilities. There are not many opportunities to do artwork together," agreed a talented mother and daughter from Steyning. "It's a good social thing to do," added a couple from Suffolk, staying in Saxon Cottage.*

*Of course, none of this would have been possible without the enthusiasm and hard work of several people. We especially want to thank local artist Adam Judge, who was our leader for the day and gave his time, energy and expertise free of charge. Also many thanks to our curator, Chris Tod, together with Joan Denwood, Lianne Watt, Peter Burton, Diana Smyth and the six stewards who were on duty that day, all of whom in their different roles, helped to make the day a great success. Thanks also to David Hazeldine, Tony Ketteman and Paul Norris who helped behind the scenes. Finally we want to thank the Co-operative Community Fund, who awarded us a grant to buy materials and hire the hall for the day. Thank you one and all.*

### **Christmas Cards**

The first order for the Museum Christmas Card sold out very quickly this year so more have been ordered and are now on sale at the Museum.

### **The First 25 Years**

From Sarah Leigh:

*November 2008 sees the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Steyning Museum. We felt we should commemorate this amazing achievement.*

*The Museum was founded and has been run throughout this period completely on volunteer labour. 389 people (at least) have acted as stewards during the period, keeping the Museum staffed all the year round whatever the weather. Hundreds more have helped with*

*the curating and the exhibitions, donated the exhibits, delivered the rotas and the newsletters, looked after the garden and maintained the building, made the cupboards and the display furniture, served coffee, tea and cakes and run the raffles, organised countless events and manned the stalls on special occasions – the list is endless. Our committee members have met once a month (except for August) every year for the last 25 years.*

*In the last 17 years Chris Tod has put together about 50 exhibitions (unfortunately we haven't kept an exact count) and the next one, which will open on 28 November, will be on the history of the Museum.*

*We cudgelled our brains to think of a way of commemorating all our volunteers' efforts and came up in the end with the idea of producing a history of the Museum. This has now been published in the form of a small book and this will be on sale from 28 November onwards at the Museum at the cost price of £3. We are giving away a copy of the book to everyone whose name is listed in it, as a token and completely inadequate recognition of their services. We realise we must have left some people out, as our records are incomplete, but we have done our best.*

*On 28 November the Committee are inviting a small number of people, including former committee members and our longest serving stewards, to a reception at the Penfold Hall and to a private view of the exhibition. We'd love to be able to invite all Friends but sadly we don't have the space.*

*The Steyning Society founded the Museum, and it's only fitting that our main celebration of the anniversary, should be at a joint event with the Society – the Christmas Supper, at the Steyning Centre on Friday 19 December. Chris Tod will be the only speaker.*

### **Further to the Two Pence Bank Note**

I was very interested to receive a note from Carol Wade after she read the previous newsletter, putting forward an idea as to why Steyning should have printed a bank note with a face value of only 2 pence. Carol's son had told her that in the 1790s, around the time of the Napoleonic Wars, there was a shortage of copper coinage and that may have been why a 2 pence note would have been used.

Sarah Leigh has suggested another idea, namely that the notes were a form of

advertising for the bank. Any other ideas?

### **Training Days for Stewards**

It is two years since Chris Tod last ran sessions to bring stewards up to date with the latest changes in the Museum. Since then the new edition of the "Stewards Guide" has dealt with many issues. However there are always points which need further amplification. For this reason we would encourage you to try to come to one of the sessions on offer. It is important that we all continue to operate to the same high standards that we have always managed to achieve in the past. It is also important that we are aware of any concerns which you, the stewards, may have.

Each session should last for not more than one hour. Please let Chris Tod know if you can attend one of the sessions, and if none of the days are possible, Chris will try to sort out an alternative.

Sessions will be:

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	10.30
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	9.15
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	9.15
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30

### **End Piece**

This month I have revisited an article written by the Rev Cox for the April 1930 edition of the Steyning Parish Magazine. Alongside his duties as vicar of St. Andrew's Church, Cox was a respected antiquarian and regularly wrote articles published in the Parish Magazine in the 1920s and 30s.

The one I have reprinted this month is on the water mills of Steyning.

Tony Kettelman - Editor