



Museum News

Steyning Museum Newsletter

December 2013

Museum Diary

- 08.02.14 Steyning Showcase
Steyning Centre
- 20.02.14 Children's Activity day
The Museum
11.00-12.00 &/or
2.30-4.00
- 29.03.14 Annual General Meeting
Penfold Hall
2.30pm
- 12.04.14 Spring Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall
10.30 - 12.00
- 08.11.14 Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall
10.30 - 12.00

200 Club

October Draw:

- 1st prize = Liz Coatsworth (£35)
2nd prize = Roger Francis (£25)
3rd prize = Margaret Easton (£15)

November Draw:

- 1st prize = Jill Peacock (£35)
2nd prize = Annette Taylor (£25)
3rd prize = Alan Durden (£15)

Recruitment

We were very grateful to be offered a free pitch for a stall at the October Farmers' Market which we used to mount a recruitment drive to boost the number of Friends. As the Museum is financed and run by volunteers from the Friends, it is very important that we maintain our membership numbers. The stall at the Farmers' Market proved to be very successful, thanks to the efforts of those who ran the stall. In all, we signed up 40 new Friends.

The Big Draw

From Jacquie Buttriss:

We held our annual Big Draw art workshop day on Saturday 12th October 2013, in partnership with the Steyning Grammar School 2014 Quilting project. It was a good day with people of all ages (from 3 to about 83 this year), coming into the Museum to observe and sketch artefacts that shone a light on Steyning's past, then coming across to Penfold Hall to make them into artwork patches for our joint collage, which will be displayed shortly in the foyer of the Museum. Alongside, there was a busy quilting and appliqué circle, creating beautiful patches for one of their quilts, all of which will be displayed locally during 2014, the Grammar School's 400th anniversary.

Can do lots of things. It's very fun. I'm going to encourage my friends to come next time.
Harriet, aged 8.

"I liked going into the Museum and looking around, seeing all the old artefacts and making one into a picture." Lily, aged 11, from Upper Beeding.

"Children have fun here. You can draw or paint and you can choose the materials you use."
Imogen, aged 9, from Steyning.

"I really enjoyed how we can use lots of different materials and it doesn't matter if you're good at drawing and painting or not. You can just do your best." Elise, aged 9, from Brighton.

"I think it's really fun. You can use different colours and it doesn't matter if you do it wrong. You can do it any way you want." Ollie, aged 7, from Brighton.

"I like to support the Big Draw every year. It's an annual event for us. We bring different people with us every time. It's always very relaxed and friendly and we like to support the Museum." Dawn, a Mum from Steyning.

"A lovely afternoon we've had. I've never been in the Museum before. It's fascinating. Thank you." Jan, from Southwater.

Although the attendance was slightly down on previous years, there was quite a buzz of activity mid-afternoon and, a few moments later, complete silence as everyone, including several children, concentrated hard on their own artworks ... until we realised and broke into laughter!

My thanks to all those kind volunteers who helped us on the day: Liane Watt, Chris Tod, Muriel Wright, Judith Walters and Gill Kille. Thanks also, of course, to Amanda Duke and her helpers in the Quilting group.

Please come along and see the finished 'patchwork' of drawings, paintings and collages in the Museum's foyer during December. The finished quilt will be on display in 2014.

Autumn Coffee Morning

From Gillian Kille:

We had an excellent turnout of about 66 Friends and others considering the morning started with some light rain, but fortunately it stopped at just the right time! It had been several months since our last coffee morning in April as we didn't organise a garden one this year. There was a very pleasant feel to our autumn occasion, giving people the opportunity to catch up with friends and see what the stalls had to offer, including the Museum's shop stall which displayed several appealing items for stocking fillers.

The stalls and the raffle generally did well – there

were some tempting raffle prizes and although there did not seem to be quite as many items on the bric-a-brac stall this time, the books sold really well.

We raised a net profit of £236.62, after expenses and we would like to thank all our cake makers and helpers and also those of you who brought along items for the stalls and raffle prizes too. We do appreciate your generosity – we always need your support.

Our next coffee morning will be next Spring on Saturday 12th April, 10:30 – 12:00 at the Penfold Hall. Please do come along and join us. We will also have our usual spring plant stall so if you have managed to grow and raise any spare plants or cuttings etc, do please bring them along. If you have recently become a Friend of the Museum, we would love to see you too.

Children's Activity Day

From Joan Denwood:

On Thursday 31st October we had a very successful Victorian Children's Activity Day, with children arriving dressed as witches and skeletons too. Well it was Halloween!

They played with Victorian style toys and games, and had the chance to re-enact a traditional Victorian washday. They tried on replicas of old Victorian costumes and had fun brass rubbing. There was also a card making table where the children were shown a traditional Victorian Christmas card and then could make their own. This is always very popular and the children enjoyed using the art and craft materials.

Adults enjoyed their time too as they looked around the museum and it was a very sociable day with everyone chatting, saying how nice it was and what a good day it was.

Thank you so much to all our helpers who gave up their time, or provided additional costumes, to make this day such a success.

As one family said 'we have lived in Steyning for a few years and have never been here before, this is great'. And that is what it is all about!



Enjoying brass rubbing with mum.

A Landmark Event

From Sarah Leigh:

On Sunday 13 April 2014 (Palm Sunday) at 2.30 pm Professor Malcolm Thurlby, York University, Toronto, will lecture on 'St Andrew and St Cuthman's Church, Steyning, and Romanesque Architecture in Britain and Normandy' in the Steyning Centre, followed by tea and a tour of the church. Tickets (£8) will be available from the Museum and from the Steyning Bookshop from 1 December.

As many Friends will know, I have for some years been struggling to produce an authoritative new Guide to our magnificent parish Church. I studied early Romanesque sculpture to try to date the south aisle arch, which is almost unique. Then I decided to appeal to the experts and got a lot of help from a number of them. The best response was from Professor Malcolm Thurlby, who is currently the foremost expert on twelfth century Romanesque sculpture in England and Wales, author of splendid books on the Herefordshire School and the Romanesque churches of Wales, and of a very large number of papers and monographs on individual churches.

One of these papers, published as long ago as 1991, is on the nave of our church and indeed it is

the only published modern authority on it. I managed to persuade Malcolm that he should return and deal with the earliest and most remarkable sculpture in the south aisle, and also I wanted to ask him to think again about the chancel arch. He came to see the Church in May during a short visit to the UK (he lives and works in Canada) and proved to be a delightful visitor. He will return next April to deliver a lecture on it which I hope will answer all our questions, organised jointly by Steyning Museum and the Sussex Historic Churches Trust. Following that we will publish the new Guide, a joint enterprise between the Museum and the Church.

Subscriptions

I have left till last the least popular piece of news - the annual subscriptions to the Friends are due on 1st January 2014! If you pay with cash, you will find a reminder slip attached. At this point I will make my annual appeal for cash payers to make arrangements please to pay by bank standing order in future as this saves so much time for Richard Coatsworth and myself in sending out reminders to those who forget to pay.

End Piece

The end piece this month is an account received from Martin Toomey of a Steyning Charity established by a previous owner of his house, "Jarvis", in Jarvis Lane. In his account Martin poses questions which someone among you may be able to answer. If you can, please leave me a note at the Museum.

Tony Kettelman (Editor)

MRS TAYLOR'S SCHOOL :CHILDREN EXPORTED

“Jarvis”, in Jarvis Lane, in the first three decades of the 20th Century was the property of Dr & Mrs Taylor [the first Mrs Taylor that is] though their home was in Palmeira Square Hove. They ran a charity for the relief of 'unfortunate girls' and their progeny who were housed in Jarvis as well as over the road in one or two ex railway carriages [probably acquired when redundant from Lancing carriage works] which were set up as dwellings on the land where now stand St. Cuthman's Cottage and three other houses at the south east end of Holland Road. [Some “railway” cottages survived until the sixties]. Gervays Hall and Jarvis Lodge, which were set up in 1933 as Charities with different purposes, were also owned by the Taylors. Research might establish when the Hall was built and whether it was the 'school' building. The children of the unfortunate girls were not the concern of Dr Taylor. Jarvis was his house [research might establish how much he lived in it before it became a boarding house for the first Mrs Taylor's charity work] but he continued to live in Hove.

From the nineteen sixties to the eighties we [Avril and Martin Toomey] had enquiries, letters and visitors from Canada and Australia with nostalgic memories of their childhood years, as well as from returnees in the UK. In the nineties we had enquiries from the Australian Social Services seeking to establish birth certificates 'from the Matron of Jarvis House'. Mrs Taylor's Charity was clearly one of those which thought it best to export single mothers' children to the Dominions with few questions asked.

THE JARVIS LODGE CHARITY

This charity succeeded the single mothers charity and gave lodging above the Jarvis Lane carriage house to a deserving widow of the Parish.

THE GERVAYS HALL CHARITY 1933

Similarly this succeeded the single mothers charity. It gave the land and the Hall for the educational and spiritual uses in the Parish in perpetuity.

I speculate that these two charities were established at the end of the first Mrs Taylor's era - the second Mrs Taylor not being willing to continue it.

THE SECOND MRS TAYLOR'S DAUGHTER AND REX HAYES

Research would establish when the first Mrs Taylor died and was succeeded by the second. She - the second Mrs Taylor- lived in Jarvis until about 1952 when the House was bought by an old couple, the Warners, and then bought again in 1959 by my parents Mr Desmond and Mrs Gwendolen Toomey. The Second Mrs Taylor was the mother of Mrs Hayes, wife of Rex Hayes who was the modeller for SME in their car modelling days and who modelled beaches of the 1944 D day Normandy landings in great secrecy in a room upstairs in Jarvis.

MARTIN TOOMEY

Jarvis. 30.10. 2013

Editor's note:

Martin mentions that the young mothers housed by the Taylor's charity had been sent to the dominions. As early as the 17th century beggar children had been shipped to the American colonies, and in the 18th century transportation (especially to Australia) of convicts, women prisoners and their children was common practice. In the 19th century the Dr Barnardo charity began sending children from workhouses to the colonies for a better life. Older children lived with farming families working as labourers, while younger ones were boarded out. Canada welcomed the most children and by 1939, when the practice ceased, had received a total of around 30,000. Sadly, the “better life” didn't always materialise and if the opportunity arose, some returned to Britain.