



# MUSEUM NEWS

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Steyning Museum Newsletter

December 2016

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## Museum Diary

- 11.12.16 Southdown Concert Band  
Grammar School Drama Hall  
Starting at 2.00 pm
- 23.02.17 Children's Activity Morning  
The Museum  
10.00 - 12.30
- 18.03.17 Annual General Meeting  
Penfold Hall  
10.00 - 12.30
- 08.04.17 Spring Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall  
10.00 - 12.00

You will notice that the time for the AGM in March has been moved to the morning. This is because the occasion of remembrance and celebration of the life of George Cockman is to be held on the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup> March, at a time we had scheduled for our AGM.

## 200 Club

### October Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Anne Hanson (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Maralyn Garton (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Gwen Lowe (£15)

### November Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Andrew Slater (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Judith Krolick (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Brian Hill (£15)

## The Big Draw

from *Jacquie Buttriss*

This year's Big Draw art workshop was held on 15<sup>th</sup> October. It was our tenth year of running this

creative event and in many ways it was our best yet. Many of our participants had never visited the Museum before, but vowed they would come back, which is just what we like to hear... We had family groups with us from the moment we opened and throughout the day – several of them staying for more than two hours, sketching, painting, printing and making collages, all on this year's theme of Steyning glass – mainly old bottles and windows from around the town. The atmosphere was buzzing all day and many attractive artworks were produced by adults and children of all ages. They have since been assembled together to make two combined displays within the museum, so do come along and have a look.

I would particularly like to thank all the wonderful helpers who made this lovely day such a success: Chris Tod, Muriel Wright, Joan Denwood, Stephanie Grant, Helen Ayres, Nickie Sherrott, Anne Bacon, Maggie Hollands and those stewards who gamely found themselves roped in to help as well! Most of us didn't sit down once all day, but it was worth it as everyone who came was full of praise for the event: "Hours of fun!" exclaimed Sue, a mum. "It's great using all the different materials, and good to get the children away from the telly and off the computers. We'll be back!" Another mum, Julia, agreed: "Lots of space, excellent materials and we're having lots of fun. We're on a roll!"

## Children's Activity Morning

from *Joan Denwood*

During October half term week we held a very successful activity morning. We were delighted that 33 children, 4 toddlers and 21 accompanying adults arrived during the course



of the morning, to take part in our activities. They had fun brass rubbing, making calendars, dressing up, being archaeologists, working string puppets, playing with toys and games. There was a busy and buzzy atmosphere in our Museum. When asked what they enjoyed the best, a family of three children each said a different activity, so obviously variety is the name of the game! Also a couple of young families said that they hadn't been to the Museum before and were having a good time and that was so lovely to hear.

We had very good, extensive publicity in the County Times, with a picture on the front page and a double centre fold with great quality pictures.

Thanks need to go to all our helpers, from our publicity person, poster distributor, activity organisers (both beforehand and on the day), to our 'policemen' who patrol to keep the museum safe and sound during the event. So many, many thanks to all of you for helping to make it such a success.

Our next Children's Activity Morning will be in February half term on Thursday 23rd.

### **Autumn Coffee Morning**

*from Maggie Hollands*

It was a very wet morning for our Autumn coffee morning and we were in competition with other events in the town, but what a success the morning was with a great atmosphere!!

We raised approximately £400 for the Museum funds thanks to many contributions for our stalls including scarves and handbags which are proving very popular. Many thanks to our cake makers who as usual did not let us down. The whole atmosphere was very con-jovial and thank you to all who attended.

Please can I remind you about our Christmas concert on Sunday December 11th at 2pm at the Steyning Grammar school drama hall. The tickets are available from the Museum and Steyning book shop and are priced at £7:50 and £3.00 for under 16's including refreshments. The Southdown Concert band are playing for us, so don't miss the opportunity to join us for a very pleasant afternoon.

### **Money Matters**

*from Tony Kettelman*

After all the enjoyable news of the pieces above, I have to come to the matter of subscriptions. The Museum relies of the generous support of all our helpers to run its activities, but we have to keep an eye on how our running costs are covered. We get no income apart from what we raise though our own efforts, so this is the time of year when I remind those of you who pay your subscriptions with cash that 1<sup>st</sup> January is the date when they come due.

If you are a cash payer you will find attached to your newsletter a reply lip to send in with your subscription. At the time of writing, our Friends membership stands at just over 360, and I am pleased to be able to report that the majority of those members help us by paying by bank standing order.

To encourage more of you to move to a standing order payment I have attached an application form to the reply slip. If you are a cash payer, please help us by moving over to a standing order. Please remember we are all volunteers!

Tony Kettelman (Editor)

## **A new Constitution for the Museum – the end in sight!**

I wrote in the February 2016 newsletter to explain the reasons for the Museum committee proposing to adopt a modern constitution for the Museum; the newsletter is on the Museum website under the Friends page, in case you should wish to reread the full background. I asked for comments or objections. No one had any objection. This plan was therefore approved by the AGM in March. We have now accordingly registered a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the name unchanged, *The Steyning Museum Trust*. It is charity number 1169540.

After much discussion we registered the objects of the charity as:

- (1) TO MAINTAIN STEYNING MUSEUM FOR THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF MATERIAL EVIDENCE WHICH ILLUSTRATES THE LOCAL HISTORY OF STEYNING AND ITS ADJACENT PARISHES (ASHHURST, BRAMBER, UPPER BEEDING, WISTON) FOR THE DELIGHT INTEREST AND TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC;
- (2) TO CARE FOR AND CONSERVE THE MUSEUM COLLECTION AND DEVELOP IT AS APPROPRIATE;
- (3) TO INTERPRET THE COLLECTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND LEVELS OF ABILITY;
- (4) TO PROMOTE RESEARCH TO UNDERSTAND THE COLLECTION AND THE ASSOCIATED LOCAL HISTORY AND MAKE THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH ACCESSIBLE.

You can read the whole constitution of the CIO on the Museum website.

At present the current 1983 charity still owns all the Museum assets and the new CIO is just an empty shell. We now need the Friends of the Museum, in accordance with the 1983 constitution, to decide to transfer all its assets into the new CIO and close the old charity. The Trustees who currently hold the Lease of the Museum will assign it to the new CIO, and all the Museum's contents and other assets will also vest in the new body.

We had thought we might get this done in time to have a general meeting for the purpose this autumn, but we now plan to ask you to do it at the AGM on 18 March 2017.

The structure of the body is that the CIO has members who will be the final decision-makers for the CIO and who will elect the Trustees. We hope that all the present Friends of the Museum will apply to become members of the CIO.

The constitution states that:

“9.(1) (a) Eligibility. Membership of the CIO is open to anyone who is interested in furthering its purposes, and who, by applying for membership, has indicated his, her or its agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members set out in sub-clause (3) of this clause.”

Subclause (3) provides that “It is the duty of each member of the CIO to exercise his or her powers as a member of the CIO in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO”.

We will circulate application forms with the AGM papers. The membership fee will be unchanged.

The constitution provides for a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 12 Trustees. In fact we have registered the CIO with only 5 trustees – the current Chairman, Curator, Secretary, Treasurer and myself (not in my capacity of Stewards’ Organiser but in that of organiser of all this stuff).

We will need to decide whether in future the Museum will be run by an executive committee, elected by the Members, including the Trustees, or whether we should carry on with all the executive committee as trustees. The constitution allows for either. In view of the fact that Chris Tod is, sadly, retiring at the AGM, and seems likely to be succeeded by several people, I’m suggesting that we stick with 5 trustees and a separate executive committee for the first year at least, until we see how that pans out. It may well be the most flexible permanent arrangement. I have consulted a number of organisations running CIOs and most of them have opted for just a few trustees.

We will be circulating the draft resolution for the AGM with the AGM papers, but in the meantime if you have any questions or concerns please email me on [stewards@steyningmuseum.org.uk](mailto:stewards@steyningmuseum.org.uk) or phone me on 813422.

The change has not yet cost anything as there is no fee and we have not needed the assistance of lawyers to develop and register the new CIO. However, there will inevitably be costs in connection with the assignment of the Lease and we will have to change the charity number on our documents.

Sarah Leigh  
November 2016