



# Museum News

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Steyning Museum Newsletter

December 2019

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## Museum Diary

- 11.01.20      Stewards & Helpers Party  
                 Penfold Hall  
                 11.30 am
- 28.03.20      Annual General Meeting  
                 Penfold Hall  
                 10.30 am

## 200 Club

### October Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Mrs J Brooks (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Mrs S Crowder (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Mrs P Hill (£15)

### November Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Tom Aubrey (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Marion Emery (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Brian West (£15)

## Museum Extension

If you have visited the Museum over the last few months you cannot have missed the building activities going on. What you have been watching is the construction of a second extension.

The Museum started life in the basement of 93 High Street, but it was soon clear that larger accommodation was needed. A temporary solution was found by moving to Saxon Cottage in Church Street, but a new permanent home was needed to accommodate an increasing store of historical artefacts. Thus started a fund raising campaign to provide a purpose

designed building which we now use.

After a few years the success of Museum attracted more public attention and with it came the donation of more items. Eventually it became clear that more storage space was needed and that meant we needed an extension. After a money raising effort which included the loan of an empty shop in the High Street to draw public attention to the campaign, sufficient funds became available to build an extension. The new building provided more display space but also a work room and an upper storey storage space.

Over the years the loft of the new building had been slowly filling with items from the collection. Eventually, we reached the point when more storage space was needed. The solution was for us to build a second extension to the building in 2019.

How do we finance it? We had been bequeathed monies over the years which we had kept aside for any future building work and thus were able to make the decision to extend again. The legacy funding has been sufficient to provide us with just an empty shell, but now we have to seek grant monies to complete the task.

The existence of a space at the side of the original building has provided us with a solution as to where we could build. Having found an architect and achieved planning permission, building was ready to start.

The builders have now completed their task and left us with an empty shell. The concrete floor must be left to dry out for at least six months before a top surface is provided to allow the space to be used for storage. Fund raising must now proceed to complete the project.

### **Museum Finances**

This year, Paul Norris as treasurer has made it clear that the Museum's income is no longer adequate to cover daily running costs. The subscription of £5 per person had existed for many years, but it is now clear that we have to consider an increase.

To give you some idea of the size of our regular outgoings, here are figures from Paul Norris for expenditure at the last AGM. Rent - £405, Rates - £1625, Water Rates - £135, Cleaning - £716, Repairs and Maintenance - £300, Fire Alarm system - £367, - Insurance - £1.900, computer and Telephone - £920, licence for Modes - £400

At the extraordinary Meeting of the Friends on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November the management committee proposed that the annual subscription should rise to £10. The motion to do this was passed.

This decision meant that changes needed to be made in banking arrangements. A letter is attached about this and the bank changes needed.

### **Coffee Morning**

*from Maggie Hollands*

Thank you to all who attended the recent coffee morning, and thank you very much for your continued support - we can't do without you.

We raised approximately £245.92, and even though it was the morning of the rugby, still

65 people attended. It was as usual a very enjoyable morning with everyone catching up with friends.

As to further Coffee Mornings, the next one is on March 14<sup>th</sup> and, as a treat, we will in future be serving filtered coffee, which I am sure you will enjoy. The downside to this is that after many years of charging £1 for entrance, we have decided that we must raise the entrance fee to £2, but this is still cheaper than the charge made by many other organisations in the town offering coffee and biscuits and, where would everyone go to enjoy such a lovely atmosphere with many friends!?

### **Publicity Officer Needed**

After doing sterling work for us as Press Officer, Stephanie Grant has decided to stand down. We therefore would welcome offers from one of the Museum Friends to look after Museum Press Publicity. If you are interested, please drop a note in the Museum addressed to Muriel Wright giving your name and contact details.

### **Report from Margaret Benham**

*Assistant Cataloguers Needed*

The Museum now has a new computerised cataloguing system - *MODES*. The plan is to record the Museum's entire collection on this new system. This is a mammoth task and in order to speed up the process, one or two assistant cataloguers are required. We are looking for volunteers for this role. If you are comfortable using a computer, pay attention to detail, understand the importance of accuracy and have a few hours to spare each week, please do contact Margaret Benham at the Museum on 01903 813333 or by email to [collections@steyningmuseum.org.uk](mailto:collections@steyningmuseum.org.uk) and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

### *Additions to the Collection*

In October we received 4 donations comprising 19 individual objects. We have accessioned 8 objects plus 14 that were received some time ago but which we have now decided should be added to the collection. Amongst the donations in October was a photocopy of the Minutes of the Beeding Parochial Overseers/Board of Guardians for the period 1826 to 1858. Basically these are the records of the distribution of Poor Relief to people of Beeding during that period. It contains details of the overseers /guardians, those granted relief and the type of relief given. It will be a valuable research resource. I hope that Guy Standen will have the time to photograph all of the 139 double pages and save them onto the Museum PC. Photographs provide a far clearer image of the text.

### **Audio Visual Project**

*from Joan Denwood*

We hope to get the 2 new pieces - a second listening post and second screen, installed by Christmas. The second screen, planned to show items not usually on display, will initially have past pictures of

1. Steyning
2. Bramber and Upper Beeding
3. People
4. Old Toys.

The second listening post will be near our shepherd and have anecdotes about farming and Steyning market.

It does take a while to do our research and transfer it onto our new wonderful machines, so please bear with us. Then when this is achieved, please do look and listen, as I hope you have been doing with

our screen in the entrance hall and first listening post by the railway display. We would be delighted to hear any comments you have about this project and you can put favourable ones in the visitors book and unfavourable ones, or suggestions in the diary!

### *Education*

Since the last newsletter we have had a class from Windlesham School visiting us for a topic on *Homes and Buildings*. We also took a group from *Historic Houses* around Bramber Castle and St Nicholas Church. Both these sessions were good fun, as well as educational, of course, and many thanks to my companion on these occasions, Muriel Wright.

We are about to have a visit from Shoreham College for a topic on *Old Toys*.

Also, a first for us, will be a visit from a home-schooling group in November too.

### **Exhibition**

Over the page you will find details about the next exhibition due to be ready at the end of November.

### **End Piece**

Paul Norris reminds us that there is a box behind the counter in the Museum to take used computer ink cartridges (not laser or toner cartridges). We are able to raise money by collecting these, so please add any you have. The first full box raised £68.

Tony Ketteman

(Editor)

Steynning Museum

# Yuletide

greeting cards - decorations - toys  
and gifts from the past

How we celebrated the  
Festive Season  
in Bygone Days



November 29 to January 9th