



MUSEUM NEWS

Steyping Museum Newsletter

February 2005

Extension Progress

Luckily, Museum visitors and Friends keep on buying bricks and our total has now passed £8,000!! The Museum stall at the Christmas Shopping Evening in the High Street was a great success. The public took a great interest in buying bricks, raising £133, and £44 was raised by selling items from our shop.

We have two major fund raising events to come - the Book Sale on 9th April and the Kaleidoscope concert on 23rd April - so, with luck, that could take us to £10,000. By then we should have learned whether our Lottery bid has been successful. The Heritage Lottery Fund has replied to our application and sent more questions for us to answer. A very hopeful sign has been that three of their officials came to visit the Museum on 21st January and proved to be generally supportive.

Book Sale

The last time the Museum held a book sale we raised £1,300, due very largely to the outstanding efforts of Sheila and Peter Hoare in sorting and storing several thousand books. Sarah Leigh has offered her barn for us to sort and store the books for this year's sale so we are now ready to cope with all your contributions. Please turn out all those books you no longer need and take them along to the Museum so our team of helpers can make a start on sorting. If you can give some time to sorting, please give me a ring on 812380.

Something we are going to need are supermarket-type plastic bags for our customers at the sale to take round the

book displays. As last time, they will then pay for what they have in their bag as they go out. Can you please leave any you have accumulated at the Museum.

Please turn out those books so we have plenty to show the customers and remember the date of the sale - Saturday 9th April in the Penfold Hall, from 10.30am to 4.00pm.

Kaleidoscope Concert

Zoe Peate and the Kaleidoscope Choir have generously offered to give a benefit concert in April on behalf of the Museum. It should be a very enjoyable occasion. They are a choir popular with local audiences, and another great attraction will be the fact that Peter Thorogood has offered us the use of the beautiful Victorian Music Room at St. Mary's House in Bramber. If you have never visited St. Mary's, you are in for a treat, and those who have been to events at St. Mary's before, will know that the old house provides a memorable setting for concerts.

Please come along and support our fund raising concert. I have enclosed a leaflet about the concert and a booking form. Please return the form and your ticket money to me at the Museum.

Remember the date - 23rd April at 7.30pm, St. Mary's House.

Museum Diary

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 19.03.05 | Annual General Meeting Penfold Hall - 2.30pm |
| 09.04.05 | Book Sale Penfold Hall 10.30am - 4.00pm |

23.04.05 Concert by 'Kaleidoscope'
St. Mary's House - 7.30pm

200 Club Draw

December Draw:

- 1st prize = John Johnson (£35)
- 2nd prize = Anne Ketterman (£25)
- 3rd prize = Jill Kemp (£15)

January Draw:

- 1st prize = Alan Dow (£100)
 - 2nd prize = Brian Maynard (£50)
 - 3rd prize = Betty Ford (£25)
- (This was the Grand Annual Draw)

Subscriptions

The subscriptions are coming in well. Thanks are due to all of you who have responded so promptly, and thank you also to those who have filled in a bank standing order for their sub. It does make life much easier for the Museum and you don't have to remember to do anything, as the money is paid automatically each January. In case anyone didn't get round to paying up last time, I have again enclosed a payment slip with the newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

You will find enclosed the official notification of the Annual General meeting, which this year, is scheduled for Saturday 19th March in the Penfold Hall at 2.30pm. We will follow the usual pattern of starting with a business meeting to receive reports and hold elections for the officers. After tea, Sally White (formerly from Worthing Museum) will give a talk on "Worthing and the History of Sea Bathing". This promises to be an interesting occasion so please come along.

Our next exhibition

Our next exhibition (due at the end of April) will mark 60 years since the end of the Second World War, and 90 years since the

Steining poem was written in the heat of the First World War. We may even be able to sneak in something about some other wars - the Napoleonic Wars (ended 190 years ago), Trafalgar (200 years), the English Civil War and the engagement at Bramber Bridge (361 years ago). We would like to be able to paint a picture from the perspective of local people, but will not neglect the wider implications. To do this please do contact Chris Tod if you have any items which relate in any way to these conflicts - from the home front or the battle front. Uniforms, documents, objects - all will be welcome.

We will also be putting on a special Second World War event at the Museum during the course of the Steining Country Fair on the last Monday of May. More of that in a later newsletter, but please write the date - May 30th- in your diaries.

Disability Access

The Disability Discrimination Act seeks to ensure that everyone, whatever their disability, has an equal opportunity to enjoy what is offered to the public. We have to ensure that we have made "reasonable" efforts to achieve the required standards, and so were "audited" in November. Generally we were favourably assessed, but there were various technical points relating to new building regulations which will need some consideration and a list of detailed observations were made about the visibility of some of the texts and objects which we have on display. We will be addressing these points over the next few months.

End Piece

Janet Pennington has contributed an end piece for us this month, based on research that she and Annabelle Hughes carried out at on Chanctonbury Butchers in the High Street.

Tony Ketterman - Editor