



MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

February 2006

Extension Progress

Work on the new extension has been pressing ahead and the design of the layout has been evolving and being adapted as time goes on. You may have seen all the woodworking activity recently, but that is only a small part of what has been going on.

All the items stored in the original loft (accessible only by the ladder), have been re-located in the purpose-designed space upstairs in the extension. It is such a relief to have a real staircase to get access and have sturdy open shelving so items can be located easily. Chris Tod is also relieved that he has been able to empty his shed of all the large Museum items which have been stored there for years. The office has also been cleared of other parts of the collection housed there since the building opened - much to the relief of the cataloguers.

There is a long way to go before it is obvious what all the activity has been about. Enough will have been achieved, however, by the AGM for you to have a tour and see what has been achieved (see AGM below). The deadline for final completion will be 1st June when we will be holding the official opening. I'll put more about that event in the next newsletter.

Steward Training

If you are a steward, you will have a chance to learn how the new Museum space will be used in one of the training sessions Chris Tod is organising. These will also include an up-date on any points which concern people. Each session will start at 10.30am and should take about an hour. I have enclosed right at the end of the newsletter, a form

showing the dates being offered for the sessions. If, as a steward, you would like to attend, please fill in the details requested and return the form to Chris at the Museum.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM this year is on Saturday 1st April in the Penfold Hall at 2.30pm. It will start with the usual format of a business meeting to hear reports and hold elections for officers, followed by tea. This year, after tea, the customary illustrated talk will be replaced by a brief talk about how the extension project was planned and carried out, followed by a tour of the new building. You will be able to hear about how the space will be used, see the improvement in storage facilities and learn about the new displays.

I have enclosed the usual official notification of the meeting.

Museum Diary

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| 01.04.06 | Annual General Meeting
Penfold Hall 2.30pm |
| 08.04.06 | Spring Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00 |
| 01.06.06 | Official opening of the
Museum extension - 2.00pm |
| 28.10.06 | Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00 |

200 Club

December Draw:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 st prize | = Mrs Y Goacher (£35) |
| 2 nd prize | = John Turner (£25) |
| 3 rd prize | = Gwen Lowe (£15) |

January Draw:

1st prize = Frances Fyfe (£100)

2nd prize = John Coates (£50)

3rd prize = Miss Joliffe (£25)

Subscriptions

I must thank you for the response you gave to the request for subscription payments last time. Many of you responded to the appeal to pay in future by standing order to ease Vanda's load, and Laurie Smalley's letter asking for more 200 Club members had a good response. For those who didn't pay your Friends subscription last time, I have enclosed another form, and again an appeal to move over to a standing order.

New Items in the Collection

From time to time we comment on additions which have been made to the Museum's collection and archive. Since we last reported, there have been some interesting additions. The Wiston estate has passed on to us a box full of oddments picked up in their fields over the years. Included in this box were 38 lead tokens, over 800 pieces of tessera from the Roman temples on Chanctonbury and some inexplicable objects which we are still

researching. Our collection of "Sussex Archaeological Collections" is an invaluable local history resource, but it has been missing a few volumes. Now, thanks to the generosity of The South Downs Society, we have filled those gaps and have also added all the early volumes of the "Sussex Record Society" and a marvellous collection of early copies of "The Sussex County Magazine". These will be available on public display when the bookshelves in the new Research corner have been built.

Finally, H.J. Burt have kindly lent us a log book of all their activities in the years following the establishment of the firm in the 1880's. They did business over a considerable part of East and West Sussex and we have been able to extract details of all the immediately local events.

End Piece

I am grateful to Lynda Denyer for providing the end piece this month on the De Braose family. The form for stewards comes after that.

Tony Kettelman
Editor