



MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

February 2007

200 Club

December Draw:

- 1st prize = Audrey Warren (£35)
- 2nd prize = EW Clarke (£25)
- 3rd prize = Anthony Allen (£15)

January Draw:

- 1st prize = Judy Taylor (£100)
- 2nd prize = Mary Holland (£50)
- 3rd prize = Penny Hill (£25)

This is the result of the grand annual bonus draw.

Before Christmas, I wrote to all Friends who weren't members of the 200 Club, to ask them to consider joining. I should like to thank all of you who responded by joining up and also thanks are due to Vanda Williamson for all her hard work. Over the last year membership has risen by 42, and with the inevitable losses, our total now stands at 204. Many members also kindly agreed to pay the subscription by standing order, which greatly eases Vanda Williamson's task of keeping track of finances.

I know some people are surprised that membership of a 200 Club can exceed the 200 mark, but we have been advised that there is no legal limit on membership numbers.

Museum Diary

- 17.03.07 Annual General Meeting
Penfold Hall 3.00pm
- 14.04.07 Spring Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00

Steyning History Society:

- 28.02.07 The European conquest of South America and Beyond.
- 28.03.07 Annual debate
- 25.04.07 The English Channel and Norman Conquest

All meetings at 7.30pm in the Penfold Hall

AGM

You will find enclosed your official notification of the AGM on 17th March in the Penfold Hall. For some time, the Diary has been announcing this meeting as starting at 2.30pm. We have now learned that our speaker, David Bone, cannot be with us until about 4.00pm. We have therefore, changed our starting time to 3.00pm.

David Bone is a geologist, and is able to offer us a new way of looking at the origin and history of St Andrew's church through his examination of the stones used for building.

The first part of the meeting will, as usual, be for the official business followed by tea.

Wilton Park Exhibition

You may remember that, in conjunction with The Steyning Society, invitations were sent out in October for the talk and supper on 15th December to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of Wilton Park conference centre in Wiston House. Chris Tod prepared an exhibition for the occasion with material borrowed from Wilton Park's archive, and the Museum committee invited staff from the centre for a preview before the talk and supper in the Steyning Centre. In the exhibition, Chris has traced the origin and development of the Wilton Park centre which had started in Buckinghamshire as a way to educate German prisoners of war in democratic ideals. Chris has called the display "A Remarkable Experiment On Our Doorstep" and it is well worth a visit, so do come along and see it.

Steward Training

Now that the extension has been open for 7-8 months and we know rather more about how it operates and how visitors use it, we

would like to do some short follow-up training sessions to make sure that we are dealing properly with any concerns that stewards or visitors might have. Chris would hope that the sessions will last less than one hour.

The planned training days will be:

Monday	March 5	10.30am
Thursday	March 8	10.30am.
Wednesday	March 21	9.30am
Saturday	March 24	9.30am

Could stewards wishing to take part please select their best date and complete the form attached to this newsletter. If you wish to take the opportunity to attend a training session, but find that none of these dates are suitable, please indicate this on the form and Chris will be in touch to try to arrange an alternative date. Also, if you are thinking of becoming a steward, please contact Chris at the Museum and he will find a place for you on one of the training sessions.

Oddities from the Collection

Amongst the items in the Garlick Collection is a book which is not easily displayed. It began its life as an exercise book. As such, it was used intensively. More than once the owner wrote across each page in pencil and pen of various colours, but on many of the pages the owner has also written densely at right angles as well, and in addition, some pages have writing at a slant. It is recycling with a vengeance! As a result, it is desperately difficult to read anything. Then, to make matters worse, in 1847, someone (presumably a member of the Chalcraft family) began using it as a "commonplace" book and covered every page with snippets from newspapers-whatever caught their fancy - until they ran out of space in 1878. These cuttings range from free trade and the church to oddities like "The Philosophy of Drowning", the "Price of Meat in Sussex in 1756" (from which it can be seen that the price of beef and mutton was 3d. per pound and of lamb and veal 3½d. per pound) and a discourse on rain. From the latter we discover that an inch of rain equates with 22,622 gallons an acre. At the time of writing this piece, Chris says that the look of his lawn inclines him to believe it.

Since our last newsletter we have been given an old shoe - very dirty and worn. It doesn't sound promising, but this shoe dates

from c. 1700 and has been in the roof space of an old property at Ashurst for over 150 years to prevent bad luck gaining entry to the house. It will be going on display here very soon.

New Displays

Apart from the shoe, there have been several changes and additions to the Museum's displays over recent weeks and months.

Part of the Garlick and Chequer Inn display has been taken down to make room for the "Remarkable Experiment" exhibit mentioned above. It is an uplifting story and the material we have borrowed for the exhibition is quite unusual.

If you haven't visited the Museum recently you will also find that:

- The displays on "Leisure and Pleasure" are almost complete.
- The whole display on Education and the Arts has been redesigned.
- Gert and Daisy have been given a new lease of life.
- The "feely" boxes are in place.
- The Archaeological cabinet has been totally reworked - and there have been alterations to several other displays.

All this is in addition to the radically changed new displays which we completed for the opening of the extension in the summer, and the additions which we continue to make to our research archive.

Subscriptions

Thankyou to all who paid the annual subscription so promptly this year. Also, many thanks for those who responded to the appeal to pay by standing order. This makes book-keeping so much easier and it is re-assuring for Paul Norris, our treasurer, to know that he can pay the main bills which fall due in January.

The Friends and 200 Club finances are organised through separate bank accounts and so we are not able to handle single cheques sent to pay for both subscriptions. Can you please ensure that you issue separate cheques for the Friends and 200 Club.

Receipts/membership cards will be, as always, sent out with the newsletter following the payment.

Tony Ketteman
Editor