



MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

June 2005

Book Sale

Apart from selling "Bricks" directly through the Museum, we had planned two money raising events to help with financing the extension. The first was the Book Sale held on 9th April in the Penfold Hall. You all had been so generous in donating books that the hall was overflowing. There was a queue of eager customers before the doors opened, and the flow of those keen to buy continued until lunchtime. The time immediately after lunch proved to be very quiet. We assumed that people were in front of their televisions watching the royal wedding, but after 3.00 o'clock the customers returned. Though we still had many books left at closing time, the sale total passed the £1,400 mark. Our decision to charge only 50p or £1.00 per book seems to have been the right one. The money raised was a great addition to our building fund, and was due to the efforts of all concerned. Thanks to all of you who gave books and then came to buy some to take their place. Thanks also to Sarah Leigh for offering her barn for storage, to all the helpers who had spent weeks sorting the books, and to those who moved the dozens of boxes from the barn to the hall and back again after the sale

Kaleidoscope Concert

Our other fund raising event was the concert on 23rd April in the Victorian Music Room of St. Mary's House in Bramber. Peter Thorogood, the owner of St. Mary's, had generously given us the use of the House, and the Kaleidoscope choir had volunteered their services to entertain. With a glass of wine in the interval to add to the atmosphere, the evening was an outstanding success. Ticket sales had gone so well that we had to open a waiting list, and the money raised from the evening, plus a very generous donation from Peter Thorogood, came to £1,000. Many thanks to everyone concerned.

Progress on the Extension

Having been granted £107,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, we have been pressing ahead with plans to start the building of the Museum extension. Four construction firms were invited to submit tenders for the work, and we have now accepted the lowest tender from Stringer and Kitson. Work on the building can therefore begin in late July, once the Grammar School has closed for the summer.

Steyning Fair

The Museum set up a stall in the High Street as usual for the Steyning Fair, with a "Brick" theme. There was another opportunity to "Buy a Brick", as well as a chance to take part in the "guess how many bricks are in the jar" game. The game produced a profit of £22, and a total of £56 was put in the Buy a Brick box. The Museum itself was very busy, with 259 visitors, and many people were interested in browsing outside amongst the books for sale. These were some of those left over after the Book Sale, and brought in a handsome profit of £193. Altogether, it was a successful day, thanks in large part to all the helpers who gave of their time.

Museum Diary

- 20.08.05 Garden Coffee Morning
Jarvis, Jarvis Lane 10.30 -12.00
- 29.10.05 Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall 10.30 -12.00
- 21.01.06 Stewards and Helpers Social
Penfold Hall 11.30am
- 08.04.06 Spring Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall 10.30 -12.00

200 Club

April Draw:

- 1st prize = Sarah Leigh (£35)
- 2nd prize = Fido Ashdown (£25)
- 3rd prize = Phil Rowntree (£15)

MayDraw:

- 1st prize = Betty Ford (£35)
- 2nd prize = Pat Assender (£25)
- 3rd prize = Chris Peacock (£15)

Garden Coffee Morning

We are holding another of these very popular events on Saturday 20th August 2005, beginning at 10.30 am. By kind invitation of Martin and Jenny Toomey, we have the use of the lovely garden at *Jarvis*, Jarvis Lane, Steyning.

The best parking place will be in Fletchers Croft, and Jarvis Lane can then be reached via the twitten which passes the Steyning Centre. On reaching Jarvis Lane at the top of the twitten, turn right and *Jarvis* is the 4th house on the right. There will be balloons to mark the spot.

Jarvis Lane itself is not good for parking, but those with walking difficulties can easily be dropped off outside the house. Drivers unable to walk up the twitten may find parking space in Holland Road.

Access to the back garden does involve a very few steps, but we shall use the grassed, level terrace overlooking the croquet lawn for serving coffee. Some chairs will be provided, but please bring your own if you can.

The cake stall usually does very well at this function so contributions of wrapped cakes, buns, biscuits and preserves will be gratefully received, as will raffle prizes. To complete our plans for another enjoyable morning, we just require some sunny weather.

Touched by War

The exhibition "Touched by War", which looks at the various ways in which Steyning was affected by both the First and Second World Wars, is now up and running. It will continue until the end of September.

As space is limited, there were various documents which could not be included or could not be made available to read as part of the display. We have put copies of a number of them on the table for visitors to browse through. Amongst these documents is a "Catalogue of a Great Gift Sale" held at the Steyning Cattle Market in 1915 in aid of the "Relief of Allies". Many strange and unusual things were being offered for sale, among them a "Toulouse Gander", a "Bouncing Ball used by Capt. Woodward's Performing Sea Lions", a "Mail Cart", a "Sitz Bath" (what on earth was that?), a "Quantity of Hat Dye", one "Crochet Hug-me-Tight" and a "Dish of Spaghetti". There were

over 500 lots in all.

There is also a scrap book full of hand written recipes, Ministry of Food leaflets and newspaper cuttings. The original book is a little fragile for use by the general public, but copies of some items have been made for your entertainment.

The Next Exhibition

The next exhibition will be set up in October. It will take a fresh look at the countryside around Steyning. If anyone has any favourite pictures, photographs, poems or other written work which you feel is particularly evocative of this area, and would be willing to lend them to the Museum, Chris Tod would be very interested in hearing from you.

The Next Newsletter

As in previous years, there will be no newsletter in August, just a delivery of the steward rotas. The next newsletter you will receive will be at the beginning of October.

The New Museum Website

As I reported in the last newsletter, Lynda Denyer and Doug Thompson have been busy designing a website for the Museum. I am pleased to report that our own internet website is now up and running on the World Wide Web.

The web address is:

freespace.virgin.net/steyning.museum

If you don't have access to the Internet at home, an online computer will be in use at the Museum once the extension is complete, (thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund), so you will then be able to have a look at the website.

You can put your thoughts and comments on record. There is an online "Guestbook" which you can email (marked Guestbook, with your first name and your town/village) at: steyning.museum@virgin.net

We have been very fortunate that Lynda and Doug offered to be our "Webmasters", and create the site. The management committee have been talking for several years about establishing a site, so we owe Lynda and Doug a great debt of thanks for making it happen.

Lynda has provided the following guide to the website for you, and a copy of "Webword Brain Tickler" from the site. You can find all the answers among the pages of the website.

Tony Kettelman (Editor)