



Museum News

Steyning Museum Newsletter

June 2010

Museum Diary

3.07.10 Garden Coffee Morning
Rosebank, Jarvis Lane
10.30 - 12.00

Please note that the Garden Coffee Morning is on the 3rd July, not as listed in the April newsletter.

09.10.10 Big Draw Day
Museum & Penfold Hall
12.00 - 4.00

30.10.10 Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall
10.30 - 12.00

08.01.11 Stewards & Helpers Social
Penfold Hall
11.30am

09.04.11 Spring Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall
10.30 - 12.00

29.10.11 Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall
10.30 - 12.00

200 Club

April Draw:

- 1st prize = Brenda Cole (£35)
- 2nd prize = Helen Coutrouzas (£25)
- 3rd prize = Jean Meanley (£15)

May Draw:

- 1st prize = Tony Kitson (£35)
- 2nd prize = Guy Lanning (£25)
- 3rd prize = Jeanne Jones (£15)

Spring Coffee Morning

Our coffee morning on Saturday 17th April brought us blue skies, sunshine and the wonderful colours of the spring bulbs. Everyone inside the Penfold Hall was appreciating the warmth and beauty of the day and the atmosphere was fun and relaxed as everyone

enjoyed meeting friends and having a chat over their refreshments. We had a plant stall again this year which was much enjoyed. In all, 65 people came along and helped us make a net profit after expenses of £275.60. Very many thanks to you all for coming to support us. I would also like to say a very big thank you to all the helpers and those who provided items for sale.

Garden Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be on 3rd July from 10.03 am to 12.00 noon. At Sarah Leigh's kind invitation, it will be in her beautiful garden at Rosebank, Jarvis Lane. There will be a cake stall (contributions will be very welcome) and a raffle. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please note the date, as the wrong one appeared in the April Museum Diary.

Museum Finance

Steyning Museum is an important asset for the town. It boosts the number of visitors who in turn increase income for High Street traders, and the local schools find it an invaluable help with covering parts of the curriculum. The Museum, along with all institutions and individuals, has been feeling the effects of the financial crisis, and we now need to consider the problem if we are to avoid a reduction in what we can offer.

As you are aware, we have no regular income other than some investment income, monies raised from the Friends subscriptions, fund-raising activities like coffee mornings and donations from visitors. We apply for grants to cover special purchases and, until now, Horsham District Council has been able to grant us rate relief. That is the sum total of our income sources.

Horsham Council has now warned us that

they may not be able to give a rates waiver next year. We, therefore, would have to find an additional £1500 to cover the rates bill.

Another problem is that our electricity bill is about to jump by 33% now that our present three year agreement has ended.

By careful management over the years we have been able to build up a capital sum which is invested in the Charities Deposit Fund. That income is tax free, but along with the rest of the market, the interest rate has dropped to the point where we are losing income of £2000 a year.

So what should we do to prepare for any further worsening of our financial situation?

As the subscriptions paid by Museum Friends provide our main income, we feel that boosting the total number of Friends will increase income immediately without having to reduce the service we provide or call on existing members to dip into their pockets.

You will find attached to this newsletter a Friends application form, and I would ask that you please give this form to someone you can persuade to help Steyning Museum by joining the Friends. They could be husband, wife, other family member, neighbour or friend.

Please do all you can to increase our membership.

Next Newsletter

As has been the custom in previous years, the next newsletter will appear in October, with just a delivery of the steward rotas in August.

End Piece

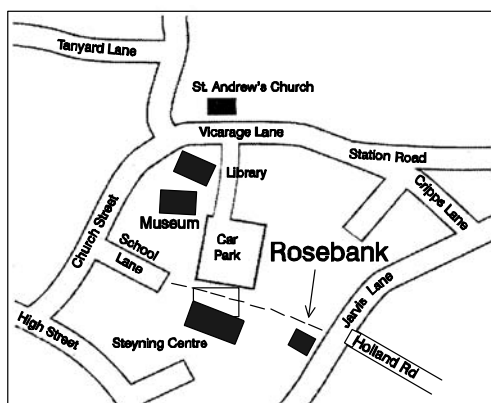
This month we can enjoy the second part of Lynda Denyer's account of the origins of the screen in St. Andrew's Church. Last time, we learned about its origin - now, we find out how the screen came to Steyning.

Tony Ketteyman
Editor

Friends of Steyning Museum

Saturday 03 July 10.30 - 12.00

Garden Coffee Morning



Raffle

Cake Stall

at
Rosebank
Jarvis Lane
Steyning

Entrance:-
£1
Indoors if wet

Please bring your own chair

ALL WELCOME

The Steyning Screen – part two

Part one described the screen in St Andrew's Church dated 1522, carved for the Bishop of London, Richard fitzJames. But how did these sumptuous oak panels come to Steyning? A new look at the question has revealed some interesting connections.

Moving on from 1522 through 120 years of turbulent religious history, another bishop of London took refuge at the Bishop's Palace in Fulham during the Civil War. He was Bishop William Juxon. In 1649, when Cromwell's cavalry horses were stabled inside old St Paul's Cathedral, Bishop Juxon famously ministered to King Charles I on the scaffold. Juxon then retired quietly to the country. His home was at Little Compton in Gloucestershire, but much of his wealth was prudently transferred to his brother John Juxon, with whom he stayed at Albourne, West Sussex. A local story has the bishop hiding there from Cromwell's men, disguised as a bricklayer working on the chimney.

Colonel Edmund Harvey of Cromwell's cavalry moved into Fulham Palace. Yet with the triumphant return of King Charles II, the brave, faithful, gentle old Bishop Juxon, as the new king saw him, was raised to be Archbishop of Canterbury. Stained glass windows and other treasures emerged in 1660, as if by magic, to be restored to Fulham. Had Bishop Juxon also spirited away the fitzJames panels from Fulham Palace during the Civil War and left them at Albourne Place? Maybe, but Albourne was sold in 1665. Little Compton is the place associated with other family treasures. Several 'secret' valuables such as a chair, chalices and a bible said to have belonged to King Charles I, were revealed by later generations of the Juxon family.

Chris Tod visited Little Compton Manor House and received a warm welcome there from staff of the Reed Business School, who now occupy it. Neither the house nor the church has any sign of Tudor panels, despite plenty of evidence of the Juxon family and fine woodwork. It was a long shot, but worth a try to see if any of the fitzJames panels or similar carving had been left there. Fulham Palace has recently been restored and opened for visitors. Windows with the arms of bishops from fitzJames onwards have survived, but the Palace Curator knows of no woodwork of his period.

John Juxon died during the Commonwealth in 1655. Archbishop Juxon died in 1663. They both left their property, including Little Compton, to William Juxon, John's son. William had been favoured by King Charles II in 1660 with the title of Baronet and the archbishop greatly assisted the career of his beloved nephew. In about 1685, William's daughter Elizabeth Juxon made an interesting marriage to James St Amand.

At last, the missing link has appeared to connect the bishops of London with Steyning. In 1664, aged 21, James St Amand had inherited from his father the lay rectorship of Steyning. With a tidy sum as income, the rector had a responsibility for maintaining the structures of the vicarage and the chancel of the church. The advowson, or appointment of the vicar, didn't fall to St Amand until 1702 when he presented John Matthews. The *Calendar of Treasury Papers*, Vol. III reports a petition of Matthews in 1702: "His three predecessors in the vicarage had not paid the tenths, and had left 49*l.* 10*s.* due. They had died insolvent and left the vicarage house much out of repair." Did James St Amand move the fitzJames panels from Little Compton to Steyning whilst improving the vicarage for John Matthews?

James St Amand was the MP for St Ives in 1685, but failed as a candidate for Steyning in 1710. He kept an apothecary shop in Covent Garden. As apothecary to King James II, he was present at the birth of James Stuart in 1688. After King James fled England and William of Orange took the throne with Queen Mary, St Amand was implicated in a Jacobite plot of 1691. By 1701 he was the chief Jacobite agent in London. Letters in the *Calendar of the Stuart Papers* reveal his code names Arnett, Berry, Emtrose and Mr Jones. He served, meanwhile, as apothecary to Queen Anne.

What actually took place in the privacy of the parlour at the old Steyning vicarage, and who met there, we can only guess. James St Amand was a truly mysterious and adventurous man. The fitzJames screen is an exuberant celebration of King Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, recording the last glorious years of Roman Catholic England. It would have dazzled those who risked all to remain faithful to the old religion. Even the screen's reference to St Richard would have seemed significant. This Chichester bishop was celebrated for opposing the secular power of the king over the church. It was said that Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn saw the death of Merry England. The shadow of religious persecution and civil strife descended over generations to come. Dissent, intrigue and resistance became ever more complex and seldom a matter of religion alone, as with the Jacobite cause to restore a Stuart king.

James St Amand died in 1728. He was still holding the Steyning Rectory but his childless son James, a collector of antiquarian books, was provided with only a simple annuity of £300. The will of James St Amand made provision for the care of his Sussex estates by appointing two executors: William Juxon, his wife's brother, and the eminent Jacobite, Erasmus Lewis. The Rectory of Steyning was to pass to Robert Hesketh, son of James St Amand's daughter Martha. Robert was not yet one year old when his grandfather died. William Juxon of Little Compton therefore had the joint care of Steyning Rectory from 1728 until his death in 1740. Robert Hesketh came of age in 1749 and died in 1796. He was the rector in 1781 when the picture by Grimm set on record that the Tudor ceiling, and therefore the panels, had reached Steyning.

The oak panels carved for the Bishop of London, Richard fitzJames, are now about five hundred years old. The workmanship is of the highest quality. This and the profusion of images representing our most famous (or infamous) king, Henry VIII, probably ensured their survival. The original setting was surely Fulham Palace, built by Bishop fitzJames to impress generations of kings, queens, bishops and celebrity guests. That the panels survived the Reformation was fortunate. Yet they would not have survived the Civil War, given their symbolism, had it not been for a brave man with a profound appreciation, who had the means to rescue such treasures from Cromwell's army. Bishop William Juxon fits the profile. Elizabeth Juxon married the Rector of Steyning, James St Amand. He was a chief Jacobite secret agent and the man most likely to have installed this rather potent relic in the old Steyning vicarage.

Today, nobody who understands and appreciates the Steyning screen needs to conceal their guilty secret. It is once again simply what it was made to be – an extravagant piece of Tudor decor and an historic treasure.

At Steyning Museum, David Thompson has maintained a file of information and research on the subject. An illustrated booklet of research during 1990 is available for only £1.

Lynda Denyer