



# MUSEUM NEWS

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Steyping Museum Newsletter

June 2018

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## Museum Diary

- 23.08.18      Sussex Produce Dinner  
                  (Look out for the poster)
- 22.09.18      Autumn Coffee Morning  
                  Penfold Hall  
                  10.30 - 12.00
- 10.11.18      Armistice Lunch  
                  Penfold Hall  
                  at 12.30
- 1.12.18        Saxon Room  
                  Steyping Centre  
                  Victorian Christmas Talk  
                  at 2.30pm

## 200 Club

### April Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Mary McFarlane (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Paddy Robson (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Brian West (£15)

### May Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Michael Rice (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Ros Golds £25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Helen Lewis (£15)

## Spring Coffee Morning

*from Maggie Hollands*

What a brilliant Spring Coffee morning we had in the Penfold Hall on Saturday 7th April. Thank you to everyone who

came, those who contributed to the various stalls including the raffle, cakes and bric a brac, Jewellery etc.. We made over £410 profit which is a fantastic amount, all going towards the Steyping Museum funds.

I have never seen it so crowded. It was a most successful morning with a great atmosphere everyone seeming to enjoy themselves.

Please note in your diaries our future fund raising events:-

On Thursday 23rd August we have our Charity meal at Sussex Produce. This is a most enjoyable evening which is held every other year.

The Autumn coffee morning has been changed to SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER.

On Saturday 10th November we will hold our Armistice Lunch at the Penfold Hall with homemade soup and roll. Please come along and join in the fun.

On Saturday 1st December at 2:30 we will present a Victorian Christmas talk in the Saxon Room of the Steyping Centre.

Please see posters advertising these

events nearer the time.

Thank you to everyone who supports us. We could not do without you.

### **Future Exhibition Plans**

*from Andrew Woodfield (exhibition team leader)*

The Exhibition Team have eight exhibitions in the planning stage - some more advanced than others, one ready to be installed and two near completion.

We will be ending 2018 with an exhibition entitled "CENTENARY". This will look at the Armistice, the foundation of the RAF and Votes for Women and will run from November 10th until early May next year. I know we are a little late with the RAF and Votes for Women, but as the three are so linked together in history I thought we would do more justice to the three subjects by exhibiting them as one exhibition.

Lois Roemer and Ron James have worked incredibly hard in researching the local men who fought in WW1. We are compiling files on both those who died and those who returned. The files will form part of the exhibition for visitors to look at if they wish.

We wish to include images of as many of the men as possible. The Museum Archives contain a few photographs, but we would like to put out a plea for any images to borrow of local men within the Museum catchment area and any information that you feel may be of interest to us.

***THIS PLEA ALSO INCLUDES LOCAL WOMEN WHO MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE WAR EFFORT.***

Should anyone have any information/images, please address them to me and leave them in the communication drawer in the Museum. Please include your name and contact details so that I can return any family items to you and inform me if I may have your permission to copy the material concerned.

***WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR AN RAF AEROPLANE!*** - not a real one — a model one! I have my colleagues at the Brighton Toy Museum and the Collectors Club that I am a member of also looking! I would like to hang from the ceiling a model plane of roughly 2-3 foot wing span — the type that you see flying by wireless control, but we would hang it without the heavy motor - but it must be an RAF plane.

We would like to borrow the model for six months (Nov 2018 to May 2019) and it will be insured in the Museum policy.

If anyone has any of the above, please let me know at the Museum.

Should you wish to contact me, I am normally in the Museum every Monday and Thursday morning from 10am to 12.30pm (telephone 01903 813333). If you wish to pop in and see me personally please ring the doorbell on the inner door as the Museum is closed to the public on those mornings and the inner door will be bolted.

### **Children's Morning in the Big Tent** Thursday 31st May

*from Joan Denwood*

It was our turn to give back to our community and put on lots of activities for children as part of the Steyning Festival. The day before I was wondering what it would be like in a large tent, with lots of children, in a thunderstorm! I needn't have worried, it was worse! No seriously, it was great even though it did rain, a lot. Our helpers braved it through

the rain and so did the children. There were 50 of them with their families and as the tent warmed up and the sun eventually came out there was a lovely happy, busy atmosphere.

The children, of all ages, took part in a variety of activities including dressing up as Knights together with some realistic weapons, and also as Victorians. They made mosaic pictures from tiles, produced wonderful brass rubbings, dug in the archaeology tray, played with games and toys, used their imaginations using glove puppets and string puppets. They calmly coloured in pictures and designed shields and even had the chance to use Victorian stereoscopes too. They concentrated on drawing items from the Museum, called line or observational drawings, which was a new experience for many.

The children and families really enjoyed themselves, with lots of reminiscing going on for the adults. I heard 'I remember that' and 'they haven't sat and done drawings like that for so long before' and 'it's lovely to see them doing practical play and not just pushing buttons'. All in all a very successful morning for both the museum and the Festival. We also signed up a new steward too.

I simply can't finish without a huge thank you to all the helpers. There were 20 of us and without them it would not have been possible to have such a fantastic morning.



## Calling all Beano lovers

*from Joan Denwood*

Hello folks, we may be linking with the library again in support of the Summer Reading Challenge for kids 2018 and with the additional incentive of getting visitors through our doors too. It was very successful last year with over 50 families visiting us who may not have done so otherwise.

This year's theme is Mischief Makers, inspired by the much-loved iconic title Beano, which celebrates its 80th anniversary.

If any of you have any items, relating to the Beano I would be delighted to hear from you. I am thinking about comics, annuals, figures of characters, soft toys etc. We need Dennis, Minnie the Minx, Gnasher and friends so that we can set up a hunt/trail in the museum. Looking forward to hearing from you all.



Fun in the Big Tent

**For the End Piece** this time Jacquie Buttriss and Lois Roemer have provided a report on research they have been doing.

Tony Kettelman (Editor)

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**Reminder:** As in previous years, the next newsletter will be delivered in early October

**Votes for Women**  
**Suffragettes in Steyning**  
*from Jacquie Buttriss and Lois Roemer*

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018, Steyning Museum was host to a small army of protesters, marching through and shouting 'Votes for Women.' Suffragettes? From a century ago? Well, no ... it was the 1st Steyning Brownies. They had come to our Museum to learn about those doughty women who fought for equal rights through votes for women. Our education officer, Joan Denwood led the enjoyable session on Suffragettes, to help them prepare for their new Brownie badge challenge.

Steyning has had its riots in the past, as you can see in our current exhibition, but it hardly seems the place for those militant Suffragettes we hear about. Nevertheless, Steyning became home to three of the most active members of this group.

**Maud Joachim**, niece of the famous violinist and composer Joseph Joachim, had a comfortable childhood and at the age of 31 was enrolled at Girton College, Cambridge, where she studied 'Moral Sciences', one of the few subjects available to women at that time. Eight years later, Maud joined the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) and became an active, militant suffragette. In early 1908 she was arrested for taking part in a demonstration in the House of Commons and was sentenced to six weeks in prison.

On her release, Maud published an article on Votes for Women. On 30<sup>th</sup> June the same year, she was arrested again for being part of a deputation to Parliament and this time spent three months in Holloway Prison. Another article followed and several more protests, until she was arrested a third time, with several others, in February 1909 when they interrupted a meeting led by Winston Churchill. Ten days' imprisonment followed, during which she earned the title of the first woman in Scotland to stage a hunger-strike.

Over the following months and years, Maud was repeatedly arrested and

often imprisoned, though not always, as she was now established as a 'trouble-maker', in prisons. In March 1912, following a demonstration by 200 suffragettes, breaking windows of government buildings in Whitehall, Maud was sent to Holloway Prison for six months, then on to Maidstone Prison, where she could cause less trouble. Further activities followed and in 1913 Maud and the Pankhursts approached Keir Hardy and other prominent people and were successful in gaining their support.

On the outbreak of WW1, Maud was in Dublin with Sylvia Pankhurst. They returned to London where Maud set up an East End employment bureau for those who had lost their jobs due to the war. She also became Manager of a toy factory to employ some of them.

Once the war was over and votes for women were finally granted, Maud retired to Steyning, where she lived for some years at Mouse Cottage and died there in 1947, aged 78. In her will, Maud left a legacy to Sylvia Pankhurst.

**Eva Handley-Read**, at the age of 32, was one of the first women to train and gain several qualifications in medical dentistry. In 1911, Eva married an artist and became a militant suffragette. One of her first official duties in this role was to host a meeting for the promotion of 'Tax resistance on the part of voteless women.'

In 1915, Eva started work at the Endell Street Military Hospital and joined the Women's Hospital Corps, through to 1919. Here she was known as "*the dental surgeon whose skill in extraction was considered marvellous, never failed to thrill the men, and she was eagerly pointed out to friends and visitors.*" (from 'Women as Army Surgeons')

From as early as 1916, Eva had a home in Steyning, where her son Charles was born. From her retirement in 1935 Eva lived permanently in Steyning, at 'Twittenside', Bramber Road, where she died aged 87 in 1965. Perhaps those who have lived in Steyning that long may remember her?

One of our stewards and an exhibition team member, Lois Roemer recently discovered the grave of a third Suffragette who had lived in Steyning: Eva's sister, **Violet Handley-Ham** who was secretary of the London Society. She and her husband lived at Orchard Way in Steyning.

The illustration shows a train ticket issued to Christabel Pankhurst when she travelled from London to Liverpool with **Ada Flatman**, another suffragette and distant relative of Sara Bowers of our wonderful Steyning Book Shop. Christabel, the

daughter of Suffragettes leader Emmeline Pankhurst, gave a speech at Sun Hall Liverpool.

All the Pankhursts, as friends of both Maud and Eva, may well have visited Steyning themselves in their later years. So Steyning was definitely on the map for the Suffragettes!

**End note:** I am indebted to Lois Roemer, who has done wonders in compiling most of the research for this article, from various sources. Thank you Lois.

Jacque Buttriss



Maud Joachim



Train Ticket used by Christobel Pankhurst  
(with thanks to Sara Bowers)

Button badge worn by suffragettes

