



MUSEUM NEWS

Steyping Museum Newsletter

June 2019

Museum Diary

- 08.06.19 Cream Tea
Gluck Studio & Garden
3.00pm
- 30.08.19 Sussex Produce Supper
- 22.10.19 Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall
10.30 - 12.00
- 23.11.19 Thanksgiving Concert
and lunch
Methodist Church
11.30 am

200 Club

March Draw:

- 1st prize = Elizabeth Coatesworth (£35)
2nd prize = Mike Denwood (£25)
3rd prize = Sylvia Hampton (£15)

April Draw:

- 1st prize = AnnCowley (£35)
2nd prize = Maggie Hollands (£50)
3rd prize = Dr Conboy Hill (£25)

May Draw:

- 1st prize = Celia Beresford (£35)
2nd prize = Sylvia Crowder (£50)
3rd prize = Brian West (£25)

The Annual General Meeting

The Friends of the Museum gathered in the Penfold Hall for the Museum Annual General Meeting on the 23 March. For those of you who didn't join us for the occasion, I have summarised below the main points made by the speakers.

Muriel Wright (Chairman)

Main points made:

The Museum's collection is growing all the time so to ease the problem of storage we are planning to build an extension. Progress on this will be reported in future newsletters. Visitor numbers vary from month to month with the consequence that shop sales are down.

Thanks to Maggie Hollands and her team, coffee mornings continue to be popular and the Armistice Lunch attracted over 100 people. Thanks to Stephanie Grant, we had a double page spread in the local press.

Behind the scenes are all the unsung heroes who help in many ways - cataloguing, maintenance and generally caring for the Museum. The Museum Development Officer on a visit to the

Museum was impressed at how many volunteers there were.

Two of the unsung heroes are Linda Denyer and Doug Thompson who, through their hard work, manage and expand our website through research into stories of our past.

There are still website visitors who are interested in Walter Potter and there have been several days when the total page views have been in the hundreds. It looks as though the History and Exhibits pages are being used by teachers.

Contact with the Museum made by people with research queries have increased.

Gillian Brown and Vivien Kingston Jones had taken on the mammoth task of organising the stewards rotas which had been ably undertaken by Sarah Leigh for many years.

There was now a major problem with steward numbers however, which stand at only 68. Muriel Wright emphasised the need for Friends to come forward to boost this number.

Paul Norris (Finance) could not be with us, but he had submitted his report which was read out. If the costs incurred for the proposed extension and other capital expenditure, are excluded, we are still covering the costs of running the Museum. We are entering the time when the original Museum building is showing signs of wear and tear which will have to be dealt with. A major cost will be for replacing the

emergency door. Thanks to the PV cells on the roof, we made a net gain of £625 on electricity costs. Since installing the cells we have generated electricity to the value of £14,726.

Joan Denwood (Education)

The oral history team started in Spring 2018, interviewing and recording Steyning people. With some this might be a life story, in others it might be a recording of a particular theme or aspect of their life. Six people have been recorded in the last year.

We have recently obtained a grant from Horsham District Council to acquire two audio points so that visitors can hear the voices of Steyning people and their history. Along side this we are acquiring two screens. One in the entrance hall will show, for example, Museum opening times, pictures of items currently on display, present and future exhibition news.

The second screen will be in the Museum to show, for example, old pictures of Steyning, selections of photos on a particular theme and pictures of artefacts in the archives.

Since our last AGM, we have seen 480 young people and 138 adult helpers attending our organised sessions. They have come from schools, French and German exchange students, Brownies, Beavers and Steyning Air Cadets. We have organised a children's activity morning in the Big Tent as part of the Steyning Festival, as well as working with Steyning Library on their reading

challenge and led an off-site session at Bramber Castle.

Andrew Woodfield (Exhibition Team Report)

The current exhibition, "Centenary" has been very popular with visitors, with thanks to members of the local community in lending many items.

Refurbishment of the Steyning Railway line exhibit is well advanced. The slightly altered layout will permit us to display items currently stored in the archive and rarely seen.

Forthcoming events will be the annual Steyning Arts Trail Exhibition in late May, *Dearly Beloved* (a look at local places of worship) and *Steyning on Film*. The Museum has been invited to participate with the Parish Church in their August Bank Holiday Flower Festival. Also to come will be an exhibition on Wilfred Pickles the well known radio star, and *Portraits and Views*, displaying some of the large framed photographs in the collection. Andrew thanked all those who have helped over the last year in the refurbishing the displays (especially the Railway display) and researching background information for exhibitions.

Events Following the AGM

1. from Maggie Hollands

We had a very successful Spring Coffee Morning raising over £340:00 for the Museum. Over 85 people popped in for coffee, biscuits and a chat, creating a great atmosphere.

Further events:-

On Saturday June 8th at 3pm we are hosting a cream tea in the garden of Gluck Studio, Chantry House, Church Street, Steyning so please come along. There will be homemade scones, served by 1940 style waitresses, live music and a raffle . Tickets £6 from Steyning Museum or £7:50 on the gate. Please bring a chair if possible. (Inside the studio if wet.)

On Friday August 30th, Steyning Museum is Sussex Produce Charity Dinner of the month. Please look out for posters displaying details nearer the time.

2. Andrew Woodfield

Exhibition Plans 2019 - 2020:

Steyning Arts Trail - *May 29 - June 2*

Dearly Beloved - Jun 8 - Sep 11

Steyning on Film - Jun13 - Sep 11

D Day 75 - May 24 - Sep 1

Wacky Recipes - Sep 3 - Nov13

Portraits and Views - Sep 17 onwards

Christmas Past -

Xmas/News Year 2019/20

VE Day 75 - May 8 onwards

Steyning Arts Trail - May 2020

VJ Day - Jun 2020

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Steyning Museum Trust

Saturday 8th June

3.00 pm

Cream Tea

(with Nippy waitresses)

Tickets in advance = £6
from the Museum
from 6th May

£7.50 on the gate
(limited number available)

Homemade Scones

Live Music and Raffle

in the garden of Gluck Studio
Chantry House



Please bring a chair

In the Studio if wet