



# MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

October 2006

## Museum Diary

- 28.10.06 Autumn Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00
- 15.12.06 Wilton Park evening  
Steyning Centre 7.00pm
- 20.01.07 Stewards' and Helpers' Social  
Penfold Hall 11.30am
- 17.03.07 Annual General Meeting  
Penfold Hall 2.30pm
- 15.04.07 Spring Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall 10.30 - 12.00

## Beeding and Bramber Local History Society:

- 04.10.06 The medieval and manorial sites  
of Stretham and Ovingdean
- 01.11.06 The flint miners of Cissbury

All meetings will be in Beeding & Bramber  
Village Hall. Details from Pat Nightingale on  
Tel: 812847

## 200 Club

### June Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Rosina Stoner (35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Gwen Lowe (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Jacquie Buttriss (£15)

### July Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Daphne Cater-Shaw (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Gwen Buchanan (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = John Coates (£15)

### August Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Catriona Chapman (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Jim Buckman (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Denis Colebourne (£15)

### September Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Betty Roper (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Kay Checkley (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Jean Porter (£15)

## Garden Coffee Morning

Despite a threatening outlook early on the morning of the garden coffee morning, the weather brightened and helped to make it again a successful occasion, with a goodly number of Friends enjoying the company and contributing to a profit of £185 for Museum funds. Many thanks to Peter Lee for welcoming us to his garden.

Please make sure you have the date of the autumn coffee morning in your diary - that's 28<sup>th</sup> October in the Penfold Hall, and your contributions to the cake stall and some bric-a-brac would be greatly appreciated. In addition, this year's Christmas cards will be on sale.

You will see from the Museum Diary that the Spring coffee morning has now been set for 15<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

## New DVD On Sale At The Museum

### *"How Steyning Celebrated the Millennium"*

In the final winding-up of the Steyning 2000 Committee, a sum of money was left to produce a record of the ways in which the town celebrated the Millennium. For various reasons, that work was delayed, and it is only now that it has been completed and copies made available for sale.

Narrated by Gary Prior and George Cockman, the DVD takes the viewer through the year using video clips and stills from the millennium eve celebrations, through events such as the opening of the swimming pool, Easter Monday Walking Races, the May Fayre (which included the Steyning Pageant, Churches Together at Bramber Castle), the mass photograph, the Flower Festival, Steyning In Bloom, Steyning Music Society Concert, unveiling of the Steyning Poem in Mouse Lane and into 2001 with the celebration

of the sundial, church steps and Cuthman statue.

Early Christmas shoppers might like to make a note of the DVD - if you were involved in any of the events, there's a chance you will be on record - albeit some six years younger!

The DVD lasts for 39 minutes, cost £10 and all profits go to Steyning Museum.

### **Cobbler's Bench**

As most of you know, we have been hoping to get a tree ring date on the cobbler's bench and have been disappointed and embarrassed to discover that this is actually impossible. Our visiting expert told us that the bench is made of elm and that growth rings on elmwood are so unpredictable that they haven't yet been able to work out any way of establishing any dates. It is, however, still a beautiful hunk of wood and continues to impress our visitors.

### **New Acquisitions**

Unexpected and, sometimes, quite strange things continue to be brought into the Museum for us to have a look at or to add to our collection. Sylvia Garlick has extended her researches to her garden shed and has very kindly brought in a selection of items she has found. Along with a most unusual selection of photographs from very early in the 1900s, she has given us a set of Victorian standard measures for a pint, ½ pint, gill and ½ gill which were used in the Chequer Inn. We hope that it will not be too long before we have an opportunity to do a display of these items.

Other objects left with us over the last two months have been as varied as a mole trap, two books published by the Vine Press, some memorabilia from the Penfold Play Group which has closed after more than 35 years, and a Guinness Book of Records tie which was given to Steyning Grammar School in the 1970s for playing 5 aside football non-stop for some extraordinary period of time.

### **Egyptian Find**

The strangest thing to come our way recently was a rather worn wooden statuette with quite an Egyptian shape to it which we gathered had been dug up or had come to light in some clearance work for a local council many years ago. No one we spoke to locally seemed to have any idea what it was. The best guess was

that it could have been a piece of tourist art from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We sent photographs to the British Museum and, to our surprise, they were able to identify it as a carving possessing the characteristics of three Egyptian gods - Osiris (ruler of the dead), Sokar (a funerary god) and Ptah (creator god and patron of craftsmen) - a combination which was believed to promote the resurrection of the dead. They were even able to pinpoint it as being from the 26<sup>th</sup> dynasty (664-525 BC) and, from hieroglyphics on it, that the person in whose grave it had been interred was called Padiamun.

### **Wilton Park**

The Museum committee have been looking at ways to establish links with other organisations in the area which have an historical link. We have begun exploring ways to strengthen links with Wilton Park Conference Centre based on Wiston House, and already they have been arranging for conference members to visit the Museum.

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Wilton Park Centre, so we are planning to celebrate the occasion with an exhibition later in the year, and an evening talk followed by a finger buffet. This will be in conjunction with the Steyning Society, and will be held in the Steyning Centre on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm.

It should be a very enjoyable occasion, so please reserve your place by completing and returning the form in the leaflet enclosed with the newsletter. Along with the form, you will find an introduction to Wilton Park which Sarah Leigh has written for us.

### **End Piece**

Our concluding article this month comes from Ian Ivatt. I have taken it from an article he wrote on the origins of the Steyning Walking Races. As the original is too long for the newsletter, I have had Ian's permission to shorten it, so if it doesn't give the full flavour of the original, you must blame me, not Ian.

Tony Kette-man  
(Editor)