



# MUSEUM NEWS

Steypning Museum Newsletter

October 2007

## Museum Diary

- 27.10.07 Autumn Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall - 10.30 - 12.00
- 21.12.07 Joint talk/social with the  
Steypning Society - Steypning  
Centre 7.30pm
- 19.01.08 Stewards and Volunteers Social  
Penfold Hall - 11.30am
- 15.03.08 Annual General Meeting  
Penfold Hall - 2.30pm
- 12.04.08 Spring Coffee Morning  
Penfold Hall - 10.30-12.00

## 200 Club

### June Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Alison Law (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Judy Taylor (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Elizabeth Iverson (£15)

### July Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Peter Field (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Ian Copping (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Jack Campbell (£15)

### August Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Joan Denwood (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Pat Assender (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Celia Whittome (£15)

### September Draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize = Sarah Leigh (£35)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize = Joan Dart (£25)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize = Peter Meanley (£15)

## A Road Through Our Past

Travelling along the A283 to reach Steypning, I wonder how often we give a thought to the story of the road. Well now in a new exhibition you can learn about its history, pictures of the road in the past, the people who used it and items linked to their journeys, and, nearer our own time, the battle for the by-pass. Please call in to the Museum and see what Chris Tod has been busy preparing.

## Coffee Mornings

Helen Coutrouzas has written the following for us:

*Your support of the Garden Coffee morning at Rosebank in August resulted in a final 'profit' of £248, the most we have made at our outdoor event for 4 years. Lots of you attended, which the hard working organisers found very encouraging. Thank you to everyone, but especially to Sarah Leigh who invited us to use her garden and lent us her gardener with his van for fetching and carrying.*

*The next event is a Penfold Hall Coffee Morning on 27<sup>th</sup> October. In addition to cakes and bric-a-brac (people will be looking for Christmas presents), we could sell any surplus apples that anyone has after this bumper season. If divided up into smallish bags and offered at say 50p, customers can then buy as many as they want. Home made apple pies would also sell and any spare jars of jam or chutney.*

*The Social Events Sub-Committee, which organises the Coffee Mornings and similar events, has a vacancy for another member to help with planning and the work on the day. If you think you could contribute to this, please phone Helen Coutrouzas on 814603 for more information. We do not have many meetings, and they are short!*

## Appreciation

All who take an active role in running the Museum are volunteers, and though the tasks undertaken are rewarding in themselves, it is encouraging when members of the public express their appreciation.

On two occasions recently visitors have been warm in their praise. Whilst on holiday, one of our stewards met a Dutch tourist. When she learned that our steward came from Steypning, she said, "Oh, that is where that lovely museum is."

Jacque Buttriss has given me this short

piece on the same theme:

*I took an Australian visitor of mine and her daughter around the Museum. They were very impressed by our displays and the general presentation of Steyning's past. They went off on a tour of most of the English counties and when they came back to Sussex three weeks later, they exclaimed, "What a gem Steyning Museum is. We've looked around a lot of small museums in the last three weeks and yours was by far the best. We felt like telling all the other museums to get in touch with you to see how it should be done."*

### Something to Celebrate

From time to time the Museums Libraries and Archives arm of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport ask museums where they stand on a variety of performance measures relating to:

- the sustainability of their organisation,
- the welcome they offer to visitors,
- the care of their collections
- and how effectively they put their story over to all parts of the community.

On each occasion they take the opportunity to introduce new or tougher standards. We achieved full Registration under Phase One and Phase Two of the scheme in 1992 and 2000.

They have now raised the bar once again and, at the start of this year, asked us to submit new evidence that we could meet these new standards. It has involved a good deal of 'back office' work, but we are delighted to report that we have just heard that we have once again achieved the required standards and have been accorded (in the new terminology) "Full Accreditation".

It is worth jumping through these hoops for several reasons.

First of all it makes it much, much easier to get grant money. For example, without it, it is unlikely that we would have got lottery money for the extension.

Secondly, with Accreditation, comes free advice and quite a bit of free training from museum professionals.

Thirdly, through signing up to certain standards relating to how we deal with objects donated to the Museum, donors can be sure that their objects will be properly looked after and will not be disposed of for financial gain. We are, consequently, more likely to be given worthwhile reminders of Steyning's history to take care of.

Finally, the whole process of checking

through our procedures and plans provides a useful reminder of what we need or might aspire to do as a public body with a role to play in our community.

Part of the process of caring for the collection is to get it properly catalogued. After many years as the most meticulous and careful of cataloguers, Louise Elliott has recently had to give up. It is a great loss to us and we do want to place on record just how indebted we are to her. It does mean that we need another cataloguer and would be most grateful if anyone who thinks they may be able to help could get in touch with Chris Tod.

### Legacies

We were very pleased to receive recently a generous legacy from the estate of one of our late Museum Friends. As you all know, we rely totally on our own money raising activities to finance the running of the Museum, so it is very gratifying when any of our Friends bequeath money to us in their wills. Of course it is not only the Museum which benefits by such generosity - Steyning as a whole gains. Can you each please give thought to making a similar bequest when you are arranging your own affairs.

### Christmas Social

Last year's joint talk and supper with The Steyning Society proved such a success that it has been decided to mount another such evening on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December in the Steyning Centre at 7.30. As before, the evening will begin with a talk - this time on the theme of the South Downs. The Museum will provide a link by mounting an exhibition also on the Downland, and you will have a chance of seeing a preview of this in the Museum at 6.30 pm.

If you wish to come along to the evening you will need to return the attached form (which provides more information).

### 42 High Street

Long-term residents of Steyning will have been familiar with the shop of Woods the butcher at 42 High Street. The premises have remained empty for many years, and as an end piece for this month's newsletter, Janet Pennington has been delving into the story of number 42 and especially the part played by the Woods family.

This month we start with the first part of the story which will be continued in December.

Tony Kettelman (Editor)