



MUSEUM NEWS

Steyning Museum Newsletter

October 2008

Museum Diary

- 11.10.08 Big Draw Art Day
Museum & Penfold Hall
10.30 - 4.30
- 25.10.08 Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall
10.30 - 12.00
- 19.12.08 Joint Social with
The Steyning Society
Steyning Centre - 7.30
- 17.01.09 Stewards & Helpers Social
Penfold Hall - 11.30
- 18.04.09 Spring Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall
10.30 - 12.00

200 Club

June Draw:

- 1st prize = Gwen Lowe (£35)
2nd prize = Brian Cook (£25)
3rd prize = Ann Cowper (£15)

July Draw:

- 1st prize = Betty Gravatt (£35)
2nd prize = Janet Brackpool (£25)
3rd prize = James Welch (£15)

August Draw:

- 1st prize = Betty Loader (£35)
2nd prize = Sheila Dewar (£25)
3rd prize = Peter Meanley (£15)

September Draw:

- 1st prize = Joan Lawson (£35)
2nd prize = Judy Taylor (£25)
3rd prize = Vera Gardner (£15)

Not long ago, the membership of the 200 Club actually stood at 200 for a short while. This has

now fallen to 185. We must expect this fluctuation as members move away or, unfortunately, die. As the 200 club passes half its proceeds to Museum funds, it is important that we build up our total again when this happens. If you are one of the Friends who hasn't yet joined the Club, please consider doing so now by filling in the application form which you will find attached. You could also try persuading your partner or friends and family to join.

Garden Coffee Morning

The Garden Coffee Morning was Sally Lefroy's first 'event' since taking over the chair of the sub-committee. Here is her report:

As I took over role of secretary of the Social Events Sub-Committee everyone assured me that the weather was always good for the summer garden coffee morning! The 2nd August dawned, and as I drew the curtains my worst fears were realised. Grey skies, sheeting rain and a certain knowledge that it would be like this for the day! Luckily, we had laid contingency plans. Everyone crowded into a relaxed and happy atmosphere at Rosebank, having been relieved of their brollies and raincoats by my husband who did a sterling job. Despite the weather, we attracted a good crowd of 52 and raised £208.00. Many thanks to you all for coming. Also, I would like to say a very big thank you to Sarah Leigh for allowing us to use her lovely home and to all the helpers and those who provided items for sale.

Please don't forget the Autumn coffee morning on the 25th October at Penfold Hall.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Autumn Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning is on 25th October at 10.30 in the Penfold Hall. There will be the usual raffle together with bric-a-brac and cake stalls. Contributions brought on the day would

be much appreciated.

25th Anniversary

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Museum. It was in 1983 that moves by The Steyning Society, and by Harry Ford in particular, resulted in the opening of a museum in the basement of 93 High Street. The management committee feel that it is important to tell how a community the size of Steyning has been able to establish and maintain a very successful museum run completely by volunteers.

We feel that it is important to record the efforts of people who have helped the project over the last 25 years as the Museum expanded from the High Street to Saxon Cottage, then on to our present purpose-built premises. This will be done through a special exhibition at the Museum, a commemorative book which Sarah Leigh is compiling, and a joint Museum/Steyning Society supper and talk at the Steyning Centre on 19th December.

You will find an invitation to the supper and talk enclosed with this newsletter.

Steyning in Bloom

Every year the Museum displays flower baskets on the outside walls. This is not a task we have to carry out ourselves as Marlene Carman and her Steyning in Bloom team plant and maintain them for us. They greatly enhance the approach to the Museum, and we owe Marlene and her team a vote of thanks for their efforts.

Incidentally, the Museum does its bit for the environment by watering the baskets with the contents our dehumidifiers

The Town Clock

The Town Clock is a conspicuous feature of the High Street. Winding the clock has been an arduous task undertaken in recent times by Alan Colbourne. It involved him making a hazardous climb every week to reach

first the roof space then the clock tower itself to wind the mechanism by hand. To avoid this problem, it was suggested that an electrical clock mechanism be installed to replace the old mechanical system. When research by the Museum revealed that the clock was probably made in the mid 18th century (and so is historically important), it was decided to leave the original mechanism in place, but provide an electrical winding motor instead.

All is now installed, and Paul Norris has climbed up to inspect the new mechanism and taken photographs. The original pendulum has been retained, but with smaller weights which are adjusted automatically to control the running time. The original winding drums are also still there, but now connected to two electric motors by chains. The time is checked hourly by satellite and adjusted electronically.

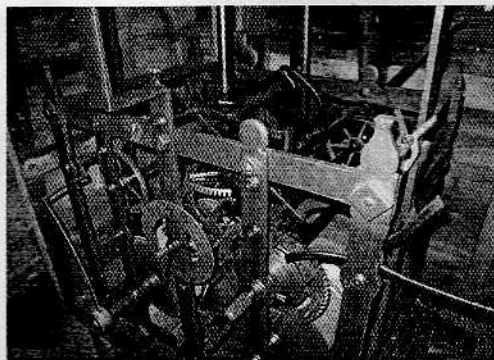
End Piece

This is certainly not the first time that the Town Clock has been of public concern. Janet Pennington has provided our end piece this month based on research she carried out on a 19th century dispute concerning the clock.

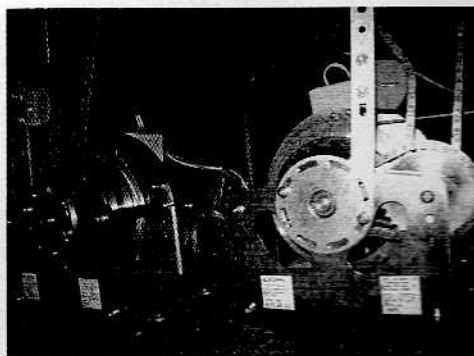
STOP PRESS

Just as I was preparing to print the newsletter, we received some very exciting news. We had learned that a copper printing block for a Steyning two pence bank note dating from the 1790s was up for auction. We don't know why a bank note for only two pence was printed, but we felt it was important that the Museum should buy it if at all possible. The problem was how much would it go for; we reckoned it could be several hundred pounds if a collector was interested. As it turned out, there was little interest at the auction and we managed to buy it for £180 (£200 with commission and VAT) using monies from one of the legacies we had been left. A very pleasing result.

Tony Ketterman (Editor)



The old clock mechanism



The new motors which were fitted underneath the old mechanism