



MUSEUM NEWS

Steypning Museum Newsletter

October 2019

STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST.

Dear Member,

We are calling an Extraordinary General Meeting as indicated below. The cost of running the Museum is increasing as the price of utilities, rates and insurance continue to rise. The annual income of the Museum is not sufficient despite your loyal support of all our fundraising efforts. The daily cost of keeping the Museum running is around £40 per day.

In order to maintain our independent status, as well as maintain free admission to the Museum, we are asking you to agree to an increase in the minimum annual subscription to £10 from January 2020. This has remained at £5 for very many years.

As the Museum has now become a CIO with a new bank account, it will be necessary for all members who pay by standing order to have a new standing order form. If the increase to £10 is approved now, both these changes can be incorporated into one new form rather than give you the inconvenience of completing a second form at a later date.

**Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting of Steypning Museum Trust to be held at
2.30 pm on Saturday 2 November 2019 in Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steypning.**

AGENDA.

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. A vote on the proposal, "To increase the minimum annual subscription for members of Steypning Museum Trust to £10 from January 2020."

Tea and cakes will then be served by our social events team.

Museum Diary

- 26.10.18 Autumn Coffee Morning
Penfold Hall
10.30 - 12.00
- 02.11.19 Extraordinary General Meeting
Penfold Hall
2.30 pm
- 23.11.19 American Thanksgiving Concert & Lunch
Methodist Church
11.30 am
- 11.01.20 Stewards & Helpers Party
Penfold Hall
11.30 am
- 28.03.20 Annual General Meeting
Penfold Hall
10.30 am

200 Club

June Draw:

- 1st prize = Celia Beresford (£35)
2nd prize = Sylvia Crowder (£25)
3rd prize = Brian West (£15)

July Draw:

- 1st prize = Yvonne Sullivan (£35)
2nd prize = Julie Brooks (£25)
3rd prize = Muriel Wright (£15)

August Draw

- 1st prize = Denise Staines (£35)
2nd prize = Mrs K. Brooks (£25)
3rd prize = Joyce Honer (£15)

September Draw

- 1st prize = Anna Norman (£35)
2nd prize = Elisabeth Harden (£25)
3rd prize = Chris Peacock (£15)

Steyning Museum Audio/Visual project

from Joan Denwood

We are halfway through our audio/visual project at the moment with one listening post and one screen in action. They have already proved a hit with visitors and have moved our very worthwhile local history museum into the 21st century.

Come along and watch the screen in the entrance showing our opening times, fund-raising events, display news, school visits and much more. Also listen to the anecdotes and memories about the Steyning Line by the railway display.

This project was achieved by a number of people. Thanks go to the oral history team and particularly to Nick Quinn (a steward) who helped with researching our equipment, setting it up and loading information. Also thanks to our 'recording artists' who have given their voices and permission for their words to be heard.

Finally, thanks to Horsham District Council for the grant from the LEAP programme which has part funded this project and to Erica Gayler (committee member) for organising part-funding from our own 200 Club here at Steyning Museum.

Education

from Joan Denwood

What a busy summer! We have had sessions including a group of Pilgrims from Wheaton University in Illinois, Year 5s studying Tudors from Steyning Primary School, Year 6 studying Bramber Castle and Church from

Shoreham College, our annual History Detectives Day for local Primary schools and we organised a link with our local library for the Summer Reading Challenge.

The Pilgrims were a delightful group of 28 students and their teachers and 5 of their children. They were learning more about the story and history of 'The Boy with a Cart' by Christopher Fry, based on the story of St. Cuthman. They started with a walk across the Downs from Washington to Chanctonbury where they were met by Father Mark Heather who led them in prayers. They continued their pilgrimage to Steyning where, after refreshments, they visited Steyning Church and Steyning Museum. Apart from thanking us all profusely, their leaders said about Steyning Museum that 'like all the great museums it has the quality of causing visitors to want to become lost in it for hours. I certainly did so want to lose myself there and so did my children!'

When 57 children (over 2 mornings) came to study Tudors it was really good to be able to get out our wonderful Tudor costumes for them. These costumes were made years ago by our local W.I. and are greatly appreciated.

I must say thank you to 5 helpers who made our History Detectives day so informative and such fun. The children (Year 4) were well behaved and told us that they loved all of the activities - praise indeed.

Finally, we have had 32 families visiting the museum this summer to take part in our quiz linked with the Summer Reading Challenge in the library. Thanks

go to all the stewards who have encouraged this and helped visitors with the quiz.

Social Events

from Maggie Hollands

Thank you to everyone who came to the Sussex Produce Charity meal at the end of August. We had a most enjoyable time and raised over £450 for the Museum funds.

The donated hamper was won by a visitor to the Museum who lived outside Steyning and who was extremely pleased.

The next event is the Autumn Coffee morning on Saturday 26th October at the Penfold Hall at 10:30. These occasions are a great way to join friends, enjoy coffee and biscuits and buy the odd items from our bric a brac, jewellery and book stalls etc.

Please note for your diaries we are holding a Thanksgiving event on Saturday 23rd November at the Methodist Church. Starting at 11:30. Zoe Peate and her singers will be singing American theme music and afterwards we will be serving lunch. See posters advertising this event in due course.

Exhibition Team Report

from Andrew Woodfield

When I first joined Steyning Museum eight or nine years ago, Chris Tod spoke of his dream of re-vamping the railway display. His busy schedule however, meant it was never realised.

The Exhibition Team have now brought his dream into reality. Over a period of six months, a lot of planning, discussion, financial consideration and hard work took place to achieve what you now see.

The large Steyning Station sign that was originally on the canopy of the station entrance, was too large for the old display and had been stored in the Museum for a number of years. The mock exhibit canopy had to be extended to accommodate the sign.

Working scale plans were drawn of the two new display cabinets in which to put the railway artifacts that were stored in the archives and not on public display. From the outset, it was decided that both cabinets would be illuminated.

Paul Norris, Julian Buttery, Peter Burton and Guy Standen took up tools twice weekly and, using their woodwork and construction skills, worked tirelessly to build not only the cabinets, but two new display boards that gave us the extra capacity for a larger display. The original boards all had to be repaired and refurbished plus the walls needed repainting.

Meanwhile, Linda Aitkin and Gill Kille combed the archives for the necessary new exhibits and made sure that all the paper work was done. (We cannot just go into the archives and take things away as there is a system for recording movements of objects that we need to use in accordance with rules of being an accredited museum.)

Linda and Gill also worked on the forthcoming exhibitions which were occurring at the same time.

All was kept going with Julian acting as tea boy and Muriel (Museum Chair)

making sure that the woodwork glue did not drip everywhere! It did mean that the workroom was not very accessible at times to other volunteers as large wooden items of construction had to lie flat on the floor (so that the wood did not warp) whilst the glue dried!

What, you may ask, was my role in all this? Being team leader it was my job to make sure everything was co-ordinated and the workplace was safe - we used electrical machinery and lots of paint! I also designed the exhibit - with input from the team as we work as a democratic process. It was also my final decision as to what was displayed or not. I also helped with the woodwork and display text.

With the enhancement of the listening post, I think that I can safely say we have a display that our visitors will find interesting. I was also determined that we should have floor photos and "Choo-choo!"

Joint Christmas Supper

At the end of the newsletter you will find an application form for the usual joint Museum/Steyning Society Christmas supper.

Tony Ketteman

Editor

Tel: 01903 813333

email: contact@steyningmuseum.org.uk



High Street Stall



Listening Post



Entrance Information Screen



Year Five Visit.



American Pilgrims

**Joint Christmas Supper
of The Steyning Society &
Steyning Museum**

**Friday 20th December 2019 at 7.00 pm for 7.45 pm
at the Steyning Centre**

I/we wish to attend the supper (3 courses)

at a cost of £22 per person

(Please use BLOCK LETTERS)

Name(s).....

Address

.....

Post Code Tel:

I enclose a cheque for £ to cover
the cost of the supper

***Please make cheques payable to The Steyning Society
and return the completed form and cheque(s) to:***

Tom Aubrey

Orwell Cottage

22 High Street

Steyning

Tel: 01903 879986

**Following the meal we welcome as a speaker, Rick Goring of
the Wiston Estate**