

## STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST

The Museum, Church Street, Steyning, West Sussex. BN44 3YB

T: 01903 813333: [www.steyningmuseum.org.uk](http://www.steyningmuseum.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number: 1169540



### Newsletter February 2024

#### Message from the Vice Chairman – Muriel Wright

Happy New Year.

Time certainly flies. It was good to see so many of you at the Stewards Party even though it was a cold day there was a warm atmosphere in the hall.

The Museums AGM is coming up on **Saturday 16th March at 10.30**

The agenda will be sent with this letter, as well as the minutes of last year's AGM.

I hope to see you there.

Muriel

Muriel Wright (Vice-Chairman)

#### EXHIBITION NEWS – Andrew Woodfield

New Permanent Exhibit Cabinet.

This is going to be installed by the Norman Arch and will have some interesting Church related items. We are currently awaiting delivery of the new shelves.

#### Coming later in the year:

War Graves Commission Exhibit.

The Annual Art Trail.

“Tick Tock, Tick Tock” – Steyning`s clock makers.

Included in this exhibition will be three Grandfather Clocks and various items all made in Steyning and currently unseen in the museum archive.

#### A NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES OF THE STEYNING LINE.

The Museum has been approached regarding this new documentary project which will explore the history of the Shoreham-by-Sea to Horsham railway line.

The production team are eager to hear from anyone who may have a story or memories of the line.

Andrew Woodfield, our present Curator of Exhibitions, has already met the Director, Chris Kirk in the Museum on January 16<sup>th</sup> followed by a filmed interview on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

For full details of the project please visit [tracingtherails.com](http://tracingtherails.com)



## Events & Fund-Raising Committee – Maggie Hollands

Thank you to all who came to the quiz in November at the Steyning Centre. Everyone seemed to have a good time and the consensus is they want another one! We raised £150.00

For the Christmas Hampers and raffle, we raised £366 also for museum funds.

The winners were :-

1st prize	Hamper.	Adam Hollis
2nd prize	4 bottles wine.	Reggie RG
3rd prize.	Nuts and dates	Brenny
4th prize.	Box shortbread.	Vivian K.Jones
5th prize.	Tea and biscuits.	Jill Weston
6th prize.	Amaryllis.	Dominie
7th prize.	J.Wilson Purse.	Andy
8th prize.	Box Quality Street.	Cliff White
9th prize.	Bottle red wine.	Adam Hollis
10th prize.	Box Celebrations.	Ros Golds
11th prize.	Box Swiss Chocolates	Margaret Kelly

We were all sorry to see our chairman Joan Denwood leave. The stewards collected over £200 towards vouchers, a rose and flowers as a thank you to her for all the years of work she gave towards the museum.



### Dates for your diary: -

Spring coffee morning on **Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2024** at Penfold Hall 10:30

Cream Tea at the Steyning Centre **Saturday 6th July** at 2:30 where we are pleased to have the Cheerful Mollys singing for us  
Tickets £10

Museum AGM **Saturday 16th March at 10.30**

Maggie Hollands social organiser

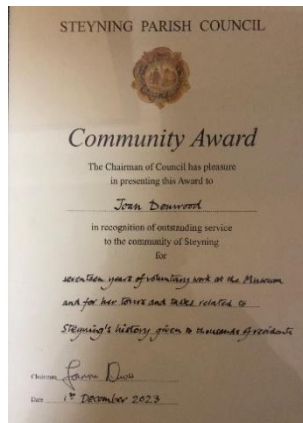
### Membership – Leonie Etherington

A huge thank you to all our members who have promptly paid this year's membership fee. This really helps the museum by saving the cost of sending out reminders.

If you know anyone who would like to become a member and support our wonderful museum, please pass on my contact details ([membership@steyningmuseum.org.uk](mailto:membership@steyningmuseum.org.uk)) or advise them to pop into the museum and collect a membership application form.

## Publicity – Ray Powell

On 17 November, the Museum celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special celebration party to mark the event. Volunteers both past and present joined Chris Tod and Muriel Wright to raise a glass and share a slice of the specially commissioned cake to mark the happy event.



In December, our past Chairman Joan Denwood was presented with a special Community Award by Steyning Parish Council in recognition for her outstanding service to the community honouring her 17 years of service to the Museum.

You may have already seen these, but for those of you that haven't, the Lost Railway signs have been erected. One is up on the Bramber roundabout and the others a little way along the Downs Link. We think they look splendid and will, we are sure, be of great interest to passers-by.

The Museum supplied some of the old photos (thanks to Andrew for sourcing these) and we do get an acknowledgement in the footer at the bottom. Thanks to Nick Quinn and Mike Denwood for sorting out the Echoes supporting information (which can be accessed via the QR code at bottom left)



## News from the Research Hub – Jacquie Buttriss

Although the Christmas and New Year period was unusually quiet, the weeks before and after were full of interesting enquiries from near and far.

Here below is the list of researches we are currently undertaking and those we have completed since the last newsletter:

### PEOPLE

William Wilberforce, M. P. for Bramber

Burtenshaw family of Coombes

Manning(s) family of Watchmakers at 6 Church Street, Steyning

John Walker marrying Frances Penfold – innocently linked with a scandal (see the story below)

Pauline Breach

Marjorie Woods in the early years of the Steyning Society and the Museum

Gluck, the artist – where is she buried?

Risbridger (an ostler at the White Horse)

Benge and Patche family (early 1500s)

Lord Alchorne marrying a Steyning girl (early 1500s)

Levi West

Bessie Elizabeth Allen

Milner & Amp; Burgess, mineral water manufacturers

## **PLACES**

Painting of Mouse Cottage

Bank Passage

2 Highland Croft

StGeorge's Place

Frank Duke's buildings and designs

Information about a Steyning map

Saltings Field

## **EVENTS**

Local WW 2 plane crashes and burials of their crews

An A.R.P.'Incident'

## **A SCANDAL AVERTED**

Did you watch the T.V.series, 'Gentleman Jack' on T.V.? If so, you will remember that it was the story of two women who lived together – Ann Walker and Anne Lister, alias 'Gentleman Jack'. They made no secret of their lesbian relationship, which caused much gossip and unrest amongst polite society.

Ann Walker's brother, John, brought his fiancé, Frances Penfold of Steyning, to meet them and to invite them to the wedding. Whilst Ann travelled to Steyning with John it was perhaps as well that 'Gentleman Jack' declined, thereby sparing the innocence of the good folks of Steyning, as their vicar, Reverend John Penfold, married his daughter to John Walker.

Jacque Buttriss and Lois Roemer