

STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST

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

T: 01903 813333: www.steyningmuseum.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1169540



Newsletter August 2024

Message from the Vice Chairman – Muriel Wright

First of all, I want to congratulate Maggie Hollands and her team on the wonderful Cream Team that took place on the 6th July. It was very successful and everyone was very complimentary about the food, the atmosphere and the entertainment.

As you are all aware from previous newsletters, I have been wanting to step down from Acting Chairperson for quite a while. Unfortunately, no-one has come forward to take over the role of Chairperson or Vice-chairperson. After a lot of thought and a few sleepless nights, I have informed the Trustees that I am stepping down at the end of September. It hasn't been an easy decision but over the last few months there have been some "issues" that have made me very angry and upset. So, it's time for me to step down. I will continue to Steward and work with the Education Team. I would like to thank you all for your support during my 7 years as Chairperson and this last year when I was Acting Chair. Steyning Museum is a great community asset and without the time, energy and support that all the volunteers give, it wouldn't continue to flourish, so thank you all.

Muriel.

Exhibition news – Andrew Woodfield

"Tick, Tock, Tick, Tock - the History of Steyning Clockmakers" is now fully installed. It starts in the Georgian and Victorian section of the permanent exhibits and expands in the rear room of the Museum. Also included is a history of Steyning Clock Tower.

The Pub and Brewery exhibit has been installed permanently by the Carman Room door, vacating the smaller board which will now house the Oral History Team exhibit area.

I would like to thank everybody from the Exhibition Team and all the Stewards who have helped me mount the exhibitions over the past years. As I have now stepped down, the Exhibition Manager post is vacant. Anyone who is interested in filling the gap should approach the Chair of the Trustees.

Events & Fund-Raising Committee – Maggie Hollands

Thank you to everyone who came to the Cream Tea at The Steyning Centre. We had a very enjoyable afternoon being entertained by the Cheer Up Mollys. We made over £650 for the museum funds which was fantastic.

Our next social event is the Autumn Coffee morning on Saturday 26th October at the Penfold Hall at 10:30. We will, as usual, have a homemade cake stall and a raffle.

Don't forget, on Thursday 28th November at the Penfold Hall, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving by offering lunch with soup, bread and apple pie with tea and coffee.

Time - 12 noon.

Tickets - £8 available at the museum by 31st October.

We will also be launching our annual Christmas Raffle.

Publicity – Ray Powell

New Museum brochure

A few months ago, we decided to retire our old gate-folded brochure and design a new one. Sarah Linfield, Anne Bellis and myself formed a working group to think through what a new brochure ought to contain and decided we could fit it all on a double-sided DL (DL is a third the size of A4). We engaged the services of graphic designer Neil Ruff (a contact of Sarah's who also produced the Lancing College brochure) and after a few iterations a final version was approved and we hit the print button (well actually Melvin from West's did). We think it looks great and hope you do too. We are always looking for helpers to spread the word, so if you can lend a hand in distributing, please do get in touch.



STEYNING MUSEUM

Telling the story of Steyning, Bramber, Upper Beeding, Ashurst, Wiston & Botolphs
Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm

A hidden gem in the heart of the beautiful town of Steyning, our museum is brimming with fascinating artefacts and images celebrating local history.

The permanent displays are supported by regularly changing temporary exhibitions and there is a wealth of reference material, a vast photographic collection and an extraordinary archive to explore.

Church Street, Steyning BN44 3YB
01903 813 333
contact@steyningmuseum.org.uk
www.steyningmuseum.org.uk

ADMISSION FREE
• DONATIONS WELCOME •

From fossils and farming, to intriguing and renowned former residents; from Steyning as a Saxon port, to the sad closure of its steam railway; from Norman influences, to wartime dramas.

This small museum is **BIG** on content.

We can even introduce you to Steyning Man!

- hands on activities for children
- family quiz
- small shop
- school and group visits by arrangement
- research assistance with family and property history

Where to find us:
/// requests.changes.relieves
Steyning is just off the A263 between Shoreham & Slingsbyton. Car parks are located in Felchers Craft (opposite St Andrew's Church in Vicarage Lane) and in the High Street.

Arriving by bus: Alight in the High Street opposite the clock tower. The museum is just a five minute walk away at the end of Church Street, next to the library.

St Andrew's Church
Vicarage Lane
Felchers Craft
From Shoreham by A263

Adopt-an-Artefact

We have launched a new initiative called "Adopt-an-Artefact". This came about from seeing a similar scheme already being operated by Horsham Museum. For a small fee, members of the public can adopt one of the museums artefacts for a year. For this they get their name against the object, a certificate with more information on what they have adopted and electronic copies of the Museum's newsletter. We have chosen five objects to begin with including Steyning Man (of course), Gert and Daisy's costumes, the illuminated map, the train model and Potter's canary. However, any object is up for adoption if there is interest. Many thanks to Margaret Kelly who has kindly offered to administer the scheme.

For more information, please go to the [Museum's website](#)



Steyning Museum

Adopt an
Close
Artefact

This artefact has been adopted by:
[Name]



Volunteer drive

The Museum is always on the look-out for volunteers. If you know anyone who would be interested in volunteering do pass on our contact details, or direct them to the museum where they can pick up one of these lovely fliers and chat with the stewards on duty to find out more about volunteering as a steward or in one of our 'behind the scenes' roles.

Alternatively, more information can be found on our [website](#)



We are also looking for volunteer Trustees.

If you would like any more information about the role of a Trustee, take a look at our website, steyningmuseum.org.uk/become-a-trustee or email trustees@steyningmuseum.org.uk

News from the Research Hub – Lois Roemer

As sometimes happens, the research hub was quiet at the beginning of the year, and then a sudden flood of enquiries came in.

People

John Martin

John Palmer

James Irish (for the clock exhibition)

Henry Dale Johnson

F J Stone

Frederick Farrow

The Davy Family

William and John Read

A list of families who were born/married/died in the Steyning Registration District but who had no connection to Steyning itself

Places

The Plough in Charlton Street

Fairlawns in Goring Road

69 High Street

The Granary in Dog Lane

Tryon School

Gatewick House

Cobblestones

Other

Bread making

Cow & Gate

The best thing about doing research is the fact that you never know what you will find, and, looking into the history of the Gates family who lived at Jarvis House in Jarvis Lane, is a good example of this.

Charles Gates was born in Steyning in 1816, the son of Richard Gates, a farmer/butcher, and his wife Mary. In the 1841 census Charles was living with his parents in Jarvis House and working as a grocer. In 1844 he married Elizabeth Valder and they set up home at 20 High Street, Guildford, running a grocery and wine merchant's shop. It must have been a successful business, because in 1851 Charles was employing 5 assistants and a boy as well as two domestic servants to help Elizabeth look after their household and expanding family of 13 children. By 1881 Charles had retired from the business, handing it over to his two eldest sons, Charles and Leonard.

Charles senior died in 1883 and it was around then that Charles junior and Leonard became interested in the temperance movement, finally joining it in 1885. They would no longer be able to sell alcohol and so they poured their stocks of wine, spirits and beer into the gutters of the High Street. They then had to find something to make up the short fall in their profits, so they turned the shop into a dairy, which they named The West Surrey Dairy, buying milk from local farmers, separating the cream and whey and selling the skim back to the farmers for pig feed. By 1888 their three brothers had joined the business, and the dairy became a registered company called The West Surrey Central Dairy Company Limited. The company quickly expanded and in 1904, together with a doctor, they developed powdered milk to help poor families feed their children. In 1929 the company became Cow & Gate, the name being taken from an early logo that appeared on the side of small jugs that were used for selling their produce, it showed a cow looking through a gate as if its neck had got stuck between the bars.

Source: Ancestry.co.uk, the Cow & Gate website and Wikipedia

Vacancy

After 20 years, of dedicated service, keeping our museum cleaner, Jacqui Selby has reluctantly given her notice and will retire on 31st August. We are sure you will agree that she has done a grand job.

Now we must move on and find someone new. If any of you know of a possible replacement for this, the only paid role in the museum, please could you put your suggestion (name and contact details, plus your own name if you are willing to recommend him or her) in a sealed envelope in the post drawer behind the counter, addressed to Muriel or Jacquie.