

STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST

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

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Registered Charity Number: 1169540



Newsletter November 2024

Message from the Vice Chairman – Muriel Wright

Time flies, I can't believe it's November already. As you know I stepped down from Acting Chairperson at the end of September. No-one has come forward to take over the role so please we really need to find someone. If anyone feels they would like to know more about the role please don't hesitate to contact me on 01903 812281.

As many of you know when advertising for a chairperson, we also asked for an administration assistant. I am pleased to say that Maggie Hollands has agreed to carry out that role.

One of our Maintenance Officers has also left due to relocation, so we need a new person to work with Phil Etherington. If you think you could help please email

trustees@steyningmuseum.org.uk or drop a note into the Museum.

Many of you will know that there have been some changes to our Trustees. Chris Tod, Jacquie Buttriss and Helen Coutrouzas have all stepped down after many years of hard work and loyal support to the Museum.

Our current Trustees are Nick Quinn, Russell Bowman, Rachael Rainbow, Paul Norris and Muriel Wright. Russell is the new Chair of the Trustees. Many of you will know Nick and Russell as they are both Stewards, and I am very pleased to inform you that Rachael has agreed to be our new Exhibitions Curator.

If anyone else is interested in becoming a Trustee please pick up an information pack from the reception desk at the Museum or email

trustees@steyningmuseum.org.uk.

Muriel

Exhibition news

As Muriel mentioned, we are delighted to welcome Rachael Rainbow to the museum. Rachael says, "Hi, I'm Rachael Rainbow, and I'm delighted to join the Museum as a Trustee and also to take over the role of voluntary Curator of Exhibitions now Andrew is stepping back.

Earlier in my career, I worked extensively with museums, focusing on making collections accessible—both online and in galleries. I've had the privilege of working with institutions such as the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the British Library. Now, I'm excited to bring what I've learned from those experiences to our local museum which may be a bit smaller but has just as much passion! I'm looking forward to meeting more of the members, volunteers and visitors and contributing to this incredible community resource."



In conjunction with Steyning's Food and Drink festival, the Museum put together a Display called "the butcher, the baker ..." celebrating the changing face of the High Street.



The display in the Museum lobby was put together by Lois, Linda and Ray. It will be replaced by a new display commemorating Remembrance Day at the beginning of November.

'Steyning in Living Memory' is a new exhibition by the Oral History Team. We are collecting an archive of interviews with local residents who describe Steyning, Upper Beeding and Bramber going back to the 1930s. You can listen to clips from some recent interviews on the Listening Post next to the Carman Room

Events & Fund-Raising Committee – Maggie Hollands

Just to remind everyone, we are holding our **Autumn Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 26th October** at **Penfold Hall** at **10:30**. We will have our usual homemade cake stall, book stall and stocking fillers from the Museum available. We also have our raffle.

Do come along for coffee and catch up with friends

Admission £2 including fresh coffee and biscuits.

Also don't forget your tickets for **Thanksgiving Lunch** on **Thursday 28th November** at **12 noon until 2:30** at the **Penfold Hall**.

Vegetable Soup /Apple Dessert and cream with tea /coffee.

Tickets £8 and are available from the museum from 31st October.

We will be launching our Christmas Hamper and Raffle to be drawn December 22nd

We will be co-hosting the **Steyning Society and Museum Christmas Supper**. This will be held on **Friday 20th December** in **Coombe Court, The Steyning Centre**. Event starts at **6:45 for 7:30**. Tables of Eight.

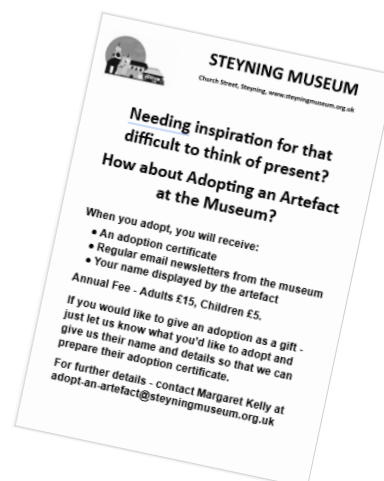
With entertainment from 'The Cheer Up Mollys'.

Tickets £30 from The Bookshop or the Museum (cash payment only please at the museum).

Maggie Hollands Social Events

Publicity – Ray Powell

Don't forget our Adopt-an-artefact scheme is now up and running. So if you are looking for an unusual gift idea, or would like to Support the museum in a different way, this could be just what you are looking for!



Membership news – Leonie Etherington

With the evenings drawing in and Christmas appearing on the horizon, another annual event is also upon us. Yes, this is my usual reminder to you all that it will be time to **renew your membership on January 1st 2025**.

Many members do this with an automatic annual payment (standing order or regular online payment) and it is much appreciated. Please do consider using this method where possible to minimise museum costs.

If you have paid by cash or cheque previously, please look out for the membership reminder form which will be winging its way to you shortly and return to me at the museum with your payment as close to the due date as possible.

Finally from me, if your address or contact details change, do please let me know, either by email membership@steyningmuseum.org.uk or by dropping a message into the museum.

News from the Research Hub – Lois Roemer

The following enquiries were received, and dealt with, during August, September and up to 14th October:

People

Dorothy May Spooner

Alice Blake

John and Ann Miles

The Mather family

Kezia Crouger

Margaret Molloy White

Thomas Emery

The Goss family

The Bennett family

The Stenning family

The Stubbings family

Victor Newberg

The Lilliott/Lelliott family

The Lassetter family

Zoe Le Page

Places

Cobblestones

Ivy Cottage, Mouse lane

The Camel's Hump, Mouse Lane

Carisbrooke Nursing Home, Goring Road

Eaton's Farm, Ashurst

Chanctonbury Ring

The Malthouse, Horsham Road

Other

Church break-in

Inscription on the Groome/Hare tomb

The Church door

Obtaining a marriage certificate

Aescwolf's ring

Fish and Chips

One of the most interesting recent enquiries involved a fish and chip shop in the early 1920's in Steyning and further research into the family revealed a silk weaver in Spitalfields, the surrender of Napoleon and the Falkland Islands.

However, back to fish and chips. When did the British first start to eat fish and chips? It is known that as early as the 16th century a form of battered fish was being sold in London by Spanish and Portuguese Jewish immigrants, the fish was coated in flour and fried in liquid vegetable oil rather than lard or butter. In 1845 Alexis Soyer included a recipe in his cookery book 'A Shilling Cookery for the People' for fish coated in a batter made from mixing flour with water.

The location of the first fish and chip shop is unclear but in the 1860's fish and chips were on sale in London and in Mossley in Lancashire. Charles Dickens mentions a fried fish factory in Oliver Twist in 1838 and mentions chips in A Tale of Two Cities in 1859, but who or when the two were brought together is a mystery.

With the development of trawl fishing and the railways in the second half of the 19th century, fish could be rapidly transported from ports to heavily populated areas. Early fish and chip shops were fairly basic, usually the cooking equipment consisted of a cauldron of cooking fat heated by a coal fire. This soon evolved into the standard formula that we know today, serving food wrapped in paper to queueing customers.

During WWI the British government made the safeguarding of supplies of fish and chips a priority to keep the working population fed and keep up morale. Harry Ramsden opened his first shop in Guiseley, West Yorkshire in 1928 and in a single day in 1952 served 10,000 portions of fish and chips. During WWII fish and chips remained one of the few foods not to be rationed for the same reasons as in WWI. Incidentally, in 1939 as it became clear that Britain was heading for a war, the British government bought up the Worlds entire production of tea except for that grown in Japan.

Nowadays we have a huge choice when it comes to takeaway food, but, when the chips are down, what food could possibly re-please our love of fish and chips?

Lois Roemer

Source: Wikipedia