

STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST

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Registered Charity Number: 1169540



Newsletter February 2026

Dear Members,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026, I hope the new year is treating you all well so far. There has been plenty going on since our last newsletter and more events and exhibitions are planned for the coming year. One important date for your diary is March 28th 2026, when we will be holding our AGM and to which all members are welcome. As you will read later, there will be cake! I look forward to seeing you there. You will find attached a copy of the minutes from last year's meeting as well as the agenda for this year.

I do hope you enjoy reading all about our events and plans for the coming months and have an opportunity to visit us or participate in some of our social events.

Leonie (newsletter compiler)

Exhibition news – Rachael Rainbow

In November we installed our Remembrance display, focusing on one soldier named on the Steyning War Memorial: Marine William Walker, who tragically lost his life during the Korean War. While the Museum already held some information about William, we were extremely grateful to his family for lending additional material, including his medals. This enabled us to tell his story in much greater depth and to honour his service far from home in the defence of the people of South Korea. The display was taken down in December and all loaned items were safely returned with our thanks.



For the Christmas period we presented a lighter-hearted exhibition entitled *Celebration in Song*, exploring musical traditions associated with Christmas in Sussex. Highlights included Vaughan Williams' *Sussex Carol*, photographs and programmes from local carol singing, musical reviews and Morris dancing, as well as space promoting current community events. As the carol season has passed, this has now been refreshed to feature the ancient tradition of wassailing, kindly supported with photographs and publicity by Roger Brown of the Community Orchard.

We are currently preparing a new display on the White Bridge and Bramber Brooks, due to be open in early February, and are pleased to be exhibiting a fragment of the old bridge for the first time. Alongside this, we will shortly be launching a *Picture of the Month* feature to allow more of our stored collections to be enjoyed by visitors throughout the year.

Events & Fund-Raising Committee – Maggie Hollands

The social events and fund-raising committee have been busy recently!

Sue Johnson organised a very successful Quiz at the Steyning Centre in November. Everyone said how they enjoyed it and £160 was raised for the museum funds. Hopefully she will organise another one.

Our Christmas raffle raised a whopping £216.00! A huge thank you to all who donated to the prizes. The prize winners were as follows: -

1st prize	Hamper	Sarah Warren (pictured)
2nd prize	4 Bottles of wine	Ray
3rd prize	Christmas crackers	Anne Hill
4th prize	Jonas and James Basket	Linda Aiken
5th prize	Christmas teapot.	Lois Roemer
6th prize	Wooden Puzzle set	Catherine Jackson
7th Prize	Bath and Body Set	Phil Hall
8th prize	Cadburys Chocolate	Gerrard
9th prize	Bath and Shower Ball.	Ruth Norris
10th prize	Manicure Set	Wendy Moss



As some of you know, I am stepping down as Chair of the Social and Events Committee.

It has been a fantastic 12 years with the team raising money for the museum. We have had great fun with the various events and 'thank you' to all who have supported us, buying cakes, raffle tickets and in previous years the bric-a-brac and plant sale stalls.

We are still looking for someone to take over this position. If you are interested, rest assured I will give all the help I can. You will love it!



It was a lovely surprise on Saturday at the Stewards and helpers party when I was presented with presents as a thank you. I received a £100 voucher from the garden centre and a £100 One4all voucher. A bottle of Baileys (my favourite) and chocolates as well as a pink rose bush. Thank you so much to all who contributed, I feel very honoured and I am going to have a lovely time spending.

The raffle at the stewards' party raised £139 plus £20 donation. Many thanks to all who donated prizes.

Don't forget the AGM ON March 28th at 10:30 at The Penfold Hall. I will be making cakes so do come.

With kind regards to you all, Maggie

Volunteers

Two of our long serving Volunteers have decided to step down.

Anne Ketteman, who has been a very loyal Steward for many years, has decided to step down. Anne has been involved with the Museum for many, many years. Anne was a stalwart of the weekend Stewards rota. She has a wide-ranging knowledge of the history of Steyning and could answer many visitors' questions.

Also, Jacquie Buttriss has decided it's time step down. Jacquie has been a volunteer for 25 years. During those years, she has been the Family History researcher, Archivist, Chair of Trustees and Chair of Management Committee and a Steward.

The Museum would like to thank both these ladies for all their loyal support and dedication to our museum. We hope to continue to see them at Museum Social Events.

Muriel, Trustee.

Shop news - Muriel Wright

Our Christmas Cards proved very popular this year. We had to have couple of reprints. Thank you to everyone who bought them.

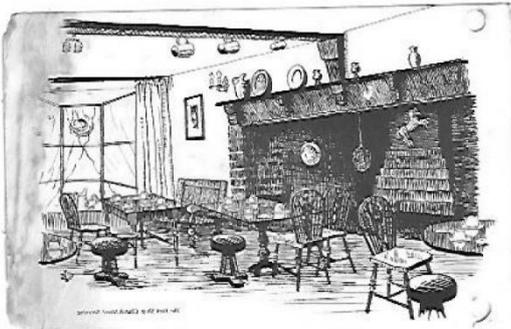
Education – Muriel Wright

Shoreham College Year 1 will be visiting the Museum again in January. Their topic will be 'Homes in the Past'. This will be a return visit as they came in November 2025. The Topic then was 'Toys Old and New' The children are always very interested and can't always believe that Toys can work without batteries, also that not all Toys were made of plastic! Yo-yo's are always popular even the wooden ones.

Andrew brought in one of his wonderful model trains, but the favourite as always was his Marionette. Helen, one our newer team members, brought in some lovely model cars still complete and in their boxes. The toys belonged to her husband, so thank you to both of them for allowing the children to handle some of them. It was a very successful morning.

Collections – Shirley Blomfield

Getting the word document records onto our Modes database continues, with progress being made.



There have been some recent additions to the collection, including a painting of Saxon Cottage by Paul Cutts, who is a local artist. Also, an original letter, written in 1843 by Hugh Ingram, with a penny red stamp attached. This has come through a descendant of Leslie Donne. Nye and Donne were solicitors in Steyning for many years from 1928. Another gift has been a postcard of 'The Tuck Shop', (see left) which was in Church Street. The premises there have an interesting history which has been good to look into.

An interesting part of working with the collections is the interaction with the people who get in touch. It can lead to very useful exchanges of information. The donor of the postcard lives in Dorset and, on his recommendation, and because I was in Poole last November, I visited Pinecliff Gardens. They are on a cliff walk between Canford Cliffs Library and Branksome Chine, with stunning views over the sea. We were lucky to be there on an unusually warm day for the time of year and there were numerous lizards sunning themselves on the rocks of the garden. Well worth a visit if you are in that area.

I am pleased to say that a couple of people have offered to help 'behind the scenes' and would very much like to hear from anyone who would like to get more involved.

Membership – Leonie Etherington

As you all know, Museum membership renewal was due on 1st January 2026. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription fee so promptly. I will be sending reminders out to anyone who has not renewed by the end of February. Should you wish to renew and have yet to do so, I would kindly ask you to do so as soon as you can. This means the museum doesn't have to spend extra money on paper and envelopes. Equally, if you decide that membership is no longer for you, please let me know to avoid unnecessary reminders being sent out.

You can reach me by email membership@steyningmuseum.org.uk or drop a note into me at the museum.

News from the Research Hub – Lois Roemer

Research Enquiries

People:

- Michaux family
- Lily Maisie Maud Isted
- Herbert Miers-Gray
- Kidd family
- Duke family
- Hilda Colinveaux's grave
- Elizabeth Butler Clarke's grave
- Isabel Gibson
- Pupils at SGS
- Sarah Louisa Wicks
Lawson's grave

Places:

- Jarvis House
- High Street shops (for the festival)
- Saxon Road
- Leper Hospital
- Chancton Farm
- White Bridge

Other:

- Pottery samples
- Sussex folklore
- Old photos of Church Lane, Upper Beeding
- Graves of the Bostock, Ingram and Penfold families
- Steyning Military History, Napoleonic and Canadian
- Medical history of Steyning in the last century
- Ju88 plane crash near Wiston 1940

It's always a struggle getting back in a routine after a break. However, a new year is a new start and there are plenty of ideas of what can be achieved in the next 12 months, it just remains to see how far we get! 2025 was an interesting year, lots of enquiries, and answering each one brings our knowledge of Steyning a little bit further. Sometimes we don't have the information to come up with an answer and so one of the priorities for this coming year is to work on the archives and bring them up to date. The archives were originally the work of David Thompson.

Another idea is to create a comprehensive military history for Steyning. Having had the barracks in Jarvis Lane from 1804 until 1814, being involved with the Commonwealth War Grave Commission and then the amazing story of William Walker who was killed in the Korean War has made us realise that there is information still to be found. There are at least two survivors of the Battle of Waterloo and one casualty of the Siege of Ladysmith mentioned on headstones in the churchyard.

Lois Roemer
Chris Hendricks
Ron James