

## STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST

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

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Registered Charity Number: 1169540



### Newsletter November 2025

I am so pleased to be able to share our November newsletter with you. I hope you will find our latest offering interesting and entertaining.

We have some exciting opportunities for getting involved with the museum, please read on to find out more!

Leonie (newsletter compiler)

### Exhibition news – Rachael Rainbow



In September we created the display “Chalk and Vines, A Sussex Wine Story” to coincide with the Food and Drink Festival. The display covers the history of wine making in our area, which started with the Romans, and continues to this day with the recent revival of wine making, particularly sparkling wine, at Sussex vineyards. Our local wine maker, Wiston, helped with the display, as did Steyning-owned wine maker, Smock Alley. The King then helped make it extra topical by serving Wiston Cuvee 2016 at the recent state banquet!

Our next display in the hall will be for Remembrance Sunday. This year we are going to focus on one particular soldier on the Steyning War Memorial, William Walker, who sadly died in the Korean War. We already had some information about William in the Museum but we were delighted to find that his niece still lives in Upper Beeding and a family friend has lent us much more material, including his medals. We are proud to remember William, who lost his life many miles from home while helping to defend the freedom of the people of South Korea.

### Events & Fund-Raising Committee – Maggie Hollands

In August we enjoyed an afternoon tea at the Steyning Centre commemorating VJ Day, with PJ and Emma playing for us. Tea was served by the ‘Nippy’s’ making it a most enjoyable afternoon.

We raised a magnificent £474.00.

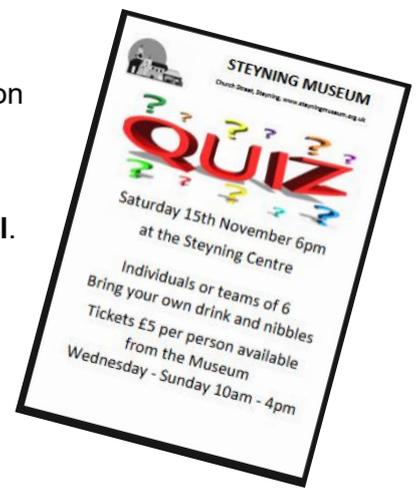
In October we had our Autumn Coffee morning at the Penfold Hall, raising £226.10 in funds for the museum. Once again, it was a very enjoyable morning, catching up with everyone.



Our next event is a **Quiz** to be held at the **Saxon Room, Steyning Centre** on **Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Arrive 6pm for a 6:30pm start. Tickets are £5 per person and are available from the Museum.

Our **AGM** is booked for **Saturday 28th March 10:30 am** at the **Penfold Hall**. Do come along for coffee and cake.

Thank to everyone who supports us  
Maggie and Team Social Events.



## Museum Open Day

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in our Museum? We are very pleased to announce that we will be holding an **Open Day on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00 – 16:00**. Volunteers from our Exhibitions team, our Education team, our Research team and members of the management committee will be in the museum. All will be ready to show you what is involved in creating our displays, carrying out research, how we provide educational sessions for local schools and organisations, and what it takes in general to run a fabulous museum like ours. We will have areas open that you would not normally see, so this is a great opportunity to see behind the scenes!

Do pop along and see for yourself **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November** between **10 am and 4 pm**. Admission is free, although we always welcome donations!

## Shop & Education news – Muriel Wright

**Shop** - Museum Christmas Cards are now on sale. £4.00 for a pack of four. We also have some brand-new hand-made shopping bags for sale. They were made and donated by one of our very talented Stewards. In addition, we have some Christmas tree decorations for sale, and the very popular Lavender bags.



**Education** - In early September 2 Year 5 classes from Steyning Primary School visited the Museum. Their topic was Saxons.

There were five activities for the children to experience. As usual the most popular items were the Saxon Costumes and the replica Sutton Hoo helmet.

Thanks to all the helpers for a lively and successful morning.

## Membership – Leonie Etherington

It is once again that time of year, when I remind all our members that annual membership of the museum is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

If you pay by standing order, please take a moment to check that this is in place.

If you pay by cash/on line payment you will receive a renewal reminder by email in the next few weeks. If you have not supplied an email address then this reminder will be delivered by post.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by email [membership@steyningmuseum.org.uk](mailto:membership@steyningmuseum.org.uk) or drop a note in to the museum.

Our membership fee remains unchanged at £10 for the year, which would make it a great value gift for friends and family! If you are interested in purchasing membership(s), we have application forms available in the museum, or you can apply to become a member using our [on-line application form](#), found on the website.

Thank you to all our members for your generous ongoing support.

## News from the Research Hub – Lois Roemer

### Research Enquiries

#### People:

- Evelyn Gilbert nee Chalcraft
- Hilda Collinveaux grave
- Roberts family
- Stening family
- Leppard, Beasley and Bateman families
- Manvell family
- Gregory Flint
- Tweed family
- Richard Sharpe
- Charlie Holden
- Richard Nicholson grave – dealt with by Ray Powell
- Rev George Winstanley Wallis Emery and Town families Thomas Moon

#### Places:

- High Bank,
- Mouse Lane
- Dog Lane
- Burletts
- Coxham Cottages
- White Bridge
- Apple Cottage
- 76 High Street
- The Stone House
- Burletts (again) – dealt with by Chris Hendricks Ashurst,
- Horsebridge Common & Upper Northover Lane – dealt with by Shirley Blomfield
- Rookery Nook – dealt with by Chris Hendricks

#### Other:

- The Romans at Chanctonbury
- Who owns the piece of ground between Chequers Orchard and the Police Station?
- Was The Crescent a concrete road built by the Canadians in WWII Steyning Clock?
- How to order a birth certificate
- A likeness of St Cuthman Pill boxes etc in WWII – dealt with by Ray Powell

With the removal of the old White Bridge, which spanned the Adur near Kings Barn Lane, Steyning, we had plenty of people coming into the Museum and asking why it was called the White Bridge.



*A section of the White Bridge*

There are three possible answers to this question – 1) it was built on land belonging to Whites Farm, 2) it was painted white so that barges on the River Adur could see it and not bump their heads, and 3) there is a mysterious white lady who walks the fields thereabouts and might have had something to do with the Priory. Answers on a postcard please .....

A couple of weeks ago a man came into the Museum asking if we knew the whereabouts of the grave of the grandfather of Barnes Wallis (Dambusters, bouncing bombs) as he was buried in Steyning. Who? What? Where? Alas, after moment of great excitement and a quick look in the Graveyard Gossip file there is no record of the Rev Wallis being buried in our churchyard. His death was recorded in the Steyning Registration District, and so it appeared to our visitor that he must be buried in Steyning and not in Hove where he lived.

November is approaching and we think of Remembrance and our departed servicemen. There will be a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Tour of the churchyard on Saturday 8th November at 11am. As we try to make these tours a little bit different each time, we will be highlighting the Royal Sussex Regiment and the men who served in that regiment.



## **MORE ROLES AVAILABLE in VOLUNTEERING for our MUSEUM.**

Being a volunteer at Steyning Museum is so interesting. I was on duty as a steward one afternoon when a visitor asked about a specific house. My fellow steward, having been trained by Lois, went into the research hub whilst I explored the public research shelving with our visitor.

He returned with details in a folder. Our visitor was delighted and spent a happy time talking through his interests and the story of the locality. I learned a lot from listening-in.

It was a proud moment, and such a joy to witness fellow volunteers doing such a good job in fulfilling the museum's mission! The afternoon was full of interesting findings and conversation.

I am sure many Newsletter readers are also volunteers, so most will know that several people who have worked very hard for many years are stepping down from important volunteer roles. We are looking for ways to replace the work they have done. (Not the people- because they are irreplaceable!)

**AT PRESENT WE HAVE SEVERAL ROLES WHICH ARE VACANT.**

The vacant or soon- to- be- vacant roles can be split between colleagues, and new ways of working are encouraged, as would be the arrival of new friends to join the fun.

Whatever your stage in life, volunteering at Steyning Museum offers the opportunity to meet new people, share your knowledge and experience, and learn new skills, while supporting your local museum.

If any of the roles below appeals to you - especially if you have relevant knowledge or experience – do get in touch. Although most volunteers do so for a few years or more, we are open to shorter term or more flexible volunteering.

To express an interest in an area of the work, you can reach us by email:

[contact@steyningmuseum.org.uk](mailto:contact@steyningmuseum.org.uk), speak to any of the current Management Committee and Trustees, or drop us a letter if you prefer.

We look forward to hearing from you, please get in touch!

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### **Collection Team Members** – *time commitment entirely negotiable. – say a few hours a week?*

The collection team develops and cares for the artefacts in the museum's collection. They are responsible for deciding whether to accept artefacts donated by the public, ensuring that those that are taken, are properly identified, recorded, and stored.

Previously the collection has been managed by a Collections' Manager supported by other volunteers. In future, the intent is that the collection is managed by a small team, each taking responsibility for different aspects of the collection management.

Tasks include:

Cataloguing, collections development, loans, acquisitions and the review and rationalisation of the Museum's Collection. This includes taking decisions as to whether objects received should be accessioned, accepted on loan (including the terms and conditions of the loan) rejected or disposed of.

Managing the Collection's digital management system (MODES) including administration and data maintenance.

Managing the intellectual property (IP) of the Collection, including gaining and granting copyright licences or assignment for non-commercial and commercial uses and ensuring the avoidance of infringement of the copyright of others.

Assist the Museum's Research / Family History Team, so far as required, with enquiries from members of the public.

### **Chair of Management Committee** - *about 2hrs pw, plus Committee meetings*

*Together with the Management Committee, the Chair is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Museum. At present, this group meets every month. Representatives of every aspect of our work attend.*

Chair Committee Meetings, agree the agenda and check the Minutes

Check Chair's emails ([chair@steyningmuseum.org.uk](mailto:chair@steyningmuseum.org.uk)) and answer or defer to the Management Committee as appropriate

Liaising with the Chair of Trustees, compile the Trustees' Annual Report for A.G.M. and Charity Commission

Authorise expense claims, with the Treasurer

Keep in touch with the volunteers, advise and listen to concerns whilst respecting confidentiality.

**Secretary to Management Committee** *About 2hrs pw (ave)*

To carry out various administrative tasks to support the Management Committee in the day-to-day operation of the museum.

Take detailed minutes of Committee Meetings; at present, meetings are monthly.

Ensure a written and signed-off record of all Committee meetings, circulated as needed.

Checking for phone calls, correspondence and emails which need fielding to other Museum people. – can mostly be done from home.

Ensuring virus protection for computers is up to date

Maintaining the Museum's secure administrative files, both paper and virtual.

**Museum Maintenance** - this could be a job-share. *About 2hrs pw (ave)*

Weekly Checks and activities

Empty waste and recycling bins

Empty Dehumidifiers

Check security and alarm systems

Replenish consumables in the toilet

Check perimeter of building

Monthly Checks

Check correct operation of Fire Doors and Emergency Lights

Emergencies relating to building and equipment:

Attend, and deal with problem, or ensure alternative back up.

Ad-hoc small maintenance jobs such as changing lightbulbs.

**We have a couple of extra pleas for help this month, maybe you can assist?**

Steyning Museum Annual Accounts Audit

Sadly, the company who carry out the annual audit on our accounts have advised us that they will no longer be providing this service. Are you, or do you know, anyone who might be able and willing to carry out this examination for the museum? Maybe you are retired accountant who could help? If so, please get in touch with us [contact@steyningmuseum.org.uk](mailto:contact@steyningmuseum.org.uk)

A request from Andrew Woodfield.

Some of you will know that Andrew has an antique model railway collection.

He is seeking someone who lives locally to repair some of his locomotives.

They are electric, three rail 7mm to the foot course scale.

He has access to any required spare parts.

Andrew will, of course, pay for the work.

Should anyone be interested in contemplating this task, please contact Andrew at [richardaw756@gmail.com](mailto:richardaw756@gmail.com) or telephone 07724190178.

Thank you.

**And finally.....**

Many happy returns to long term steward Marita Watteau, who celebrates her 90th birthday on Saturday 8th November. Marita has been a steward for many years, as well as helping with delivery of newsletters. We wish you a very happy birthday!