

## STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST

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

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Registered Charity Number: 1169540



### Newsletter February 2023

#### Message from the Chairman - Muriel Wright

Happy New Year Everyone,

It's always good to start the New Year with a social occasion and the Stewards party went very well. It was good to see so many people attend. I hope you all enjoyed it.

I would like to welcome our new volunteers, Phil Etherington and Mick Bullen, to the Museum.

I'm sorry to inform you that Jack Campbell and Lawrie Smalley, both very loyal and long-time supporters of the Museum, have died. Our condolences to the families of both gentlemen.

The Museums AGM is on Saturday 18th March 10.30am at Penfold Hall. The Agenda and Minutes of last year's meeting are attached to the newsletter.

I hope to see you there,

Take care,

Muriel.

#### Curator of Exhibitions – Andrew Woodfield

From January 27<sup>th</sup> until March 23<sup>d</sup>

#### 'STEYNING HIGH STREET – Then and Now'

Images from the Museum Archive side by side with up-to-date photographs show how our High Street has changed, and also document how lucky we are that so much of our beautiful Medieval Town has survived. Shop artefacts and paperwork from shop keepers of a bygone age will enhance the exhibit.

The "now" photographs have been taken by **Jaki Rance** who will be our new Curator of Exhibitions when I retire at the March AGM.



Opens Wed 29 March

## **'WOMEN OF THE DOWNS'**

Women of The Downs celebrates women's contribution to Art, Medicine, Agriculture, Law, Literature and Sussex life in general. The exhibition looks at historical women, like Carol Myerscough, Steyning's first female firefighter, to beloved children's author Julia Donaldson. We explore the life of Eva Handley Read, the first female dental surgeon, and the artist Gluck, 'No suffix, no prefix just Gluck'. The exhibition pays close attention to stories of women, often not heard. We look at the role of the farmer's wife as well as the life of female farmers. We look at unpaid work and unsung heroines.



### **Education – Joan Denwood**

There are some photos of children from our last two events, the Tudors in the church and the visit by Shoreham College in November just above the table in the museum.

The Education Team is springing into action with two school visits booked in January and two in February. When the Education Team met in early December, we also decided to hold two important future events: -

1. **Children's Activity morning** in the museum on **Wednesday 15th February** (half term holiday) 10am – 1pm. This is for children 4-11 years, accompanied by an adult. Charge is £2 per child to help pay for resources. Tickets will be available to purchase from the museum from 1<sup>st</sup> February. We will have a selection of activities around the museum, including costumes, art and craft table, games, toys and more! Each one needs to be manned, so if you have time and would like to offer your services, please let me know. Or you could bring children along yourself and take part. This is our first event like this since 2018 and a great occasion to get people into the museum and have fun.



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### **HALF-TERM ACTIVITY MORNING**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February

10am - 1pm

Art & craft activities, puppets,  
dressing up and much more

Entry £2 – to cover cost of materials

Note: primary-aged children to be  
accompanied by an adult

*Tickets at the Museum from 1<sup>st</sup> February*

2. Our **Easter weekend Family Quiz**, with different questions from last year, of course, will take place **7th - 10th April**. This could become a tradition! There will be a treat for children who take part. This event is free.

### **Oral History – Joan Denwood**

The Oral History Team met recently and were sad to learn about the deaths of Tony Holmes, Geoff Chalcraft and Jack Campbell. However, from our point of view we were so pleased that in the last couple of years we have recorded their memories for the museum. We have a number of ideas for new interviewees and are looking forward to meeting them and hearing their stories.

### **Shop - Joan Denwood**

Our new initiative of selling locally made goods has worked well, particularly at the Museum coffee morning in November and the time leading up to Christmas. We hope you have noticed the recent changes to our shop display. More sorting and changes will happen as we begin to prepare for the refurbishment of the reception, shop and reference areas. A company has been chosen to do the work needed. We hope this will happen in or around June.

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

Our usual Christmas Hamper Raffle held at the museum in December raised £290 for museum funds.

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets.

The following people were the lucky winners: -

1st prize	Hamper	Pam Perry
2nd prize	Wine Glasses and Bottle of Wine	Lesley Peat
3rd prize	6 Bottles of Wine	Erica Gayler
4th prize	6 Mugs	Mrs MacDonald
5th prize	Chocolates	Cliff White
6th prize	Christmas Mug and Coaster	Vivian Kingston-Jones
7th prize	Mince Pies	Sarah Warren
8th prize	Tin of Cookies	Margaret Kelly
9th prize	Box of Crackers	Sue Baxter

### **Future date for your diaries: -**

Saturday 15th April            Spring Coffee Morning 10:30 Penfold Hall.

Saturday 20th May            Afternoon Tea at 3pm at the Steyning Centre with live band - tickets £8

## **200 Club Secretary - Erica Gayler**

.....and the winners were

November	December	January
1st Ann Long	1st Barbara Chandler	1st April Henebury
2nd Mary McFarlane	2nd Ann Long	2nd Heather Ward
3rd Pauline King	3rd Edwin Bray	3rd Alex Harden

With only 2 monthly draws left for the 200 Club – February and March – I must ask that everyone who hasn't already done so, to check to ensure their standing order to the Club has been cancelled.

We are still getting standing orders coming through which will just get lost once we close the Bank account. We cannot keep the bank account open after the final draw cheques have been presented as this will cost us £5 per month. To confirm, the 200 Club bank details are 40 43 48 61225707 – please make sure only this standing order is cancelled to ensure that your membership to the Museum Trust is not cancelled by mistake.

As your standing order is cancelled, please consider continuing to help the Museum through the Horsham District Council Lottery. Just make sure that when you go onto the Lotteries website you search for Steyning Museum and click the box 'Support Us'.

The current balance on the 200 club is £5100 – there are still cheques to be presented from recent winners' payments, and also February and March draws still to take place, but it is a great amount which is going to be put towards the work being done on the new Reception Area.

## **Membership Secretary – Leonie Etherington**

### **Museum Trust membership**

As I am sure you know, membership renewal was due in January, and I would like to thank to everyone who has made their annual membership payment already. The majority of our members pay by regular payment/ standing order, which is greatly appreciated, and these payments would have been made by your bank in early January 2023. However, a reminder letter was sent for those who prefer to make cash or cheque payments. If you have yet to do so, it would be helpful if you could arrange for this to be paid as soon as possible. Post is regularly checked at the Museum, even when we are closed, so you can use the post box to hand deliver.

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

## Publicity – Ray Powell

### Museum Stewards Party – 14 January 2023

As a thank you to all our hard-working volunteers, committee members hosted a very successful party at Penfold Hall. As well as food and our famous mulled wine, there was also a raffle which raised over £130 towards Museum funds. Special thanks to Maggie Hollands and her team for making the event such a success.



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer steward, there are opportunities either front-of-house at one of our 3-hour shifts or behind the scenes. Contact Vivien or Gillian [stewards@steyningmuseum.org.uk](mailto:stewards@steyningmuseum.org.uk).

## News from the Research Hub – Jacquie Buttriss

It has been 'business as usual' in the Museum's Research Hub. Lois researches and responds to all the visitors' enquiries and Jacquie does the same for our emailed queries, which come from all over the World.

One of our most bizarre stories came in an email from France. The sender was looking into his family history and especially into his mother's childhood. This led him to an article in a 1937 edition of the Times newspaper, which featured her cousin, a single young woman who alone ran Northover Farm, on the Ashurst road. One day, her dog wandered off, just as a vacuum-cleaner salesman was driving slowly along. The driver ran into the dog, slightly injuring its leg. The driver was getting out of his car, when Patricia Mather ran out in a rage and attacked him. She punched him on the nose, jumped on his back and pulled him to the ground, where she tried to throttle him. Unsuccessful, she bit his neck, then climbed into his car and put her foot through his windscreen. As the driver was calming the dog down, she took some of the salesman's goods out of his car and threw them into a hedge. In the ensuing court case, the driver's apology was accepted by the judge, while Miss Mather was found guilty of assault and fined £2 (now worth £150).