

## STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST

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

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Registered Charity Number: 1169540



### Newsletter May 2023

#### Message from the Outgoing Chairman - Muriel Wright

**AGM** - Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting in March, it was great to chat to so many of you. Thanks to Maggie Hollands and her team for the delicious coffee and cake. I would like to thank everyone for all their support during my time as Chairman.

After the AGM in March the Trustees have appointed the following Management Committee.

Chairman & Education	Joan Denwood
Vice-Chairman & Shop	Muriel Wright
Treasurer	Sean Keane
Membership & Newsletter Editor	Leonie Etherington
Minutes Secretary	Paddy Robson
Social Events	Maggie Hollands
Exhibitions Curator	Jaki Rance
Collections Manager	Margaret Benham
Publicity Officer	Ray Powell
Research & Archives	Jacque Buttriss
Oral History & Rota Team	Vivien Kingston-Jones
Rota Team	Gillian Brown .

The Trustees are Chris Tod, Paul Norris, Muriel Wright, Jacque Buttriss, Helen Coutrouzas.

Take care,  
Muriel

#### Message from the Chairman – Joan Denwood

The AGM went really well, and after the business side was finished it was good to see people enjoying the items set up by Margaret Benham. It was a selection of fascinating items given to the museum recently. As well as enjoying the coffee and cake provided by Maggie Hollands and her team of course.

We are sad to announce the death earlier this year of David Thompson, who was our dedicated archivist, 2 days a week for 23 years.

We are also sad to announce the recent death of Martin Toomey. He and his wife Jenny were very long time and enthusiastic supporters of Steyning Museum.

As the new Chairman of the Management Committee, I hope to continue Muriel's good work of helping with the day to day running of the museum. We have an efficient, enthusiastic team and have the excitement of the refurbishment of the reception area to look forward to.

Best wishes,

Joan

### **Curator of Exhibitions – Jaki Rance**

The Museum will be welcoming the Art Trail again from Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> until Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>.

The museum will be the hub of the Arts Trail with all the information required to find the various locations.

“Women of the Downs” will be temporary removed to facilitate the Trail and will re-open June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Andrew Woodfield will be Curating the Trail.

### **Education – Joan Denwood**

Since the last newsletter we have had visits from Year 2 at Steyning Primary School working on their topic of ‘Street Detectives’, and Year 1 from Shoreham College for ‘Homes in the Past’. Then there was Year 6 from Steyning Primary School studying WW2. What a fascinating morning they had, questioning Ros Golds about her bomb experience and Susie Acton who happened to be on duty. They also saw photos, handled medals and other artefacts. Then they visited the War Memorials in the Church and the graveyard to hear stories about the soldiers. Many thanks to Lois, Ron, Jill, Lin and Wendy. We have also visited the Reception classes at Upper Beeding Primary with Toys, old and new. A total of 144 children and 19 adults.





Our Children's Activity Morning in February half term was great fun with 24 children, 10 toddlers and 20 adults enjoying our 7, very different, activities. Again, many thanks to our education team as well as Ruth, Richard, Angela and Sarah.

Last but by no means least is our Easter Weekend Family Quiz, which has helped to encourage lots of visitors into the museum.

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

Thank you to all who came to our recent coffee morning at the Penfold Hall. Everyone seemed to enjoy the coffee and chat. It was a great success and we made a profit of nearly £200 for committee funds.

I am very grateful to the people who made cakes for the cake stall and those who contributed to the raffle.....thank you.

Our next event is on **Saturday May 20th** at 3pm at the Steyning Centre and will be an Afternoon tea with sandwiches, cakes and a live band called 'The Mash Company '

Tickets are £8 and will be available at the museum from April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Future events are the Autumn Coffee morning at the Penfold Hall on **Saturday 28th October** at 10:30 and a quiz at the Steyning Centre on **Saturday 18th November** at 7pm.

Maggie Hollands and Social Committee

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

.....and the winners were.....

#### **February**

1<sup>st</sup> Margaret Benham

2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Johnson

3<sup>rd</sup> Pauline Smalley

#### **March**

1<sup>st</sup> Valerie Bullen

2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle Leigh-Pollit

3<sup>rd</sup> Robin Hollaway

The final draw has now taken place; and despite my repeated reminders through the newsletter and individual letters to members there was standing orders paid into the account in April. **Please can everyone, who hasn't already done so, check to ensure their standing order to the Club has been**

**cancelled. To confirm the 200 Club bank details are 40 43 48 61225707 – any payment to this account must be cancelled immediately.** 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'.

Thank you to everyone who very kindly donated to my 'leaving' gift – a very much appreciated garden voucher.

## **Publicity – Ray Powell**

Steyning Museum – our new sign

You may well have noticed a new sign at the bottom of the steps next to Penfold Hall. This is our new tourist information sign to catch the eye of anyone on foot passing by.

I thought it was going to be easy to get a new sign, just find one on Google, send it off to a sign maker and bob's your uncle. Not so fast.

First of all, we needed to get permission from West Sussex County Council that we qualified to have one at all. Following lots of form-filling, and of course an administration fee, the Council gave us permission. We then had to get permission from the streetlighting company Enerveo to attach a sign onto their light column. After all that it should be plain sailing right? We just needed to get a sign company to quote for the sign.

Alas and alack, they wanted to know all sorts of things about the size and what we wanted on it, which meant I had to get boned up on the snappily entitled Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions to figure it all out. This involved mastering all sorts of technical jargon on x-height and stroke width. I had no idea it was so complicated.

Finally, the day came when all the bits of the puzzle fell into place and we could get the sign manufactured and erected - hooray.

We think the end result is worth all the effort – we hope you agree.



## **News from the Research Hub – Jacquie Buttriss**

Instead of telling one story we've uncovered, we thought it might be interesting to share with you just some of the research we undertook in the course of one month.

### **Research we did in March 2023**

- The elusive Rosemary of the S.O.E. who lived in Church Street
- Family history for one of the stewards
- Family history (Penfold) for an Australian researcher
- The Hickox family – what caused their rift? (a disapproved marriage)
- House history for 54 Goring Road
- House history for 8 College Hill
- History of the building that used to be Threshers' off-license
- Ongoing research into two burials in the churchyard
- Further info re Etheldred Taylor (yes, 2Ds)
- Chris Tod's invaluable help with the stories of two medieval women

### **We have also been involved in consultations about:**

- 900 years anniversary of St Nicholas Church, Bramber
- The Duke of Norfolk's diaries (at one time he owned most of the houses in Steyning)

### **Our greatest achievement of the month:**

After 5 years of Lois searching the records and 4 meetings in the graveyard between Lois, Father Mark and the Selby family, Peter Selby has at last been given permission to put up a headstone to commemorate his mother's burial.

### **Jacquie Buttriss and Lois Roemer**