

STEYNING MUSEUM TRUST

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

T: 01903 813333W: www.steyningmuseum.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1169540



Newsletter November 2022

Message from the Chairman - Muriel Wright

November already. This year seems to be flying past.

On behalf of Steyning Museum I would like to welcome Leonie Etherington our new membership secretary and newsletter editor.

I would also like to thank Erica Gayler for all her hard work and loyal support during her time as membership secretary and newsletter editor.

We are still looking for more volunteers so we would be grateful if you could pass on the message to friends and neighbours. They can be assured of a friendly welcome.

A warm welcome to our new member who has joined our team of volunteers: Jaki Rance

Take care,

Muriel

Curator of Exhibitions – Andrew Woodfield

From November 25th to January 22nd 2023

“SEASON’S GREETINGS”

A colourful celebration of Christmas and the New Year.

Exhibits from the museum archive will include:

Victorian/Edwardian Christmas cards (including a selection from the Gert and Daisy archive), decorations from the past, a selection from our wonderful children`s books and toys in the Duke Family archive, and a selection of the museum collection of toys.

Plus how Steyning celebrates Yuletide.

“Visiting” exhibits will enhance the display with toy theatres, puppets, Mecanno, Bayco,

Triang toys, trains, dolls and lots of other items that will form a toy shop window from the past.

AN EXHIBITION FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

ON DISPLAY FOR ONLY EIGHT WEEKS!

From January 27th 2023:

“STEYNING HIGH STREET – Then and Now”

Old images side by side with new photographs.

Education – Joan Denwood

Thank you to all of you who submitted Coronation Memories much earlier this year. I hope you noticed that your work was displayed in the Museum entrance alongside our ‘In Memoriam’ book on the occasion of the Queens death. It was very appropriate to use your memories at this time.

60 children from Year 5 Steyning Primary School visited one Thursday morning. They were studying Tudor buildings and going for a walk around the town. It was really good to see them all and introduce some new teachers to our Museum.

We are supporting The Friends of the Church in October half term when they are celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Tudor Screen. We are taking part in the Fun with Tudors afternoon by taking along our Tudor costumes.

Shop - Joan Denwood

After my request to our lovely stewards, we are starting to get some locally made goods into our shop. Examples so far include greetings cards, sets of Steyning notelets, slate coasters engraved with our logo, wooden engraved key rings, and wooden engraved Christmas decorations. Fridge magnets will be arriving soon too. Please keep popping into the museum to see what appears next.



Events & Fund-Raising Committee – Maggie Hollands

The Autumn coffee morning is November 5th, hopefully if you don't get this newsletter in time you remembered to go. It is always a great opportunity to all get together.... with such a lovely atmosphere. We are selling homemade cakes items from the museum and a raffle. Entrance is priced at £2 including real coffee and biscuits.

As usual we will be having a raffle for a Christmas Hamper and other prizes. This will be in the museum the first week of December. We usually have about 8 prizes so do come along and buy a ticket.

200 Club Secretary - Erica Gayler

September

1st C A Canning
2nd Mrs P Smalley
3rd Mrs S Hollington

October

1st Mrs J Denwood
2nd Mrs P Hill
3rd Mrs M Alexander

As Muriel has mentioned above, I have handed over the reins of Membership Secretary to Leonie Etherington; I know she will do a brilliant job and be a great asset to the Museum Committee. I am continuing as secretary for the 200 Club until it closes in March 2023, so you are not losing me altogether! I wish Leonie all the best in her new role.

Membership Secretary – Leonie Etherington

Many thanks to everyone for making me feel so welcome in my new role already. I have had great support from Erica in learning the ropes for which I am very grateful, and I hope I will be able to do job as well as she has done over the past few years.

Publicity – Ray Powell

Together with St Andrews Church and the Rifle Range, the Museum participated in the recent Heritage Open Day events that took place over the weekend of 17-18 September. – Kate Harrison of St Andrews thanked the Museum for helping with the publicity (we put up the posters) and reported that the Church felt it had been a great success. Sarah Leigh gave two talks explaining the history of how the church was built. Entitled 'How French abbots created Steyning Parish Church and made their peace with the Kings of England', she highlighted how and why the French came to Steyning, the importance of the site and how they navigated the many tortuous issues with English royalty. Although the events took place just before the Queen's funeral, there was a combined audience of over 120 for the talks on the church history and concerts. Additionally, the audio tour of the interior of the church was officially launched. Penfold Hall opened its doors to welcome visitors for afternoon tea and the Rifle Range had 82 people on their tour with the Museum recording 51 visitors over the same weekend.

News from the Research Hub – Jacquie Buttriss

An email came into our inbox with the subject line “From a little town in the Appalachians”. We were intrigued. Long-ago Geography lessons came to mind, combined with images from a black and white TV series! The sender had found a battered and bruised grandfather clock in a junk shop and saw the faded words Lasseter and Steyning on its face. He looked up Steyning and wrote to ask if we knew anything about Mr Lasseter. A preliminary delve into our archives revealed who he was, his dates and his work as a clock and watch maker on the High Street in the early 1800s, Now we could do some further research and give our Appalachian enquirer the details he requested about Mr Lasseter and his family. Digging deeper into our archives, we found a letter, written by a certain Mr. Chris Tod, our former Curator, nearly 20 years ago to a New Zealander who had been left a Lasseter clock. This was a great find as Chris had given her more information and told the story of two men, one at each end, carrying a Lasseter long-case clock across the Downs, between Steyning and Storrington. One can only hope it arrived intact! Though, as we explained to our enquirer, the Downs are hardly any competition to the Appalachians! Coincidences have been a theme in the Research Hub lately. A few months ago, purely for historical interest, Lois and I were looking at a chart of the Royal line, going back to Norman times. It goes without saying that neither of us were on it! However, we were shocked to find that not only did our children descend from the Conqueror, but they are very distantly related to each other. More recently, Lois was discussing some findings with our specialist researcher Ron James, when they discovered that they are also related by marriage.

Finally, an unusual query arose from the tale of a young Steyning girl who, in 1880 stole some money in Lancing. She was tried, convicted of larceny and imprisoned for three months in Portsmouth Jail. Soon after her release, she was convicted again of the same crime, but this time was imprisoned in Portsmouth for 9 months with hard labour. Once released, she reoffended again and spent another 9 months in Portsmouth Jail. But why Portsmouth Jail? It's not even in the same county. Any ideas?

APPEAL – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS

As you may know, there will be some changes of our long-serving volunteer staff from next March and, because we want to keep everything going as smoothly as possible, we are gradually phasing in each new volunteer, shadowing these roles.

Most of you know Paul Norris as our Treasurer, and the Trustees have already recruited a very experienced steward with excellent references to take over as our new Treasurer.

Paul's other roles are in: **SECURITY, MAINTENANCE AND REFURBISHMENT**

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering in any of these three areas, please email jacquie.buttriss@talktalk.net to receive the job-description for each role.

We have had a request from the Probus Club. They are looking for local speakers, on any subject. If you would like to offer, or to find out more, please contact Stuart Greig on 07787 524843.