

The Steyning Society

Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2020

www.steyningsociety.org.uk



Registered Charity No.2698591

The Steyning Society

The Society was founded in 1963 and its prime purpose and objects are -

1. To conserve and enhance the town of Steyning, particularly its conservation area and to protect the surrounding environment.
2. To maintain and improve the amenities of Steyning and to produce appropriate literature and papers.
3. To hold talks, meetings and events for members and other interested parties and cooperate with other relevant charities.
4. To raise funds, receive grants and donations from members to carry out the work of the Society or other expenditure relating to Steyning
5. To comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Trustees who served during 2019 -20 are proposed for 2020 - 21

- **Chair - Tom Aubrey**
Proposer - Adrian Gobat, Secunder - Tony Struthers
- **Vice-Chair Jane Oxley**
Proposer - Anne Bacon, Secunder - John Downe
- **Treasurer - Adrian Gobat**
Proposer Tony Struthers, Secunder - Dorothy Denby
- **Secretary - Tony Struthers OBE**
Proposer - Adrian Gobat, Secunder - Tom Aubrey
- **Membership Secretary - Catherine Mant**
Proposer - David Cubey, Secunder - Jane Oxley
- **Website Officer - David Cubey**
Proposer - Catherine Mant, Secunder - Ann Long
- **Publicity Officer - Ann Long**
Proposer - John Downe, Secunder - Catherine Mant
- **Committee Member - Anne Bacon**
Proposer - Adrian Gobat, Secunder - Tony Struthers
- **Committee Member - John Downe**
Proposer - Ann Long, Secunder - David Cubey
- **Committee Member - Dorothy Denby**
Proposer - Adrian Gobat, Secunder - Tony Struthers
- **Committee Member - John Whittome**
Proposer - John Downe, Secunder - Ann Long

Chair's Report 2019 - 20

Up until the COVID 19 Lock Down in February 2020 the Society had a very good year.

It has been considerably strengthened with the appointments of Tony Struthers as Secretary and David Cubey as Website Officer. Catherine Mant has taken over as Membership Secretary from Dorothy Denby who has been wonderfully supportive for many years taking the Minutes as well looking after the Membership.

Jane Oxley our Vice - Chair has organised two outings to the Poppy Factory and the Tate as well as overseeing the repair of the oak town railings at the High Street/Church Street Corner and updating and reprinting our Steyning Town Guide. Friends of the South Downs (previously the South Downs Society) have indicated that they no longer wish to participate in future outings. This may impact on numbers and future arrangements.

Adrian Gobat our Treasurer has initiated our grants system and managed the change to our financial year. Ann Long our Publicity Officer has expanded our advertising and Anne Bacon has livened up our posters.

We contributed a display to the very successful Church Flower Show, held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The Christmas Supper on 20th December 2019 was the most festive yet: thanks to Pauline's decorations, the arrival of our Honorary President Peter Harris, the lively talk from Ric Goring and the inclusion of free drinks!

I thank all the Committee for their hard work, their enthusiasm and their friendliness.

The regular Talks have been well attended and huge thanks to those who helped with teas and particularly Felicity Downe who has regularly bought and organised tea and biscuits for over 20 years and is retiring this year—— so volunteers please——it need not be for 20 years!

This coming year we had planned to start with a bang, Tony Struthers had the great idea of celebrating National Heritage Open Days from September 18th to the 20th. We had lots planned; but it cannot happen as I fear COVID 19 will still be with us together with restrictions on safe distancing. It has also proved impossible to plan the details for this event in advance in the current situation.

Next year's Programmes and Membership Cards will be given out at our first meeting; they are printed and ready for our next meeting which will be subject to government guidance and hopefully after the summer. We will keep you informed on our website <https://steyningsociety.org.uk>, on the Steyning Centre Noticeboard and in Your Steyning.

Please contact our website for further information.

The Committee thank you all for your support and wish you best wishes and good health.

Tom Aubrey

Steyning For Trees

Steyning For Trees (SFT) is a new community group formed to help fight climate change by promoting the planting of more trees. Trees are also vital for the beauty of our town and landscape – and our mental wellbeing. The Steyning Society is keen to support SFT and the Society has provided a grant of £250 to assist their work. The aims of this group complement that of the Steyning Society and so it has been agreed that SFT should be affiliated to the Society but with its own committee, bank account, constitution. It is a separate legal body with full control of its financial affairs and governing document. Both the Society and SFT will seek opportunities for joint activities and publicity. SFT has a presence on the Society website.

Planning Issues

Steyning Neighbourhood Plan

The Society responded to the Steyning Neighbourhood Plan in October 2019. We suggested that it was a lost opportunity for a comprehensive plan to address the needs and opportunities for Steyning and its setting on the edge of the South Downs National Park. The Plan lacks a context or spatial strategy for future population/household growth or decline; has no information on employment, economic or retail needs, nothing on tourism, and excludes transport and movement. We recommended the town's vision should address the setting of Steyning, the key views in and out and its future spatial strategy, given the constraints posed by the National Park and the flood plain. We supported the Plan's Character Appraisal and the previous Conservation Management Plan and noted there are issues which should be addressed including control of development and management of the historic built environment. More explicit design advice should be included related to specific areas of the town and character areas. We fully supported the proposals for Local Green Spaces. We recognised that that there had been a great deal of work undertaken on the Plan by the various working groups but did not consider that the end result properly reflected this nor that it did justice to Steyning, its history or unique position within Horsham District.

Horsham Local Plan

The consultation on the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan for Horsham took place between February and March 2020. We submitted brief comments noting the need to take account of climate change and better provision of cycling routes. We also objected to the proposal for extensive development of around 7,000 homes on Land North East of Henfield (Mayfield). It is expected that consultation on the final Submission Draft of the Local Plan (Regulation 19) will take place in Autumn/Winter 2020. However, in view of the present Covid 19 situation, the Leader of Horsham Council has asked the Secretary of State for more flexibility on the Local Plan timescale.

West Sussex County Council Joint Minerals Plan - Soft Sand Review - Ham Farm

We supported the representations of the Visitor and Tourism Group of the Steyning and District Partnership that the development of Ham Farm (proposed extraction site) would have a serious impact on the A283, that tourism would be affected and in particular, views from Chanctonbury Ring would be spoilt. Public examination hearings are anticipated between July and August 2020.

Tony Struthers

Steyping Society Treasurer's Report on the year 2019/2020

Subscriptions. After many years without change the Committee decided it was time to increase the subscriptions. Even now, at £15 per couple for 11 talks + refreshments, ie £1.36 per talk, it is very good value we feel!

Christmas Supper. This was well supported and produced a small surplus.

Grants. One of the aims of the Steyping Society is to offer financial support in the form of grants to local organisations which provide amenities for the residents of Steyping. The Committee considers applications for grants in May and November each year. Over the past year we have given grants to provide a chrome-book for Steyping Grammar School science department, to help build an flight simulator for the local Air Cadets and to help fund the valuable work being done by Steyping For Trees.

Overall the annual accounts for 2019/2020 which follow indicate a deficit which is amply covered by our reserves.

Adrian Gobat
41 Goring Road
Steyping
BN44 3GF
May 2020

The Steyning Society (Charity No. 269859)
Income and Expenditure For the year ended 29th February 2020

	2019-2020	2018-2019		2019-2020	2018-2019
	£	£		£	£
Income			Expenditure		
Subscriptions	2327	1197	Hall hire	739	709
Visitors/Donations	114	132	Refreshments	27	25
			Speakers	738	700
Outings			Outings		
Outings ticket sales	2304	5124	Expenditure	2291	4572
Christmas Dinner			Christmas Dinner		
Tickets/raffle	2163	1911	Hall & Catering	1923	1804
History guide sales	142	118	History guide printing	0	0
			Printing/postage	332	357
			Website fees	50	50
			Website upgrade	180	0
			Subscriptions		
			South Downs Society	25	25
			British Assn Local History	75	75
			Open Spaces Society	45	45
			Campaign for Protection of Rural England	36	0
			Projects/Grants		
			SGS Science Dept	230	
			Air Cadets (1140)	300	
Bank interest	0	28	Steyning for trees	250	
			Steyning Museum	200	1700
			Other	101	91
			Bramber Showcase	8	0
Total income	7049	8509	Total expenditure	7550	10153
			Surplus (deficit)	-501	-1644
Assets			Reserves		
Bank	7887	8388	Balance as at 1.3.19	8388	10857
			Deficit/surplus for the year	-501	-1644
			Sundry creditors		
			Less sundry creditors from prior year		-825
	7887	8388		7887	8388
Signed: Tom Aubrey (Chair)			Adrian Gobat (Treasurer)		
<i>I have examined the above accounts with the books, vouchers and information supplied to me and certify the same to be in accordance therewith.</i>					
Richard Coatsworth, (CA) (Examiner):					
				DD/03/YY	