



## **THE STEYNING SOCIETY**

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 269859 [WWW.STEYNINGSCOCIETY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.STEYNINGSCOCIETY.ORG.UK)

July 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

We hope that you are keeping well. You will be pleased to know that we are hoping to start our monthly talks on YouTube in the third week of July, when Jackie Marsh-Hobbs will talk on 'The Heritage of the Brighton Aquarium'. Her talk will be available on YouTube for a fortnight. In August Ian Gledhill will present 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside' and then we will follow next year's programme. Please keep an eye on the Steyning Society Talks webpage for details.

If you receive this letter by post it means you do not have email or we do not have your email address. In this last case if you are on email please let Catherine Mant know at [cmantsteyningsociety@gmail.com](mailto:cmantsteyningsociety@gmail.com)

As there is now no Steyning Herald nor hard copy of Your Steyning, we are including some 'village' news.

### **VILLAGE NEWS**

#### **Steyning Grammar School**

In March this year a decision was made to make the Grammar School part of the Bohunt Educational Multi-Academy Trust (BET). It appears the conversion will probably take effect from 1st September 2021.

There are still many issues to be discussed and debated by the community. The Steyning Society would want to be fully involved with these discussions if the academisation plan goes ahead. Steyning Grammar School has influenced the lives of many pupils in its long history and is an invaluable part of Steyning's heritage which must be sustained and built upon.

#### **Coach Outings**

These will resume as soon as it is possible to do so. If any Steyning Society members know of places within about a 60 mile radius that we could visit, do let Jane Oxley know. Email address is [mike.jane@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.jane@btinternet.com) or phone 01903 812334. Please encourage your friends

to come along as we are no longer working with the South Downs Society, so numbers will be short. We are using a different coach company with smaller coaches which we would like to fill, thus making the trip viable.

### **Steyping Parish Council**

The new Parish Council was elected in May 2020. The Chair of the Council is now Councillor Trevor Cree and the Vice Chair is Councillor Christine Young. To contact the Council email the Clerk John Fullbrook at [clerk@steypingpc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@steypingpc.gov.uk) or the Deputy Clerk Hazel Roxby at [hazel@steypingpc.gov.uk](mailto:hazel@steypingpc.gov.uk) The phone number is 01903 82042.

### **Black Lives Matter March**

On Saturday 13th June about 250 local residents walked silently and respectfully from the Memorial Playing Field through Steyping to Fletchers Croft. May Langan, the organiser, explained that this was an unmissable opportunity to make change happen. She said that we “cannot ignore racism exists, even in our local area today”. Maggie Moss (10 years old) spoke about her Great, Great, Great, Great-Grandfather who was a slave and she read the poem 'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou. Naomi Hine read out a letter from her mother. At Fletchers Croft Simon Zac read a poem he had written, then invited everybody to 'take the knee' for 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

### **Steyping for Trees & WSCC “Donate a tree scheme”**

Steyping for Trees (SFT) is now affiliated to the Steyping Society. You may have read about Steyping for Trees, formed last year to help fight climate change by planting trees. Trees will also benefit your street by providing shade and coolness (via transpiration from the leaves) - and of course their beauty.

SFT are now working in partnership with West Sussex County Council and their “Donate a Tree” scheme. You can work with SFT to donate a tree and choose the species for the grass verge outside your property. And SFT will share the cost of the donation with you. Please click on the Steyping Society website for more information.

## **PLANNING ISSUES**

### **Design, scale and character in Elm Grove Lane, Steyping**

We have objected to a planning application in Elm Grove Lane (DC/20/0789) to demolish the former B and W Building and erect a new residential building and an office adjacent. We considered that because of the quality of its design, its scale, character and impact on the residents of Elm Grove Lane and Highland Croft, it failed to take account of existing policies in the District Plan and emerging policies in the Plan's Review. We were particularly concerned at the failure to respect the character of the Conservation Area and to acknowledge the archaeological value of the site. We also believe that there has been no traffic assessment of the impact of the proposal on pedestrians, including children, using the lane to get to school from the High Street to Tanyard Lane and beyond.

Steyning Parish Council also objected to the proposal as “over development of the site, the scale and massing of the proposed plan is too high and out of keeping with the other buildings in the area and it has a detrimental effect within the heart of the Conservation Area.” At the time of writing, no decision has been taken on the application by Horsham District Council.

### **Proposals for Horsham Local Plan**

The consultation on the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan for Horsham took place between February and March 2020. Brief comments were submitted -

- noting that sustainability and climate change are equally important as economic priorities
- the National Park encloses Steyning to the south and provides an important landscape context for the town which needs to be recognised
- any proposal to develop Glebe Farm needs to take account of access and landscape issues
- there should be better provision of cycling routes
- the proposal for extensive development of around 7,000 homes on land North East of Henfield (Mayfield) lacks justification and is in an unsustainable location

Consultation on the final Submission Draft of the Local Plan (Regulation 19) is scheduled to 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.

### **Sand extraction at Ham Farm**

The draft soft sand review which is part of the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan proposes extraction at Ham Farm, adjacent to the A283. We supported the representations of the Visitor and Tourism Group of the Steyning and District Partnership. We consider that this 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 in August 2020.

### **The Future of planning**

There have been suggestions in the press that planning reform may be on the Government's agenda. This could include a move to zonal planning – a system used in some countries including the US whereby certain uses get automatic right to planning permission in certain areas – alongside a radical deregulation of use classes to allow high streets and town centres to adapt to changing uses. In addition, it was reported that there will be a new fast-track planning system for developers of high quality, well-designed buildings. The changes are seen as part of an economic stimulus package to reboot the economy in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis. There are concerns that this is likely to encourage a piecemeal, short-term approach which risks poorly designed and inappropriately located housing and would make it more difficult for communities to have a say on development.

For more planning news please click on our website page on [Planning Issues](#).

## **The Future of Steyning**

We consider it important that the Steyning community has a say in its future which is why we are supporting the Greening Group's 2030 Vision Survey. See the [Greening Group's website](#) and please ensure that you have completed the questionnaire by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Heritage Open Days cancelled in 2020**

We had hoped to participate in this year's national Heritage Open Days in September. Unfortunately the current restrictions have meant that it has not been possible to undertake the advance planning and assessment needs of the proposed sites and properties. In addition, given the unknown situation in two months time, it is impossible to foresee what might be happening. Regrettably, we have decided to cancel this year's event.

## **STEYNING SOCIETY GRANTS**

Over the years the Society has offered grants to local organizations which are involved in conservation projects or providing amenities for local people. Recently the Society has endeavoured to raise the profile of these grants and in the last twelve months it has helped to fund the following: a new "Welcome to Steyning" sign and flower bed outside the Catholic Church; provision of a flight simulator for the local Air Cadets; improvement of changing facilities at the Steyning Community Football Club; provision of a new Chrome Book for Steyning Grammar School science department; tree planting by Steyning for Trees and, more recently, the Food Parcels during Covid-19 for local families organized by Steyning Grammar School.

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

A plea from our Treasurer!

Quite a number of members are either underpaying their subscriptions or forgetting to pay them at all. In the latter case we assume that people simply want to terminate their membership, but we have found that this is not always the case. It would be most helpful if all members could check their subscription payments. Please let us know if you wish to terminate your membership. Contact the Membership Secretary, Catherine Mant:

[cmantsteyningsoc@gmail.com](mailto:cmantsteyningsoc@gmail.com)

For possible new members please fill in the details below:

## **Application form for membership of the Steyning Society**

**Single/Joint membership:**

**Name/s in full:**

**Address:**

**Telephone number:**

**Email address:**

**Method of payment\*:**

**Note:** For full details of our private policy please see our [website](#).

Current Annual Subscription: Single:£10, Joint: £15 paid on, or before, March 1<sup>st</sup> each year

**\*If possible please pay by Bank Transfer: Account 60832235 Sort code 20-98-74.** Cash and cheques are also acceptable.

Please send this application form to: **Adrian Gobat (Honorary Treasurer), 41 Goring Road,  
Steyning, BN44 3GF**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and send this form to the Hon. Treasurer, Adrian Gobat, 41 Goring Road, Steyning,  
BN44 3GF