



## THE STEYNING SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 269859 [www.steyningsociety.org.uk](http://www.steyningsociety.org.uk)

Christmas 2020

The Steyning Society Committee wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas. We hope that all our members have stayed well during the second lockdown and will be able to enjoy Christmas with their families. Although we have had to cancel so many things this year, including our Christmas party, the good news about available vaccines has made us more optimistic and we propose to hold a post Covid celebration party next year, hopefully in July. We shall also look forward to organising the Steyning and District's Heritage Open Days on the 17, 18 and 19 September. The item on a proposed Local Heritage List for Steyning by Tony Struthers, our Secretary, reminds us of the wealth of buildings of all eras in our town including Victorian, Edwardian and modern examples, which we can all appreciate.

### Talks

We are pleased to have had such a good response to our Talks online and we remind you that they are available to all during Covid on the Society website: [www.steyningsociety.org.uk](http://www.steyningsociety.org.uk)  
The New Year begins with two special Talks.

From Monday 11 January for a month: **Geoff Mead**, the well known University of Sussex lecturer on: **Brighton before the Pavilion – a different aspect of the city's history**

From Monday 15 February for a month: **Juliet Sergeant**, award winning garden designer and experienced plantswoman on: **Why gardening matters**

### Coach trips

Steyning Society outings will commence as soon as possible. There is a conducted tour of the BBC planned, along with trips to art galleries and historic houses. If there is a place that you would like to visit within about 50 miles of Steyning please let Jane Oxley know about it and she will make some enquiries about cost etc. Jane can be contacted on [mike.jane@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.jane@btinternet.com) or phone 01903 812334.

The South Downs Society are no longer joining us on these trips, but Jane is currently making links with other Steyning groups who have shown an interest in our visits.

### Steyning Museum

Steyning Museum will be holding their annual Christmas raffle this year, with the grand draw taking place on 19 December at 2pm. There will be three prizes, the first prize being a Christmas hamper. Tickets are £1 each and can be purchased from the Museum which is now

open from Wednesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. The Museum will close for the festive period on 19 December and reopen on Wednesday 30 December. If you are passing the Museum please pop in and buy a ticket and at the same time view the latest exhibitions.

### **Local Heritage List For Steyning**

A Local Heritage List consists of buildings which are important to the historic local context, but not nationally important enough to be included on the statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest compiled by Historic England. Steyning has a large number of Listed Buildings but no local list.

The Government has recently announced potential funding and encouragement for councils and local communities to prepare or extend local heritage lists. Both the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan identified the need for such a list for Steyning. We are keen to assist in the preparation of a local list and have contacted Horsham DC to ask whether the District Council is considering compiling such a list.

The Senior Conservation Officer has confirmed that they are hoping to progress the District Local Heritage List in conjunction with their Conservation Area Appraisal work. He adds that any assistance from local amenity societies and interest groups will be welcome and suggests the Society should set up a working party in anticipation and start preliminary work.

He has provided documents to help identify potential buildings, together with a question and answer sheet for owners and occupants. It is recommended that such a list would include:

- Buildings that use traditional materials and construction techniques
- Local landmarks
- Good examples of buildings by local architects
- Buildings that are historically important to Steyning e.g. Police Station, Methodist Church
- Buildings that contribute positively to the street scene or have a distinctive character or identity

The Society's Working Group will be established in early 2021. The work will include identifying buildings and consulting with owners and the local community. If you would like to get involved or can assist in any way, please contact Tony Struthers, tel. 01903 814180 or email [tonystruthers@me.com](mailto:tonystruthers@me.com)

### **Steyning Society Grants**

One of the Society's aims is to maintain and improve the amenities of Steyning. This is achieved in part by offering small grants to local initiatives. These are awarded each year in November and May. The Committee met online recently and agreed to award grants to the Steyning Parish Church lighting appeal, the Steyning Downlands Scheme to assist it with the restoration work being undertaken on the Upper Mill Pond near Steyning Rifle Range and Steyning Grammar School to help fund outdoor picnic tables to enable 'student bubbles' to eat safely during the present pandemic. If any member knows of local organisations which would benefit from a small grant (up to £500), please encourage them to apply for one. Next deadline date: 1 May 2021. Full details are on our website.

### **Committee news**

Sadly the Society has lost this year two valued former Committee Members: Millicent Honeywood, who served as Chair and Secretary and Celia Whittome, a former Treasurer and

wife of Committee Member John Whittome. We are delighted to welcome Julia Bonner on to the Committee. In view of the difficulties caused by Covid, all Committee Members have agreed to remain in office until 2022. This should ensure continuity and stability until things are back to normal, or to the 'new normal'.

We send our best wishes to you all for a healthy and brighter 2021.