

The Steyning Society

Annual Report and AGM

Due to the present Covid restrictions, the Society is unable to hold its 2021 AGM as an open session in the usual way. We are therefore circulating this Annual Report to our members via email and through the letterbox for those who do not have computer access.

We hope that you will find it a useful account of our work this past year and that we will be able to return to normal activities such as our regular talks and coach trips in the near future.

In the meantime, we are continuing with You Tube talks, our community grants, the work on Planning and the Local Heritage List and our support for Steyning for Trees.

Tom Aubrey
Chair
April 2021

The Steyning Society

Annual Report
for the year ended 28 February 2021

www.steyningsociety.org.uk



Registered Charity No.2698593

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.

The following trustees are proposed for 2021 - 22

Chair - Tom Aubrey

Proposer - Adrian Gobat, Seconder - Tony Struthers

Vice-Chair Jane Oxley

Proposer - Anne Bacon, Seconder - John Downe

Treasurer - Adrian Gobat

Proposer Tony Struthers, Seconder - Dorothy Denby

Secretary - Tony Struthers OBE

Proposer - Adrian Gobat, Seconder - Tom Aubrey

Membership Secretary - Catherine Mant

Proposer - David Cubey, Seconder - Jane Oxley

Website Officer - David Cubey

Proposer - Catherine Mant, Seconder - Ann Long

Publicity Officer - Ann Long

Proposer - John Downe, Seconder - Catherine Mant

Committee Member - Anne Bacon

Proposer - Adrian Gobat, Seconder - Tony Struthers

Committee Member - John Downe

Proposer - Ann Long, Seconder - David Cubey

Committee Member - Dorothy Denby

Proposer - Adrian Gobat, Seconder - Tony Struthers

Committee Member - Julia Bonner

Proposer - Tom Aubrey Seconder - Tony Struthers

Committee Member - Andrew Betts

Proposer - Adrian Gobat, Seconder - Tom Aubrey

Tony Struthers

Secretary

Chair's Report 2020 -21

I make no apology for the length of our AGM's Annual Report. A lot has been going on in this dramatically different year and so our activities are being presented in **separate reports**.

Due to the sudden lock down in March we missed three of our planned monthly talks at the Steyning Centre and Christmas Supper. The following lectures have been online via You Tube.

- June 15th 2020 'The Heritage of Brighton Aquarium' by Jackie Marsh-Hobbs
- September 14th 2020 'An illustrated walk around old Steyning' by Dr Janet Pennington
- October 12th 2020 'The history of Goodwood House ' by Hilly Sloan
- November 16th 2020 ' Beef everyday but no latin' by Kevin Newman
- January 11th 2021. 'Brighton boozers—aspects of Brighton public house history ' by Geoffrey Mead.
- February 15th 2021 'Why gardens matter ' by Juliet Sargeant.
- March 15th 2021 'The history of the Palace Pier ' by Jackie Marsh-Hobbs

We are most grateful for the hard work of our monthly speakers but are very conscious that many of our most supportive older members are not online and so cannot enjoy them. We are doing our best to deliver the Newsletter and they are our top priority to keep in touch. However we are being very cautious and feel it would be unwise to do more than plan our talks for next year online or in the Steyning Centre.

The Committee have debated whether to reduce this year's subscription as there has been no face to face events. They have decided not to do so. Our reasons are: You Tube Talks, our many donations to Steyning's activities and the complications of returning what would be a small amount of money.

Thanks to your enthusiastic committee we have achieved a huge amount. Key have been David Cubey who has managed and updated the **website** and Catherine Mant who has communicated wonderfully with the members. Adrian Gobat suggested using You Tube and updating and advertising our **Grants system**. Tony Struthers has done wonders with our **Planning knowledge** and started a **Heritage Group**.

Anne Bacon, Ann Long, Dorothy Denby, and Catherine Mant have worked hard to keep us close to the community. Jane Oxley is planning **outings** as soon as lock down ends and is doing much to update the **Conservation Guide**. John Downe is going to become our **Museum Link** and our records will be transferred to the Museum, and we have to thank Felicity his wife for supervising free teas and coffees for over 20 years. We are presenting her with a volume of 'Poems for Everyday'. John Whittome is standing down from the Committee after 40 year's service but will remain an adviser, and we are very pleased to welcome Julia Bonner and Andrew Betts to the Committee.

Finally the Committee are very conscious that 2021 is a critical time for Steyning not only [hopefully] coming out of lock down but because the **Climate Emergency** means we must support---the **20 mph** consultation for April 30th, the **Greening Group**, **Steyning for Trees** and the **Steyning Downland Scheme**—preparing Steyning for rapid changes in the future.

Tom Aubrey

Planning and Heritage

Elm Grove Lane - Former B and W Building

We objected to the planning application DC/20/0789 to demolish the existing B and W building and build a residential building comprising 9 houses and flats together with an adjacent commercial building in Elm Grove Lane. We commented on the quality of the proposed design, its scale, the character of the building and the impact of the development on the amenity of residents in Elm Grove Lane and Highland Croft. We also expressed concerns about the traffic implications and the impact this would have on this narrow lane and its access onto the High Street and Tanyard Lane.

The planning application was refused by Horsham DC and an appeal has been made to the Planning Inspectorate. The appeal will be dealt with by Written Representations.

Steyping Local Heritage List

The Steyping Society want to celebrate the history and heritage of Steyping and are putting together a Local Heritage List. We are doing this with the Museum and in association with the District and Parish Councils.

Steyping is famous for its large number of buildings on Historic England's statutory list of Listed Buildings but it also has buildings and structures which are not nationally recognised but are integral to the character and history of the town.

We have established a Working Group and are putting together a provisional list for assessment with the Senior Conservation Officer, Horsham DC. A building or structure will need to meet certain criteria set by the Council such as historic importance, association with events or personalities, design or townscape merit for it to be considered for inclusion.

One of the fascinating issues that we have identified is architecture by important Sussex Architects such as John Leopold Denman, who designed the Vicarage and the work by local builders in the town such as Frank Duke. Hopefully the List will ensure that the town's rich history is better understood and its essential character conserved for the future.

Tony Struthers

Steyping For Trees

Steyping For Trees (SFT), which is affiliated to the Steyping Society, had a busy and successful year in 2020. We hope by the time you read this we will have reached 1,000 trees planted in around Steyping – mostly as hedgerows on public and private land. Plus many people have been taking our giveaway trees from the market to plant in their gardens. We are very grateful to all these organisations and private individuals who have given us space to plant for the benefit of Steyping. Trees capture carbon and pollution thus fighting global warming, and hopefully will help to reverse the catastrophic decline in biodiversity. Trees also provide shade and beauty to the streets of this lovely town.

SFT use a variety of native trees, always planting a mixture to prevent disease spreading through one species. These are mostly obtained from the Woodland Trust using their different packs i.e. for pollinators, wildlife, wild harvest etc. We have a team of volunteer planters adding to the community spirit and effort.

Our project with WSCC planting semi mature trees on the verges, with the residents requesting, choosing and donating some of the cost of the tree (SFT making up the difference to £150) is proving very popular. Please let us know if you would like to join in or help us organise it in your street- again helping to bring the community together.

Many thanks to the South Downs National Park Authority, Sussex Giving and the Wilson Memorial trust for their grants. Also to the Steyping Society for funding, hosting our website and supporting us. It is great to be working together with these local organisations.

We are delighted to have Sir Charlie Burrell, from the Knepp Estate, as our first speaker at our talk on the 20th of May 2022 hosted by the Steyping Society as part of their monthly talks.

David Cubey

Coach Outings

Jane Oxley was hoping to be able to give you the final details of the visits that had been suggested for this year. However, as everything is still very uncertain, and many other local Societies are not organising any trips in the present climate, I am afraid to say it looks as if this will be another year with no coach outings. If the situation should change for the better, before the end of the year, we will let you know immediately. Please contact Jane at 56 Kings Stone Avenue, Steyping, BN44 3FJ, Tel. 01903 812334 or email mike.jane@btinternet.com if you have ideas for visits in 2022.

Jane Oxley

The Steyning Society (Charity No. 269859)
Income and Expenditure
Year ended 28th February 2021

	2020 - 2021	2019 -2020		2020 - 2021	2019 - 2020
	£	£		£	£
<u>Income</u>			<u>Expenditure</u>		
Subscriptions	2115	2327	Hall hire	55	739
Visitors/Donations		114	Refreshments		27
			Speakers	620	738
<u>Outings</u>			<u>Outings</u>		
Outings ticket sales		2304	Expenditure		2291
<u>Christmas Dinner</u>			<u>Christmas Dinner</u>		
Tickets/raffle		2163	Hall & Catering		1923
History guide sales		142			
			Printing/postage	141	332
			Website fees	50	50
			Website upgrade		180
			<u>Subscriptions</u>		
			South Downs Society	25	25
			British Assn Local History	75	75
			Open Spaces Society	45	45
			Campaign for Protection of Rural England	36	36
			<u>Projects/Grants</u>		
			Steyning Town FC	300	
			SGS (Food Bank)	500	
			Steyning Downland Scheme	320	
			Steyning Grammar School	360	
			Steyning Parish Church	320	
			lighting		
					{1089}
<u>Total income</u>	<u>2115</u>	<u>7049</u>	<u>Total expenditure</u>	<u>2847</u>	<u>7550</u>
			<u>Surplus (deficit)</u>	<u>-732</u>	<u>-501</u>
<u>Assets</u>			<u>Reserves</u>		
Bank	7155	7887	Balance as at 1.3.20	7887	8388
			Deficit/surplus for the year	-732	-501
	<u>7155</u>	<u>7887</u>		<u>7155</u>	<u>7887</u>
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>					
Signed David Fitton (Examiner)					
				Date	26th March 2021

Details of Steyning Society Grants awarded 2020/2021

Steyning Grammar School Food Bank: £500. Throughout the pandemic Steyning Grammar School, in conjunction with Upper Beeding Hub, has been delivering food and essential items to local people in need.

Steyning Town Football Club: £300. In normal circumstances this club provides football and social club activities for around 800 players each week. Our grant was given to help fund improvements to its changing facilities.

Steyning Grammar School: £360. In order to reduce the risk of Covid infection to a minimum the school is keeping students in year-group bubbles. Catering, break times and some teaching takes place in several marquees and our grant paid for the provision of three large wooden picnic tables.

Steyning Parish Church: £320. The church is having a new lighting system, fitted inside and outside and our grant went towards improving the outside lighting.

Steyning Downland Scheme: £320. We have helped fund the work the SDS is doing to restore the Upper Pond, on the way to the Rifle Range.

Adrian Gobat