



## **THE STEYNING SOCIETY**

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

JUNE 2021

This newsletter is being delivered to members who are unable to access the website, so have missed recent news items and the very successful transmission of monthly talks.

In April we reported on the website the sad news that one of our most loyal and long standing members, Aileen Fairbanks, had died. Aileen was part of the newsletter delivery team for many years.

### **THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL SITE AND BROTHERHOOD HALL**

The Steyning Society is very concerned about the future of the Steyning Grammar School site between Church Street and Fletchers Croft. We understand that the Steyning Grammar School Foundation which owns the site has chosen a developer to build on the site, but will retain the ownership and responsibility for the Grade 1 listed Brotherhood Hall. We have put some questions to the Foundation and have received answers from Richard Goodman, the Acting Chair of the Foundation. These can be found on the website, but to summarise: the Foundation plans to submit plans for both the site and the Brotherhood Hall later this year. There will be consultation with local community groups about the site to be developed and the conservation and use of the Brotherhood Hall, though the school is likely to want to use part of it.

The Society has stressed that engagement with the community will be key to getting acceptance for the proposals and we hope to be actively involved in the process.

### **GRANTS**

In November 2020 the Society awarded a grant to help fund the new lighting in the parish church. The work on the interior of the Church is now completed and it is well worth paying a visit to appreciate the enhancement of the beautiful features and architecture. We also gave grants to the Steyning Downland scheme to help them restore the Upper Pond and to Steyning Grammar School to provide outdoor tables to assist with their Covid precautions. Following a fresh round of applications in 2021 the Society is awarding three more grants: Steyning Festival, Steyning in Bloom and Steyning Museum. This last grant is to help them restore the gravestone of famous local smuggler William Cowerson.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The treasurer reports that many members have not yet paid their subscriptions for this year and a small number are still paying the old subscriptions (£7.50/£10) which were increased in March 2019 to £10/£15. Please could you pay your subscriptions in full, either by bank transfer or cheque sent to the Treasurer: Adrian Gobat, 41 Goring Road, BN44 3GF. If you no longer wish to be a member,

please let us know. The Membership Secretary is Catherine Mant: tel. 01903 812268 or [cmantsteyningsociety@gmail.com](mailto:cmantsteyningsociety@gmail.com)

### **STEYNING FOR TREES**

The Steyning Society is very pleased to be supporting Steyning For Trees (SFT), a community group formed to help fight climate change by promoting the planting of more trees. SFT have now planted over 1,000 trees and hedge trees in Steyning, which has only been possible through the generous support of local people and other community organisations.

TREES ON VERGES is the SFT scheme with West Sussex County Council (WSSCC). There are now between 20 & 30 more trees planned for our roads this year, but there is room for plenty more. So if you would like one for your verge please contact us at: [SteyningForTrees@gmail.com](mailto:SteyningForTrees@gmail.com) WSSCC are having to increase their costs next year, but they have kindly managed to hold the price for SFT for this year.

### **LOCAL HERITAGE LIST**

A Working Group from the Society is putting together a Local Heritage List for Steyning. These are buildings and structures which are not nationally recognised but are integral to the character and history of the town. This is being undertaken in association with the Museum, and the District and Parish Councils. Once the list has been completed, assessed and agreed, it can be adopted by Horsham District Council as a material consideration in planning decisions.

### **SEPTEMBER**

Although the Heritage Open Days cannot take place this year, there are still some other events in our local area to look forward to in September.

**Steyning Festival:** a Mini Festival will run from September 3 (evening only) to September 5. The theme this year is very much about the community - a thank you to everyone who has gone the extra mile during the last eighteen months or so. There will be tents on Fletchers Croft, lots of music, activities for children and community groups showing us what they do. Full details will be available nearer the time.

**Steyning Food and Drink Festival:** this welcome event will run as usual this year from September 4 to October 2

Also in September is a 4 day floral extravaganza to be held at Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens, Lower Beeding. The event "**Flower Power**" is celebrating the Diamond Anniversary of the Sussex area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies and will run from Thursday September 9 – Sunday September 12. Tickets can be obtained online directly from Leonardslee or by calling 08718733389. A free shuttle bus is available for visitors with mobility issues. Steyning and District Flower Club will have an exhibit; so a good reason to go along and support your local Flower Club.

A decision about possible outings will be made later.

If the situation continues to improve, we very much hope to be back to normal in September, with the monthly talk on September 17 taking place in the Steyning Centre. This will be given by one of our regular speakers and a good friend of the Society, Dr Janet Pennington, and her subject will be "Sussex Inn Signs and their history". We intend to issue membership cards at the first meeting. We also hope to hold our Annual Christmas Supper on Friday December 17, which should provide an enjoyable conclusion to what has been such a difficult year.

We send our best wishes to all our members and look forward to meeting up once more.