



## **THE STEYNING SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

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

**February 2022**

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. It is available online to all members.

We were very sorry to cancel our annual Christmas Supper. We felt it would be irresponsible to threaten the NHS with a rise in numbers and the other issue was whether there might be a low turnout at the last moment as people chose to protect their family gatherings. Cancellation of the January meeting was also a difficult decision but we were very fortunate that Hilly Sloan could present her fascinating Talk on the Goodwood Motor Circuit on YouTube. However we are resuming Talks at the Steyning Centre on February 18<sup>th</sup> with Jeremy Tomlinson presenting West End Story. The 153 year saga of the Completion of Lancing Chapel. We will use our new format of 7pm for 7.30 with a glass of wine on offer but not dealing with books and CD's. We still are being cautious making the event ticketed for 70 and asking for masks and lateral flows.

Dorothy Denby sadly decided to retire from the Committee after many years of help ---- a regular on the door, a wonderful Minute Secretary and a great composer of the Newsletter. She is missed already. The Committee gave her on your behalf a Book 'A Poem for every night of the Year'. We are delighted that Isabelle Standen has agreed to join the Committee.

The Committee has agreed that the best use of Peter Harris' Gift of £500 and Millicent Honeywood £1000 should be used to sponsor specific events in this year's Steyning Festival which runs from May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a really important event for Steyning and we hope many of our members will volunteer to help as well as participate. The Festival culminates with a Street Party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. The High Street will be closed to traffic and set out with tables and chairs. For priority booking to become a Friend of the Festival or to volunteer, please find further information at <https://www.steyningfestival.co.uk>

Tom Aubrey

### **AGM and Committee news**

The Society's AGM will be held on Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Steyning Centre. Tom Aubrey, our current Chair is standing down after 3 years. The committee is nominating Nick Bennett to take over as Chair. As noted above, Dorothy Denby has retired from the Committee and Isabelle Standen has been invited to join us.

### **Steyping Grammar School site and Brotherhood Hall**

The Steyping Grammar School Foundation trustees together with their preferred developer Lilyford held a public exhibition on 9th December 2021 in Brotherhood Hall. This explained their proposals for redeveloping the site and invited ideas and comments on the future of the Hall.

We have responded to the exhibition by emphasising that the design for the redeveloped site should reflect Steyping's heritage and character. It should include brick, flint, stone and clay as appropriate, with detailing that highlights key features such as windows, doors and chimneys. The design needs to show that there is an understanding of the setting of the site and illustrate how it respects the history and architecture of Church Street and the Brotherhood Hall. We have suggested the need for a feasibility study on the future use of Brotherhood Hall, that reflects its importance as an iconic heritage building in the heart of Steyping's community. We have emphasised that this needs to be done quickly to ensure the building's future is secured.

### **Land north of Glebe Farm and Kings Barn Lane DC/21/2233**

We have objected to this speculative outline planning application for up to 265 dwellings as having no foundation or relationship to the needs of Steyping or its community. We consider that it should be refused on the basis of prematurity, scale, design and lack of community consultation.

We are particularly concerned that as the local civic society we were not consulted by the applicants. There was no attempt to use local notice boards nor local media such as Your Steyping and the Parish Magazine to inform the wider community. Neither were the schools and nor medical centre consulted about the proposals. The on-line consultation took place between 23 July and 4 August, during the summer holidays when many residents were away. This would be a significant increase in the town's population and we hope that it will be refused by Horsham District Council.

### **Local Heritage List for Steyping**

A small group has been compiling a Local Heritage List for Steyping with help from Horsham's Senior Conservation Officer. These are buildings and structures that have 'heritage significance' but do not meet the criteria for being nationally listed. However, they are still of architectural or historical importance in their local area. We have identified the flint walls that surround many properties and line our streets and lanes as of particular interest.

The draft list is nearing completion and will be passed to the Steyping Parish Council, before being published for consultation with owners and the community. Following this it will be finalised for submission to Horsham DC and eventual adoption.

### **Heritage Open Days - Steyping 2022 16 - 18 September**

We had hoped to participate in Heritage Open Days during the last two years, but owing to Covid 19 this has not been possible. However, this year we anticipate the event going ahead and we expect to be making arrangements for a number of places to be open to visitors. This is a national event, so we would anticipate visitors from elsewhere coming to Steyping. Further information will be available nearer the event.