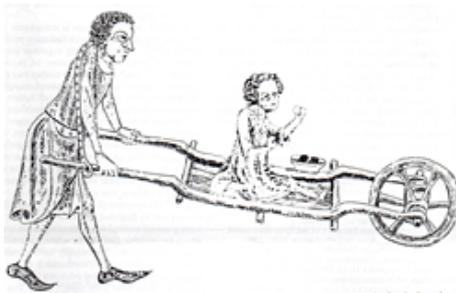


The Steyning Society

Annual Report
for the year ended 28 February 2022

www.steyningsociety.org.uk



Registered Charity No.2698591

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 2022 - 23

- **Chair - Nick Bennett**

Proposer - Catherine Mant

Secunder - Adrian Gobat

- **Vice-Chair Jane Oxley**

Proposer - Tony Struthers

Secunder - Adrian Gobat

- **Treasurer - Adrian Gobat**

Proposer - Catherine Mant

Secunder - Nick Bennett

- **Secretary - Tony Struthers**

Proposer - Jane Oxley

Secunder - Nick Bennett

- **Membership Secretary - Catherine Mant**

Proposer - Adrian Gobat

Secunder - Ann Long

- **Publicity Officer - Ann Long**

Proposer - Tony Struthers

Secunder - Catherine Mant

- **Committee Member - Julia Bonner**

Proposer - Adrian Gobat

Secunder - Nick Bennett

- **Committee Member - John Downe**

Proposer - Ann Long

Secunder - Nick Bennett

- **Committee Member - Andrew Betts**

Proposer - Jane Oxley

Secunder - Catherine Mant

- **Committee Member - Isabelle Standen**

Proposer - Jane Oxley

Secunder - Catherine Mant

Chair's Report 2021 - 22

This has been a particularly busy year. Covid has again disrupted our meetings and lead to the cancellation of our Christmas Supper, our Heritage Days and our Coach Outings. Fortunately David Cubey has worked hard to put our Talks on You Tube for a month and our Speakers have managed the technology with difficulty. I am particularly grateful to them for persisting so we have had an uninterrupted programme. David Cubey has been outstanding in keeping the website going and keeping members informed with our newsletters and newsflashes.

There is a lot going on in Steyning with Steyning Grammar School becoming an Academy and moving the Middle School to the former Convent in Beeding. This has released Brotherhood Hall, some of Church Street and the Middle School site for reuse. In addition the Neighbourhood Plan is ongoing, Elm Grove is being developed and there have been suggestions for a large housing development at Grove Farm. Fortunately Tony Struthers is a former professional planner and Nick Bennett was a senior lawyer and they are advising where possible, and I am extremely grateful for their contributions. Tony has also led and enthused the Heritage Group. This Group have spent two years identifying, photographing and documenting buildings and features special to the heritage of Steyning. These are now in an illustrated booklet and on the website. Following consultation it will be revised and updated and is a remarkable contribution to preserving Steyning's Heritage and will be enjoyed by both residents and visitors.

Furthermore Tony has served as a wonderful Secretary who has made us into a more efficient Society. Adrian Gobat has continued to be a most energetic Treasurer and has innovated wine at meetings ably supported by Andrew Betts. Hopefully more and more people will arrive at 7pm, so making our meetings even more of a social occasion. I hope members feel the tradition, left by Peter Harris that the Society is a caring group providing friendship, as well as conservation, entertainment and information, is a core role of the Society.

Certainly Peter's outings now ably run by Jane Oxley and Mike foster this role. Dorothy Denby and Anne Bacon, who are leaving the Committee, contributed wonderfully in this way and Jane Oxley, Ann Long, Catherine Mant and John Downe continue to do so.

I thank all the Committee for their friendship and hard work, and David Cubey for the splendid website and David Fitton for Examining our accounts. We welcome Julia Bonner, Andrew Betts and Isabelle Standen to the Committee and hope they will find it a rewarding experience. Finally I thank you the members for supporting the Society during this difficult Covid period, and as I stand down, I look forward to joining you in the audience.

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. The planning application was refused by Horsham DC, but an appeal was allowed by the Planning Inspectorate.

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

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

Steyning Grammar School site and Brotherhood Hall

The Steyning 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 responded by emphasising that the design should reflect Steyning's heritage and character illustrating how it respects the history and architecture of Church Street and the Brotherhood Hall.

Steyning Local Heritage List

Steyning is famous for its large number of buildings on Historic England's statutory list of Listed Buildings. It also has buildings and structures which are not nationally recognised but are integral to the local character and history of the town. Our working group has compiled a Local Heritage List which meet criteria set by Horsham DC. These include historic importance, association with events or personalities, design or townscape merit. Full consultation with the owners and the community is taking place before the list is finalised and submitted to Horsham DC for adoption. The list is available for consultation on the Society's website, can be viewed at the Parish Council Office and in Steyning Library. Copies are also available to view at the AGM.

Heritage Open Days

Covid restrictions meant that we were unable to hold Heritage Open Days in either 2020 or 2021, however we are hopeful that this event will go ahead on 17 and 18 September 2022. We are working on two possibilities - showcasing our magnificent Norman Church of St. Andrew and St. Cuthman and secondly, the former Rifle Range, part of the Steyning Downland Scheme. Two very different places but both symbolic of our history and heritage.

Tony Struthers

Treasurer's Notes:

Membership subscriptions

Our numbers have remained steady; the number of folk leaving almost exactly balanced by new members. It would be enormously helpful if all members paid their subscriptions either on March 1st each year, or at least during the month of March. Do please check your bank payments as occasionally subscriptions are paid twice!

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. In the past year we have given grants to the Steyning Festival, Steyning in Bloom and Steyning Museum. If any member knows of local organizations which might benefit from one of our grants do please ask them to contact us. Full details are on our website.

Legacy and special gift

We were most fortunate in receiving a very generous legacy from Millicent Honeywood and also a significant gift from Peter Harris, for many years Chair of the Society. We have decided to donate this money to the 2022 Steyning Festival to help fund its Community Day on June 4th.

The final certified accounts showing the Society's Income and Expenditure for 2021/2 are attached as a separate note.

Adrian Gobat