



## THE STEYNING SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

**September 2022**

Dear Members,

As many will know, Tom Aubrey retired as our Chairman and from our Committee at this year's Annual General Meeting. Tom had chaired the Society with considerable charm and wisdom from 2005 to 2009 and again after Peter Harris retired in 2018. In appreciation of this, the Society gave him a voucher for use at Rockwater Restaurant in Hove. We very much hope that we will continue to see Tom and Christine at Society events in the years ahead.

### **Talks**

The first talk in our autumn programme will be held at the Steyning Centre on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022, when Dr Janet Pennington will talk to us about *Shops and Shopping: the Small Shop through the Ages*. The talk will start at 7.30 p.m. and wine will be served from 7p.m. Details of subsequent talks can be found in our programme, which is published on our website.

### **At last, our first coach trip for a long time!**

The Steyning Society with Friends of the Church are arranging a trip to the 16th century Fulham Palace and botanical gardens. The beautiful carved oak screen, now at St. Andrew's and St. Cuthman's Church, was originally erected in Fulham Palace. It was there for the wedding of Henry VIII when he married his first wife Catherine of Aragon. It was removed when Henry divorced Catherine. This will be a conducted tour.

**Date of trip: Tuesday October 11th - pick up at The Steyning Centre at 9.15am**

Cost: £20 per person

Return: pick up 4.15pm at Fulham Palace

**Please contact Jane Oxley to book your place: 01903 812334 or [mike.jane@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.jane@btinternet.com)**

## **Christmas Supper**

This year's Christmas Supper will be held jointly with the Museum at the Steyning Centre on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The evening will start with a reception at 7p.m., supper will be served at 7.45p.m. and there will be a short entertainment given by the Cheer Up Mollies. Tickets will cost £25 each. Booking details will be provided nearer the time.

## **Next Year's Diamond Jubilee**

The Society will be celebrating its Diamond Jubilee next year. To mark this event, the Society will be holding a reception after the Annual General Meeting, when light refreshments will be served. This will take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023, and not as stated in the printed programme. Geoff Mead's talk about Literary Landscapes, which was originally planned to take place after the Annual General Meeting, will now be postponed to a later date next year.

In order to canvass members' views about whether the Society is meeting their expectations and how the Society could be improved, the Committee is preparing a short questionnaire which will be distributed early next year.

## **The Treasurer writes**

### **1. Subscriptions.**

Quite a lot of time is spent each year reminding members to pay their subscriptions. Generally, a gentle nudge is all that is needed but it would be much appreciated if all members could make a note in their diaries that subs are due on March 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Many pay by Standing Order and from the Treasurer's point of view that is perfect. Subscriptions for the year 2023/2024 will remain at £10 for single and £15 for joint membership. Our Bank details are: "The Steyning Society". Sort code: 20-98-74 Account 60832235. Cheques are, of course, acceptable as well. Please let us know if for any reason you wish to terminate your membership by contacting our Membership Secretary, Catherine Mant: [cmantsteyningsoc@gmail.com](mailto:cmantsteyningsoc@gmail.com)

### **2. Grants.**

Over the years the Society has offered grants to local organizations which are involved in conservation projects or providing amenities for local people. Recently the Society has endeavoured to raise the profile of these grants. Over the past twelve months or so, we have given grants to the following activities: \* Steyning Festival Community Day \* Steyning in Bloom \* Restoration by Steyning Museum of William Cowerson headstone (famous local smuggler 1801-1832) \* Steyning Heritage Day event at the Rifle Range to be organized by Steyning Downland Scheme on September 18<sup>th</sup> this year. We encourage all members to bring the Steyning Society Grants to the attention of any local worthwhile organization. The Committee considers applications in May and November each year.

## **Steyning Local Heritage List**

This list has been compiled by a small project group from the Society highlighting those buildings and structures which are of local interest and importance. We hope that the Local Heritage List will be a helpful addition to the national Statutory List and underline the unique historic character and charm of Steyning.

The list has been posted on our website (see <https://steyningsociety.org.uk/blog/>). There will be a final consultation with owners and Steyning Parish Council before the list is submitted to Horsham District Council for adoption.

## **Heritage Open Days**

This year Steyning is participating in the national heritage open days (see <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>) for the first time during the weekend of 17 and 18 September.

### **“A Norman gem - the best in Sussex” - The Church of St. Andrew and St. Cuthman**

The Church will be open and welcoming visitors. No booking is required. On Saturday 17 Sept. at 12pm and on Sunday 18 Sept. at 2pm there will be an introductory talk by Sarah Leigh - *Built against the odds: how French abbots created Steyning Parish Church and made their peace with the Kings of England*. On both days at 3pm. Brian Sawyer, Church Organist will give an organ concert of short pieces by J.S.Bach, Mendelssohn and local composer John Ireland.

In addition, an audio tour app (see <https://steyningparishchurch.org/tour-start/>) downloadable to your phone) will provide visitors the opportunity to appreciate this wonderful and historic building. Outside, another new audio tour of the churchyard *Gossips in the Graveyard*, produced by Steyning Museum in collaboration with the Friends of the Steyning Parish Church, reveals the fascinating stories of some of the people buried around the Church.

Across the road, Steyning Museum will be open and the Penfold Hall will serve teas, coffees and homemade cakes from 3pm - 5pm each day.

### **“Rifles at the Ready!” - Steyning Rifle Range**

This will be a rare chance to visit the Steyning Rifle Range and see how it was used for target practice by the Sussex Rifle Volunteers from 1860 onwards. WWII style refreshments will also be available.

**Pre-booking is essential** at <https://questli.st/719733>

Tours will be hourly on Sunday 18 Sept. at 11.00am, 12.00pm, 1pm and 2pm

The range is now part of the Steyning Downland Scheme and visitors will learn how the range and targets were operated and used. There will be vintage equipment and deactivated rifles on display of the type used at the range, the repaired targets will be in operation and the history and use of the site will be explained in detail.

Please note there is no on-site parking and access is limited to footpaths and a field. Visitors should park in Steyning Town Centre car parks (free on Sunday) and walk via Mouse Lane or Mill Road, following the signs to the range.

### **Steyning Ukrainian Refuge**

Brotherhood Hall and the other old Grammar School buildings in Church Street are humming with activity in their new role as home to Steyning Ukrainian Refuge. This is a new charity which was established in the Spring in response to the crisis in Ukraine. It aims to provide help in various forms, including English Classes, advice to new arrivals and their hosts about the practicalities of life here and, as funds permit, financial and other material support for those in need.

Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers, English classes were started in July, after the buildings had been transformed by a coat of paint and other essential repairs, and have been held on four mornings every week since then. A barbeque was held on 24<sup>th</sup> August to mark Ukraine's Independence Day for Ukrainian families living in Steyning and the surrounding area and their Home Hosts. About 100 people attended the event, which was greatly enjoyed by all. The charity has recently helped a family establish their own home in Steyning by providing what they need for their home, from beds to cutlery which had all been donated to it.

More information about Steyning Ukrainian Refuge can be found on its website which is <https://steyningukrainianrefuge.org>. The charity depends on voluntary support, so anyone wanting to help, particularly those with relevant teaching skills or wanting to provide much needed financial assistance, should contact [leadsteyningur@gmail.com](mailto:leadsteyningur@gmail.com).