



## **THE STEYNING SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

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

**November 2022**

Dear Members,

### **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 Mollys. Tickets cost £25 each (all included) and are available at the Bookshop. There is a choice of menus, including vegetarian and vegan options. Book up early to avoid disappointment!

### **Talks**

We started this autumn with a fascinating talk by Dr Janet Pennington about Shops and Shopping through the Ages. This was followed by a scholarly talk by Ian Lavery about the Battle of Beachy Head in 1690. Earlier this month, Ian Gledhill kept us entertained with an informative talk about the history of western theatre and scenery, from classical times in ancient Greece to the present. There will be no talk in December because of the Christmas Supper. Our first talk in the New Year will be on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023, when Dermot Sugrue, the winemaker at Wiston, will be telling us about his life as a winemaker.

### **Steyning Society and Friends of the Church visit to Fulham Palace.**

We couldn't have asked for a better day for our visit to Fulham Palace. The weather was fantastic - we had an amazing driver who set us down at the Palace within two hours of leaving Steyning and it was a full coach.

The Bishop of London lived at the Palace for 1,300 years. Today, it is managed by Fulham Palace Trust. The whole reason for going to the Palace was to see where the beautiful carved oak screen that is now in St. Andrew and St. Cuthman Church originated from. It was made for the marriage of Henry V111 to Catherine of Aragon.

After the tour of the Palace most of us sat outside in the garden in the sun to have lunch and then wandered down to look across the Thames towards Putney and Barnes. A big thankyou to our two guides Esther and Alexis.

## **Heritage Open Days 17 - 18 September**

This year at our initiative Steyning took part for the first time in the national Heritage Open Days scheme. We are most grateful to the Friends of Steyning Church, Steyning Museum and the Steyning Downland Scheme. Events were organised at the Church and the Rifle Range.

In the Church, the Friends provided stewards and an audio tour. Sarah Leigh gave talks on each day explaining the history of how the Church was built and Brian Sawyer devised and played two excellent organ concerts on both Saturday and Sunday. The Penfold Hall provided afternoon tea on both days.

Have you ever tasted pastry made with potatoes or cakes with vinegar as an ingredient? You could have done so at the Rifle Range, when these were provided by the Society's Jane Oxley and Ann Long. If you missed it this year, make sure you come to next year's Open Day on the Rifle Range.

The Steyning Downland Scheme provided guided tours of the Rifle Range. Visitors learned how the Range was used, initially by the Volunteers in the 1860s and later by the Territorials, Home Guard, British Army, Cadets and local shooting clubs before closing in 1989.

Justin had brought along his collection of First and Second World War guns and other artefacts. Over the past few years, a group, under Justin's supervision, have restored the targets and they are now back in working order.

There was also a group dressed as soldiers and they too had brought along weapons which could be handled.

### **Local Heritage List**

The Local Heritage List for Steyning comprises buildings and structures which are of local interest and importance. Following consultations with the owners a final list has been completed and submitted to Steyning Parish Council's Planning Committee. It is now awaiting approval by the full Council before being forwarded to Horsham DC for adoption. It can be accessed on our website at <https://steyningsociety.org.uk/blog/>

### **The Treasurer writes**

Subscriptions: Nearly all of you have now paid this year's subs. Many thanks. It really is helpful if as many members as possible pay by Bank Transfer.

Our bank details are: Barclays "The Steyning Society". Sort code: 209874 Account: 60832235

Steyning Society Grants: One small way we raise funding for these is our "Bring and Buy" stall at our monthly meetings. If you have any books, DVD's or jigsaw puzzles in need of a new home, do please bring them along.

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

Next year marks 60 years from the founding of the Steyning Society in 1963. We will be celebrating this notable anniversary at our Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Friday, 21 April 2023 - and not as stated in the printed programme. The Lord-Lieutenant, Lady Emma Barnard, will attend this event. Geoff Mead's talk about Literary Landscapes, which was originally planned to take place after the AGM, will now be postponed to a later date.

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.

And, finally, the Committee hopes that you will all have a very happy Christmas and New Year.