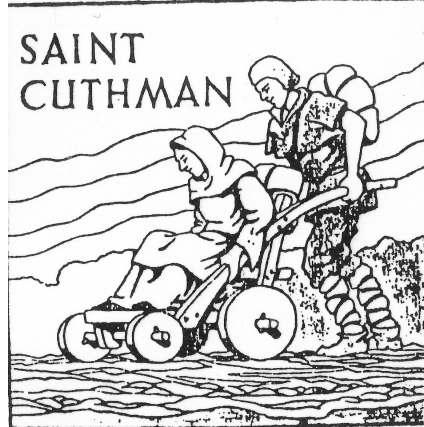


The Steyning Society

Annual Report
for the year ended 29 February 2024

www.steyningsociety.org.uk



Registered Charity No.2698591

The Steyning Society

The Society was founded in 1963 and its prime purpose and objects are -

- (a) To conserve and enhance the town of Steyning, particularly its conservation area and to protect the surrounding environment.
- (b) To maintain and improve the amenities of Steyning and to produce appropriate literature and papers.
- (c) To advance such purposes by making grants and providing other financial support as permitted by Charity Law for England and Wales
- (d) To hold talks, meetings and events for members and other interested parties and cooperate with other relevant charities.
- (e) To raise funds, receive grants and donations from members to carry out the work of the Society or other expenditure relating to Steyning
- (f) To comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

The following trustees are proposed for 2024 - 25

- **Chair - Nick Bennett**
- **Vice-Chair and Membership Secretary - Catherine Mant**
- **Treasurer - Adrian Gobat**
- **Secretary - Tony Struthers**
- **Committee Members - Julia Bonner, John Downe, Andrew Betts, Brian Lavery, Lynne Broome, Nicola Mason**

Nick Bennett, Chair, writes

Last year, the Society marked its 60th anniversary with the inauguration of the Steyning Bowl Awards. These awards are intended to recognise and publicly thank those who have made a significant contribution to Steyning and the surrounding neighbourhood. This year's awards will focus on individuals who have done this through voluntary work with children and young people. The awards will be presented by the Headteacher of Steyning Grammar School, Adam Whitehead, on Friday, 19th April 2024, immediately after the AGM. The Committee is very grateful to Mr. Whitehead for agreeing to do this. The presentation will be followed by a talk by Dr. Susan Roe about Charleston, which was once the home of Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant and where the Bloomsbury Set used to meet. I hope that as many members as possible will be present on this occasion and that it will be an enjoyable evening. As always, guests will be very welcome and, exceptionally, there will be no charge for bringing them.

Once again, we have had a full programme of talks this year on subjects ranging from St. Cuthman to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as well as a Christmas Supper which ended with a magic show. The evening was, I hope, enjoyed by all those who came to it. We also had a Treasures from Your Home evening in June, when local auctioneer and

art expert Rupert Toovey told us about some of the treasures brought along to the evening and conducted an auction which raised money to help fund our grants.

During the year, we made grants to Steyning Air Cadets for a new electronic display screen, to Steyning Downland Scheme for the reintroduction of the rare starfruit plant at Steyning Mill Pond, to Steyning Area First Responders for the restoration of their old telephone box on the High Street and to Zoe Peate for a string ensemble workshop which will be held during this year's Festival.

We made two trips to Embassy Court in Brighton, which is a 1930s Modernist block of flats that has recently been restored to its former glory and has splendid views from its roof. We had hoped to run a trip to Chatham Historic Dockyard but we have had to cancel the trip because there was insufficient interest. We believe that this was probably because of the cost of the trip, which was largely attributable to the cost of the coach. We hope that we will be able to run the trip next year by opening it up to members of other societies and giving it wider publicity. Instead of the Chatham trip, Brian Lavery is organising a walking tour of Portsmouth on Wednesday, 17th April 2024. No coach will be involved because we will travel to Portsmouth by train. Details of the trip can be found in the Events section of our website. Anyone interested in joining the tour should contact Brian by email on brianblavery@aol.com or via the Society's email address.

We are pleased to say that Lynne Broome and Nicola Mason joined the Committee during the year. Lynne has lived in Steyning for many years. She is a keen gardener, is actively involved with Steyning in Bloom and is setting up Steyning Gardening Club. For the last five years, she has opened her garden to the public as part of the National Garden Scheme. Nicola chairs the Steyning Festival, is Treasurer for Greening Steyning and is part of the Community Fridge team. Nicola enjoys walks with her dog and learning more about Sussex bird life.

We are very grateful to David Fitton for having examined our annual accounts for the last few years and thank him for having done this. As he has told us that he no longer wishes to do this, we have asked one of our members, David Jagger, to take over this responsibility. We are very pleased to say that he has agreed to do this so his name will be put forward for appointment at the AGM.

Horsham District Council put its local plan out for consultation at the beginning of the year. The plan explains how the Council proposes to meet the Government's requirement for the Horsham District to provide 15,487 new homes in the period up to 2040 and the planning criteria which will be applied when doing this. It envisages 10,000 new homes being built during the life of the plan in Horsham, Kilnwood Vale, Ifield, Southwater and Billingshurst, with the remainder being spread over the rest of the Horsham District. The plan allocates 265 new homes to Steyning on land at Glebe Farm, which has been the subject of a planning application for this number of houses since 2021. The Society recognises the urgent need for more housing, especially for housing for first time buyers and for affordable housing, but it has filed objections to the proposal. Further information about the plan, including the Society's objections, can be found on the Society's website.

We will be holding a Quiz Night at The Steyning Centre on Friday, 12th July 2024 to help raise funds for our grants and for some good, old-fashioned fun. The Quizmaster will be Canon Nigel Hartley. Refreshments will be served. Further details of the event will be circulated nearer to the date.

Finally, I am very grateful to all members of the Committee for their hard work and sound advice over the year, and especially for their support while I was receiving medical treatment. It would be invidious to name individuals but I must thank Catherine Mant for taking over the Chair and overall all responsibility for the Society in this period. I am sure that all members will join me in thanking the Committee for their hard work for the Society, which greatly helped to contribute to the success of the Society this year.

N.J. Bennett
Chair
April 2024

Adrian Gobat, the Treasurer writes:

We finish the year in a strong position. Full details are given in our end-of-year accounts. Our main fund-raising event of the year, Treasures from Your Home, was well attended, much enjoyed by all who came along and raised useful funds for the Steyning Society Grants. This year the total value of our grants was £1,655. We intend to hold one fund-raising event each year; the next one being our Quiz Night on 12th July.

Our annual subscriptions went up on 1st March 2024 to: £15 single membership and £20 joint membership. This provides nine talks each year - remarkably good value we feel!

Adrian Gobat
Treasurer
April 2024

Tony Struthers writes on Heritage and Planning

During the year we published the Steyning Local Heritage List of the locally important historic buildings and structures in the town. We were delighted that this was sponsored by Hamilton Graham, Estate Agents and are most grateful for this generous gesture. The List is now incorporated in Horsham's Local Plan Review.

Copies of the Heritage List are available from Catherine Mant at a cost of £10 or from the Steyning Bookshop or at our regular evening meetings. .

Tony Struthers MRTPI (Rtd.)
Planning Adviser

The Steyning Society (Charity No 269859)
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 29 February 2024

| | 2023-24 | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 | 2022-23 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| <u>Income</u> | | | <u>Expenditure</u> | | |
| Subscriptions | 2004.50 | 2104.50 | Hall hire | 925.56 | 785.60 |
| Visitors/donations | 823.29 | 277.00 | Speakers | 700.00 | 895.00 |
| Contributions for refreshments | 662.17 | 753.72 | Refreshments | 472.74 | 360.88 |
| <u>Outings</u> | | | <u>Outings</u> | | |
| Ticket sales | 0 | 960.00 | Expenditure | 0 | 697.50 |
| <u>Christmas Supper</u> | | | <u>Christmas Supper</u> | | |
| Tickets/raffle | 1887.00 | 1795.00 | Hall /catering | 2039.85 | 1548.88 |
| <u>Treasures from your home:</u> | 1701.80 | N/A | <u>Treasures from your home:</u> | 309.27 | N/A |
| <u>Conservation guides sale</u> | 125.00 | 290.00 | <u>Conservation guides printing</u> | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Heritage List sales</u> | 582.00 | N/A | Heritage List printing | 457.50 | N/A |
| <u>Other sources:</u> | | | <u>Printing/postage</u> | 94.25 | 28.32 |
| Grant for bench base 700.00 * | | | <u>Website fee/publicity</u> | 120.00 | 60.00 |
| Bring and buy 51.00 | 51.00 | | <u>Sundries</u> | 135.42 | 36.30 |
| AGM raffle 170.00 | 170.00 | | <u>Subscriptions</u> | | |
| | | | Friends of South Downs | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| | | | British Asscn Local History | 90.00 | 75.00 |
| | | | Open Spaces Society | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| | | | CPRE | 60.00 | 36.00 |
| | | | <u>Grants/Projects</u> | | |
| | | | Bench installation | 700.00* | |
| | | | Steyning Bowl | 265.50 | |
| | | | Steyning Downland Scheme | 400.00 | |
| | | | Steyning Air Cadets | 300.00 | |
| | | | First Responders | 400.00 | |
| | | | Festival Strings Workshop | 290.00 | |
| | | | Total grants: | 2355.50 | 3075.00 |
| <u>Total income:</u> | <u>8706.76</u> | <u>6180.22</u> | <u>Total expenditure</u> | <u>7830.09</u> | <u>7668.48</u> |
| | | | <u>Surplus/deficit</u> | <u>+876.67</u> | <u>- 1488.26</u> |
| | | | Balance at 1.3.23 | <u>6827.24</u> | <u>8315.50</u> |
| | | | Deficit/surplus for year | <u>+876.67</u> | <u>-1488.26</u> |
| <u>Assets:</u> | <u>7703.91</u> | <u>6827.24</u> | <u>7703.91</u> | <u>6827.24</u> | |

Signed: Nick Bennett
(Chairman)

Adrian Gobat
(Hon Treasurer)

Independent Examiner's Report: I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 29 February 2024 and confirm that the above accounts are in accordance with the books and records of the Society.

Signed: David Fitton (Examiner)

Date: