



THE STEYNING SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE

Registered Charity No. 269859 www.steyningsociety.org.uk

June 2024

Dear Members,

Quiz Night on 12th July

We are holding a quiz evening at The Steyning Centre on Friday, 12th July, starting at 7.30 pm, for a social get together and to raise money for our grants. You can participate in the Quiz in teams of six: either you can put together your own team, give it a name and tell us when you buy your tickets or we will allocate you to a team on the evening. Our Quiz Master will be Canon Nigel Hartley. Non-members are very welcome so please bring as many guests as you can. There will be a pay bar serving larger, wine and soft drinks.

Admission will be by ticket only. Tickets cost £20 each, which includes a curry supper, with the choice of a meat or a vegetarian curry. Tickets are available at the Bookshop until 6th July and will also be available at the Farmer's Market in the High Street Car Park on Saturday, 6th July. Tickets will not be sold after this, so please make sure that you buy your tickets in good time before then.

Glebe Farm

There was a well-attended public meeting about Glebe Farm last month. We wrote at length about the proposals for the development of Glebe Farm in our February Newsletter and will not repeat what we said then. Suffice it to say that Horsham District Council's draft Local Plan for development in the District provides for 264 new houses to be built on Glebe Farm in the period up to 2040, as part of its proposal for providing 15,487 new homes in the District in this period. The draft plan was put out for public consultation at the end of last year and the consultation ended in March. The Society's response can be found on our website by using the link in the Planning Section. A decision is now awaited from the independent inspector appointed to review the plan.

Before this, an application was made in September 2021 for outline planning permission to build 264 new houses at Glebe Farm. This application has not yet been decided but the consultation period has closed and a decision is awaited. The Society responded to the application in 2021 and updated its response last month, after the Council had said that it would receive further representations in view of the amount of time that has elapsed since the consultation period ended. The Society's original response and its recent update can be

found in our website by using the links in the Planning Section. Representations about the application can be made by using the form provided on the Planning Section of the Council's website. We do not know when the Council will stop receiving representations or when it will make its decision.

Annual General Meeting and Steyning Bowl Awards

We held our AGM at The Steyning Centre on 19th April 2024 and combined it with the presentation of this year's Steyning Bowl Awards and a talk.

The awards were presented by Mr. Adam Whitehead, the Headteacher of Steyning Grammar School, to those who have made a significant contribution to Steyning through voluntary work with young people. Before presenting the awards, Mr. Whitehead told us about the important role played by volunteers who work with Steyning's young people.

The Steyning Bowl and a certificate were presented to Jill Allen for her outstanding work with Steyning Woodcraft Folk over the last 41 years.

Highly Commended Certificates were presented to Joan Denwood, for her work with the young at Steyning Museum, and to Wendy Francis and Sue Morris for their family support work at Steyning Parish Church.

Certificates of Merit were presented to David Buckett, Linda Coleman, Mia Glass, Christine Humphries, Jane Oxley and Mike Kelly, Becky Smith, Percy Parsons, Paul Tiller and Samantha Wormleighton, all for their work with young people at various organisations in Steyning.

The evening concluded with a very interesting talk by Dr Sue Roe about Charleston, which was once the home of the artists Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant and where the Bloomsbury Set used to meet.

Photographs of the evening can be found by using the link [**AGM photos**](#) on the AGM section of our website. If you do this, please make sure that you put your cursor on the photograph you want to see and that you then click on it because the images shown on the gallery page are incomplete and do not show the full photograph. We are very grateful to Edward for taking these photographs for us and for helping us to put them on the website.

Visits

On April 17th a small group of members travelled to Portsmouth for a walk of the old town led by committee member and maritime historian, Brian Lavery, with backup from his wife, Sarah. It was a fascinating tour, greatly enhanced by Brian's comprehensive knowledge of Portsmouth Old Town – its history, buildings, characters and literary references. We discovered there is a great deal more to the town than its Historic Dockyard and the ferry to the Isle of Wight, significant though these are. Our walk took in, amongst other sites, the Common Hard, where the Baltic Fleet set off for the Crimean War; the George Inn, where Nelson ate his last on-shore breakfast before the Battle of Trafalgar, and the beach where he boarded the barge to take him to HMS Victory; the Garrison Church, mentioned in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*; and the Round Tower where families waved goodbye to sailors off

on deployment. Many thanks to Brian and Sarah for organising a memorable trip. Catherine Mant's account of the visit can be found by using the link on the Events Section of our website.

Talks

We have had some fascinating talks since our last Newsletter. In addition to Dr Roe's talk, Ian Everest told us about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in March. We heard how the impressive war cemeteries, which can be found all over the world where allied troops died in the two world wars, came into being, largely through the vision and dedicated work of Fabian Ware, which he started during the First World War. We also heard how the cemeteries are maintained today. In May, Lesley Chamberlain told us about the history of Parham House, what can be seen there and how the house is managed today. We concluded this series of talks last week, when John Oliver told us about Pulborough Brooks, their history, how they are managed and what we can see there. He illustrated this talk with a wonderful collection of photographs. We are very grateful to Jane Oxley for having arranged this programme last year, before she stood down from the Committee.

We start our new programme of talks on Friday, 20th September, when Tom Willis, the Chief Executive of Shoreham Port, will be telling us about the Port and its future. We are very grateful to Brian Lavery for arranging this programme. Copies of the programme can be obtained at meetings. The programme is also available in the Talks Section of our website.

Lastly, the Committee hopes that you will all have an enjoyable summer, now that the summer weather has at last started.