



**THE STEYNING SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE**

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

November 2024

Dear Members,

Christmas Supper

We will be holding our annual Christmas supper jointly with the Museum at The Steyning Centre on Friday, 20th December 2024. The evening will start with a reception at 7p.m., supper will be served at 7.45p.m. and the evening will end with an entertainment given by the Cheer Up Mollys.

We have a new caterer this year, Normandy Dining, who will be offering a choice of menus. This will consist of chicken in a creamy bacon and mushroom sauce with the option of mushroom stroganoff for vegetarians (both will be gluten free), roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables, followed by butterscotch pudding with vanilla ice cream and a butterscotch sauce (a gluten free version will be available on prior request). Vegan meals can be provided if specifically requested in advance. Wine and soft drinks will be served before and during the meal and coffee or tea with mints will be served after the meal. We will be arranging a raffle as well.

Tickets cost £30 each, which we hope you will agree is not expensive for what is included in the cost of a ticket. As usual, guests are welcome, so please encourage as many friends and relatives to come along as you can. Tickets are now available at Steyning Bookshop and at the Museum. Alternatively, you can buy them by paying the appropriate amount into the Society's bank account (sort code: 20-98-74 account:60832235); if you use this method, please tell our Treasurer so that he can set aside your tickets - email: adriangobat@hotmail.co.uk ***In all cases***, please specify if you require vegetarian, vegan or gluten free options and if you have any relevant allergies when you book your tickets because we cannot offer choices on the evening.

Please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment and, in any event, before Monday, 16th December because this is the date when we have to confirm numbers to the caterer, so tickets will then become scarce.

Talks

Our next talk is on Friday, 15th November 2024 when Katy Bourne will talk about her role as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex, a role which she has held since 2012. She has

supported various initiatives, including initiatives to tackle hate crime and domestic violence and to improve liaison with young people.

There will be no talk in December because of the Christmas Supper. Our first talk next year will be on Friday 17th January 2025, when we have a change of speaker. Instead of Geoff Mead, who has had to cancel his talk, Dr David Rudling will talk to us about Roman Sussex in the period between 43 A.D. and 410 A.D. David is the academic director of the Sussex School of Archaeology and is an honorary research fellow and visiting lecturer at the University of Roehampton. The sites he has excavated include the Roman villa at Bignor and two Romano-Celtic temples at Chanctonbury Ring.

This will be followed by a talk on Friday 21st February by Marcus Rayner about winemaking at Wiston. Marcus has been head winemaker at Wiston since September 2022 and was previously the assistant winemaker there. He has also worked in the film industry.

Lost and Found Vicars of Steyning

The Friends of Steyning Parish Church will be holding their talk *Lost and Found Vicars* at the Church on Saturday, 30th November 2024. The talk will start at 4 pm and will end at about 6-45 pm, with an interval in the middle when drinks and nibbles will be served. Further information about this talk and the research that has been conducted into this subject can be found on the Friends' website.

Glebe Farm

As you may know, Horsham District Council's planning committee decided at the end of September to grant outline planning permission for 265 new dwellings on the Glebe Farm site. The Council is reported to have received more than 180 letters of objection, including two from the Society, and more than 120 letters of support. This division of opinion was reflected on the planning committee because the decision was made on the Chair's casting vote.

Separately from this, the inspection of Horsham District Council's local plan is continuing. So far as Steyning is concerned, the draft local plan only proposes development on Glebe Farm. There will be public hearings about the plan in December and January. Glebe Farm is likely to come up for mention on Tuesday, 21st January 2025. Please note that the outcome of the inspection will not alter the outcome of the planning application. Anyone wanting to attend the hearings should follow developments on Horsham District Council's website because the timetable may change during the course of the inspection.

64, High Street

Two applications have been made for new signage at the newsagents' shop at 64 High Street. The Society, in common with the Parish Council and Horsham District Council's Conservation Department, lodged an objection to the original proposals on the ground that they are not in keeping with the character of the High Street. The Society's objection can be seen on the Planning section of our website, while the application and other related documents can be seen on the planning section of Horsham District Council's website. Since then, the proposals have been significantly altered, presumably in the light of the objections.

Enforcement action in respect of the existing advertisements is being considered in conjunction with these applications.

New Committee Member

We are very pleased to announce that Sarah Lavery agreed to join the Committee. Sarah will be known to many as a churchwarden at the Parish Church, as the owner of Smock Alley Vineyard, as a trustee of Steyning Downland Scheme and as the wife of Brian, who is also a member of the Committee. We believe that she has much to offer the Society and we look forward to working with her.

Photographic Competition and Calendar for 2026

We invite members to submit recent photographs of Steyning and the surrounding area through the various seasons of the year for inclusion in a Steyning Society Calendar for 2026, which will be published by the Society. There will be a prize for the best photograph which will consist of a bottle of Smock Alley sparkling wine and a tasting at the vineyard, both kindly donated by Sarah Lavery. Entries can be submitted any time between now and 31st August 2025. Anyone interested in participating in the competition will find further information about it on the News Section of the Society's website, including information about how entries are to be submitted.

And, finally, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. We hope to see you at the Christmas Supper and at our talks.