MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held from September to June at 7.30 pm in the Steyning Centre, with liquid refreshments served from 7 pm. Note that on 16th April 2027 the evening will start at 6.30 pm – see below. All talks are free to members. Visitors are welcome (£5 each). There is no talk in December, when we hold our Christmas Supper jointly with the Steyning Museum. Here we meet from 7:00pm before supper at 7:45pm. A separate payment is required for this event.

GRANTS

We make grants of up to £500 to local organisations which provide amenities for our community or which help to preserve the fabric of the town. Details of how to apply for a grant are given on our website.

OUTINGS

We organise one or two outings every year to places of interest which are advertised on our website, in our newsletters and at meetings.

STEYNING BOWL AWARD

We present the Steyning Bowl Awards at our AGM to recognise those who have made a significant contribution to Steyning. The winner is presented with a certificate and a wooden bowl which they hold for a year. Certificates of appreciation are presented to the runners up.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

CHAIR
Nick Bennett
Email:nicholasbennett20@btinternet.com

VICE-CHAIR AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Catherine Mant
Email: cmantsteyningsoc@gmail.com

HON. SECRETARY
Tony Struthers OBE
Email: tonystruthers@me.com

HON. TREASURER
Adrian Gobat
Email: adriangobat@hotmail.co.uk

PUBLICITY
Julia Bonner
Email: juliabonner@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Lynne Broome
John Downe
Brian Lavery
Sarah Lavery
Nicola Mason

SAINT CUTHMAN

THE STEYNING SOCIETY

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

PROGRAMME 2026 - 2027

The Steyning Society was founded in 1963. Its prime purpose is to try and retain the essential character of Steyning, particularly within the designated conservation area. It makes appropriate representations against any detrimental plans that would adversely affect the features and buildings. We look to support any suitable proposals to maintain and improve the amenities of this attractive town.

The Society has produced a booklet about the Conservation Area which contains many fine drawings and maps and walking routes around the Town. It also produced the Local Heritage List which was adopted by Horsham District Council in 2023 and is now available as an illustrated booklet. Copies of both booklets can be purchased at Society meetings and are available at the Museum and Steyning Bookshop.

PROGRAMME

Friday, 18 September 2026
Catherine Mant
Sussex Pond, Ifield Hog's and Rotherfield Sweet Tooth: Sussex Cooking and the English Food Revival

Catherine's interest in traditional Sussex food began in her grandmother's Steyning farmhouse kitchen. Sussex has a long tradition of cooking, but by the 20th century this heritage was in danger of being lost. Happily the interwar nostalgia for all things English pastoral led to a revival of enthusiasm for regional English recipes. The talk will focus on Sussex food, with anecdotes, recipes and samples.

Friday, 16 October 2026
David Rudling
Chanctonbury Ring and other Roman religious sites in Sussex

Two Romano-Celtic temples have been revealed by excavations inside the Late Bronze Age enclosure at Chanctonbury Ring. These discoveries will be discussed, together with other evidence for Roman-period religion in Sussex. David Rudling directed the rescue excavations at Chanctonbury in 1988-9.

Friday, 20 November 2026
Rod Scott
Plans for Steyning Grammar School.

The school, at the heart of the community for over 400 years, has faced Pandemic, Brexit, Academisation and changes in leadership. Being based on several sites has added to these challenges. The DoE starts building a new single-site school this year at Shooting Field. Rod Scott will talk about his journey as a governor and discuss how the single site will affect teachers, students, and the town.

Friday, 18 December 2026
Christmas Supper

Friday, 15 January 2027
Nigel Hartley
Auntie's Bloomers

Behind the scenes at the BBC - a sort of history of broadcasting from one who was there for part of it. Nigel is well known to many of us in his second career as a clergyman and as a contributor to local events, but here he will talk about his earlier days, and with some reference to current affairs.

Friday, 19 February 2027
Laura Eastwood
Born Free

Laura Eastwood, local resident and Head of Community Engagement at Born Free, will introduce the international wildlife charity, its history and current work. She will focus on her work with communities both in the UK and across a number of African countries, supporting co-existence and empowering communities to find their own solutions to challenges faced by people and wildlife alike.

Friday, 19 March 2027
Nick Hopkinson
Wilton Park and the World Order

Wilton Park, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office's policy forum, is one of Steyning's hidden gems. Located at Wiston House since 1951, it was originally part of Sir Winston Churchill's vision to build a democratic post-war Germany. Nick Hopkinson, a former Director at Wilton Park, will speak about how his book, *The Policies and Power of Public Diplomacy*, examines its history and how its discussions tracked and influenced the evolution of the world order since 1946.

Friday, 16 April 2027
SHORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
STEYNING BOWL AWARDS
TALK BY IAN EVEREST
Flanders and the Somme – Then and Now
Please note that the AGM will start at 7pm.

After a short AGM and the Bowl Award presentations, the evening will continue with a reading of the Steyning Poem and a slide show of the walk to Chanctonbury Ring. This will be followed by a talk by Ian Everest, who made his first visit to the Great War battlefields over 40 years ago to visit the grave of his Great-Uncle. Such is the impact it made on him, he has been back nearly every year since. His illustrated talk reflects some of the significant sites on the Western Front and what can be seen today on the 'old front line'.

Friday, 21 May 2027
Sarah Leigh
The Duke of Norfolk and the Steyning Election of 1790

Charles Howard renounced his Catholic faith to become an MP. After he inherited the title of 11th Duke of Norfolk he bought up properties in many constituencies to support Whig candidates. Thanks to a dispute about the 1790 Steyning election a mass of information has come down about the people who lived here. Sarah Leigh. who is editing his Journals, will tell us all about it.

Friday, 18 June 2027
Lois Roemer
Steyning Parish Graveyard, Past, Present and Future

Lois Roemer, Research Officer at Steyning Museum, will talk about her interest in the churchyard in Steyning, which led to the Graveyard Gossip publications, and about the history of the churchyard and some of the interesting people who are buried in Steyning.