



**THE STEYNING SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE**

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

September 2026

Dear Members,

We hope that you had an enjoyable summer and that you and your gardens have survived the extreme heat.

Visit to the Sussex County Cricket Ground at Hove



We are planning a visit to the County Ground in Hove on 7 October.

Sussex County Cricket Club was founded in 1836 and can claim to be the oldest professional sports organisation in the world. It played at 16 different grounds before settling in the present site in 1872. Sussex first won the County Championship in 2003 to begin a decade of success.

The tour of the ground will start 11.00 and will be followed by a visit to the museum. The tour is free but donations to the club are invited. Those who want can have lunch at the nearby Sussex Cricketer pub. Those wishing to attend should contact Nicola Mason on nickymason82@gmail.com. Members and guests should make their own way. Those who need transport, or can offer places, should inform Nicola. There is a fee for parking in the ground, also some parking outside but that is not free.

New programme of talks

Our new programme of talks starts on Friday, 18th September 2026, when our Vice Chair and Membership Secretary, Catherine Mant, will be talking to us about Sussex Cooking and the English Food Revival in the last century. She will be telling us about Sussex culinary delights, such as Sussex Pond, Ifield Hog's and Rotherfield Sweet Tooth, giving us recipes and samples and peppering her talk with amusing anecdotes. This should be an enjoyable evening and we look forward to seeing you then.

We have had to change the order of the talks planned for October and January, so that Nigel Hartley will now talk to us on 16th October 2026 and David Rudling will talk to us on 15th January 2027, and not as stated in the printed programme.

Printed copies of the programme are available at our meetings. The programme is also available on the Website and can be found by following the link [2026.27](#).

Tour of Chichester Harbour

Probus have told us that they are arranging a tour of Chichester Harbour on Tuesday, 29th September and that members of the Society are welcome to join them. The tour will be on the Solar Heritage, which is a solar powered catamaran, and will cost £15 per person. The Solar Heritage will leave Itchenor at 10.45 am and will return there at 12.15 pm. Lunch can be obtained at the nearby Ship Inn. Transport is not being arranged. Please follow the link [Chichester trip](#) for further information about the tour, including information about how to make bookings. If you would like to join this tour or to make a booking, please contact Peter Winter of Probus directly (tel: 07722184117 email: tyke1946@hotmail.com). Probus will accept bookings until 23rd September. *As this is not a Society event, we regret that we will not accept bookings or payment for tickets and that we cannot provide any further information about this event.*

Visit to Applesham Farm

We visited Applesham Farm in early July where Hugh Passmore gave us a guided tour of the farm in a purpose-built trailer as a sequel to his talk earlier in the year. As he drove us round the farm, he told us about how he runs the farm as a mixed arable and livestock farm as a protection against fluctuations in market prices and some of the problems of farming today, including illegal hare coursing. He also told us that he practises sustainable farming, using traditional methods such as crop rotation and under sowing, so minimising the use of chemical fertilisers and weedkillers. We made the visit on a warm summer's evening with little or no wind, saw hares enjoying the sunshine and ended up having a BYO picnic in the Passmores' beautiful downland garden, with its views over Lancing College, the Adur Valley and the coast beyond. Mike Kelly and Jane Oxley brought their sixteen-year-old grandson with them who talked about his life on his parents' farm and the animals we saw.

Old Grammar School site

We had two meetings during the summer with the new owner of the old Grammar School site, Matt Hoad of Church Barn Steyning Ltd, and his architect, Chris Barker of Ece Planning. They showed us round the old buildings and told us about their plans in June and held a meeting for a number of interested parties in July. In brief, Brotherhood Hall will be used for holiday lets, which means that minimal structural alterations will be made to the building and that the hall will remain in one ownership. The other old buildings will be converted into single dwellings except for the old Headmaster's House which will be converted into flats. The Victorian classrooms and 20th century additions will be demolished and replaced with low density but high-quality housing which will be built round a courtyard. Catherine Mant has written a fuller account of the meeting which can be found by following the link [Meeting on 29th July 2026](#). At the beginning of this month, the new owners held a public meeting to present their plans and invite comment before applying for planning permission

during the autumn. Their plans are more developed than they were in July and have been discussed with the conservation officer and planning officer at Horsham but the concept remains the same.

Christmas Supper

Finally, we are holding our Christmas Supper jointly with the Museum on Friday, 18th December 2026. Further information about the evening will be provided during the autumn but please save the date.