

How you can become a Friend

If you would like to become a Friend of St. Mary's, please fill in your name and address in the box below. Send the completed form and payment (cheques payable to *The Friends of St. Mary's*) to:

The Membership Secretary, The Friends of St. Mary's, St. Mary's House, Bramber, West Sussex BN44 3WE.

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Tel. No.

Email

Please tick the appropriate category:

- ☐ Individual £20
- ☐ Joint £30
for two members at the same address
(£10 for each additional member)
- ☐ Family £30
for one or two adults and their children under 18 living
at the same address; one card covers the family.
- ☐ Life membership
ten times the current annual subscription rate.

If you would like to help in any of the following areas, please tick the appropriate box(es) below:

- Guiding* ☐
- Stewarding* ☐
- Shop/reception* ☐
- Tea-room/kitchen* ☐
- Gardening* ☐

www.stmarysbramber.co.uk
email: friends@stmarysbramber.co.uk

Why become a Friend?

- Free entry on open days throughout the season.
- Bring a guest at reduced entrance fee (£5).
- Receive a newsletter twice a year.
- Priority information and booking for concerts and events
- Meet others who share an interest in this historic house.
- Social activities arranged for Friends.



Friends outing to Colwood House Garden



Friends picnic in the Victorian Garden at St Mary's

How you can help

- Introduce your friends to the house & gardens
- Opportunities for volunteering
- Helping to raise funds for specific projects
- Helping to host concerts and special occasions
- Assisting with clerical, archival or other related activities
- Bring a group to which you belong or may know of
- Hold a coffee morning or bring-and-buy sale
- Help with raising funds

Be a friend
Become a Friend
of

St. Mary's House & Gardens



Bramber
West Sussex

St Mary's House & Gardens

Founded as a monastic inn in the 15C, St. Mary's has, since the late 17C, remained in private hands, and subsequent owners have strived to protect the house from every form of threat, official or otherwise, and even total demolition as recently as 1944.

In 1984, Peter Thorogood, literary historian, author and composer, and Roger Linton, conservator and designer, were able, together with other members of their family, to purchase this historically distinguished and architecturally important survivor of our heritage. Spurred on by their earlier family connections with St. Mary's, Peter and Roger have worked unstintingly through some three decades to bring the house and its gardens back to the present state of splendour - but much still needs to be done. The whole estate has been willed to the St. Mary's Historic House and Gardens Charitable Trust, which manages the Endowment Fund set up to secure the future of St. Mary's for the public benefit.

St. Mary's today is one of the foremost heritage attractions in Sussex. Friends play a vital role in helping to build a secure future for this beautiful house and its gardens.

Open to the public from May to September on Thursday and Sunday afternoons, plus Wednesday afternoons in August, the house and gardens are visited by many thousands of people from all over the world.

Awards and Honours

In 2011 St Mary's was given a prestigious accolade when it was voted as the 'Best Restoration' in Hudsons Heritage Awards.

In recent years, St Mary's has twice been 'Highly Commended' in the Tourism South East awards for excellence, and was also 'Highly Commended' in the Sussex Heritage Trust Awards 2016 for the Landscape Water Garden. In 2006 Peter and Roger were each awarded the MBE in the Queen's 80th Birthday Honours for services to conservation and the arts.

The Friends of St Mary's

Formed in 1991, the Friends of St. Mary's seeks principally to provide support to the St. Mary's House and Gardens Charitable Trust through fundraising activities and help with the day-to-day opening of the house and gardens. In addition, the Committee organises social events for members with outings to private houses and gardens not normally open to the public.

While running costs are mostly covered by visitor entrance charges, revenue for concerts, weddings, receptions and corporate events, an ancient house such as St. Mary's needs ongoing conservation and maintenance. Added to this there are from time to time specific restoration projects which require substantial funding.



Presentation of 'Awards for All' certificate by Cllr Margaret Johnston, Chairman of WSCC

Actress Susan Jameson opens the new tea room

Volunteers and staff at St Mary's (below)



Over the years...

the Friends of St. Mary's have raised, through subscriptions, donations and fund-raising events, more than £60,000 towards the following projects:

- Restoration of the Monks' Walk pergola
- Installation of a rare 'shutting window' and dormer
- Restoration of Gothic cornice in Music Room
- Showcases for exhibits
- Dehumidifier for the Library
- Installation of stained glass window in Music Room
- Victorian 'Lost Gardens' Appeal Fund'
- Re-instatement of blocked-up window on main façade of house
- Levelling and re-laying on flagstones in formal garden
- Major roof repairs
- General repairs to dormer windows
- New shelving in music room
- Main kitchen refurbishment
- Re-alignment of dangerous leaning chimney
- Replacement of Music Room conservatory window (Millennium Project – see picture)
- Replacement glass for Victorian greenhouse
- New tea-room facilities (Orchard Lodge)
- New path and lighting to Orchard Lodge
- Award-winning Landscape Water Garden
- New tiled roof for Music Room



The Music Room window (Millennium project) installed in 2003



New shelving in the Music Room