

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR - SEPTEMBER 2017

This year the Worthing Society is celebrating our 35th Anniversary. Since our formation in 1982 we have been dedicated to the conservation and protection of the unique architectural heritage of Worthing which is sometimes a fine balance between protecting our heritage ,while not standing in the way of regeneration. This will be an ongoing challenge as Worthing is at a crossroads with several town centre sites awaiting redevelopment. The Society aims to act as a "watchdog" preventing planning mistakes of the past when landmark buildings such as the Old Town Hall and the Ann Street Theatre were demolished.

Our many Campaigns have included the saving of the Grade II* Listed Beach House, the listed Burlington Hotel plus the saving of the Dome Cinema. The Society was also responsible for the retention and listing of the Desert Quartet statues. More recently the Society has been involved with campaigns such as the Aquarena and Grand Avenue/West Parade, standing up for residents and trying to ensure that new developments complement the town's character.

On a lighter note, we have sponsored many Blue Plaques featured in our Blue Plaque heritage Trail which aims to link Worthing's unique social history to the town's architectural heritage and stimulate future research.

Thirty five years of protecting Worthing's heritage is I feel a considerable achievement. I would like to pay tribute to the support of our members, the dedicated work of the Committee and to the invaluable contribution made by our late colleagues, Mrs Pat Baring, Robert Elleray, Geoffrey Godden and David Sumner.

The Quarterly Members Meeting celebrating our Anniversary will be on Tuesday 26 September at 7.30pm,(door open 7pm) in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre.

SPEAKERS: Jessica Gill on Sculptural Lighting and Naomi Frances on Stained and Fused Glass.

Visitor/Guests welcome-fee £3.00.

We hope to see you there and welcome new members of all ages.

Sue Belton
Worthing Society Chair

www.worthingsociety.org.uk