

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR - JULY 2017

During this our thirty-fifth year the Worthing Society will be highlighting our Blue Plaque Heritage Trail which the Committee have developed for the community and without lottery funding. Our Society has also donated many of the blue plaques you see today. The Heritage Trail aims to link our important listed buildings, some saved by the Society, to their famous occupants. The Heritage Trail brings alive the unique social history of Worthing, revealing connections to many interesting characters and literary figures. Best known is perhaps Jane Austen. This year commemorates the 200th anniversary of her death. We were honoured to have donated a Blue Plaque in her memory at Pizza Express, Warwick Street. This Grade II Listed Building, which Jane would have known as Stanford Cottage, was saved from destruction mainly due to intervention by the Worthing Society. Visitors have come from all over the world. This shows how preserving our built heritage adds both to our enjoyment of the town's history and importantly to the present day economy.

This summer we are donating a further Blue Plaque honouring Dr Frederick Dixon (1799-1849) renowned geologist, and archaeologist and founder of the first Worthing Dispensary, the forerunner of Worthing Hospital, who lived at the elegant Grade II Listed Elm Lawn House, Union Place. Our thanks to the McCarthy and Stone complex for welcoming the plaque! A Trail Guide and free leaflets are available from Worthing Library and the Tourist Office, Pavilion Theatre.

Very pleased to report that following vandalism, Worthing Borough Council are restoring the Lifeboat Memorial Stone which was donated by the Society on the beach at Spalshpoint. Good news!

We warmly welcome new members of all ages. Please visit www.worthingsociety.org.uk

Sue Belton
Chairman