



THE WORTHING SOCIETY

President: Anthony Malone

NEWSLETTER SPRING/SUMMER 2018

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN:

Susan Belton
1 Church Cottages
Selden Lane, Worthing
BN11 2BN Tel: 01903 203141
susan@belton77.plus.com

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Ted Kennard
6 Upper High Street
Worthing
BN11 1DL Tel: 07539017002
ekennard50@gmail.com

HON. SECRETARY:

Gill Tucker
Tel: 01903 539655
gilltucker@ntlworld.com

HON. TREASURER & SOCIAL SECRETARY:

Mascha Richards
2 Beach House
Brighton Road, Worthing
BN11 2EJ Tel: 01903 214519
mascha.richards@btinternet.com

CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Brenda Whitmell
12 Brook Way
Lancing, BN15 8DQ
Tel: 01903 905922

PUBLICITY OFFICER:

David Clark
30 Grand Avenue
Worthing
BN15 5AQ Tel: 01903 504402
clarkhodson@btinternet.com

WEBSITE MANAGER:

Barry Richards

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS (LCAS):

Listing & Conservation Areas:

Ted Kennard Natalie Cropper
Sue Belton David Clark
Tony Malone - by invitation
John Head - by invitation

Publicity:

David Clark Jessica Gill
Barry Richards
Tony Malone - by invitation

NEWSLETTER COMPILER:

Sandra Malone

FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24 APRIL 2018

Notice is hereby given that the 36th Annual General Meeting of The Worthing Society will take place on Tuesday, 24 April 2018 at 7pm in the Library Lecture Theatre.

Nominations are invited for the following posts:-

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Honorary Secretary
- Honorary Treasurer
- Honorary Membership Secretary
- Honorary Social Secretary
- Honorary Publicity Officer
- Honorary Legal Consultant
- Six Members of the Executive Committee

All nominations supported by a seconder and with the approval of the nominee should be sent, not later than 5 April 2018, to the Chairman (Nominations close two weeks before).

At the conclusion of the AGM there will be a coffee break followed by a talk on Dr Frederick Dixon (Geologist, Archaeologist & Benefactor to the Town) by Anthony Brook.

Sycamore trees under threat at Montague Centre



Let's hope this was not their last summer!

MEMBERSHIP

We have set up a membership database and are able to inform you of any campaigns or news very quickly. Please be assured that your details will not be disclosed to any third party and will only be used to update you on Worthing Society matters. We know that many of you do not have a computer at home; however, the Library Service has free access to their computers for members. All branches have volunteer computer "buddies" who are happy to assist you in setting up e-mails and "surfing the web". If you want to give them a try please enquire at your local library.

Please find enclosed your renewal forms (not necessary for Life Members). You can return them to our coopted Membership Secretary or bring them along to the AGM in April. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mascha Richards

Treasurer

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Members,

The Newsletter containing notice of our forthcoming AGM gives me, as Chairman, the space to reflect on the Society's achievements during 2017, our thirty fifth anniversary year and the challenges ahead for 2018. I am ever thankful to the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee who give their time freely to further the aims and activities of the Society. Their commitment and expertise allows the Society to be an independent voice for all who care about the unique heritage of Worthing and the surrounding area. Combined with the valued support of our members, the Society continues to be proactive in safeguarding Worthing's built environment and architectural legacy. During 2017 I am pleased to report that we have been active and made progress in the following areas:

PLANNING: We continue to fulfil our role in acting as 'watchdogs' monitoring the wider development schemes planned for the town which could result in significant changes. Integral to this work is our Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Sub-Committee (LCAS). This very able 'technical team' led by Ted Kennard, our Vice-Chairman, review all planning matters affecting Statutorily Listed Buildings, those included on the Local Interest List (an increasingly important category) and conservation areas. Last year the Committee, together with LCAS were actively involved with campaigns and commenting on the following significant planning applications:-

- **Developments by Roffey Homes for the Aquarena and West Parade** - we stood up for residents. I consider our input resulted in a reduction in height to both schemes.
- **Montague Quarter** - campaign ongoing to 'save the trees'.
- **Montague Street & Montague Place** - ongoing representation to WSCC to lobby for enhancements.
- **Station Square/Teville Gate Consultation** - comments sent on preliminary design consultation
- **A27 Consultation** – I am grateful to David Sawers for submitting an excellent report to Highways England. Both MP's have rejected the proposed option. The Minister has asked HE to look at other options. The response to the Consultation will be delayed.

MEMBERSHIP: I am pleased to report that last year we increased our membership and therefore our presence in the town. We were delighted to welcome Brenda Whitmell to the Executive Committee as coopted Membership Secretary.

FORMATION OF THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: Formed in 2017 to suggest ways of promoting the Society in a more contemporary, visual way. Led by David Clark, we now have a Facebook page, a monthly column in the Worthing Journal plus a PowerPoint presentation enabling us to give regular talks to reach all sections of the community. A successful exhibition was also held at Worthing Library in September featuring 'Worthing Buildings Lost and Saved'. Our thanks to Jessica Gill for the stunning artwork.

BLUE PLAQUE TRAIL: Celebrating our anniversary year, we dedicated a plaque honouring Dr Frederick Dixon (1799-1849), archaeologist, geologist, surgeon and founder of Worthing Hospital. We also supported the plaque for Alma Cogan dedicated by the Music Hall Society. Adding to our Blue Plaque trail helps to promote the Society. By acknowledging the link between architectural and social history, we hope to make conservation work more appealing and visible.

WEBSITE: Our excellent website has been updated during 2017 by our website manager, Barry Richards to include the Latest News section. My thanks to our Secretary, Gill Tucker, who monitors and replies to our incoming emails.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: I am grateful to our Social Secretary, Mascha Richards, for an interesting programme of events and arranging our lectures.

PRIORITIES FOR 2018:

MONITORING NEW DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: 2018 sees Worthing at a major crossroads. Several large town centre sites, such as Teville Gate/Station Square and Union Place, are ripe for redevelopment, and planning matters, old and new, will continue to dominate our work. 2018 will be an exciting but challenging time with long term consequences for the townscape. We are keen to see much needed regeneration but need to ensure the planning mistakes of the past are not repeated. New designs must be of good quality and appropriate in size/mass if it is to respect the character of the town. We shall also study the results of the Draft Local Plan, due out in late Spring, and the results of the Land Appraisal as it relates to Goring Gap.

SEAFRONT INVESTMENT PLAN AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY: You may have seen the publicity surrounding these ambitious schemes. Careful integration of the heritage seafront environment will be required when and in what form these plans progress. It is a compliment to the Worthing Society that we have been included as stakeholders in the consultation process for both schemes. We are invited to comment on the effect of the new proposals as they relate to our heritage environment. See links to the Council website for both these schemes via the 'Latest News' section on our website.

GORING GAP AND THE LOCAL PLAN: Protection of this important Green Space opposite the South Downs National Park will be a top priority for the Society. Owned by Persimmon Homes, the northern section is vulnerable to development. The pressure on local authorities to meet housing targets is intense. We anxiously await the outcome of the updated Landscape Study being carried out on behalf of Worthing Borough Council. This will form part of the Draft Local Plan. Publication is expected in late Spring. The Draft Local Plan is a significant policy document covering all aspects of planning policy for Worthing. The Committee will be monitoring the recommendations of the Draft Local Plan with particular regard to issues affecting Goring Gap.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE: I am very aware that our young people are the custodians of our future. Therefore, I am keen to involve them in learning about Worthing's heritage so I plan to offer a reduced Junior Membership. This requires an amendment to our Constitution and we will ask members to support this important change during our meeting on 27 February 2018.

ARCHIVE: We shall continue to develop our online Archive celebrating our 35th year. It will have an 'open section' inviting members and the community to add projects of local interest.

TREE CAMPAIGN: We shall continue to try and save the historic Sycamore trees. Our first campaign for 2018 - watch the website or local press for updates!

Thank you again for your support and interest. I look forward to meeting you at our gatherings and social events.

APPRECIATIONS

I would like to state my appreciation for the significant contribution to the Society's work by our senior Committee members. Natalie Cropper, one of our Trustees, has a depth of local knowledge and regularly attends meetings of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee. My colleague David Sawers has particular expertise in planning and interpreting policy matters. His advice has been invaluable. Our Vice-Chairman, Ted Kennard,

who also chairs LCAS, has been unstinting in his hard work and support. David Clark for his excellent work in leading the new Publicity Committee. Jessica Gill for her excellent work as Minutes Secretary as well as designing our new updated logo and display posters and Mascha Richards, our excellent Treasurer and Social Secretary has also taken on the role of Membership Secretary during the last seven months. Quite an achievement!

As always, I would like thank our President, Tony Malone, for his much appreciated advice and expertise. Thanks also to Tony's wife Sandra for her hard work in producing our Newsletters.

Susan Belton

CHAIRMAN

LISTING AND CONSERVATION AREAS (LCAS) SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

(Our 'watchdog' for anything affecting Worthing's Listed/Local Interest Buildings and Conservation Areas)

Members: Ted Kennard (Chair), Susan Belton, Natalie Cropper, David Clark **By**

Invitation: Tony Malone and John Head

LCAS: This acronym is used for the Sub-Committee in this report.

Our work. LCAS is mainly concerned with matters which preserve the heritage of our built environment particularly in the Conservation Areas. This work also includes the critical examination of all development proposals to seek out infringements of current planning law and to comment on design.

Meetings. LCAS met on three occasions in September, October and December 2017 with Richard Small (the Design and Conservation Officer of Planning Services, WBC) attending two of these.

Montague Centre (aka Montague Quarter). The Worthing Herald reported, on 11th January 2018, that Nando's have no immediate plans to open a restaurant in the Centre. If so, this may mean that the New River Retail proposals for the Centre will not proceed and the Sycamore trees will be spared. The Society will be continuing its public campaign against the felling of the trees.

Local Interest Buildings. There are many unlisted buildings within the Borough which are of local interest because of their contribution to the character of the area in which they are located. A list of these buildings can be found on the WBC Planning website. Richard Small is preparing a report on all the buildings we have recently suggested should be added to the Local Interest List. These will be put to the Planning Committee for ratification in due course.

South Downs National Park Authority. We are arranging to meet a representative of the SDNP in February 2018 as there are a number of matters of mutual interest to discuss. These include the extension of the Castle Goring Conservation Area, the responsibility for Local List Buildings which occur in the Park but which are also in the Borough and heritage buildings at risk.

The Gospel Hall in Bedford Row. In our last Newsletter for Spring and Summer 2017 we reported that we were trying to find out the owner's intentions in regard to this Local Interest Building. So far, we have been unsuccessful and the building remains sealed up and unoccupied. We are pleased to note that the graffiti has been removed as the photo shows. LCAS will now consider what steps could be taken to improve matters.





5 High Street, Worthing. Despite our efforts we have not achieved an improvement in the appearance of this building as you will see from the adjacent recent photograph of the front elevation. Louise Goldsmith, Leader of WSCC informed us in June 2017 that “*there are plans ahead to refurbish this building for occupation and the County Council is in negotiation, subject to terms of agreement and any necessary approvals, to transfer the property*”. We have heard nothing since but will continue to pursue our goal to get this building renovated. It is in a Conservation Area and is on the Local Interest List.

In Conclusion. It has been another busy time for members of LCAS and the pressure is not expected to ease as a number of major developments are in the pipeline. My grateful thanks for the support I have received from the Sub-Committee.

Ted Kennard

CHAIRMAN OF LCAS

A NOTE ON PUBLICITY

Our focus for 2018:

Recruit New Members - particularly younger people

We have had some success in gaining new members through delivering our talk ‘Worthing Lost and Saved’ to various groups in Worthing. We would like to appeal to younger residents and will target youth groups in addition to our usual audiences to increase membership this year. At our quarterly members’ meeting in February we will be seeking your consent to amend the Constitution to allow a reduced ‘Junior Membership’ of £5 per annum to be introduced.

Focus our publicity on the positive things we do for the community

We would like to make people more aware of the ongoing work that we do on the Blue Plaques; plans we have to help improve our Conservation Areas and the positive impact we can have on planning applications.

Promote our Online Archive

Another major development for 2018 will be our Online Archive. The Archive will cover the history of the Worthing Society and its activities from its beginnings in 1982 and will be based on a time-line created from an examination of our annual newsletters. The public can then submit articles for inclusion in the archive. This should increase awareness of our work and bring more users to our website. Barry Richards who runs our website is running with this project.

David Clark

Publicity Officer

Blue Plaque Dedication Dr Frederick Dixon FRCS FGS (1799-1849)



The Worthing Society was honoured to dedicate a Blue Plaque in memory of the socially significant achievements of Dr Frederick Dixon and his importance to the town. He was born in the village of Sullington where his father was the Vicar. Frederick was a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and on leaving Guy's Hospital he moved to the Grade II Listed Elm Lawn House at 3 Union Place, now part of the Amelia Court Retirement Complex, built by McCarthy and Stone. In the early 19th century there was no formal healthcare for the poor in Worthing and Dr Dixon established the first Dispensary in Ann Street in 1829. The foundation of the Dispensary, which included a pharmacy and clinic, was an important advance in the health and welfare of the town's residents. Eventually the practice outgrew the Ann Street premises moving to a larger building on the post office site. In essence, the Dispensary was the forerunner of Worthing Hospital where there is a wing named after Dr Dixon. A man of exceptional intellect, Frederick was also a renowned archaeologist, geologist and collector of fossils.

The dedication of the Blue Plaque took place at the elegant Elm Lawn House on 21 June 2017. The event was attended by over eighty guests including local MP Tim Loughton, our member, Dr John Bull, Trustee Governor of Worthing Hospital, plus representatives from the Sussex Archaeological and Geological Societies. The Committee were very appreciative of the hospitality shown to us by the McCarthy and Stone Management and their generous donation of £250 to the Society. The occasion was a fitting tribute to this remarkable man's vision and far-reaching achievements.

The Society is very keen to unlock the 'hidden history' of Worthing by highlighting those figures who contributed to the town's early development. The Blue Plaque Trail is, we feel, a very visual way of achieving this. Hopefully, by linking architectural history to a building's social history, we shall be able to stimulate an overall interest in the conservation of Worthing's unique heritage. We hope the Blue Plaque Trail and accompanying leaflets will be enjoyed by all age groups.

Susan Belton

Worthing Society Chairman MEMBERS UPDATE - A NOTE ON THE WORTHING SOCIETY PRIVACY POLICY

New legislation is currently going through Parliament which from May 2018 will require all charities to issue their members with a Privacy Policy document about the authorisation, collection and retention of personal data. A copy of The Worthing Society Privacy Policy is being prepared and will be issued to our members within the next two months.

Susan Belton

Worthing Society Chairman

President's notes

A current view of some challenges and successes for The Worthing Society

Looking back over the last few months or more I believe that the steps taken to clarify roles and responsibilities have certainly proved their worth. Defining roles more clearly between Committee members, as opposed to working on an ad hoc basis, helps to streamline the Committee's workload. The subsequent creation of the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (LCAS) Sub-Committee followed by the Publicity Sub-Committee were a logical and worthwhile next step (see the front page of each Newsletter for their current staffing details).

You are probably aware by now that each Sub-Committee deals with its own logically distinct responsibilities under a very competent Chairman while the remaining balance of varied issues continue to be ably dealt with by the Executive Committee under our Chairman Susan's confident leadership.

Each Sub-Committee encourages debate around the best way to deal with its responsibilities, often leading to a natural and continuous process of improvement. The Executive Committee tends to deal with a series of varying issues arising and decisions tend to be reached in the same way as many large organisations, i.e. opinions are put forward and debated by a Board (in our case the Executive Committee) until the Chairman feels that enough information has been heard that enables an informed decision.

A recent example of an LCAS process changing to suit the current situation resulted from the onerous task of scrutinising the weekly planning application lists issued by WBC. There can be any number of pages of planning applications each week, sometimes as many as 10 pages. The Planning Office prepares a brief synopsis of each application and the appropriate LCAS member tends to do the following:-

- Read each synopsis to decide what, if any, action is required.
- If the case requires further investigation, inspect the full application and plan details on the WBC website.
- Check if the case falls within a Conservation Area or is a Listed or Locally Listed building.
- Make a site visit if it is deemed necessary.

Three of us deal with these lists, each person taking responsibility for 2 weeks of lists before handing over to the next person on the rota and so on.

At the LCAS meetings it became obvious, from feedback from each of us, that the job was taking an inordinate amount of time. LCAS Chairman, Ted Kennard, subsequently decided to only focus on applications that potentially affected any kind of listed building (national or local) or a Conservation Area. This has eased the task considerably.

This serves to highlight, again, how stretched we are and the need for us to be proactive in asking anyone with an interest in taking a role in Committee work to please contact our Chairman by telephone or email. Contact details are in this newsletter and on the website. Please do give it some serious thought if you would like to be taking an active part in helping shape the future of our town.

Tony Malone

President

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FEB - Tuesday 27th at 7.30pm - **QUARTERLY MEETING** in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. SOUTH DOWNS FILM MAKERS WILL SHOW THEIR FILM "THE JEWEL IN THE TOWN" about the Connaught Theatre and a selection of short films including their recent award winner "The Bench by the Sea"

APR - Tuesday 24th at 7.00pm - **A.G.M.** in the Worthing Library Theatre followed by lecture at 7.30pm. Speaker: TONY BROOK on "DOCTOR FREDERICK DIXON OF WORTHING : GEOLOGIST, ARCHAEOLOGIST AND BENEFACTOR TO THE TOWN"

JUN - Sunday 10th from 3:00 - 4:30pm - A Midsummer afternoon
'STRAWBERRIES & CREAM TEA' in the Ayrton Suite at Beach House
Tickets: £5.00 per person

SEPT - Tuesday 25th at 7:30pm - **QUARTERLY MEETING** in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Speaker: Paul Campbell on "THE RICH TAPESTRY OF THE WORTHING ANTIQUES BUSINESS FROM THE 1930'S "

NOV - Tuesday 27th at 7:30pm - **QUARTERLY MEETING** in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Speaker : Mark Perry Nash on "THE LIFE, WORKS & MESSAGE OF CHARLES DICKENS"

DEC - Tuesday 4th - **A COACH OUTING** to the Royal Albert Hall for John Rutter's CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Cost: To be agreed

Tickets for the tea on June 10th will be on sale at the A.G.M. on Tuesday 24th April or please send a cheque made payable to 'The Worthing Society' enclosing a S.A.E. to: Mrs. Richards, 2 Beach House, Brighton Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 2EJ

Please remember that prior to quarterly meetings Committee Members will be available from 7p.m. to talk to members wishing to discuss matters of interest or concern.

Visitors / Guests are welcome to attend the lectures – fee £3

Don't forget to look at our website for the latest news

www.worthingsociety.org.uk

and if you wish to email the Executive Committee, our email address is

worthingsociety@yahoo.co.uk

**For membership enquiries please contact our Co-opted Membership Secretary
Brenda Whitmell (tel: 01903 905922)**
