



THE WORTHING SOCIETY

President: Anthony Malone

NEWSLETTER SPRING/SUMMER 2019

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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 23 APRIL 2019

Notice is hereby given that the 37th Annual General Meeting of The Worthing Society will take place on Tuesday, 23 April 2019 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 9 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 **Lancing College and its Local History** by Dr.Janet Pennington.

Blue Plaque Rededication and Unveiling at Beach House



**Commemorating Edward VII; Basque Refugee Children;
Edward Knoblock**

MEMBERSHIP

I am very pleased to report that our membership numbers have continued to increase throughout the year. Please invite your friends or neighbours to consider joining the Society if they are interested in Worthing's heritage and concerned about the developments scheduled to take place in Worthing during 2019. The Society is also encouraging 16 to 20 year olds to join as youth members for the reduced annual subscription of £5.00. This is to interest them in the changes taking place in the town and to appreciate our architectural heritage.

One of our most important priorities this year will be to contact local schools and colleges to give our talks about the Worthing Society's work and our historic Blue Plaque Trail. Sixth Form students may be interested in joining the Society and researching projects about the history of the town.

Thank you to all our members for your loyal support.

Brenda Whitmell

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Members,

I am very pleased with the direction The Worthing Society has taken over the last year. The Committee has worked hard to maintain our core values of conserving and preserving our built heritage. We have also been reaching out to all sections of the community promoting the Society's work by giving our group talks which include an online picture gallery. These talks display our conservation work in a more interesting, relevant way which we hope will contribute to increasing our membership. The Committee was also proactive in launching the Campaign to upgrade the South Street Conservation Area in Spring 2018. The Campaign is ongoing with good progress being made with the restoration of several heritage buildings in the Bedford Row area. A Blue Plaque was dedicated in September to Mrs Patricia Baring, founder of the Worthing Civic Society, later to become The Worthing Society. As the plaque states, Mrs Baring was a pioneer conservationist saving many important buildings and remains our inspiration today.

This year is likely to be defined by several large planning developments across the town which will bring about the most significant changes for many years. We are, of course, in favour of regeneration but our priorities will be to ensure that all proposals show good design and will complement, not harm, the town's unique seaside character. Our heritage is an irreplaceable resource which we need to safeguard if we are to prevent the planning mistakes of the past. I am fortunate that I have a Committee who have built up a great deal of technical expertise in analysing and commenting on new schemes likely to affect Worthing's listed buildings and conservation areas.

On a lighter note, our heritage should also be celebrated so another priority for 2019 is to link Worthing's architectural heritage to our fascinating social history. The Blue Plaque Trail is an important way to highlight the intriguing characters that once lived in the town. I am delighted to report that we began this year by the re-dedication of three beautifully restored, historic blue plaques at the landmark Grade II* Listed Beach House. They commemorate the visits of Edward VII; American playwright Edward Knobloch and the Basque children who were evacuated from the Spanish Civil War. The project to restore these plaques was successfully organised by Worthing Borough Council and The Worthing Society.

The Publicity Committee is now well established and is currently working hard on various projects promoting the aims of the Worthing Society. The most significant project is the production of the Lifeboat Information Board to commemorate the heroism of Worthing's early lifeboat crews. I am delighted to tell you that a significant anonymous donation has recently been made to the Society which will allow this important project to go ahead. I should like to express our sincere thanks for this wonderful gesture which ensures the bravery of the lifeboatmen will always be recognised. The design is based on the RNLI flag, inset with historic

photographs of the lifeboat crews. Sincere thanks to our Committee member and Worthing artist Jessica Gill, for an inspired and touching design. We are planning to arrange a dedication at the Splashpoint memorial garden in September this year.

I also welcome the initiative from our webmaster, Barry Richards, to include the 'Members Articles' section for our website. We are keen to hear from our members and already have several interesting articles. These will form an important section of the Worthing Society's Online Archive currently being developed. Keep an eye on the 'Latest News' section for current updates!

The Committee are working hard and I appreciate their enthusiasm, vision and expertise to ensure that we stand up for Worthing's built heritage; our members concerns and continue to stimulate interest in the town's heritage.

As always, my sincere thanks for the unstinting support from our loyal members and 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 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Ted Kennard (Chair), Susan Belton, Natalie Cropper, David Clark and, by invitation, Tony Malone and John Head.

Conservation Areas exist to manage and protect the special architectural and historic interests of a place – in other words the features that make it unique.

There are 26 Conservation Areas in Worthing and 10,000 Conservation Areas in England.

Our work: The sub-committee (also known as LCAS) has had a busy time since its report for the Autumn/Winter Newsletter. We keep a watchful eye on the Worthing Weekly Lists which contain, on average, 25 details of the Planning Submissions applying for approval each week. LCAS meets about every two months and often invites Richard Small, the Design and Conservation Architect for Planning Services, to attend the meetings. Some of the more interesting buildings we have been concerned about are as follows:

The Giant Observation Wheel



This computer generated image of the Wheel to be situated opposite the south end of Montague Place, was created by our member of the Executive Committee, Jessica Gill. We are expecting a formal planning application to be made by the owners of the Wheel, shortly. We understand it will be situated on the shingle close to the promenade. It will overlook the residential properties at the bottom of Montague Place.

The Worthing Society will take a formal view of the project, which is in the South Street Conservation Area, when the application has been validated.

The Swan, 79 High Street, Worthing



The Worthing Society raised a strong objection to the proposed change of name of the Swan to The New Amsterdam, mainly from a heritage and historical point of view but we have just learnt that the change has been approved under delegated powers. We are told by the Case Officer that there are no planning grounds to refuse the application despite the fact that it has been called The Swan for over a century. The photo shows the scaffolding in place to deal with the signage and other refurbishment works. We shall be seeking guidance from English Heritage as we feel that there should be some control over signage where heritage is affected, particularly in Conservation Areas.

Bedford Row

Significant progress has been made to upgrade the heritage buildings in Bedford Row under the South Street campaign. We applaud the work of the Planning Enforcement team in achieving the present appearance of the Row but more work needs to be done including the upgrading of the car parking area opposite. Grade II Listed Bedford Hall having had graffiti removed from its exposed flank wall is now vastly improved and makes a splendid contribution to Bedford Row thanks to Greene King the owners.

Coach Station

Stagecoach owns the former Coach Station which is at the north-east end of Bedford Row and is on the Local List. This unsightly building has been encased in scaffolding for many years and has attracted much criticism from members and the public. Planning Enforcement have now come to an agreement with Stagecoach to have the scaffolding removed and the elevation facing Bedford Row painted in the spring.

Conclusion.

As expected, the last six months have been busy for LCAS members and invitees and there is much in the pipeline of considerable importance to the town. My thanks to all who have assisted me in coping with the work arising mainly from the Worthing Weekly List of planning applications.

Ted Kennard

CHAIRMAN OF LCAS

UPDATE ON CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

Planning matters continue to occupy a great deal of the Committee's time. Regeneration is welcome but we must remain ever vigilant to monitor the effect of these major planning developments on the character of the town. Proposals expected in 2019 include:

STATION SQUARE/TEVILLE GATE: Overdue plans following the consultation are expected shortly. We have commented on design, mixed use and over-dominant height of tower block.

UNION PLACE: Planning application expected this year for a mixed use development plus additional screens for the Connaught Theatre.

BISTROT PIERRE: Plans to build a large restaurant on the beach are awaited, for close scrutiny. This could set a precedent affecting the character of the seafront. There are pros and cons, but the initial design seems over-sized.

IKEA AND MONKS FARM CALL-IN: The Society supported the request by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) for the Minister to 'Call in' and scrutinize the decision by Adur Council to approve a large IKEA Store and housing development on the Shoreham site. These developments could seriously impact on the already congested A27 and harm the setting of the South Downs National Park. At the time of writing, we await the Minister's decision.

THE MONTAGUE QUARTER: If we receive notification that the Sycamore Trees are to be removed by the developer New River Retail, we shall mount a vigil.

LOCAL PLAN: Please see our President's detailed comments on this important document (page 6).

We shall keep in touch with members on these important issues via our Website, Group Email system and comments in the Worthing Journal.

Fasten your seatbelts for a busy 2019! Any concerns, please get in touch.

Susan Belton

CHAIRMAN

A NOTE ON PUBLICITY

We have received a considerable amount of publicity over the past 6 months with several articles in The Herald, Worthing Journal and Argus. These have been focused on 3 main areas: Blue Plaques, The South Street Conservation Area Clean Up Campaign (where the results have very much exceeded our expectations) and, of course, Planning, where Sue Belton's comments, when speaking at WBC Planning Committee meetings, have been widely reported. Sue and I have given our 'Lost and Saved' talk to several groups over the past 6 months including the Rotary Club in Ferring, the lunch club at The Ardington Hotel and the Friends of Homefield Park. Around 500 publicity leaflets have been delivered and, although the resulting number of new members has been small, awareness of The Worthing Society has, hopefully, been improved. We will have lots of opportunities to promote the society during 2019, notably The Lifeboat Memorial Stone Information Board which we hope to unveil in September.

I am also very excited to advise members that we are designing a new 'Town Centre Blue Plaque and Heritage Trail'. This will be based on our existing Blue Plaque trail but focused on plaques, interesting buildings and monuments in and around the town centre. It will be aimed at visitors and residents alike and will be about an hour long. We are hoping to have the leaflet ready for Spring and to promote it through the Tourist Information Office, Hotels and B&B's and other outlets in Worthing.

It is also worth noting that we are working with Worthing Borough Council on a number of projects. Although we may not always agree on planning matters, there are many areas where we are working together for the benefit of Worthing.

David Clark

PUBLICITY OFFICER

President's Notes

The Draft Local Plan 2016 – 2033 for Worthing was published in October 2018. Despite the fact that the plan can only reflect what the Council aspires to, it is still a very important strategic policy document as it sets out targets for the Council to aim to achieve over the next 15 years. It covers a wide range of aspects that will affect the town and its inhabitants including housing numbers and quality of design; growth and regeneration; social issues and environmental issues.

On your behalf, The Worthing Society Committee and I, scrutinised the contents of the Draft Plan and issued a comprehensive response to Worthing Borough Council. Not surprisingly, a major part of our comments sought to protect local 'Heritage Assets'; Listed Buildings and those on The Local List; the protection of our green spaces; regeneration and the location and quality of new developments.

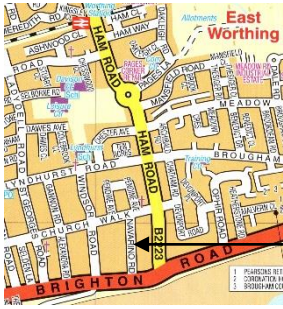
Certain parts of the plan are likely to be of more interest than others, such as the identification of sites allocated for new housing; sites where development is possible but, for various reasons, are less certain and sites that do not currently reach the criteria required for development to take place.

As this plan will affect all of us in one way or another, if you get the opportunity, I urge you to click on the link to the Local Plan on the Council website. It is www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/worthing-local-plan. Copies of the document are, apparently, also available to view at Planning Office Reception in Portland House, Richmond Road.

On a light-hearted note, some of you may have noticed an ever-growing trend to change the names of pubs, often for no obvious reason. My own feeling on this (and quite possibly the locals feel the same?) is that pubs, particularly older ones, are part of the heritage of the area of the town where they are sited. Recent examples of name changes include The Anchor in High Street becoming The Jack Horner, The Stage and, currently, The Corner House; The Swan in High Street has applied to become The New Amsterdam; The Brunswick in Thorn Road becoming The Brunswick and Thorn. There are more.

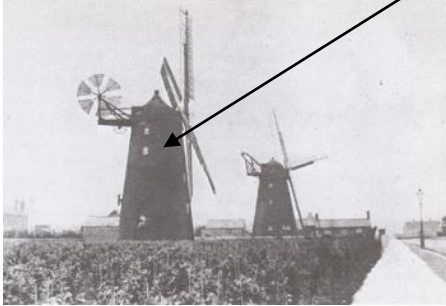
Do any members have a view on this trend? If you do, there are various ways to voice your opinion – if you see a planning application involving a pub change of name you can respond to the Case Officer for that application; you can write to the local press or you can let us know via the 'contact us' facility on our website.

Tony Malone
PRESIDENT



NAVARINO ROAD – What’s in a name?

Between 1808 & 1813 an octagonal red brick tower windmill (known as a Smock mill) was built for Richard Hyde on a site to the west of Ham Road, the Millers cottage still stands in Ham Road.



A second mill was built for local millwright James Shepherd between 1827 & 1831 and was a 5 storeyed tower, a modern design for those times.

In 1850 the mills were purchased by local merchant George Newlands and they passed to his son Robert upon his death in 1863.

In 1887 the mills together with business premises at 37 High Street passed to William Barker who continued to operate the mills until his death in 1896.

The windmills fell into disrepair and were eventually demolished between 1909 & 1911.

The 2nd mill mentioned above was named Navarino Mill, after the battle of Navarino which took place on 20th October 1827. Eventually both mills adopted the name.

The battle was fought during the Greek ‘War of Independence’ between a combined British, French & Russian fleet commanded by Admiral Sir Edward Codrington in which the Turkish and Egyptian fleets were destroyed off the bay of Navarino in Greece.

Admiral Sir Edward Codrington, who also fought at the battle of Trafalgar, was relieved of command in 1828 and lived for some time in Western Road, Brighton and a Brighton Society blue plaque celebrates this.

Once the windmills were demolished, the whole area, which included additional mills and a brickworks, was gradually sold off and the layout we see today was created.

Church walk which connects Ham Road to St. Georges church was built and Navarino Road was constructed on the site of a footpath which gave access to the market gardens that existed around the mills.



Church Walk in 1895



Church Walk today



Navarino Road in 1920



Navarino Road in 1944

Navarino Road first appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1896 and house building commenced at the turn of the century.

David Pateman
Worthing Society Member

References:

Windmills of Sussex by Martin Brunnarius published in 1979 WLS 62145 - The Windmill picture WLS P 004312
History of the County of Sussex Volume 6 part 1 by Bramber Rape pp109-114 published 1980 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>
National Maritime Museum Archive; The Surfleet Historic Worthing Group

THE WORTHING SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2019

- FEB - Tuesday 26th at 7.30pm QUARTERLY MEETING in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Speaker: Alan Kingshott MVO, former Chief Yeoman Warder, on 'HISTORY OF THE TOWER OF LONDON'**
- APR - Tuesday 23rd at 7.00 p.m. A.G.M. in the Worthing Library Theatre followed by lecture at 7.30pm. Speaker: Dr. Janet Pennington on 'LANCING COLLEGE & ITS LOCAL HISTORY'.**
- JUN - Sunday 16th from 3:00-4:30pm a Midsummer afternoon 'STRAWBERRIES & CREAM TEA' in the Ayrton Suite at Beach House Ticket: £5.00**
- SEP - Tuesday 24th at 7:30pm. QUARTERLY MEETING in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Speaker: Roger Amerena on 'COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES IN THE CITY OF BRIGHTON & HOVE 1923– 2019'.**
- OCT - Thursday 17th - 12.45 – 4.45. TOUR OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL, Horsham with Afternoon Tea (Car Share) Ticket: £25.00**
- NOV - Tuesday 26th at 7:30pm. QUARTERLY MEETING in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Speaker : James Sainsbury, Archaeologist, Worthing Museum on 'SAXON WORTHING & THE KINGDOM OF THE SOUTH SAXONS'.**

Tickets for the Strawberries & Cream Tea on Sunday, June 16th and the Tour of Christ's Hospital School on Thursday, October 17th, can be purchased at the A.G.M. on Tuesday 23rd April or, alternatively, please send a separate cheque for each event, made payable to 'The Worthing Society' enclosing an 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 Membership Secretary
Brenda Whitmell (tel: 01903 905922)