THE WORTHING SOCIETY

President : *To be appointed*

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN / WINTER 2016

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Listing & Conservation Areas: (LCAS):

Ted Kennard	Natalie Cropper
Sue Belton	David Clark
Tony Malone	

Publicity:

Tony Malone	Jessica Gill
Barry Richards	David Clark

NEWSLETTER COMPILER:
Sandra Malone

A picture of the proposed Aquarena site development

MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We are pleased to welcome many new members to our Society and look forward to meeting you at one of our talks. The details of these are in the enclosed newsletter. The talks are free for members and only £3 for visitors.

Thank you for those of you who have already renewed your membership and we thank you for your continued support. Please find enclosed reminders for those who have yet to renew. You can either send to me or hopefully bring it along to our next very interesting talk by Jane Dore on "Edwardian Durrington and Salvington "on September 27th. For our new members who may not be aware, the Worthing Lecture Theatre is accessed down the front slope of the library.

We must again thank those members who have been so generous in giving us a donation. Mr & Mrs Dawes, Mrs P Field, Ms Sullivan & Mr Gorman, Mr & Mrs Harrison, Mr & Mrs Musgrove and Miss E Sadler. Thank you so much, the Society really appreciates your generosity.

We have not, as yet, received any new members via the "membership forms" that were enclosed with Aprils Newsletter. If you still have this could you please see if you can pass it on to someone who shares our views on protecting the best of Worthing.

As always, thank you all for your support and we look forward to seeing many of you at the talk.

Susan Miller

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are dedicating this issue of the Worthing Society Newsletter to the memory of David Sumner and Geoffrey Godden who both sadly passed away in May this year.

David was our Chairman for eleven years. He was well known in the town and much respected for his long devotion to conservation work. David held strong principles but was always a gentleman. Geoffrey was a founder member and a loyal Committee's supporter of the Society. During the short time he was our President he took a keen interest in the work of the Committee and continued to give interesting lectures at our quarterly meetings. I would like to thank everyone for their kind condolences.

The families, I know, were very touched. Both David and Geoffrey will be deeply missed. The Committee considers that it would be a fitting tribute to have a memorial in the town and we have commissioned a memorial window to be produced and included in the Glass Window Gallery Project on Worthing Pier being organised by Paul Holden from the Worthing Journal. The window will be entitled 'Guardians of Our Heritage' and will feature impressionist portraits of David and Geoffrey together with Robert Elleray, our former long-standing President and Patricia Baring, the founder of The Worthing Society. We have attached a separate flyer to this Newsletter giving members a choice of two excellent designs. One design shows the portraits with a background illustrating the landmark buildings the Society has saved and the other design shows a setting with a 'Mount Rushmore' theme and beach scene. Please note that these are preliminary sketches and each design, in more detail and actual size, will be on display in the foyer at our 27 September 2016 meeting. All members are invited to choose an option for the Memorial Window and where there is a Joint Membership, each person has an individual vote. Please return to the address indicated on slip by 8 November 2016.

I have now been elected as the new Chairman and I want to assure everyone of my total commitment to the work and aims of the Society. The last few months have been a difficult time but we are aiming to build on David's legacy in conservation work, taking forward his wish to increase our membership and in turn our presence in the town. David was keen for Committee members to go out into the wider local community. Our 'Summer Membership Drive' reflected his plans and has been going well. I am grateful to our committee member, Jessica Gill, who is a most talented artist, for designing two 'pop up banners' for the team to show at displays and lectures. The banners have updated the way in which we present our 'heritage message' to all sections of the community. These colourful banners will be on show for the members meeting on 27 September.

We had a stall at the Goring Road Market and also held a display near Beach House, on beach parade. The new banner was very attractive and we received considerable interest at both venues. I extend a personal welcome to all our new members who joined us at these and other events.

We continue to develop our popular Blue Plaque Heritage Trail linking architectural and social heritage, highlighting Worthing's interesting historical characters. During the Autumn I also intend to give a series of talks about the Society to like-minded groups. My colleague, David Clark, is working hard on a power point presentation - thank you David. If you belong to a group which would enjoy a talk about our work, please do get in touch via our email worthingsociety@yahoo.co.uk, or contact our membership Secretary, Susan Miller on 01903 219884.

Publicity of the Society and its aims has always been challenging and we feel this is the time to explore new social media 'tools' and online petitions. Our Vice-Chairman, Tony Malone, is heading a new Publicity Sub-Committee devoted to this area and his report is attached.

PLANNING : Planning matters continue to occupy a great deal of the Committee's time. We must remain ever-vigilant to protect Worthing's heritage and monitor major planning developments.

LOCAL PLAN : This is a significant policy document being prepared by Worthing Borough Council. It will address all aspects of planning, setting out the local planning policy for Worthing over the next thirty years. David Sawers, Ted Kennard and myself attended a meeting with Ian Moody, Chief Planning Officer, to present our written comments. These emphasised the importance of preserving Worthing's heritage, which could benefit the economy; the need for new design to complement the historic environment and the clear need to maintain the open green spaces to the east and west of the town.

The next stage of the Consultation will be Spring 2017.

LCAS: The Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Sub-committee (LCAS), ably chaired by Ted Kennard, monitors new planning applications affecting Listed Buildings, buildings on the Local Interest List and Conservation Areas. The Sub-Committee are a dedicated group and have my thanks for their detailed, often challenging, technical work which underpins our conservation efforts. LCAS maintains a vital link with Historic England which helps greatly with our casework.

There have been some positive results to our campaigns but also some disappointments. The following planning issues illustrate the range of our 'workload':

Montague Centre and Montague Place: please see the adjoining LCAS report.

West Parade/4 Grand Avenue: - a very positive result. The Government Inspector rejected the appeal by Roffey Homes to build a dominant eleven storey block on the site. The Inquiry focused on objections to the building's design and impact on neighbouring residents. David Sawers prepared our objection and spoke at the enquiry. David Clark spoke on behalf of the successful Protect Worthing Seafront Campaign. Our thanks to both.

Goring Gap, north side of Marine Drive: - another positive result. Plans to allow a caravan park with amenity buildings to 'encroach' on part of the southern area of Goring Gap were rejected. The Society registered a strong objection, well prepared by David Sawers.

Teville Gate: - still derelict and awaiting another planning application. No immediate resolution in sight.

Union Place: - an initial draft scheme for the site will include high quality apartments, multiplex cinema and family restaurants. Early stages - no firm plans as yet.

These are challenging times for the future of Worthing, particularly in the current economic climate. The continued support and interest of our members has never been more important.

With my personal thanks to you all,

Susan Belton

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS – UPDATE ON CURRENT ISSUES

There are several important current issues requiring our urgent attention:

Aquarena:

The re-design for the Aquarena site shown at the recent public consultation still includes a 15 storey tower block! The height, size and mass of the associated buildings would still represent an overdevelopment of this sensitive site, adversely affecting the setting of the neighbouring heritage assets and wider coastal scene. We remain of the firm opinion that the beach side location is not the right position for a tower. The re-design has not, in our view, adequately addressed the reasons for the refusal of the original plans, so should also be refused. David Sawers, whose guidance on technical matters is invaluable, is writing to Roffey Homes to give our feedback on this basis. The revised planning application is expected in late September. Keep an eye on our excellent website maintained by Barry Richards for further updates and details of future petitions.

Goring Gap - Defending our Green Spaces - a Top Priority:

Persimmon Homes may be considering an application to build 475 new homes on land at Chatsmore Farm, part of Goring Gap. We confirmed to Worthing Borough Council, that we consider an initial Environmental Impact Assessment should be carried out in view of the potential loss of this important open space. This area sits south of the South Downs National Park and Highdown Conservation Area. Defence of our cherished, open green spaces to the east and west of the town will, in my view, become one of our most important future challenges. I shall liaise with the Ilex Group and others to discuss a co-ordinated approach. The Society is fully supportive of the Ilex Group's application to have the area officially designated as open space.

Election of New President:

Following the sad death of Geoffrey Godden, the Committee has decided to elect our new President at the November meeting to ensure continuity at this difficult time. The November meeting will need to be converted to a General Meeting enabling the election to take place and authority to do this will be sought from members when we meet in September. The Candidates are:

Rob Blann: A local historian and author who has researched and published several books on Worthing's history including the moving 'Lifeboat History of Worthing'. A supportive member of the Society and committee, Rob runs a well-known local tree surgery business.

Charles James: A long-standing member of the Society and former Mayor of Worthing in 2012 who, when in office, was very supportive of our Blue Plaque Trail, endorsing both the Blue Plaque dedication at St. Pauls and the plaque in memory of the comedienne, Gladys Morgan. Charles is interested in both architectural and social history.

Tony Malone: Our dedicated Vice-Chairman and new Chair of the Publicity Committee. Tony has had a distinguished career both as a civil servant and with a multi-national company. He is a skilled local history researcher, a great communicator and is very knowledgeable in all aspects of the Society's work. He often acts in the role of 'consultant' to the Committee.

In the case of joint membership, the Voting Form for the Election of the President will contain a section for both partners to be able to register a vote for the candidate of their choice. Voting Forms to be returned by 8 November 2016. I thank the candidates for their interest and willingness to stand.

EVENTS

The 'Strawberry Tea' was held at Beach House and very well attended on a lovely summer's day. Thanks to Mascha for her hard work.

The April lecture by Bill Gage : Cecil Pashley and 'Shoreham - the Story of a Pioneer Aviator' was most enjoyable. Please see the last page for details of our forthcoming lectures.

AN APPRECIATION

I am personally indebted to the unflagging support and expertise offered to me by all the members of the Executive Committee in every aspect of our work during the last few months. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by all has been outstanding. We have a busy time ahead but I am confident I have a Committee fully capable of meeting the challenge!

A personal note of thanks to Sandra Malone for her support and patience in producing the Newsletter and to Tony Malone for his valuable guidance.

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, Tony Malone. We welcomed back Tony Malone and wished him a continued recovery from his illness.

LCAS. We have adopted this rather graceless acronym as it saves typing.

Our objectives: To preserve the heritage of our built environment particularly in the Conservation Areas and to critically examine all development proposals to seek out infringements of current planning law and to comment on design.

Inauguration It is worth recording that **LCAS** was inaugurated over six years ago and since then has worked continuously and tirelessly to act as a watchdog for anything affecting the preservation of Worthing's Listed Buildings, Local Interest Buildings and Conservation Areas.

Richard Small, Design and Conservation Architect WBC: LCAS held three meetings with Richard Small on 24th March, 16th May and 27th June. These meetings have been beneficial to us and RS has confirmed that these regular meetings were useful to him. Topics discussed included Montague Centre, the Regeneration of the axis of Montague Street and Montague Place, our Heritage At Risk Register, use of Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, our Freedom of Information request in regard to the redevelopment of the Aquarena, *et cetera*.

CURRENT ISSUES

Bedford Row. The fabric of this Listed terrace of early Regency town houses continues to decline and will be the subject of further pressure by us on the WBC to use Section 215 as has been done so successfully in other cities. This law gives power to planning authorities under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to take steps requiring land (including buildings) to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area. There are other similar powers available to the WBC which we will be investigating.

15 Bedford Row.

Plans for the redevelopment of this two storey property have been rejected by the WBC planners. We objected to the planning application.

7 Bedford Row. At present unlisted but in view of its position between 3 to 6 and 8 to 14 Bedford Row which are all listed, it seems a good candidate for a listing, which we will investigate.

10 Bedford Row. This building is extremely dilapidated and will be placed on our Buildings at Risk Register. Section 215 action would be appropriate, if we can persuade the WBC to use it.

The Montague Centre: We believe that the majority of the members of our Society do not want the mature Sycamore trees in the Centre to be felled to make way for a 'kiosk' restaurant. It is understood that Patisserie Valerie wishes to occupy the kiosk. These much-loved trees are probably near the maximum height of 80 feet and will probably last for at least another 50 years. The Sycamore is botanically known as the Great Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

The approval of the proposed 'change of use' from shops to restaurants, the Centre was promoted by the WBC planners. It was envisaged that the restaurants, which would occupy the vacant spaces, would form a hub of well-known restaurants which would attract the public during the day as well as at night time. We shall see … but the current economic climate may deter NewRiver, the developers, from further investment in the Centre. There is a Patisserie Valerie in Chichester and Brighton and they have many more branches in the UK.

Regeneration of the axis of Montague Street and Montague Place. This work is now nearing completion and is attracting a number of complaints in regard to the brutalist designs of the various features and the quality of the paving bricks. We shall be

expressing our views on the designs to those we hold accountable in due course. In regard to the German red paving bricks, we are told, by the project manager, that they will be scrubbed and treated with a patent liquid which will harden the surface of the bricks and the jointing mortar. It is not known how long this treatment will last but it will obviously wear off in time.

Lifeboat Memorial Stone: We are in contact with the responsible officer in the WBC who is investigating the employment of a stone mason to carry out repairs to the stone. It will be seen from the photo that the site is badly overgrown and WBC will be asked to spruce up the site and possibly fence it. A plaque fixed to the top surface of the stone may be a way of resolving the problem.

The Gospel Hall. In 2009 we tried to get the Hall listed but this was refused by English Heritage which, at the time, did acknowledge that the building is of significant local importance. It is now on the List of Local Interest Buildings. Recent repairs and boarding up have made the structure wind and water-tight and the site has been cleared of debris. It is believed that the site has been sold recently but the buyer's intentions are unknown.

The Lifeboat House: We have tried to persuade the WBC to use its powers under Section 215 of the Town and Country Act 1990 to get this building made at least wind and weather-tight but no progress so far; we have not given up yet. This building is part of our heritage.

Pat Baring's Listed Lamp post: The lamp post has now been repaired by the WBC after pressure from Historic England. It took a long time but we got there in the end.

The Ship Inn: It is proving very difficult to get the owners to repair the wooden galleon façade but we have not given up.

Heritage At Risk List: We are looking at a number of buildings which may qualify as "At Risk". These will be considered by Richard Small in due course and added to the list if he agrees with our assessment.

Local Interest List: We are actively identifying further buildings of importance to local architectural and social history - the Corner House in Lyndhurst Road which was featured in our last Newsletter is a good example of this.

Vetting Planning Proposals: We are taking a more focused view of proposals as they appear on the Planning Weekly Lists. The *ad hoc* approach to vetting was found to be unsatisfactory and our new approach is working but there are a few glitches still to be dealt with.

In Conclusion: It has been a busy six months since the last Newsletter and, despite the current financial climate, it looks as if the next six months will be the same if not busier! My grateful thanks to members of my sub-committee for their dedication to the cause.

Ted Kennard

CHAIRMAN OF LCAS

PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

We have long struggled to find the best way to make publicity work for our Society in membership drives; alerting the membership to forthcoming Society events; alerting members or the general public to campaigns etc. It has always been an uphill struggle. But there is light at the end of the tunnel!

In response to these challenges our Executive Committee recognised the need to update ourselves and consider and utilise as appropriate the many forms of publicity that exist in today's world. To address this we formed a Publicity Sub Committee headed by Tony Malone. The first session used 'brain storming' techniques to identify publicity aims; functions; when it may be needed and the many tools available. The output from that session helped clarify our goals and gave us a steer as to how to prioritise our investigations.

That preliminary 'brain storming' session helped us decide that, as a first step, we should utilise Facebook and then set up our own dedicated Worthing Society Facebook page in order to

instantly reach a wide audience. We have enlisted the assistance of an acquaintance, who has set up a similar Facebook page for an organisation. He will give the Publicity Sub-Committee members a tutorial on how to set up such a Facebook account on 7th October.

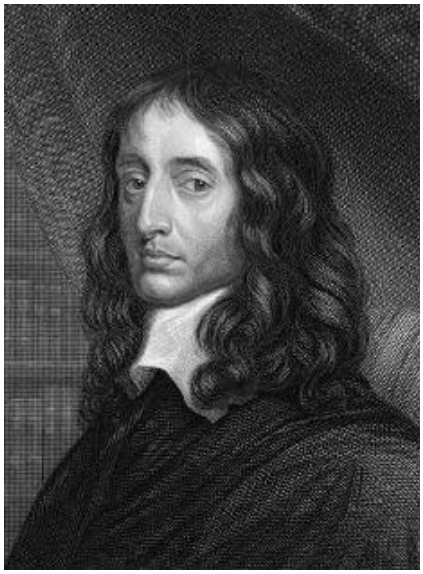
Also resulting from that preliminary session, we came up with an extensive list of publicity tools to investigate. As a priority we decided to concentrate first on group emails (for members who use email); online petitions; press/local radio releases & interviews; presentations to local groups – e.g. local WI branches & schools/colleges etc and how to maximise the more traditional publicity tools (posters, flyers etc).

All the existing publicity functions that the Worthing Society Officers and Executive Committee members currently undertake will, in future, come under the wing of the Publicity Sub Committee.

Watch this space!

Tony Malone
CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLICITY SUB COMMITTEE

John Selden 1584-1654



Worthing's most famous yet to be celebrated son.

John Selden was a brilliant lawyer, author, politician, legal analyst, and historian in seventeenth-century England.

Selden was born in Worthing in 1584.

He wrote the masterpiece *History of Tithes,* a research on the history of English Law published in 1618, by far his most influential work. Selden argued that the clergy had a legal, but not a divine, right to tithes, or 10 percent of a person's income. Selden also claimed that tithes were not ordained by God's law. This conclusion was controversial because it implicitly denied the divine right of kings, or the notion that monarchs were descended from rulers appointed by God, for it implied a separation of state law and divine law.

Three years after the publication of *Tithes,* Selden became embroiled in another controversy when he helped Parliament draft the House of Commons Protestation of Rights in 1621, a complaint to the Crown about the rights and privileges of the House of Commons. King James I imprisoned Selden in the Tower of London for five weeks for what he deemed treasonous statements.

In 1623 Selden was elected to the House of Commons. He promptly earned a reputation for candor and conviction in his support of religious and civil freedoms. He also became known for his opposition to the taxation of cargo by its weight. Selden was so persuasive that the House of Commons passed a resolution prohibiting the tax. The resolution did not win the approval of King Charles I, and Selden was sent to the Tower of London for another brief stay.

In 1628, John Selden was highly instrumental in the creation of The Petition of Rights along with Sir Edward Coke. Domestically, the Petition is seen as "one of England's most famous constitutional documents", of equal value to the *Magna Carta* and Bill of Rights 1689. The petition demanded:

1. that no freeman should be forced to pay any tax, loan, or benevolence, unless in accordance with an act of parliament;
2. that no freeman should be imprisoned contrary to the laws of the land;
3. that soldiers and sailors should not be billeted on private persons;
4. commissions to punish soldiers and sailors by martial law should be abolished.

In a period in which Charles's main protection from the Commons was the House of Lords, the willingness of both Chambers to work together marked a new stage in the constitutional crisis that would eventually lead to the English Civil War. The Petition remains in force in the United Kingdom and, thanks to Imperial legislation, many parts of the Commonwealth of Nations including Australia and New Zealand. Internationally, it helped influence the Massachusetts Body of Liberties, and is seen as a predecessor to the Third, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

In 1640 Selden became a member of the Long Parliament, a special parliament created in that year by Charles I, who had governed without a parliament for 11 years. Ironically, Selden spent his later years keeping the rolls and records for the Tower of London.

Selden died in London on November 30, 1654.

Selden's Cottage, in Durrington, was damaged by fire in 1963 and was demolished to be replaced by a bungalow.

References:
Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. http://www.hadesign.co.uk/worthing_history/history_pages/html/Selden.html
http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/John+Selden

Jessica Gill

YOU WILL not want to miss this interesting talk.....

We hope that many of you will be able to attend our talk on September 27th by Jane Dore based on her recent book 'Edwardian Durrington & Salvington'

Included in this book is an interesting family who lived in Hill Cottage, Salvington Hill…now called Mill Lane Mews, Mill Lane. The 1901 Census records that a family headed by Thomas Brace lodged there. It was first mentioned in the Daily Mail, then followed up by the Worthing Gazette, that Thomas had a very rare condition called "dextrocardia", which meant that his heart was on the right side of his chest instead of the normal left.

The second mention is of one of the daughters, Alice who, at the age of 13, tried to drown herself in the sea. She was found opposite the Half Brick, with her clothes being "wet at the bottom". Apparently, Alice had been influenced by a newspaper article about the inquest and funeral of another young girl who had drowned the previous week. As, in those days, attempted suicide was a criminal offence, poor Alice appeared in Court. Luckily for her she received some sympathy from the Magistrate and was dismissed on the understanding that she would move away to the care of relatives.

We worry about the influences on our young people in today's modern world, but obviously these have always been there in some form or other.

There are more interesting facts about the area, to hear about on the night, so do come along.

This book is only £7 and is available from the Library. It has been very popular but, hopefully, if there are any left, some will still be available to purchase on the evening of our talk if you wish to purchase one.

Susan Miller

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 27th September at 7:30pm - **QUARTERLY MEETING** in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre

Speaker : Jane Dore on 'Edwardian Durrington and Salvington'

Tuesday 22nd November at 7:30pm - **QUARTERLY (now GENERAL) MEETING** in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre.

Speaker : Tom Dommett on 'Recent Excavations at Petworth House'

At this meeting mince pies and mulled fruit punch or coffee will be served. **Cost £1.00 per person**. Also, a pre-Christmas raffle will take place. Donations of raffle prizes will be very much appreciated on the night.

Tuesday 28th February 2017 at 7:30pm - **QUARTERLY MEETING** in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre.

Speaker: Mark Perry Nash on 'Life in Dickens' England'

Please remember that prior to quarterly meetings Committee Members will be available from 7pm 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

Mrs. Susan Miller on 01903 219884

ATTACHMENTS: **Separate voting sheet for election of new President.**
Separate voting sheet for selection of memorial window.