



THE WORTHING SOCIETY

President: Anthony Malone

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN / WINTER 2017

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN:

Susan Belton
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VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Ted Kennard
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HON.SECRETARY:

Gill Tucker

**HON.TREASURER &
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HON.MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Position currently vacant

PUBLICITY OFFICER:

David Clark
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WEBMASTER:

Barry Richards

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Listing & Conservation Areas:

(LCAS):

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

Publicity:

David Clark	Jessica Gill
Barry Richards	

NEWSLETTER COMPILER:

Sandra Malone

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dear Members

As Chairman, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing interest and support. In particular please accept my grateful appreciation to the many members who have so generously donated to the Society. These donations really support the Committee in our conservation work and representing our member's interests in the town's future development.

I also have to let you know that our former Membership Secretary, Susan Miller, has decided to resign, for personal reasons. I would like to thank Susan, both personally and on behalf of the Committee and members, for the significant contribution she has made to the Worthing Society over many years. Susan gave a great deal of care and attention to our membership and I know many of you will miss her. We all wish Susan well for the future.

Our Treasurer and Social Secretary has stepped in to help, so please address any membership queries or renewals to: Mrs Mascha Richards, 2 Beach House Brighton Road BN11 (tel: 01903 214519).

On a lighter note, it was good to see and meet so many members at the Strawberry Cream Tea in June, held in the lovely surroundings of Beach House. A most enjoyable afternoon and, as always, my thanks to Mascha and Barry for their hospitality. During this, our 35th Anniversary Year, we hope to increase our membership and always welcome new members of all ages. We now have our new database firmly set up and for members who have computer access we are able to update you with news of our campaigns very quickly.

Our website also gives current news updates and information about our Blue Plaque Trail. If you do not have a computer at home you can look into joining the 'Computer Age' project at the Library which has free access for its members.

Both I and the Committee look forward to welcoming you at our next Quarterly Meeting and anniversary celebration at 7.30pm,(doors open 7pm) on Tuesday 26 September at the Library Lecture theatre, to be attended by the Mayor,

Councillor Alex Harman and the Mayoress, and a Trustee of the Community Chest who will present a cheque to the Worthing Society. The Speakers will be Jessica Gill on 'Sculptural Lighting' and Naomi Frances on 'Stained and Fused Glass' – two of our local artists and not to be missed!

With my thanks as always to our valued members.

Sue Belton

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S GENERAL REPORT

CELEBRATING THIRTY FIVE YEARS

This edition of our Newsletter celebrates the 35th Anniversary of The Worthing Society. I feel this is a considerable achievement for the charity and due in no small part to vital support of our members.

The Worthing Society, originally the Worthing Civic Society (founded 1973), was formed in 1982. Our future aims remain true to the original principles: to conserve and preserve Worthing's unique architectural heritage for this and future generations.

I also want to acknowledge the achievements of our late colleagues who contributed so much in different ways to developing the Worthing Society. They are: Mrs Pat Baring, best remembered for saving Beach House and whose vision established the conservation movement in Worthing, Robert Elleray, our late President whose reference books are still used by the Committee today; Geoffrey Godden, a long standing member and supportive President and, of course, David Sumner who was our dedicated Chairman for eleven years. The memorial window in the Picture Gallery on Worthing Pier is a fitting tribute and was made possible by the contributions from so many of our members. Earlier campaigns show the importance of our role if we are to prevent the planning mistakes of the past. During the 1960's up to the 1980's many important buildings such as The Old Town Hall were lost. We successfully retained the Desert Quartet for the town, and saved the Dome Cinema to name but a few. More recently we have supported residents in the Aquarena and Grand Avenue/West Parade planning applications.

The Committee is keen to build on the legacy of our late colleagues by increasing our membership and thereby our presence in the town. To achieve this, we plan to give talks to local clubs and to colleges to attract younger members. Our regular column in the Worthing Journal aims to reach the wider community and, in addition to our website, we have a Facebook page set up by our Publicity Committee!

The Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Sub-Committee (LCAS) has developed a high level of expertise and continues to safeguard our heritage by monitoring new planning applications and maintaining the Society's 'Heritage At Risk Register'.

There will be many challenges ahead but I know we have a skilled Committee. The town centre is at a crossroads with large sites overdue for development. Our Society is keen to see regeneration but wants to ensure new design and planning is sensitive to Worthing's heritage. Our Historic Adviser at English Heritage commented, "The challenge now is how we manage change in the historic environment" - I feel this is a good guideline for the future.

On a lighter note, our Heritage should be enjoyed! (See Publicity Officer's report on our Blue Plaque Trail).

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 (our President) by invitation.

CURRENT ISSUES

1 and 2 Ambrose Place - Objected to planning application to physically separate this Listed Building in the Conservation Area in order to make into two. Unauthorised interior work has already been started and will have to be reinstated. The extent of the work could already have adversely affected No.3 and St Paul's.

Local Interest List - Richard Small (Conservation Officer, WBC) has implemented our five additions, namely 24 Park Road; 30-34 Crescent Road; The Corner House, High street; 15 Bedford Row and 7 Bedford Row. Sue Belton is working on two further candidates - 27-31 Selden Road ('Dartmoors') and the Smugglers Pub, Ham Road.

'Courtlands' - (See Chairman's Report).

Gospel Hall - Sadly, this little gem has been allowed to deteriorate further despite our efforts. Sue Belton has submitted a request for a Section 215 Notice, as rubbish is now being dumped at the front of the building – a ghastly sight in this corner of the Conservation Area and also a considerable fire risk.

Grafton Road car park 'paintwork' - In answer to our request to WBC to serve an Article 4 Direction, they advised that this not appropriate as 'paintwork' temporary. We will respond to ensure that, in future, a Direction can be applied to inappropriate seafront coloured paintwork. A precedent was set when WBC did this following the 'pink Lifeboat House debacle'.

22 Lyndhurst Road (ex- Nurses' Home) consultation - (NB - a Roffey Homes development). After site visits and also being approached by, and receiving strong comments from local residents, we have drafted a comprehensive letter of observations and suggestions. TPO applied for re Caucasian Lime tree on site. Committee member David Sawyer's invaluable knowledge and site visit has greatly assisted the formulation of our response.

Sussex Clinic, 44-48 Shelley Road - We .have lodged an objection letter, based mainly on the grounds that the proposed materials and design for the building would not be in keeping with adjacent & nearby buildings.

The Hollies, Little High Street - This pre-1815 yellow brick Grade II listed building has had scaffolding around it for some months. This is another of our town's 'hidden gems'. We asked Richard Small to investigate. We await his response.

Montague Street Enhancement Project and the 'Precinct' Proposal for Montague Place - Response awaited from Louise Goldsmith (CEO WSCC). We want a focal point and general enhancement plus confirmation of if/when proposal to turn the area into a precinct will be addressed. This drags on!

Montague Centre - Campaign plans in place in case application lodged to remove trees and close the road. Sue Belton has written to New River Retail. They replied 'We are not changing our mind'. **Note:** some cleaning has taken place.

Campaign to rejuvenate Bedford Row - Deferred - Heavy workload and temporary manpower shortage means we are focusing on core work only.

Marine Place - Unsightly dustbins etc. Sue Belton to contact Martin Randall (WBC, Dir. of Economy) and James Appleton to follow this up when time permits.

Tony Malone

On behalf of CHAIRMAN OF LCAS

PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

It has been a busy few months for the Publicity Sub-Committee. An updated logo has been designed. We have added the Farncombe Road Lamppost, made famous by our founder Pat Baring, changed the colour to blue to match our 'Blue Plaques' and added the name 'The Worthing Society'. My thanks to Jessica Gill who managed to take our ideas and come up with something that works so well. Barry Richards, Tony Brook from the Worthing History Forum and I met with Judy Fox who heads up Visitor Attractions at WBC to promote the idea of a town centre trail of heritage plaques. This would include notable buildings and people where plaques are in place. It is early days but we hope to make progress with this over the next 12 months. In the meantime some of the blue plaques look rather tired and we are looking at how we can best renovate these.



Our new logo

We welcomed the grant from the Community Chest for an iPad, projector and screen which will doubtless assist us in our work.

David Clark

Publicity Officer

THE A27 CONUNDRUM

How to reduce the delays for users of the A27 in Worthing is a problem that remains unsolved after more than 40 years of trying. The latest attempt has been criticised by our MPs and Council leaders, who want something bigger and better, but the constraints on changes to the A27 make bigger improvements expensive in money and social costs.

Geography means that a Worthing bypass would have to run through the South Downs, and the environmental damage that such a road would create would be unacceptable. Putting a bypass in a tunnel under the Downs is estimated to cost £1,400 million, and is therefore unaffordable. Using existing roads like the A283, A24 and A280 as a bypass adds too much to the distance of a journey to attract road users. The only practical solution is, therefore, to improve the existing road.

The scope for improvement is constrained by its character as a residential road. Expansion to a dual carriageway would entail demolishing possibly hundreds of houses; building underpasses, with their associated slip roads, would also require the loss of homes. Benefits to road users have to be set against such losses to local residents.

The needs of residents have to be respected in whatever scheme is adopted. The present proposals do so, by providing more light-controlled crossings and limiting the amount of land taken. Our political leaders have not specified how much more road they want, but they are implicitly putting the interests of road users above those of residents and, by asking for more than the government wants to spend, they risk ending up with nothing.

David Sawers

Committee Member

COURTLANDS - A HIDDEN GEM

I hope members will be interested to learn about a stunning mansion house hidden behind a lovely residential part of Goring! Turning into a driveway signed 'Bond International' from Parklands Avenue you will see the impressive facade of this grand Grade II Listed Building set within spacious grounds with attractive gardens sweeping down to a lake. A fine example of a large country house in a setting suitable for an estate.

The original house, a Regency villa, was built circa 1820 by the Ollivers, an important local Banking family with a memorial in Goring Church.



In the early 20th century Paul Schweder, an ex-Army Officer, purchased the estate. He almost completely rebuilt the house by purchasing materials from Lebanon House, Twickenham, following a fire, and added the 'Gold Room' probably from a building next to the Ritz Hotel in Paris. There are various re-used architectural Adam- style features, including a glass dome. In the grounds, both the sundial and gazebo are listed in their own right.

The house became a hospital between 1950 and 1960 but, more recently, has been occupied by tenants Bond International who will vacate the building in October following its recent sale. There are indications that the new owners may consider dividing the property into apartments. Our Sub-Committee will be monitoring the situation to ensure the features and integrity of this unique building are preserved.

Courtlands displays a touch of Edwardian elegance and grandeur from a bygone age. The house is a wonderful addition to Worthing's 'Heritage Map'. I hope this article is of interest and stimulates further research into this hidden gem.

Sue Belton

President's Notes

It seems logical to make best use of my brief contribution to the Newsletter by giving you an overview of our Society's current position whilst not repeating what other contributors have submitted. Not always easy!

Looking back, I can say that I am very pleased that we took positive steps to clarify roles and responsibilities within the Committee. I believe that it can only be a positive move to define what is expected of people as opposed to handing out tasks ad hoc. The most important thing that we did initially was to create two sub-committees – Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Sub-Committee (LCAS) and Publicity Sub-Committee. They have both already proved their worth.

On a personal note I would like to say how pleased I am as President to fulfil the role of adviser/consultant to the Chairman and to be invited to attend the LCAS meetings at the invitation of its Chairman (Ted Kennard). My thanks to Ted for issuing such an invitation to every LCAS meeting since then! My very regular contact with our Chairman, Sue Belton has, I hope, been of benefit to Sue – acting as a 'sounding-board' as well as adviser - and certainly of benefit to me in order to keep a 'finger on the pulse' regarding current Society issues.

As always, I feel duty bound to mention that if you feel that you, or any of your friends or family, would like to be active in helping the Society in any of its many roles, please contact our Chairman by telephone or email. – Contact details are in this newsletter and on the website.

Tony Malone

AN APPRECIATION

I would like to express my thanks for the unstinting support of the Committee over a difficult period and to our President, Tony Malone, for offering his guidance and experience. Many thanks also to Sandra Malone for her hard work, patience and expertise in compiling our Newsletters - much appreciated.

Sue Belton

Chairman

Post Note: We apologise that we have had to severely edit some reports as the Newsletter is currently limited to a maximum of 6 pages.

Tony Malone

President

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 26th September at 7:30pm - A SPECIAL 35th ANNIVERSARY QUARTERLY MEETING in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Doors open at 7pm.
Speakers: Jessica Gill on “Sculptural Lighting” and Naomi Frances on “Stained & Fused Glass” – Two of our local artists – not to be missed!

Tuesday 28th November at 7:30pm - QUARTERLY MEETING in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre.
Speaker: Martin Hayes, WSCC Local Studies Librarian on “William Penn and West Sussex”.

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

Wednesday 6th December – A COACH OUTING to the Royal Albert Hall for John Rutter’s CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra – Ticket £40.00

Tuesday 27th February 2018 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”.

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 Treasurer
Mrs Mascha Richards on 01903 214519

