THE WORTHING SOCIETY

President: Anthony Malone

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN/WINTER 2018

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Sue Belton, David Clark
Tony Malone - by invitation
John Head - by invitation

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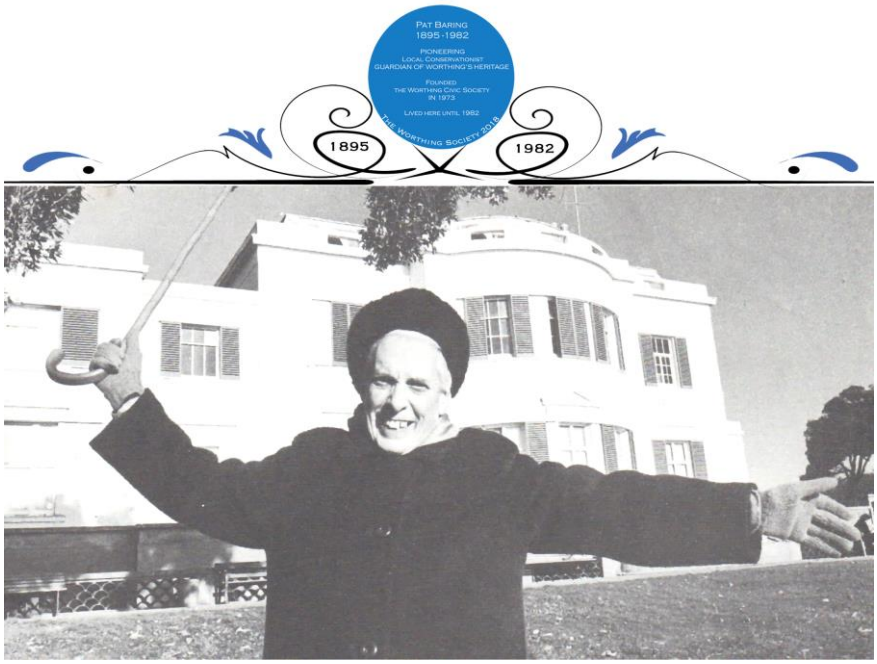
David Clark, Jessica Gill
Barry Richards
Tony Malone - by invitation

NEWSLETTER COMPILER:
Sandra Malone

A SPECIAL SOUVENIR EDITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE BLUE PLAQUE DEDICATION IN HONOUR OF PAT BARING, INSPIRATION FOR THE WORTHING SOCIETY



PAT BARING 1895 – 1982 PIONEERING CONSERVATIONIST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Worthing Society Committee is dedicating this Newsletter to the memory and achievements of Worthing's pioneering conservationist Pat Baring who, in 1973, founded The Worthing Civic Society. This was in response to some of the disastrous planning decisions taken in the drive to modernise Worthing during the 1960's and 70's. Known as the 'battle axe', her indomitable spirit overcame planners and councillors alike. As some of you may know she fought a determined campaign to save the majestic Grade ll* Listed Beach House and was involved in preserving Bedford Row and parts of Marine Parade. Age was no barrier and she remained passionate about the traditional seaside character of Worthing.

Continued…../

LAMP-POST AT JUNCTION OF FARNCOMBE ROAD AND CHURCH WALK, WORTHING

SAVED BY PAT BARING'S COURAGE AND DETERMINATION

Most famously, Pat Baring is remembered for saving the elegant Victorian lamp standard in the Farncombe Road Conservation Area. This elderly lady chained herself to the lamp standard when workmen came to remove it!

Pat Baring sadly passed away in 1982 and her work was the inspiration for the formation of The Worthing Society in the same year. Without Pat Baring's courage and determination in those early years when there was no conservation group active in the town, I am sure Worthing would have seen the destruction of many more historic buildings and would look very different today. When I was researching this article, I came across a quotation from her which really encapsulates the spirit of the conservation movement.

"Things that would have happened have been brought into the light. People have been alerted and seen the problem."

These sentiments are still true today. Challenges to protect our heritage remain in the face of large scale, often unsympathetic, development plans. We are determined to create awareness and build on Pat Baring's legacy. We are very fortunate to have the advantages of modern technology to illustrate the importance of our heritage to the wider community - in fact to bring these important issues "into the light" to quote Mrs Baring!

I hope Mrs Baring would have approved of our colourful, informative website, our Facebook page and the Group Talks we offer to all sections of the community - Worthing Society 'Buildings Lost and Saved'. The talk has a picture gallery clearly illustrating what we stand to lose if we do not defend our heritage. We now have a Campaign to regenerate the Regency buildings in Bedford Row which Pat Baring fought to save!

I am delighted to announce that this year we are dedicating a Blue Plaque in honour of Pat Baring and her significant contribution to preserving Worthing's heritage. The plaque will be erected at her former home, The Old White House in Church Walk, opposite the famous Victorian lamp standard she saved! The event will take place on 27 September at 2pm and will be attended by His Worship the Mayor and Mayoress. We hope the occasion will be a fitting tribute to Pat Baring, a true 'Guardian of Our Heritage'.

Members are very welcome to attend the dedication and unveiling of the plaque but numbers for the reception afterwards are limited. Please see the details on the back page of the Newsletter for 2018.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Susan Belton

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTARY - UPDATE ON CURRENT ISSUES

We are over half-way through the year and I am pleased to say making good progress with our priorities – increasing our membership and going out into the community with our Group Talks to develop public awareness of our work. The Publicity Committee is well established making excellent progress with social media, regular articles in the Worthing Journal plus coverage of our activities in the 'Latest News Section' of our website. We have recently launched a Campaign to upgrade the South Street Conservation Area and are maintaining the public campaign to SAVE the Montague Quarter trees.

The Committee, as always, are working hard monitoring the major planning applications which will define this year and 2019. These include Station Square, Union Place and the proposal by the chain Bistrot Pierre for a restaurant actually on the beach. We are not against regeneration but your Society will act as a 'Watchdog' to monitor these proposals to ensure they complement Worthing's unique heritage.

Thank you, as always, to our valued members for your ongoing support.

Susan Belton

WORTHING SOCIETY CHAIR

MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

I was delighted to have been elected as your new Membership Secretary at the AGM in April. Thank you for your support and to everyone who has renewed their membership or has joined the Worthing Society in the last few weeks.

This year we have introduced our new Youth Membership for young people under 21 years of age, costing only £5 per year. We have been very pleased to increase our membership during the last few months and we look forward to meeting you at one of our talks. The details of these quarterly meetings and other events are on the back page of the Newsletter and they are an opportunity for you to meet and discuss current issues with our committee members. Talks are free for members and only £3 for visitors and guests.

Our Group e-mail system is working well and allows us to contact and update members quickly on campaigns or urgent issues. We realise many of you do not have a computer but the Library Service gives free access to a computer for members, with volunteer 'buddies' to help you get started!

As always, we thank you for your valued and continuing support.

Brenda Whitmell

Membership Secretary

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.

It is said that conservation is humanity caring for the future.

Our work: The protection of certain areas of the built environment in Worthing is a task which can never end for this sub-committee (aka LCAS). Although our work is mainly concentrated on the conservation of our Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, we keep a watchful eye on all proposals for change particularly where Local Listed buildings are affected. There are 213 buildings in Worthing on the Statutory List. Following are some of the buildings we have been dealing with recently.

Bedford Hall, Bedford Row. Originally a Wesleyan Chapel built in 1839, it is now owned by Greene King who also own the adjoining Vintners Parrot public house. It is a dilapidated Grade II building and has a pediment which is in need of repair and graffiti on its south wall which needs removal. WBC Planning Enforcement is in correspondence with the owners to rectify the situation and improve its appearance.

22, Lyndhurst Road. The proposals to build a large block of flats on the site of the old nurses' quarters were considered by the Planning Committee on 25th July 2018. Having considered the recommendation of the Planning Officer to refuse the application by Roffey Homes, the Committee Councillors unanimously rejected the proposals. Our Chairman Susan Belton spoke in support of the refusal recommendation, stating that the proposals were out of step with the Farncombe Road Conservation Area, being overbearing in nature.

Gospel Hall, Bedford Row. This is a dilapidated Local List building in the South Street Conservation Area adjoining No. 2 Bedford Row (see below). We have recently received good news from the Planning Enforcement Officer that she has been advised by the architect for the owners of the Gospel Hall, that improvements are to be made. If so, this will have a positive impact on the southern end of Bedford Row.

Heslington House, 56 Richmond Road. An application has just been received for Listed Building Consent for the conversion of the existing Grade II mansion house from office use to residential. It is proposed to construct four 3-bedroom flats with associated two-storey and single-storey extensions to the north elevation. The building has recently changed hands and the new owners have employed competent architects and heritage advisers. We have not yet taken a view on this application.

2 Bedford Row. This three-storey building lies in the South Street Conservation Area and abuts a Listed Grade II building at No. 4 Bedford Row. It had been allowed to become very dilapidated but in January 2018 plans were submitted for what appeared to be a hostel. Following our objection, a modified application was approved for a single storey rear extension. Building Control will be monitoring the internal conversion to small flats and the Planning Enforcement Team has obtained agreement from the owner to carry out external redecoration.

15 Bedford Row. This rather fragile cobblestone building was a tea room and wine bar called the Rhia Belle but after many attempts, including an appeal, plans were approved to add an additional storey and convert to three flats. Work is now nearing completion.

In Conclusion: I must thank the members of the Sub-Committee for the support I have received from them over the last six months; I expect the coming Autumn and Winter months to be as busy.

Ted Kennard

Chairman of LCAS

PUBLICITY REPORT

In our summer newsletter I set out 3 priorities, agreed by the Chairman and Executive Committee, for the remainder of 2018 covering new membership, particularly young people; publicising the positive things we do for the community and promoting our Online Archive.

At the last quarterly meeting the members agreed the introduction of a new £5.00 'Youth Membership Fee' and, towards the end of May, we made our 'Lost and Saved' presentation to the Worthing Youth Council. We were very impressed with their drive and commitment, giving a voice to young people in Adur and Worthing. We are looking to develop a number of initiatives with this group in areas of heritage and conservation that concern us both. Hopefully, over time, they will become a source of new members.

We have also just had 1,000 A5 publicity leaflets printed – thanks to Jessica for her great art work. The aim is to deliver about 100 a month to areas of Worthing we think have potential new members such as Conservation Areas and those with planning issues.

In March we launched a campaign to clean up the South Street Conservation Area. Sue Belton has e-mailed you about this and covered it extensively in this newsletter and I am pleased to say that we are receiving a good deal of publicity as this campaign gathers pace. It is making an extremely positive impact on the area of Bedford Row and Marine Place for those that live in and visit this area.

The Online Archive continues to develop and we have now gently started to promote this project – the Youth Council was very interested and keen to contribute. At some point we will have a proper launch, likely to be in 2019.

We have a number of projects that should increase our profile over the remainder of 2018, notably the Blue Plaque for Pat Baring and Information Board for The Lifeboat Memorial Stone.

David Clark

Publicity Officer

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Natalie cutting the cake with our Chairman at the Strawberry Tea

A surprise celebration took place during our midsummer Strawberry Tea for members and guests! The event was held in the lovely setting of Beach House on 10 June. We were delighted to honour the long and dedicated contribution of our colleague and Committee member to the Worthing Society. Her experience and knowledge is greatly valued by us. Natalie was on the Committee of the Worthing Civic Society and worked with Pat Baring on saving Beach House. Natalie became a founder member of the Worthing Society from 1982 and was on the Committee from its inception.

- Natalie was Treasurer from 1991-1999 = 8 years
- Secretary & Treasurer from 1999-2007 = 8 years
- Secretary 2008-2012 = 2 years

What a tremendous record! Conservation work is rewarding yet demanding, enquiring commitment, skill and dedication, all qualities which Natalie has in abundance. It was a most enjoyable occasion and we surprised Natalie with a beautiful cake, most appropriately decorated with The Worthing Society logo showing Beach House! Thank you Natalie for your hard work.

Susan Belton, your Committee colleagues and Society members

The following is an item of interest sent in by one of our members:

THE VILLAGE PUMP

Alex Vincent.

The Egyptians invented the shadoof (irrigation tool) to raise water, which dates from 2000 BC. They used a long suspended rod with a bucket at one end and a weight at the other. The main village pump today dates from 200 BC invented by the Greeks. There is evidence that a pump using a plunger or piston in a barrel or cylinder existed in Greece at this period.

These village pumps are hand operating water pumps, which come in all shapes and sizes. They were built over wells and other water sources to transfer water through a pipe or spout from its source to another location or container such as a trough or bucket. Romans had wooden pumps, but most of these are now gone.

Every place would have had a pump in the town square or on the village green. Towns had one in almost every street usually at the end and several shops had one in their yard. Some were in back gardens or in homes. As well as obtaining water from streams, ponds and wells, this was the only way, which people used to get their water before mains came. A number of village pumps were used for cattle and horses along old trackways. They had a trough below them.

The main reason for the decline of the village pump was the cholera epidemics of the 1850s. The most famous case was the Broad Street pump in Soho, London. A cholera epidemic occurred in Soho in 1854 and the pump in Broad Street (now Broadwick Street) was taken out of action. Dr John Snow took the handle off the pump, which stopped the cholera. A red granite kerbstone outside the John Snow pub with a plaque marks its site. There is an information board in the pub.

The vast majority of the village pumps in Britain today are the cast iron pumps dating to the 19th century. Some of the village pumps are in their original position, but a number are not. A lot of them around today are ones, which people bought as a collector's item and some are modern, which can be bought in garden centres. The author has three old village pumps. Many are still to be seen today on village greens, under shelters, over wells, in streets, gardens and outside pubs. Good examples in Sussex are in Lewes, Newick, Birdham, South Harting and Ringmer.

A few existed in Worthing. A stone pump was erected over a well in South Street in 1809. This was removed in 1854 and the site is now outside Beales. Another was at the end of the High Street near the Colonnade and the existing village pump in Warwick Lane is not in its original position. There are a few in the Worthing area at Broadwater, West Tarring, Ferring, Findon and Lancing. The village pump photographs below were taken by author.

Worthing

West Tarring

Ferring

Findon

Broadwater

Lancing

President's Notes

Our Chairman and Executive Committee will doubtless cover detailed news of what the Society has been concentrating on since the previous Newsletter, so I will share a few thoughts with you from my point of view.

What I have observed as President is:-

Potential development sites are bought by Developers and then left lying idle for ages. The weeds start growing and turn these large areas into desolate wasteland. I see Heritage buildings in a sorry state of repair desperately needing decoration and Conservation Areas likewise cluttered with litter and/or bins.

But, I am pleased to say, very cautiously, that there now appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. Our Chairman and Executive Committee have been working hard to encourage various appropriate WBC Heads of Department and senior WBC Officers to take action to remedy this state of affairs. This month the Chairman formally launched the Society's 'South Street Conservation Area Campaign'. This appears to be paying dividends. The new WBC Enforcement Officer got into action very soon after her appointment and it wasn't long before we were seeing Listed and Local Interest buildings being painted and repaired. Volunteer teams have also been doing sterling hands-on work to tackle the litter problem with our Chairman Sue and Publicity Officer David Clark tackling the weeds and cleaning graffiti in the Bedford Row area. Truly a revelation!

I am optimistic that, at long last, our local authority and the owners of Worthing's heritage buildings have woken up to the fact that caring for our heritage **does** matter. Apart from its effect on monetary value, if these buildings are kept in good repair surely it makes our town more attractive and easier on the eye for residents and visitors alike.

Just a thought!

Tony Malone

President

Chairman's Appreciation

The Executive Committee continue to excel - I have very talented colleagues indeed! There have been many serious planning issues yet we have still extended our Blue Plaque Trail highlighting social history, developing a Society Facebook page plus giving talks to community groups.

I am grateful to the Publicity Committee headed by David Clark, to Jessica Gill for her stunning contemporary artwork and Barry Richards our webmaster. Gill Tucker, our Secretary is very supportive to the Chair keeping an expert eye on our incoming emails. David Sawers fulfils an important role in advising the Committee on complex technical issues, the backbone of our work. My appreciation, sincerely, to the Vice-Chairman, Ted Kennard, for his unstinting support to me personally, and the Committee. A special thank-you to Mascha Richards for combining the dual role of Treasurer and Social Secretary in arranging our events and speakers.

I must also thank Tony Malone for being there to advise and offer his experience – invaluable. Fulsome appreciation to Sandra Malone for expertly compiling our Newsletters – no easy task!

Susan Belton

Chairman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPT **Tuesday 25th at 7:30pm – QUARTERLY MEETING** in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Doors open at 7pm
Speaker: Paul Campbell on 'The Rich Tapestry of the Worthing Antiques Business from the 1930's'

SEPT **Thursday 27th at 2pm – PLAQUE UNVEILING** by the Mayor to Pat Baring at The Old White House, 2 Church Walk, Worthing.

Following the unveiling, a reception will be held at The Alexandra, 28 Lyndhurst Road, Worthing. As numbers are limited, early response is recommended. There is a pre-payment booking fee of £5 per person. See application form below.

NOV **Tuesday, 27th at 7.30pm – QUARTERLY MEETING** in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Doors open at 7pm.
Speaker : Mark Perry Nash on 'The Life, Works & Message of Charles Dickens'

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.

DEC **Tuesday, 4th – A COACH OUTING** to the Royal Albert Hall for John Rutter's CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. **Tickets £40 per person** For tickets contact Mrs. Richards Tel: 01903 214519

2019 FEB **Tuesday, 26th at 7.30pm – QUARTERLY MEETING** in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Doors open at 7pm.
Speaker: Alan Kingshott, MVO on 'The Story of the Tower of London'

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

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Please complete and cut out the form below if you wish to attend the Reception at The Alexandra on Thursday, 27 September 2018 at a cost of £5.00 per person.

We wish to reserve …… places to attend the Reception at The Alexandra.

Name ……

Address: ……Tel No …….

Please send the completed form, no later than Monday, 17th September, with cheque for the appropriate amount, payable to **The Worthing Society**, to our Chairman:

Mrs. Susan Belton, 1 Church Cottages, Selden Lane, Worthing, BN11 2BN

NB: *Visitor Parking Permits will be available on the day from our Secretary, Gill Tucker. However, the 700 and Pulse bus routes run close to the event.*