



THE WORTHING SOCIETY

President: Anthony Malone

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2021

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN:

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Jessica Gill
Tel: 07957 187431
jess@jessicagill.net

HON.SECRETARY:

Susan Head
properties@sjhead.co.uk

HON.TREASURER & SOCIAL SECRETARY:

Mascha Richards
2 Beach House
Brighton Road, Worthing
BN11 2EJ Tel: 01903 214519
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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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

PUBLICITY OFFICER:

David Clark assisted by Gill Tucker
Tel: 01903 504402
clarkhodson@btinternet.com

WEBSITE MANAGER:

Barry Richards
barry.richards@btinternet.com

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Natalie Cropper | David Sawers |
| Barry Richards | Leonia Crozier |
| John Head | Malcolm Leeves |

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Listing & Conservation Areas (LCAS):

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Sue Belton (Chair) | John Head |
| Natalie Cropper | Malcolm Leeves |
| David Clark | |
| Tony Malone - by invitation | |

Publicity:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| David Clark (Chair) | Jessica Gill |
| Barry Richards | |
| Tony Malone - by invitation | |

NEWSLETTER COMPILER:

Sandra Malone

FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

Notice is hereby given that the 38th Annual General Meeting of The Worthing Society will take place on Tuesday, 28 September at 7pm in the Ardington Hotel, Steyne Gardens, Worthing.

After the AGM there will be a short refreshment break followed by a talk by Sue Standing on '*A Glimpse of Hidden Heene*'.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Belton, Chairman

CELEBRATING THE BI-CENTENARY OF BEACH HOUSE

THE WORTHING SOCIETY CELEBRATION TEA
To include a PowerPoint Presentation:
'The History of a House – Celebrating the Bicentenary of Beach House.'

Thursday 12th August
from 3pm to 4.30pm
Private Dining Room
The Highdown
Littlehampton Road
Goring-by-Sea,
BN12 6PB.

The work of the conservationist is a hard and challenging role, but there are times when we need step back and enjoy the legacy of our heritage buildings. One such memorable occasion was the recent Celebration Tea for our members to celebrate the bi-centenary of Beach House. Dating from 1820, the house is one of the last surviving beach side villas of the Regency period and has been home to a diversity of people and organisations.

This important event was attended by 30 members of the Society together with the Mayor of Worthing, Councillor Lionel Harman and Councillor Karen Harman. The afternoon was enjoyed by all and the Mayor graciously cut the Birthday Cake which showed a picture of this beautiful building.

The Celebration Tea was hosted in the beautiful surroundings of The Highdown and we thank the management for their hospitality.

The afternoon also included a power point presentation entitled 'The History of a House.' The concept of the illustrated presentation was to provide a biography of the house. We presented both the architectural features of the building and the social history of Beach House through two world wars to the present day. Beach House, remains a nationally important Grade II* Listed Building. It was saved from demolition following a 5 year Campaign by our founder member, Mrs Patricia Baring who really began the conservation movement in Worthing.



Beach House today is divided into attractive apartments but still retains many significant original features. We believe this house also serves to highlight the importance of protecting our historic built environment. Our power-point, 'The History of a House' will form an Online Archive which we can show to various community groups and colleges to encourage interest in protecting the town's heritage. We believe the presentation will represent our heritage in a more visual, contemporary way.

I am most grateful to Mascha and Barry Richards for organising this enjoyable event, their grandson Scott for technical support and to David Clark for producing the power-point. Our Vice-Chair, Jessica Gill designed the excellent artwork for our invitations and of course the birthday cake!

The Heritage Leaflet about Beach House is available on our website at www.worthingsociety.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE AND OVERVIEW

Dear Members

This edition of the Newsletter is shorter than usual as we are attaching the information documents for the upcoming Annual General Meeting on 28 September. The Committee decided to email or post this information as we wanted to ensure all members received these important documents. Whilst the Covid 19 restrictions are easing we do appreciate that there may be some members who may not feel ready to attend the meeting in person, while others may be on holiday. It's unfortunate that, due to Government guidance, we had to postpone the AGM until September.

To compensate for the reduced sections of the Newsletter I have included the more detailed information about the current issues and our work generally in the **Chairman's Annual Report** for the AGM. I hope you will find this interesting and informative. Members of the Committee will be available at the AGM to answer any questions on current issues which may be of concern.

The Committee has worked extremely hard during the lockdown to ensure all aspects of the Society's work continued. We have responded to over 30 Planning Consultations by email making considered objections or giving advisory statements. I have also represented the Society in several Planning Meetings via Zoom! The most successful outcome was the refusal of the application by Persimmon to build 450 dwellings at Goring Gap/Chatsmore Farm. The support and expertise of our Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Sub-Committee (LCAS) has been invaluable during the lockdown period. LCAS will continue to press for greater representation and protection of our heritage in the planning process.

As you will see from the Treasurer's Report, the Society is in good order financially and the required returns have been submitted on time to the Charity Commission. I would like to express my thanks to our excellent Treasurer, Mascha Richards, for her diligent work. Mascha is also our Social Secretary and worked hard to make the recent Celebration Tea a great success.

I am pleased to report that the majority of our members have renewed for 2021/22 and I have been delighted to welcome several new members who have recently joined. By increasing our membership we increase our presence in the town. I am grateful to our Membership Secretary, Brenda Whitmell for her hard work.

Our Publicity Officer, David Clark is looking forward to instigating a membership drive and also contacting local colleges to offer talks to attract younger members to become involved in conserving our heritage and learning more about our social history.

The Group Email system, run by our Web Manager, Barry Richards from our database, has been vital in allowing us to keep in touch with our members during these difficult times. Our excellent website and Facebook pages are also important tools to keep members informed.

I am indebted to the support of our President Tony Malone and the Committee for their enthusiasm and support. We are pleased to welcome two new Committee members, Malcolm Leeves who will work with LCAS and Susan Head who will become our new Honorary Secretary.

I am pleased, therefore, to report that we have 'weathered the storm' and have come through this difficult period. The Society is in good shape to go forward and face the challenges ahead to protect the character of our town. To finish on a lighter note, the Society is one of the selected Mayoral Charities which should give us a significant opportunity to raise the profile of our conservation work.

AN APPRECIATION

Both I and members of the Committee would like to offer their thanks and appreciation to Gill Tucker who will be standing down as Honorary Secretary. Gill has made a valuable contribution in this role over several years. We have been able to talk over various issues and concerns which has always been particularly helpful. We are very pleased that Gill will be staying on the Executive Committee to support our Publicity Officer.

Susan Belton
Chairman

A NOTE ON PUBLICITY

My thoughts are turning to how we might raise our profile next year and help increase the pressure on both councillors and politicians to be more mindful of our heritage when considering planning proposals for our town. We will continue with articles and letters in local publications but perhaps we need to better engage with local people through radio and social media channels when the right opportunity arises. I am pleased to report that we are starting to receive new enquiries for our heritage talks with the U3A Lancing booked for Q1 2022. These are a good source of new members and fulfil our mandate to promote Worthing's heritage. Thanks to Judy Fox at WBC for including details of our Town Centre Blue Plaque Trail in Worthing's Official Visitors Guide 2021/22. Sue has asked me to write to WBC in support of Paul Holden's suggestion in The Worthing Journal to have a Visitor information kiosk at the entrance to the Pier – this would help promote the Town and organisations such as ourselves to visitors and residents alike.

David Clark
Publicity Officer

A THOUGHT FROM THE PRESIDENT

There are only a few lines available for my submission in this Newsletter, so this is it:-

Like our Publicity Officer, David Clark, I too have been considering the problem of how to increase membership. I have come up with an idea regarding Facebook Groups which I hope to discuss with David and our Chairman in the near future.

Tony Malone
President

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2021

SEP - Tuesday, 28th September at 7pm
AGM at the Ardington Hotel, Steyne Gardens
After the AGM - Coffee/Tea and biscuits will be served – Cost £1.50
Followed by: **Speaker:** Sue Standing on “A Glimpse of Hidden Heene”

NOV - Tuesday 23rd November at 7:30pm
QUARTERLY MEETING at the Ardington Hotel, Steyne Gardens.
Doors open at 7pm.
Speaker : Susan Belton on “Buildings Lost and Saved”

*At this meeting mince pies and coffee/tea will be served - Cost £1.50
Also a pre-Christmas raffle will take place. Donations of raffle prizes will be very much appreciated on the night.*

DEC - CHRISTMAS LUNCH at the **Arundel Restaurant, Northbrook College,**
Littlehampton Road, Worthing. Date and Cost: TBA

2022

FEB - Tuesday 22nd February at 7:30pm
QUARTERLY MEETING at the Ardington Hotel, Steyne Gardens.
Doors open at 7pm. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be served - Cost £1.50
Speaker: James Sainsbury, Archaeologist, on
“The Story of Cissbury Ring – Stone Age to WWII”

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)