Susan Belton, Chair

***** LATEST NEWS *****

(Go to end of file for links to Historic Timelines / Newsletters)

MARCH 2022

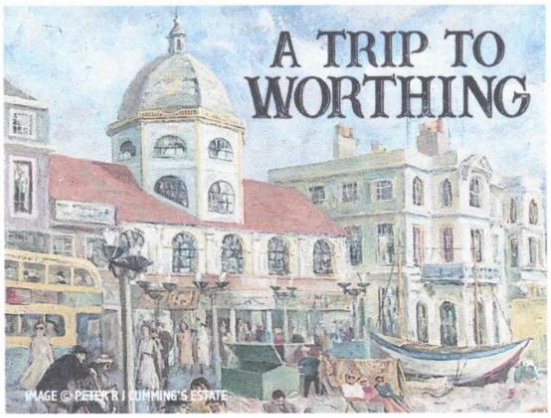
Appeal Upheld at Chatsmore Farm - Sir Peter Bottomley's Response

March 4

We have received an email from Sir Peter Bottomley's Office containing a link to his webpage (See below). The link has a copy of his letter to the Rt. Hon Michael Gove Dept. of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. You can also view the original Press Release.

:https://www.sirpeterbottomley.com/protecting-goring-gap

March 1



Exhibition: A Trip to Worthing - Downs, Town & Sea

Date: Sat 05 Mar 2022 - Sun 19 Jun 2022

Time: See Museum and Gallery opening times

Location: Museum and Art Gallery

Tickets: FREE

Age Guidance: All

Exploring the many facets of Worthing over the last two centuries

An exhibition looking at the relationship between Worthing and the surrounding landscape and seascape over the last two centuries, using a range of our diverse collections. Worthing grew from an insignificant fishing hamlet to a premier seaside resort during the 19th century and continues to grow to this day. With the majestic Downs to the north and the unpredictable sea to the south this exhibition will showcase pieces from the Fine Art, Costume and Social History collections, with some objects on display for the first time in many years. A special collections-based show that tells the story of why the town is historically known as sitting 'twixt sea and Downs.

There will be curator talks programmed to accompany this exhibition. Look out for updates and booking details.

Please Note This exhibition is free but donations are gladly welcomed. No need to book, just turn up.

Museum & Gallery Opening Times
Thursdays: 10am – 8pm
Fridays: 10am – 5pm
Saturdays: 10am – 5pm
Sundays: 11am – 3pm

FEBRUARY 2022

PRESS RELEASE BY THE WORTHING SOCIETY.

Appeal Upheld at Chatsmore Farm –A Sad Day for Conservation in Sussex

Go To the following link for the full letter from the Inspector : Appeal Decision

The Worthing Society and members of the Goring Gap Action Group were bitterly disappointed to receive the Inspector's letter of 25 February. The Inspector has ALLOWED the Appeal by the developer Persimmon against Worthing Council's refusal of planning permission for 475 dwellings on Chatsmore Farm north west of Goring Station. This decision will result in the loss of the valued open space which has historically provided a vital green lung and separation between the settlements of Worthing and Ferring.

This decision is unbelievable given the 1250 objections and the Campaign by the local Goring Gap Action Group which includes The Worthing Society, the Ferring Conservation Group, the Goring Residents Association and the Goring and Ilex Conservation Group. This alone shows the significant opposition to the development.

The Gap which is within the setting of the South Downs National Park, is highly valued by residents of Ferring and Goring for the landscape, farmland and wildlife habitat. The original application was refused and this refusal was strongly supported by local councillors. In addition, the retention of the Gap was also supported in Worthing's emerging draft Local Plan after significant public consultations. The impact of 475 dwellings on the infrastructure and roadways will be severe. Driving along Littlehampton Road it is obvious that the existing road network is already under severe strain. It is apparent that the voice of the local people has not been heard.

The decision has been made in the light of the Nationally set Government housing targets. Whilst we appreciate the need for housing, Worthing lies between the sea and the South Downs National Park. Due to these natural geographical constraints it is literally impossible for Worthing to deliver these targets, even if every blade of grass were to be built on.

The recent Covid 19 emergency has shown the value of our open green spaces both to the environment and the wellbeing of the population. Our green infrastructure is part of our legacy to our future generations. The Worthing area has very few open green spaces remaining . This is a very sad day for conservation in Worthing and the surrounding environs. It is time to lobby the Government for a review of the housing targets for this area and its unique geographical setting.

This decision illustrates that the work of the conservationist has never been more needed and the Worthing Society Committee will continue to make every effort to safeguard our remaining open green spaces.

Our President, Anthony Malone fully supports this Press Release.

Susan Belton

Worthing Society Chairman.

WORTHING JOURNAL ARTICLE – MARCH 2022

The character of the town and retaining our open green spaces will become harder to defend in the face of the Governments housing targets. Worthing Borough Council has missed its housing target despite good use of' brownfield sites.' Planning Committees will now have less flexibility in decisions so good design will be imperative to complement Worthing's heritage environment. Attempting to meet these targets could result in Worthing looking like Brighton or Hove and losing its unique identity

Our open green spaces, and there are relatively few, could also come under threat. Even if every blade of grass were to be built on Worthing would still fail to meet these unrealistic targets. Like other coastal towns the available space is restricted because we are hemmed in by the South Downs National Park to the north and the sea to the south. The distinctive open green spaces to the west of Worthing are particularly important giving character to Goring, Ferring and the setting of Highdown. We hope our local MP's and Council representatives can lobby Ministers and invite them to view Worthing's geography in person, perhaps even holding a forum with local people.

We welcome new members of all ages . Learn more about the Society and our work at

www.worthingsociety.org.uk

Sue Belton, Worthing Society Chair.

WORTHING JOURNAL ARTICLE – FEBRUARY 2022

I am delighted to tell you this year is the fortieth anniversary of the Worthing Society which was established in 1982 and we are very proud of our achievements. During this time we have saved many historic buildings for the town including Beach House, The Dome , Piazza Express (with the Jane Austen Connection and The Burlington on the seafront. The Society has gained the protective, listed, status of many others which survive as a result today. We also led the successful Campaign to save the internationally important Desert Quartet for Worthing. The Society has donated over eighteen Blue Plaques to the town, linking our social history to the historic buildings to form a Heritage Trail. In future our main challenges will be to fight for good standards of planning to enhance the town's character and to protect our open green infrastructure.

As one of the Mayoral Charities for 2022, we shall be taking part in fundraising events supporting the Mayor and raising the profile of the Society. Once Covid restrictions lift we will resume our heritage talks and 'membership drive.' We welcome new members of all ages to support our conservation work.

Sue Belton

Worthing Society Chair. www.worthingsociety.org .

JANUARY 2022

Mayor's Valentines Day Dinner

The Mayor's Dinner has now been scheduled for 13Th February 2022 . For full details go to : Valentines Day Dinner

WORTHING JOURNAL ARTICLE - JANUARY 2022.

The Worthing Society Committee extends thanks all our members and readers for their loyal support throughout this lock down period. I am pleased to say we have weathered this difficult time and will be continuing to work hard to represent the value of our built heritage in the planning process

During these unprecedented times we also donated a Blue Plaque to honour Carl Adolf Seebold founder of the Dome Cinema. Our Blue Plaque Trail highlights the architectural and social history of Worthing helping to stimulate the local economy. The Society was also honoured to be chosen as one of the Mayoral Charities and will be

taking part in various fundraising events. Next year I am planning a Membership Drive to increase our representation in the town. Providing Government restrictions permit we shall continue our heritage talks to local community groups to show the importance of protecting the unique character of Worthing.

Our next vital challenge will be the Appeal on 18.1.22 by the developer Persimmon against the refusal to allow 475 dwellings on Chatsmore Farm /Goring Gap. I will be speaking in defence of this historic open space, which is part of our environmental legacy to future generations. Covid 19 has shown the importance of our green infrastructure, part of our heritage.

Sue Belton, Worthing Society Chair www.worthingsociety.org.uk

DECEMBER 2021

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MAYORAL DINNER ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR 31St DECEMBER HAS BEEN CANCELLED

The Worthing Society Article in the December Worthing Journal

Seafront Update

Worryingly the view from the promenade is increasingly obscured by beach huts. Since 2010, 25 beach huts have been added. In 2019 plans for 11were refused following objections by residents. Last week 9 applicationswere submitted. If these proposals are permitted, walkers will have amagnificent view of the rear of beach huts interspersed with glimpses ofthe sea.

If you do not want this to happen write to the planning department:
planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk

The Council has the engineers' report on the Lido and we will soon knowthe impact of years of neglect on the structure and what needs to be done.As we find out more we will let you know.

"PIER AMUSEMENTS" is missing an "S" and the "T" is damaged, the mid-section lights of the pier are no longer working and several globe shaped lights on the promenade are either away to be repaired or just notworking.

We need to be more proactive to keep on top of our seafront maintenance toensure we can enjoy it for years to come.

Perch restaurant are to be applauded for their restoration work of theSouthern Pavilion.

Sue Belton
Wothing Soceity Chair
https://www.worthingsociety.org.uk/

OCTOBER 2021

The Worthing Society Article in the November Worthing Journal

The Worthing Society has been primarily concerned for many years in conserving and protecting our built heritage and conservation areas. During recent months we have been called on increasingly to defend the town's 'green infrastructure .' Our parks and open green spaces also contribute significantly to Worthing's 'heritage map' and identity. The recent' lockdown' periods have highlighted the value of green areas to our mental and physical well-being. We have given our support to the' Friends of Denton Gardens' to protect the seaside gardens from over-commercialisation and monitor changes for Beach House Park.

There is another great challenge ahead following the appeal by the developers, Persimmon, against the refusal to allow 475 dwellings on the north section of Goring Gap/Chatsmore Farm. This historic area forms a natural green gap between Worthing and Ferring, close to the South Downs National Park. The 'gap' is home to wildlife and the Rife stream runs across the land which is enjoyed for recreation. There were over 1200 objections to the plans from the community.

The Society will be fighting this Appeal together with the 'Goring Gap Action Group.' Our green spaces are equally important to the historic environment and as a legacy to future generations. They must be defended!

Mrs Sue Belton

Worthing Society Chair www.worthingsociety .org

The Worthing Society Article in the October Worthing Journal

The seafront is one of Worthing's most important assets, acting as a focus for many of the historical buildings, gardens and open spaces .The associated heritage buildings such as the Pier, the Dome and the Lido serve to highlight the history of our town. They are essential to the 'visitor' experience, contributing to the tourist economy of the town. Worthing is one of the largest towns in West Sussex with much to offer. It is therefore essential that our heritage buildings, which showcase the seafront, are protected and well maintained. Many are over one hundred years old and others not far off their centenary .

We are fortunate both the Pier and The Dome are in good order. However, it is very sad to see the poor condition of the Lido, circa 1925 which occupies a prominent beachside location. I am in touch with the Council to lobbying for immediate protection and a restoration plan. We understand an HLF grant may be applied for. The Denton Gardens Shelter, is in a poor condition . Following our referral quotes are being obtained to repair this prominent Art Deco style building.

We act as a 'watchdog' protecting our heritage buildings by flagging up concerns and pressing the Council for action !

Sue Belton, Worthing Society Chair

www.worthingsociety.org.uk

SEPTEMBER 2021

The Worthing Society Article in the September Worthing Journal

The Worthing Society is committed to the conservation and preservation of our heritage. Our listed buildings and conservation areas form the historic backdrop to the town . They contribute to the unique character of Worthing's 'heritage map,' representing a legacy to future generations.

There does of course have to be change : we accept new development is required to meet the housing need. But does it have to be at the expense of our heritage and erosion of our conservation areas-surely not? There must be a balance- with sensitive design and scale new buildings can complement Worthing's character. With several large developments planned, Worthing is at a crossroads. Our heritage assets are irreplaceable and to quote Historic England: 'the challenge is how we manage change in a heritage environment.'

This will be the ongoing challenge for all conservationists. Our mission is to prevent the' tentacles' of inappropriate and over-commercialised development overwhelming our heritage. Planning mistakes of the past such as the Guiidbourne Centre must be avoided. There is a choice: we must ensure the principles of conservation are adequately represented within the planning system . The Society is lobbying for greater resources to be allocated to the Conservation Officer and for the 'Conservation Area Advisory Committee' to be urgently re-established

Sue Belton

www.worthingsociety.org.uk

AUGUST 2021

PRESENTATION AND CELEBRATION TEA TO COMMEMORATE THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEACH HOUSE

On Thursday 12th August, a Presentation by our Chair, Susan Belton, followed by a Celebration Tea, were held in the Highdown Restaurant to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the building of Beach House. 30 members of the Worthing Society attended together with the Mayor Lionel Harman and Mayoress Karen Harman. For pictures taken at the event go to the following link : Event Pictures

JUNE 2021

The Worthing Society Article in the June Worthing Journal

I am sure that during the Covid 19 emergency many people have recognised the value of our open green spaces. They have been of enormous benefit to our mental health and general well-being. We have appreciated and discovered new areas of open spaces and enjoyed the landscape and wildlife. The National Planning Framework , the guidance document for Planning Officers, mentions the importance of our natural green areas. Furthermore, Worthing Borough Council has declared a 'climate emergency.'

This is why I was concerned to learn the Council have advertised an area of freehold land for sale at 'The Sanctuary' in High Salvington. The land in question,' which is grass downland , was saved from development by the actress, Nancy Price who led a Campaign in the 1940's. It was donated to Worthing in perpetuity and is now within the South Downs National Park.

Although we are more used to defending our built environment we will stand up with equal vigour for our historic natural environment and open green spaces. The sale of this parcel of land could set an unwelcome precedent which should be resisted.

We shall be approaching the Council to withdraw the 'Notice of Sale' immediately and we have notified the South Downs Park of our serious concerns.

Sue Belton.

Worthing Society Chair.

Denton Gardens – Letter to the Worthing Herald

DEFENDING OUR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES (see also entry for Aril 28th)

The Worthing Society Committee has been pleased to support the Campaign by the newly formed 'Friends of Denton Gardens' to protect this historic area. The Council are proposing to increase the commercialisation of the southern part of the gardens. They have released an advert for a lessee to operate 'Adventure Golf' and to possibly the introduce food outlets into the gardens. In our view the present mini golf facility is sufficient and unobtrusive.

We appreciate that the Council wishes to create an interesting public realm in Worthing but we believe this change would be an unfortunate step too far. There are already several popular cafes and restaurants within the immediate area of the beach together with the volley ball court activities in Beach House Grounds.

This is an historic seaside garden bequeathed to the town by Alderman James Gurney Denton one hundred years ago. Denton Gardens are recorded on the Councils 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest. ' Formerly part of the Beach House Estate, the gardens afford a quiet open space for reflection and contemplation which is a welcome respite from the busy promenade. The gardens are enjoyed by families, dog-walkers and people of all ages. Our open green spaces are irreplaceable and sometimes a garden needs to be just that.

The Society urges the Council to withdraw this advert and to concentrate on maintaining the flower beds , borders and walkways in Denton Gardens to a very high standard for both residents and visitors alike to enjoy .

The' Friends of Denton Gardens' have an excellent Facebook Page where you can find out more and sign the PETITION ! Have your say and protect this 'historical gem.'

The defence of our public open spaces is likely to become an even more serious challenge during this decade. This was recently exemplified by the threat of an 'Adverse Possession' claim from a resident to part of The Sanctuary at High Salvington, which is within the South Downs National Park. This much-loved Wildlife Sanctuary was donated to the town in 1940 following a Campaign by the actress Nancy Price who donated 52 percent of the asking price. We are

fully supportive of the strong Campaign by the High Salvington Residents Association (HSRA) and the resulting local pressure which has seen the claim for 'Adverse Possession being withdrawn.

The Worthing Society also sent a strong letter of objection to Worthing Borough Council reminding them of the area's heritage status and urging them to withdraw the Notice of Sale. In addition we contacted the South Downs National Park. Had the sale of land at The Sanctuary gone ahead it would as the HSRA, stated have set an unfortunate and dangerous precedent .

The recent Covid 19 emergency has illustrated the value of parks, gardens and public open spaces to our mental health and general well-being. The recent and successful Campaign to protect the land at Goring Gap/Chatsmore Farm from a development of 475 dwellings generated much public support and saw the application refused.

Our open green spaces are our legacy to future generations and must be defended from inappropriate purchase or development. The involvement of local communities, societies and residents groups to protect all aspects of our heritage will be vital. We must all remain vigilant.

Susan Belton

Worthing Society Chair

APRIL 2021

PROTECT DENTON GARDENS-PETITION SIGNING EVENT

SUNDAY 2MAY 2021

Dear Members and Worthing Residents.
One of our committee members noticed an advert on the Stiles, Horton Williams website in conjunction with Worthing Borough Council advertising for a lessee to operate and run a golf and leisure facility in Denton Gardens with the possibility of converting the onsite buildings and Art Deco shelter to sell food.

The character of Denton Gardens and the buildings make an important contribution to this seaside area. Significant further commercialisation would not be welcome by us or local residents.
We are working with the Friends of Denton Gardens and other local groups to protect the gardens and influence the way forward.

The Friends of Denton Gardens have produced a leaflet describing the proposed changes : Denton Leaflet

Go to the following link to access and join a Petition : Denton Petition

The friends also have a facebook page at :-
https//www.facebook.co/groups/293910282411961

Sue Belton
Worthing Society Chair

MARCH 2021

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT at 22 Lyndhurst Road / Farncombe Road

Dear Members and Local Residents,

Roffey Homes have resubmitted plans to develop 30 flats at the corner of Farncombe Road and facing into Lyndhurst Road on the site of the former nurses home. Details of the scheme are available on the Worthing Borough Council website* (see below).

The site is within the unique Farncombe Road Conservation Area. The Society has objected and considers the design , scale, height and mass is out of character with the historic Victorian villas. There are also issues with road access, parking and overlooking of neighbouring properties.

Send your objection and comments to

*** planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk**

Quote reference number: AWDM/0130/21

We are pleased to support concerned local residents in their Campaign and I have attached a link to the 'Neighbourhood Leaflet' which gives more details of their concerns. : Neighbourhood Leaflet

Don't delay, have your say!

Susan Belton.

Worthing Society Chair.

PROTECTION OF GORING GAP NORTH -A GREAT SUCCESS !

Dear Members and Worthing residents.

I am delighted to report that the proposed development at the North Goring Gap/Chatsmore Farm was unanimously refused by the Planning Committee on 10.3.21. The Worthing Society objected strongly and was part of the Goring Gap Action Group: mainly including the Ferring Conservation Group, Goring & Ilex Conservation Group and the Goring Residents Association who ran a very successful Campaign over several months. The National Trust, Southdowns National Park Authority and the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) had also objected.

I spoke in objection at the Planning Meeting together with the Ferring Conservation Group and the Goring residents Association together with local Councillors and importantly the MP Sir Peter Bottomley. It is possible to stand up to development proposals!

Persimmon Ltd had applied to build 475 homes on this historic open green space. Which forms the natural 'green lung' between Goring-by-Sea and Ferring. Although they may appeal, this strong refusal leaves us in a good position. There were over 1240 objections from residents which shows how important it is for local people to become involved and engage in planning issues affecting their area. By making representations, engaging with community groups and local Councillors, together it is possible to have a voice to influence the outcome of development proposals.

In terms of local Planning Policy the application was premature and contrary to the Draft Local Plan which designates this are as a Local Green Gap and Local Green Space. It lies clearly outside the land or areas identified for residential development in the plan. Robust Public Consultations were held in the preparation of the Draft Local Plan which again illustrates the importance of public involvement in the future plans for our towns and countryside.

Furthermore, Worthing Council has declared a 'climate emergency.' Our open green spaces are now more than ever a vital resource. The Covid 19 emergency has demonstrated the importance of public access for recreation, to improve mental health and for general well-being. The Covid 18 emergency has clearly shown this. These areas must be protected from the damaging impact of inappropriate and speculative development! The Worthing Society Committee will continue to defend our heritage environment.

This was an excellent and very significant victory. Our sincere thanks to all who those supported the Campaign!

Susan Belton

Worthing Society Chair.

**** See also - the entries for January 13th 2021 and August 24 2020**

FEBRUARY 2021

March Article -- Worthing Journal

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions we have rescheduled our Annual General Meeting from April to Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 7.30pm in the Ardington Hotel Steyne Gardens.

I want to reassure members and readers that the Committee are working hard during this extended lock down period. Planning applications in the town will define this exceptionally busy year beginning with the application by Persimmon to develop 475 dwellings at Goring Gap North/Chatsmore Farm. We have submitted a strong objection to try to get this application refused and prevent the destruction of this treasured green space whilst hopefully stopping the negative impacts on local infrastructure and traffic. I will speak in objection at the Planning Meeting due in early March.

Our Committee will also scrutinise the Planning Consultation for the former Gas Works Site in Lyndhurst Road and comment on the final revised designs for Union Place where some of our earlier representations have resulted in a reduction in height and recessed upper floors for some elements. Good, characterful design in all upcoming plans must be a priority .

We welcome new members of all ages. By increasing our membership we increase our presence in the town. Keep in touch via our website or https://www.facebook.com/worthingsociety

Susan Belton

Worthing Society Chair.

www.worthingsociety.org.uk

TITNORE LANE CAMPAIGN
SAFETY FOR ALL !
HAVE YOUR SAY-ACT NOW-SIGN THE PETITION !

As President of The Worthing Society, I have been contacted by Barry Burks who successfully campaigned for a footpath to protect pedestrians at the southern end of Titnore Lane. Barry has extended his Campaign to improve public safety on this fast road by raising a PETITION for a:

WEIGHT RESTRICTION MAX 3.5 tones for HGVS/COACHES/BUSES
SPEED LIMIT of 40mph
PROVISION OF LEVEL CROSSING AT THE SOUTHERN END
(between the Northbrook Recreation Ground and 'Euro Green' entrance).

If you wish to sign the PETITION and HAVE YOUR SAY here is the link.

https://shxtlcampaign.wixsite.com/petition .

The Worthing Society is very pleased to support this important safety Campaign. We understand Sir Peter Bottomley, MP is also supporting this initiative.

Thank you.

Anthony Malone
Worthing Society President.

February Article -- Worthing Journal

Future of the Town Centre

Online shopping and Coronavirus are quickening the demise of our town centre. Commercial buildings are being converted into residential accommodation – which is not a bad thing. Society is undergoing a massive change. Whilst this change is a painful process, this new era brings huge potential to our town centre.

What will we do and what do people want? People want a destination, something to do, something to see and somewhere to sit – preferably under cover. Even after coronavirus, people will still want to keep their distance and meet outside.

We already have much in place. Both the Worthing Society and the Council have created excellent heritage trails. We have a great museum, diverse street markets, and some excellent local cafes and restaurants. We need to complete the unique experience of Worthing and provide digital information touch screens, more greenery, more pedestrianisation, regular changing markets, street art & sculpture and most importantly we need more seating areas just to **SIT** and enjoy THE TOWN CENTRE.

All of this combined with the continuation of heritage protection will give us individuality over generic town centres and make us a destination.

Jessica Gill

Vice - Chair

Worthing Society

JANUARY 2021

Goring Gap / Chatsmore Farm Objection

Dear Members and Worthing residents,

Save the North Goring Gap North- Worthing Society Objection Letter.

ACTION REQUIRED !

As you will know Persimmon Homes Ltd have applied for planning permission to build a 474-dwelling housing estate on land known as the
North Goring Gap.

The Worthing Society has submitted a strong letter of objection to the Planning Department to try to protect this important open green space and the local infrastructure. Please take the link below to our submitted objection.

LINK TO WORTHING SOCIETY OBJECTION

It is still not too late to object. Send your own objection by Email quoting reference number: AWDM/1264/20 to:-

planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Or BY POST to Planning Services, Worthing Borough Council, Portland Housr,44 Richmond Road Worthing BN11 1HS

HAVE YOUR SAY !

Kind regards,

Susan.

Mrs Susan Belton
Worthing Society Chair

January Article -- Worthing Journal

The Worthing Society Committee wish our members and readers all the very best for the New Year. We hope it won't be too long before we can resume our Quarterly Members meetings and Heritage Talks for local community groups. Currently we are developing a presentation celebrating the bicentenary of Beach House charting the history of this i Regency villa which dates from 1820.

The New Year will also bring forward significant planning applications . These are likely to include the building designs for Union Place, redevelopment of the former Gas Works site and the Grafton Car Park . Our Committee will make every effort to ensure that close attention is given to high quality design and scale, complementing the seaside character of Worthing . Providing new homes is of course important but in our view new plans must be sensitive to the local area.

The application for a development at Goring Gap North is likely to be heard in the early New Year. We have made a strong objection and will be speaking at the Planning Meeting to protect this historic green space.

We are only as strong as our membership and thank you for your support. New members of all ages are very welcome

Sue Belton,

Worthing Society Chair.

www.worthingsociety.org.uk https://www.facebook.com/worthingsociety

DECEMBER 2020

December Article -- Worthing Journal

As this difficult year draws to a close I am pleased to report that the Society can still record several worthwhile achievements to highlight Worthing's unique heritage. In March we were delighted to be involved with the Blue Plaque dedication for Keith Emerson, followed in May by the opening of the new Beach Walkway giving safe access to the Lifeboat Memorial Garden. We were pleased to negotiate with the Council to achieve this important facility. In October we were honoured to dedicate a Blue Plaque in tribute to Sir Frederick and Lady Stern, creators of Highdown Gardens.

On the' planning front' we have made strong representations to improve the quality of design for the Union Place development. The Society is an active member of the Goring Gap Action Group and I will speak in objection to the proposal at the Planning Meeting expected early next year.

When circumstances permit, our main priority next year will be a 'Membership Drive.' New members of all ages are welcome,

We also look forward to resuming our successful talks for local groups, about Worthing's social history and built environment. A new presentation about the history of Beach House is being prepared for 2021.

Seasons greetings to all our members and readers.

Susan Belton.

Worthing Society Chair.

www.worthingsociety.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2020

FORMER GAS WORKS SITE – LYNDHURST ROAD

Dear Members and Worthing Residents,

The Worthing Society has been advised by the developers that St William and ECE Architects will be holding a Virtual Public Consultation on Thursday, 26 November to display their emerging proposals for the development of the former Gas Works site in Lyndhurst Road. This is a brownfield site identified for residential redevelopment in the Raft Local Plan. We are looking for a high quality design . The attached flyer gives details of the Consultation, so be informed and have your say!

Kind regards,

Sue Belton

Worthing Society Chair

http://www.worthingsociety.org.uk/WS_Gas_Works_Plan.pdf

OCTOBER 2020

MAYORAL CHARITIES

We have received the following message from the Worthing Mayor, Cllr. Lionel Harman , which we think will be of interest to our members :

" Good Morning,

I've just created a GoFundMe campaign. To help raise funds for the Mayoral Charities as this has got off to a slow start due to the COVID situation.

Please can help me by joining my fundraising team. As a team member, you can spread the word, post updates and more.

You can see and join the fundraiser here:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/26gm6vaxao?teamInvite=OHrWCalOW4y8LEGNCsN1C2p5BrUE0gB9qqc9ROGWKdTb2pgRA1aZrb6gPS7GVPtv

Kind Regards Lionel"

Susan Belton, Worthing Society Chair

UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE SIR FREDERICK AND LADY STERN

On Thursday 8th October The Mayor unveiled a Blue Plaque to commemorate Sir Frederick and Lady Sybil Stern the creators of Highdown Gardens. The unveiling by Mayor Lionel Harman and Mayoress Karen Harman was organised by The Worthing Society in conjunction with Brunning and Price who own The Highdown Hotel & Restaurant.

For pictures and details of the event go to the following link:-

Unveiling of plaque to commemorate Sir Frederick and Lady Sybil Stern

AUGUST 2020

Save the North Goring Gap

Persimmon Homes Ltd have applied for planning permission to build a 475-dwelling housing estate here, between the railway and the Rife, from the Ferring boundary to Goring Way. We must do everything we can to get to get this application refused.

Please send your objection by e mail to :
planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Or by post to :
Developmental Management
Adur and Worthing Councils
Portland House
44 Richmond Road
Worthing BN11 1HS

quoting the serial no. AWDM/1264/20 by 19 Sept

ACT NOW – HAVE YOUR SAY !

Tell Worthing Council why losing this estate would be such a disaster: - half the green gap lost; loss of treasured landscape and 'green lung' ; effect on wildlife ; loss of Grade 1 agricultural land; impact on the infrastructure, traffic, drainage, schools, doctors ; adverse effect on the setting of the South Downs National Park

Sue Belton, Worthing Society Chair , On behalf of the Worthing Society Committee and Goring Gap Action Group

JULY 2020

THE FARNCOMBE ROAD ROUNDABOUT AND LAMP POST

Dear Members and Worthing residents,

Readers of the Worthing Journal may have noticed an article and photograph on page 20 highlighting the overgrown state of the shrubs on the small roundabout surrounding the Grade II Listed lamp post in Farncombe Road.

I want to reassure you that I am aware of the situation. In fact I have been in touch during the last month with West Sussex County Council, owners of the land and Worthing Borough Council who hold the maintenance contract. The roundabout and the Grade II lamp post are situated in a conservation area so these heritage assets should always be well maintained.

There has apparently been a delay due to Covid 19 which is understandable and the training of new maintenance staff at WBC. Nevertheless there is also a health and safety issue here in that overgrown shrubbery may affect the visibility for drivers. In our view WSCC as owners of the land should organise an immediate tidy up.

I am hoping to hear some positive news fairly soon and will keep you posted. The lamp post was saved by our founder member, Mrs Pat Baring and I am determined to ensure the area is looked after and that there will be an ongoing maintenance programme.

I do of course appreciate that at the time of going to press the Editor of the Journal was not aware of my representations.

Stay safe and well.

Susan Belton
Worthing Society Chair

WORTHING SOCIETY ARTICLE - AUGUST JOURNAL

The big wheel is an example of looking to the future by revisiting the past. Its inspiration is rooted firmly in the Ferris wheel of the Victorian era, yet is an icon of modernity. For the most part, the residents of Worthing love the wheel.

The same attitude needs to be adopted when considering the development of Union Place. The current plan looks incongruous to its surroundings. We do not need a high density, unimaginative and repressive residential development. The present proposal should be withdrawn and redesigned to produce a building echoing our historic charm with a contemporary twist.

For example, design a new square for Worthing based upon the former Georgian squares. Worthing has such a rich architectural history, especially from the Georgian era, when residential development was combined with green spaces such as Liverpool Gardens.

WBC exists to represent us, so when they carry out consultations, we need to express our preference for low rise buildings in the local style. Take action and help create the future. It is time for WBC to listen to us.

Email planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk <mailto:planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk> with your views now.

Susan Belton, Worthing Society Chair

https://www.facebook.com/worthingsociety
www.worthingsociery.org.uk

Southern Gap Upload – Local Wildlife Designation

Here is the Press Release which we received from Kathryn Walker, Chair of the ILEX Group, including a map of the Area boundary. We think it is good news for our members - *Best Wishes , Sue Belton*

“ We were informed this morning by Richard Cowser, Conservation Officer for the SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY that

<u>the Goring Gap (southern section) has been formally confirmed as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) because of its importance for birds</u>.

He says ‘it has taken a long time, but the decision has now been finalised and communicated to Arun and Worthing Councils, as well as all the landowners, and the LWS now appears on the updated GIS (geographic information system) maps that the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centres supplied to these Councils earlier last month’.

Richard also acknowledged the substantial help of local birder Clive Hope, of the Shoreham and District Ornithological Society, in pulling together the evidence needed to get this LWS designated.

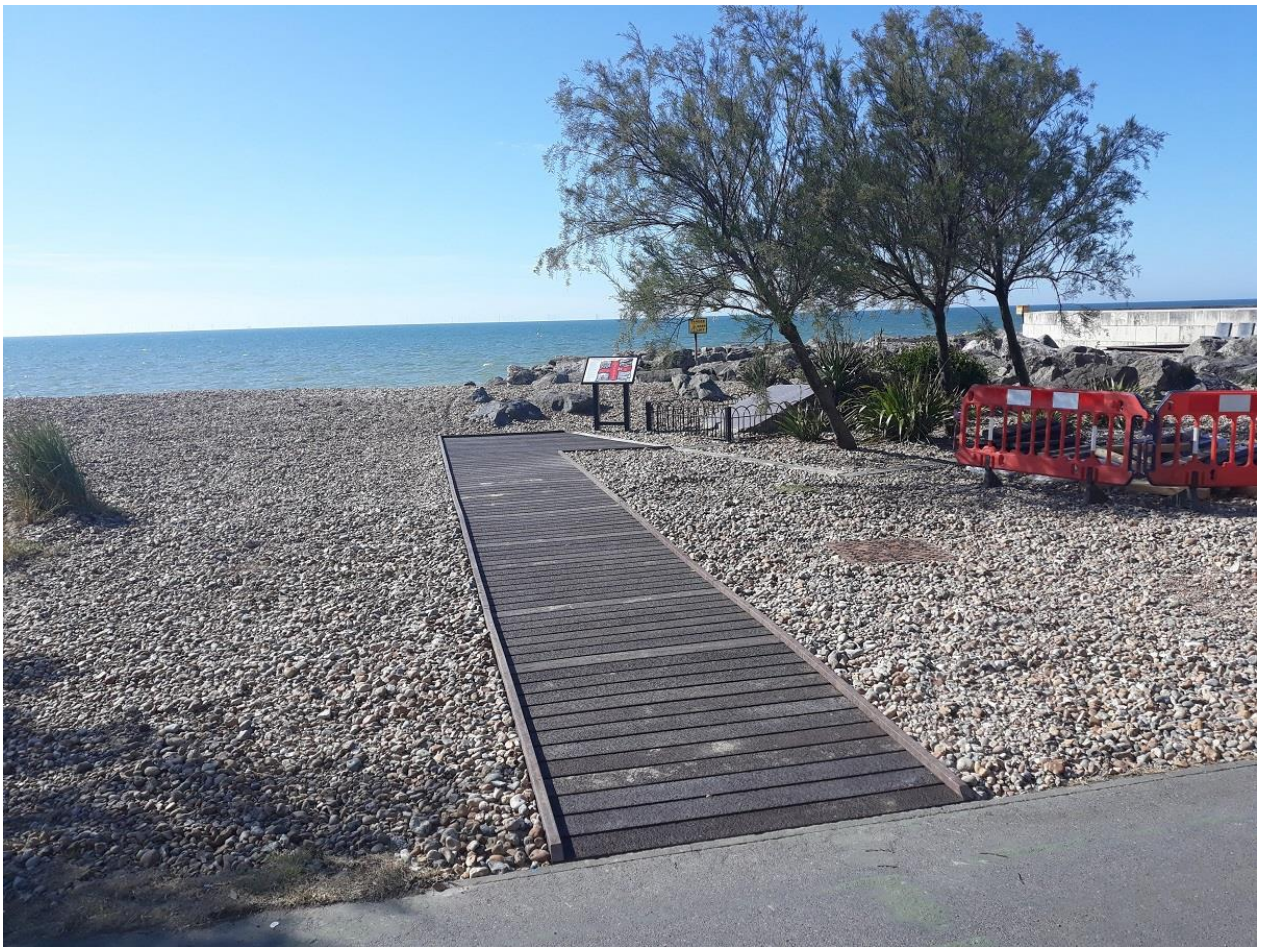
The fact that there is a LWS in place will help towards the Worthing Local Plan when it goes before the Planning Inspectors. This LWS <u>does not</u> cover the Goring Gap (northern section) known as Chatsmore Farm.”

MAY 2020

LIFEBOAT MEMORIAL DECKING

I am very pleased to report that our efforts have been rewarded and the decking planned to improve access to the Lifeboat Memorial has been installed. (Thanks to WBC for the picture shown below:-)

Sue Belton, Worthing Society Chair.



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ARTICLE FOR THE JUNE WORTHING JOURNAL

The Worthing Society would like to express our thanks for to all our loyal members and readers for their continued support. We hope you are keeping safe at this difficult time. I also wanted to take this opportunity to assure you that the Committee are working hard monitoring local planning issues affecting our valuable heritage and will be making representations at Virtual Planning Meetings where necessary. We shall also liaise with Environmental Services regarding proposed changes to the historic Beach House Park and to discuss reinstating the southern border and ensuring planned changes are appropriate to the character of this historic park. We will attend the Councils 'Focus Groups' for residents when circumstances permit.

We are looking ahead to later in the year when hopefully we can continue our heritage talks for the community and arrange the dedication of the Blue Plaque Gardens in honour of Sir Frederick and Lady Sybil Stern. at The Highdown adjacent to Highdown Gardens

I hope circumstances will permit us to hold our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22 September at 7.30pm at the Ardington Hotel, Steyne Gardens . Guests / visitors are welcome for a fee of £3.00 per person. Our speaker will be Craig Daters, Lead Ranger, South Downs National Park.

Please keep in touch on current issues via our website.

Sue Belton,

Worthing Society Chair.

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APRIL 2020

ARTICLE FOR THE MAY WORTHING JOURNAL

The Worthing Society Committee extends very best wishes to all members and readers at this difficult time. We also express our thanks to the Journal for our valued column which is particularly appreciated during the present circumstances. Planning matters still continue to need our attention. Watch for regular updates on our Facebook and Website.

Redevelopment plans for the Union Place car park site are in. Worthing Borough Council and the developers are joint applicants. The Council should be proposing a scheme reflecting suggestions made at the Public Consultation for buildings between 4 to 5 storeys in the local style plus a large leisure facility: perhaps an ice rink or new bowling alley. Instead the plans show a predominantly residential proposal, with large oppressive 6+7 storey blocks including an 11 storey tower. This we consider could conflict with the Councils own planning policies which stress the importance of respecting Worthing's character and heritage.

Worthing deserves a landmark development combining historic charm with contemporary design. This is a once in a generation chance, don't let it be a missed opportunity!

Have your say, look online at planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk and email your comments. Stand up for a quality development

In our view this proposal should be withdrawn

Susan Belton, Worthing Society Chair

MARCH 2020

PLAQUE IN HONOUR OF KEITH NOEL EMERSON, MUSICIAN and COMPOSER

On Saturday , March 14 a Dedication and Plaque unveiling was held at The Worthing Assembly Hall in honour of Keith Noel Emerson.

The following links will take you to a leaflet handed out at the service and a leaflet commemorating Keith's Work :-

- **Leaflet including the Order of Service and a profile of Keith and his work**

- **Leaflet produced by the Worthing Society to accompany the unveiling of the plaque**

ARTICLE FOR THE APRIL WORTHING JOURNAL

The derelict site at Teville Gate, now called Station Square, represented a once in a generation opportunity to deliver a distinctive, flagship design to show off the unique character of the town. Due to the location the site is inevitably the 'Gateway to Worthing.' It will give the first impression of Worthing to visitors arriving by road or rail. This new development will define Worthing nationally and locally for the foreseeable future.

Unfortunately the design approved by the Planning Committee is in our view unworthy of Worthing and will instead define this 'landmark site' with massive overbearing , forbidding towers.

The plans, now including an 83 bed hotel, represent overdevelopment, which will be overwhelming for the surrounding environs and the town. The South East Design Panel recommended slim elegant towers less bulky than those approved. A reflection of the seaside Art Deco buildings in Worthing may have been preferable. Limited parking provision is also a serious defect which will have a negative impact on local residents.

This site needs regeneration after years of dereliction ,but more consultation was required on design and mass. Something is not better than nothing.

We consider the approved design represents a missed opportunity and a poor legacy for future generations.

Sue Belton

Worthing Society Chair.

www.worthingsociety.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE QUARTERLY MEETING ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR TUESDAY APRIL 28th HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE THREAT FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

FEBRUARY 2020

WORTHING JOURNAL MARCH ARTICLE

The Worthing Society Committee was very disturbed to learn of the extensive works and removal of plants that has taken place at Beach House Park. The work commenced using heavy machinery in November taking place without a public consultation or any reference to the local community. Residents were distressed to witness the extensive stripping out of healthy mature shrubs and plants at the southern boundary of the park. These distinctive shrubs acted as a natural barrier and protection from road pollutants

Worthing Borough Council (WBC) and the Parks Management Team have further plans to remove more internal shrubs destroying the natural habitat and peaceful character of this memorial park. On an historical note, this park is included as a 'heritage asset' on the Local Interest List, being designated due to the distinctive landscaping, horticulture and connection to Beach House. Our open spaces and parks form part of Worthing's historic identity and need our protection! I have referred this matter to the Conservation Officer urgently.

SAVE OUR PARK ! This must STOP NOW and all works PAUSED. A Consultation to restore the southern boundary and prevent further removals must take place.!

Have your say today and contact :

loughtont@parliament.uk

Daniel.humphrey@worthing.gov.uk (WBC Council Leader)

alex.bailey@adur-worthing.gov.uk (CEO at WBC).

paul.westover@worthing.gov.uk (Central Ward).

Sue Belton

Worthing Society Chair at www.worthingsociety.org.uk

JANUARY 2020

WORTHING JOURNAL ARTICLE FEBRUARY

The new decade will bring challenges to the work of the conservationist. Our built heritage in many cases is nearing 200 years old. All our expertise will be required to safeguard our heritage assets . We have several initiatives to achieve this including our successful Campaign to upgrade the South Street Conservation Area.

Our popular talks which increase our membership and highlight the Society's work also feature for 2020. If your group would welcome a talk please contact our website. There are also plans to extend the Blue Plaque Trail to unlock our social history and emphasise the value of Worthing's built heritage.

New developments such as Union Place and Station Square will define this year. The challenge, to quote Historic England is ' how we manage change in the historic environment' protecting the traditional character of Worthing but incorporating some inevitable new design. The redevelopment of the landmark Colonnade hub will be a case in point requiring good , sensitive design to complement the conservation area but provide a vibrant centre.

The next Quarterly Meeting is at the Ardington Hotel, The Steyne, Tuesday 25 February. Doors open at 7pm. Our Speakers are the South Downs Film Makers showing 'The Shoreham Lifeboat' a' Ferring Documentary' and some short comedies.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Belton

Worthing Society Chair

HISTORIC ARCHIVE

TIMELINES

2019

2018

2017

NEWSLETTERS

Sept 2007 > Present Day : go to "Navigation Menu / Newsletters" on Home Page

1982 > 1995 (Newsletters 1 to 30).