

WORTHING SOCIETY TIMELINE - 2019

(Reverse Date Order)

NOVEMBER 2019



PLAN FOR GORING GAP-NORTH-CHATSMORE-FARM

(As published in the December edition of the The Worthing Journal)

Persimmon have unveiled their plans to build 465 houses on the Goring Gap- North- Chatsmore Farm. This extensive scheme is directly contrary to Worthing's Draft Local Plan which seeks to protect this land from development by designating this important area as a local green gap and Local Green Space.

The Draft Local Plan recognises the importance Worthing residents attach to Chatsmore Farm as a visual, historic link to Highdown which is within the South Downs National Park. This valued open green space forms a 'strategic gap' between Goring and Ferring. It is environmentally important and will be a legacy for future generations. Once our countryside and green spaces have gone its well and truly goodbye.

The Worthing Society will vigorously oppose this scheme and will be running a Campaign to safeguard our heritage. We shall stand firm in defence of Goring Gap - Chatsmore Farm together with all local groups in Goring and Ferring. Lobby your Local Councillor and MP to highlight the threat to this irreplaceable green space. This damaging proposal should be immediately withdrawn.

On a lighter note The Worthing Society sends seasons greetings to all our members and readers. We welcome new members of all ages. For more information go to www.worthingsociety.org.uk

Sue Belton

Worthing Society Chair.



THANK YOU TO THE WORTHING ROWING CLUB - SPLASH POINT

The Worthing Society Committee and members would like to express sincere thanks to the Worthing Rowing Club for the hospitality shown to the Mayor of Worthing and our guests following the rededication of the Lifeboat Memorial Stone on 15 September.

This was a major occasion for Worthing to honour the heroism of our early lifeboatmen who went out on early open boats. The event was held in the Memorial Beach Garden opposite the club and included the unveiling of the historic Lifeboat Information Board giving a history of these exceptionally brave men. The Information Board which is in the form of the RNLI flag, was made possible by a very generous anonymous donation and also includes QR Codes giving current information on beach safety from the RNLI. It was designed by our Vice-Chair and local artist, Jessica Gill.

The Art Deco building which houses the Worthing Rowing Club was an entirely appropriate location for the reception. There is an attractive balcony and stylish windows overlooking the Memorial Garden which is within sight of the beaches from which the early boats were launched, The characterful clubhouse afforded views of the present day Shoreham Lifeboat and crew who attended the event coming inshore to pay tribute to the early fishermen and lifeboatmen. The attendance of the lifeboat was organised by Society member Rob Blann who can trace family members who crewed the open boats.

This very attractive Art Deco clubhouse is recorded on the Council's 'Local Interest List' which acknowledges the importance of the building to Worthing's maritime heritage. The description by the Council states that the Art Deco building probably 'draws its influence from the great age of the ocean liners.' It was possibly designed by the Worthing architect A T Goldsmith and dates from 1934-1935, who also contributed to the Connaught theatre.

With appreciation to Steven Deans, his wife and colleagues for making us so welcome and opening up their interesting club house for a most memorable reception. Nothing was too much trouble and their hospitality contributed to the success of this a very important occasion.

I am hoping to work with Steven to research and write more details a history of the Worthing Rowing Club, and this unusual building.

To find out more about Worthing Rowing Club go to : wrc@worthingrowingclub.com

Sue Belton

Worthing Society Chair.

NOVEMBER WORTHING JOURNAL ARTICLE



Further to the article about the Stagecoach building (Bedford Row) featured on page 22 of Septembers Journal I would like to reassure readers that new first floor windows were always part of the extensive works to regenerate this landmark building which is an early example of a bus and coach station.

The planning enforcement officer leading the project has worked closely with the Stagecoach architects to negotiate a suitable material, costing and design for the windows.

Because these windows had to be made in a traditional bespoke style, their manufacture took several weeks. They should be installed towards the end of October. The Editor of the Journal was probably not aware of the

agreement to replace the windows at the time of writing the September article.

The Society is delighted with the significant improvements to this building and appreciate the commitment of the company. Regeneration of this former bus and coach station has been a major success.

Our next Quarterly Meeting takes place at the Ardington Hotel, Steyne Gardens on November 26, at 7.30pm when Worthing Museum Archaeologist, James Sainsbury will be giving a talk about our Saxon past.

Sue Belton

OCTOBER 2019



CREATIVE WAVES : A VISUAL HISTORY OF WORTHING'S PROMENADE

Creative Waves - A Visual History of Worthing's Promenade is a short film bringing together research from their heritage project "Pop Up on the Prom". The project, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, focuses on and celebrates the last 200 years of Worthing's promenade, researching the social history and the seafront developments through photographic archives and editorials. Many thanks to Worthing Museum & Art Gallery and West Sussex County Library Service. Thanks also to Screen Archive South East for sharing archival footage of Worthing seafront and Mark Tew at Button Pressed Films for editing. For more information and research on Pop Up on the Prom go to: www.creativewaves.co.uk

Creative Waves Community Arts CIC is a not-for-profit organisation founded and run by Vanessa Breen and Nadia Chalk. Creative Waves regularly work with local schools and other organisations to inspire people to get involved with community projects and teach new skills through collaborative, educational & creative workshops.

For the history video of Worthing's Promenade go to :-

https://youtu.be/-N_bzAOGTdU

SEPTEMBER 2019

JANE AUSTEN and The Worthing Connection



DISCOVER WORTHING (the Town's Official Tourist Web Site, www.discoverworthing.uk) are publishing a series of articles over the course of the new ITV Sanditon series, describing Jane Austen's stay in Worthing. Click on the following link: [Jane Austen in Worthing](#) for the first two articles

REDEDICATION OF LIFEBOAT MEMORIAL AND UNVEILING OF INFORMATION BOARD.



The Worthing Society was deeply honoured to hold a re-dedication of the Lifeboat Memorial Stone and to mark the unveiling of the new, historic Lifeboat Information Board. This event was held in the Beach Memorial Garden at Splash Point on Sunday 15 September. The Lifeboat Memorial Stone, made of Welsh slate, was originally commissioned by the Worthing Society in 2013. The installation of the new Information Board for which we received a very generous donation, will highlight the names of the courageous early lifeboatmen who carried out heroic rescues using open boats. Its impressive design, by Worthing Society Vice-Chair, and local artist Jessica Gill was based on the iconic RNLI flag. We also thank Worthing Borough Council for their interest and for supporting the event.

The early crews were mainly local fishermen and there are still families in Worthing today descended from those brave men. Worthing became a 'Lifeboat Town' following the Lallah Rooke disaster in 1850. Eleven local fishermen drowned in the rescue attempt when their lugger overturned in a ferocious storm, leaving 47 widows and children. This really shows the significance of the sacrifice made by the town in this era. Our first true lifeboat was the 'Jane' launched in 1866. The Lifeboat Station remained an important part of the town's life and identity until 1930 when the motorised RNLI boat from Shoreham took over.

The present day Shoreham Lifeboat was in attendance throughout the dedication and paid tribute offshore by performing life-saving exercises. This made a very fine and poignant backdrop to the ceremony. A local choir, 'Singers Required' sang 'For those in Peril on the Sea' and other maritime songs which added to the atmosphere of the occasion.

The Mayor of Worthing, Councillor Hazel Thorpe, unveiled the new Information Board and laid a wreath of white roses on behalf of Worthing Borough Council. A most touching blessing of the Memorial was then given by the Reverend Ginny Cassell from Storm Ministries.

Rob Blann, author of 'A Town's Pride' and descendent of one of the early lifeboatmen and who contributed greatly to our research, gave a moving address. He read out the names of the 16 men who had made the ultimate sacrifice and the circumstances in which they perished. A wreath was then laid by Rob Blann and Susan Belton, Worthing Society Chair, on behalf of the Society's Committee and members.

In a touching conclusion to the ceremony, the Shoreham Lifeboat came close in to the beach and cast afloat a bouquet of 16 red flowers, one for each man lost. The Coxswain, Steve Smith, then came ashore by dinghy to walk up the beach to lay a wreath at the historic Memorial. He was received by the Mayor of Worthing, and the Worthing Society Chair with Rob Blann and Sir Peter Bottomley, MP.

The ceremony and dedication of the Information Board has given true recognition to the Memorial Garden recording the courage of 130+ early lifeboatmen going to sea in poorly equipped boats, protecting our coastline. The legacy of their heroism lives on in the spirit of the RNLI today who still faces significant challenges. Three robust cheers were given for the Shoreham Lifeboat! In a fitting tribute the Beach Office have agreed to the RNLI flag flying permanently at Splash Point.

We hope the ceremony has been a moving and meaningful event to mark an important chapter in Worthing's maritime history.

For The Order of Service, A Historical Fact Sheet, and pictures of the Event
[go back to the Web Site](#) and select "RECENT EVENTS"

AUGUST 2019



We have received details of a church building exhibition in Goring which we think may well be of interest to our members. Take the following link for a full account of the exhibition: [Goring Church Building Exhibition](#)

Sue Belton
Chairman

THE NEW MONKS FARM DEVELOPMENT AND THE A27



The development of 600 homes and an IKEA store at the New Monks Farm site in Lancing will probably add about 2,500 vehicles a day to the traffic on the A27 in Worthing. The increase will be larger in the evening than in the morning, because the Ikea store will not open until 10am. This increase was not included in the traffic forecast Highways England published in 2017 with its abortive proposals to improve the A27, and will render the task of improving the road even more difficult. The deterioration on air quality could only be alleviated by building a bypass, which has been ruled out because of its cost. A tunnel is the only acceptable design, which would cost at least £1,400m.

The entrance to New Monks Farm and the Ikea will be provided by a large signal-controlled roundabout, which will also provide the entrance to Shoreham Airport, and replace the traffic lights.

David Sawers

The Worthing Society

N.B. The Society's next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday September 24th in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre, when Roger Amerena will talk about Conservation Plaques in Brighton and Hove. All are welcome.



Blue Plaque Dedication to WW1 Soldier Sergeant Walter Harrold, MM.

The Worthing Society were honoured to dedicate a Blue Plaque in tribute to WW1 soldier Sergeant Walter Harrold, Military Medal. The event took place at 12 Montague Place, the former family home, on Sunday 4 August and was attended by Her Worship the Mayor of Worthing, Councillor Hazel Thorpe who unveiled the plaque. The event was also attended by Tim Loughton MP, Councillor Paul Baker and various war veterans,

Sergeant Harrold was 18 years of age when he was killed at Richbourg on 16 September 1916. He was a member of the 13 Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment which suffered considerable losses at this time. The plaque recognises the sacrifice made by all the fallen of Worthing. This regiment is now part of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (PWRR). We were delighted that Major Jonny Laws from the PWRR was able to join us and give an address. Major Laws also laid a Poppy Wreath on behalf of

the regiment. We were then very touched when the Deputy Youth Mayor, Will Nyss read the Exhortation. The Last Post was played by a member of Worthing's Silver Band.

The Society are most grateful to Major Tom Wye for carrying out the necessary research and for advising on the protocol for the occasion. We hope the Blue Plaque will be a very visual way of highlighting this very moving period in our history.

For more details and pictures of the ceremony return to our web site

www.worthingsociety.org.uk and select "RECENT EVENTS"

Sue Belton

LOCAL WALKS



We are pleased to promote a number of local walks that one of our long-standing members, Alex Vincent is arranging and which may be of interest to our members :-

Monday 5th August to Sheepcombe, Findon Valley – meet at Combe Rise car park at 7.15pm

Monday 12th August in Worthing for the Palaeolithic site and Worthing Lumps out at sea – meet in Beach House grounds south of the house at 7.15pm

Friday 13th September on the village pumps of Worthing – meet outside the Guilbourne Centre at 6.15pm

For more information email Alex at alexclipsing@gmail.com

**Alex Vincent.
Worthing Society Member**

JUNE 2019



Please find below a Summary of our activities in MAY.

Planning Applications

The most interesting and controversial issue has been the appearance of 12 paintings of notable Worthing citizens of the past on buildings in and around the town centre. This project has merit and the designs are in the main well done. However two are on Grade II Listed Buildings. The Planning Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990 states that no alteration should be carried out to a Listed Building in any manner which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest without authorisation (by way of obtaining Listed Building Consent). This is to ensure that the local Planning Department carefully assesses the impact of any proposed changes on such heritage assets. In this case no Listed Building Consent application was made and the Planning Department made a recommendation to the Planning Committee that the two illustrations on the Listed Buildings should be removed as in their view they did adversely impact the character of the buildings in question. The illustrations can of course be re-drawn elsewhere in the neighbourhood. We supported the recommendation and also expressed concerns that allowing art/graffiti on Listed

Buildings without consulting the planning department in advance would set a dangerous precedent. The issue also causes all kinds of issues around what is art and what is graffiti. Regrettably the Planning Committee rejected the planning departments report and recommendation. This could have far reaching consequences for our Listed Buildings and I am considering what further action we can take.

You may have read in the press that the Secretary of State for Housing, James Brokenshire, MP, has refused a request from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), supported by the local MP, to have the IKEA and New Monks Farm planning applications for 600 houses and an IKEA store Called-In for further consideration. I also submitted a Call-In Request on behalf of The Worthing Society expressing significant local concerns and in support of the CPRE request. It was originally approved by Adur District Council in October 2018 and is likely to go ahead fairly soon.

As regards other planning matters we have heard nothing further on Station Square or the proposals to add 32 beach huts to the East Beach and 8 opposite Marine Crescent. I had a letter setting out our reasons for objecting to Station Square published in The Herald last month.

Heritage Buildings

There has been further progress this month following on from our campaign to improve the South Street Conservation Area. I am pleased to say that the Stagecoach building at the top of Bedford Row has now been cleaned and the doors painted in Southdown Livery. Several other buildings are "in the pipeline". Owners and tenants continue to be receptive to working with the planning department to re-paint and repair heritage buildings.

South Street Conservation Area Campaign

We expect a decision any day on our application to the Rampion Sussex Community Foundation for a grant to provide a walkway and viewing area for the Lifeboat Memorial Stone and proposed new Information Board.

Town Centre Blue Plaque Heritage Trail

This has been a tremendous success with the initial print run of 1000 leaflets nearly exhausted. We will be considering improvements to the route and a second print run shortly. Later this summer we are planning to arrange the dedication of a Blue Plaque to honour the First World War soldier Sergeant Walter Harold MM and all the fallen of Worthing in the Great War. The arrangements will be confirmed shortly.

Other matters

During the month we received an enquiry from Clive Agran, a freelance journalist, asking if we could show him around the town for a forthcoming article he is writing in 'Sussex Life' about Worthing. David Clark (publicity officer) and I met with Clive and had an enjoyable 2 hours walking most of our Town Centre Heritage Trail highlighting the attractions of the town including its architectural heritage .

David and I also spent a morning with the Greeters of Worthing walking the Trail and giving them some background to the development of Worthing and its historic buildings. The Greeters are local volunteers who show groups of tourists round the town (they can be booked using the Discover Worthing website).

Best Wishes,

Sue Belton

MAY 2019

National Gardens Scheme



The Society is very pleased to publicise the opening of the Ambrose Place Back Gardens to the public on Sunday 23 June. They hope to welcome many members and friends of the Worthing Society and thank us for our support.

Hilary Leeves
13 Ambrose Place



PUBLISHED IN THE WORTHING SOCIETY'S COLUMN IN THE MAY 2019 EDITION OF THE WORTHING JOURNAL

One of our committee members was in town recently and was approached by a visitor from France asking where she could find the Tourist Information Office.

It strikes me that the Information Point in the Pavilion Foyer fulfils only a very basic role as a tourist office, unmanned, poorly resourced and with no significant signage to advertise it's presence. This is a missed opportunity.

In 2016 there were an estimated 296,000 staying trips and 3.6 million day tourist trips to Worthing with total expenditure by visitors estimated to be £143.5m.

To support such an important industry and help reinvigorate the town centre a centrally located, well thought out, well sign posted Tourist Office to promote Worthing is in our view essential. It requires a significant upgrade including perhaps being manned during the summer. It should also ideally be managed alongside the excellent Discover Worthing Website not separately as is the case now.

I appreciate that many visitors plan their visit online before they arrive so the website and Information Points at Hotels and Bed and Breakfast establishments are equally vital.

However a well functioning centrally located Tourist Office should be part of a co-ordinated effort to promote Worthing to visitors.

Sue Belton

APRIL 2019

Launching the Town Centre Blue Plaque Heritage Trail



The Worthing Society is today launching its new Town Centre Blue Plaque Heritage Trail. Taking about an hour it includes some of Worthing's most notable buildings, monuments and sculptures. Designed to appeal to visitors and residents alike. Trail leaflets available from the tourist office at the Pavillion Foyer, the Library and Museum or click on the following link : [Town Centre Trail](#)

MARCH 2019



The Spring-Summer Newsletter has now been published on the Web Site



PUBLISHED IN THE WORTHING SOCIETY'S COLUMN IN THE MARCH 2019 EDITION OF THE WORTHING JOURNAL

Worthing Society members and local residents have contacted me with serious concerns about the Council's proposal to erect a 'Giant Observation Wheel' approximately 45 metres high on the foreshore opposite Montague Place. Marine Parade is narrow so nearby residents can foresee issues of privacy resulting from the close proximity of the wheel., whilst safety lighting at night could be intrusive.

Montague Place is within the South Street Conservation Area. The openness of the views are an important feature and the wheel could be over-dominant in this setting. Feedback we have received shows residents value the traditional seafront character of the town.

Worthing Planning Department informed me that a planning application is required and is currently awaited. A period of consultation with residents and other statutory consultees will follow, with the final decision taken by the Planning Committee.

The Society is keen to see an active tourist economy but consider this is the WRONG location for such a large structure. The potential effect on the area and importantly local residents could prove unacceptable. This must not be viewed as 'collateral damage' in the drive to create new visitor attractions. A more suitable location needs to be sought if this venture is to go ahead.

Have your say: contact your local Councillor and the Planning Department.

Sue Belton. Worthing Society Chairman.

www.worthingsociety.org.uk

FEBRUARY 2019



PUBLISHED IN THE WORTHING SOCIETY'S COLUMN IN THE FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION OF THE WORTHING JOURNAL

The Worthing Society Committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. We warmly welcome new members of all ages to support our work in conserving Worthing's historic environment but also acting as a 'watchdog' ensuring new developments avoid the planning mistakes of the past. We do not wish to 'mothball' the town but rather aim to see good quality design and sensitive regeneration of our town centre conservation areas. As a member you will be helping to make sure our voice is heard. 2019 will be a turning point for Worthing with significant large-scale plans-so have your say!.

Other initiatives include inviting members contributions to our active Website and Facebook page. We recently uploaded members articles about Worthing's Lifeboat History, Navarino Road and Ambrose Place. An article about Jane Austen's stay in Worthing will feature later this year! We hope to add to our Blue Plaque Trail highlighting the town's interesting historical characters. Our heritage talks, including an online Picture Gallery are available to schools, groups and clubs.. If you are interested in a talk for your group please get in touch via: worthingsociety@yahoo.co.uk

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

JANUARY 2019



Plaque Rededication & Unveiling

On January 28th a rededication & plaque unveiling took place at Beach House to :

- Beach House, Basque Refugee Children
- King Edward VII
- Edward Knoblock

For an account and pictures of the unveiling ceremony return to our web site www.worthingsociety.org.uk and select "RECENT EVENTS"



PUBLISHED IN THE WORTHING SOCIETY'S COLUMN IN THE JANUARY 2019 EDITION OF THE WORTHING JOURNAL

This year The Worthing Society will build on the achievements of 2018 which included the successful Campaign to upgrade parts of the South Street Conservation Area and to improve the access to the Lifeboat Memorial Stone at Splashpoint. We also plan to extend our popular Group Talks about Worthing's built heritage and Blue Plaque Trail to younger students at school or college. The Committee will be working hard to monitor the significant new planning applications expected later this year. These will include Station Square (Teville Gate), Union Place and more recently the proposals to redevelop the Beales site. This proposal is to retain the store while extending parts of the complex to deliver 45 residential units.

2019 will be an exciting year for Worthing with combined development plans for retail and residential units aiming to revitalise the town centre.

Nevertheless the Society will keep a watchful eye on this urban architectural development. We welcome regeneration but need to ensure the planning mistakes of the past are avoided. This means high quality design to complement the historic character of the town centre. A busy year beckons! We welcome new members of all ages. By increasing our membership we increase our influence in the town.

To get involved see our website at www.worthingsociety.org.uk

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/worthingsociety/>

With best wishes for 2019

Sue Belton, Worthing Society Chair