THE WORTHING SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

PRESIDENT:
Tony Malone
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OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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

VICE-CHAIR:
Vacant (covered by the Committee)

HON.SECRETARY:
Vacant

HON.TREASURER:
Leonia Crozier
E: worthingsociety@yahoo.co.uk

SOCIAL SECRETARY:
Karen Harman
(Becomes vacant as from this AGM)

HON.MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:
Brenda Whitmell
12 Brook Way
Lancing, BN15 8DQ
E: worthingsociety@yahoo.co.uk

HON.PUBLICITY OFFICER/WEBSITE MANAGER/TRUSTEE
David Clark
Mob: 07713 925153
E: clarkhodson@btinternet.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND LCAS (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas)

John Head	Planning Consultant; LCAS,Trustee
David Sawers	Advisor on Policy
Jessica Gill	Publicity & Artwork
Susan Head	Publicity
Natalie Cropper	LCAS, Trustee

WEBSITE MANAGERS:
David Clark & Susan Belton
E: worthingociety@yahoo.co.uk

NEWSLETTER COMPILER:
Sandra Malone

FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 41st Annual General Meeting of The Worthing Society will take place on 30 April 2024 at 7.00pm in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre.

Nominations are invited for the following posts:-

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Honorary Secretary
- Honorary Treasurer
- Honorary Membership Secretary
- Honorary Social Secretary
- Honorary Publicity Officer
- Honorary Legal Consultant
- Six Members of the Executive Committee

All nominations, supported by a seconder, and with the approval of the nominee should be sent/notified, to Susan Belton, Chairman, **not later than 16 April 2024**. Nominations close two weeks before the AGM.

Doors will open at 6.45pm and the AGM will commence at 7.00pm after which there will be a short tea/coffee break followed by a talk from Andy Thomas on “The Mystery of Crop Circles”.

MEMORIAL STONE LAID IN HONOUR OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 ON 10.11.2023

At the foot of our tree in Beach House Park

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU! I'm sure Lord Kitchener would forgive me for cribbing his famous quote.

This Spring Newsletter is advertising the forthcoming AGM and, accordingly, invites nominations for the various posts. These are listed on the front page of this Newsletter.

The Worthing Society is also looking for volunteers to strengthen its number of Officers and Committee members. The shortfall has been mentioned in previous Newsletters but it is now becoming critical. We need volunteers to cover the following Committee posts:

The Vice Chairman (*This role is chosen 'in house' by the Committee*)

The Hon. Secretary (*This role does not require a knowledge of planning issues)*

The Hon. Social Secretary (*This role becomes vacant following the AGM as Karen Harman is standing down). I and all other members of the Committee wish to thank her for her help and contributions to the social side of the Worthing Society.*

Note: *The LCAS Sub-Committee (Listed Building & Conservation Areas) is covered by colleagues who have built up a knowledge of planning policies*

I have outlined further on in this newsletter, the help we need and if anyone is interested, please contact our Chairman, Susan Belton. She will be pleased to explain what the role entails and/or the help she requires. Her contact details are also shown on the front page of this newsletter.

Tony Malone

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Dear Members, the Committee would like to thank all our members for their ongoing support and interest in the Society, its meetings and activities. I am pleased to report that we have steadily increased our membership during the last year. We also extend our thanks to those members who have generously donated to the Society.

The details of our meetings and other events, which we hope you will enjoy, are listed on the back page of the Newsletter. They are also an opportunity for you to meet and discuss current issues with our Committee members.

I must advise you that, after serious consideration, the Committee has decided to increase the Annual Membership Subscription to £15 per annum for single members and to £20 for joint memberships. The Society's subscription has not increased for ten years but, as I am sure you will appreciate, we are also having to meet risings costs. These include Public Liability Insurance plus cover for our equipment, the hire of the Library Lecture Theatre for the Quarterly Meetings, plus annual fees for maintaining the website host. We are also aiming to increase our events for members and to add to the Blue Plaque Trail, highlighting the value of our conservation work.

Please find enclosed your renewal forms (not necessary for Life Members). You can return them to me or bring them along to the AGM in April. For your convenience, it is now possible for you to set up a regular 'Standing Order' payment from your own account to CAF Bank (Charities Aid Foundation Bank).

We look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming Quarterly Meeting on 27th February 2024.

Brenda Whitmell,

Membership Secretary

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that during the late Summer and Autumn we have increased our membership and extended our programme of events. Our series of Heritage Talks and local Heritage Walks are going well. We hope these will be enjoyable for our members and will illustrate the value of protecting Worthing's unique historic buildings. We can also begin to 'unlock' the social history of the buildings to stimulate further research. Our Tarring Heritage Walk in early October 2023 was much enjoyed. It was well attended and followed by a welcome cream tea at the historic 'smugglers pub', The George and Dragon. We plan to continue our walks and the next event will be the Broadwater Village Walk in March, followed by lunch at the historic Cricketers Public House.

The Worthing Society Committee is looking forward to a busy new year taking part in the next Worthing Festival from 8th June to 23rd June 2024. We shall be contributing our successful Blue Plaque Heritage Trail Walk and a talk called 'Jane Austen and the Worthing Connection' which traces the parallels with the unfinished novel 'Sanditon' at the Worthing Museum. Details of our events will be advertised later in the Spring so keep an eye on our Website and the Council's "It's Time for Worthing" website for bookings. We offer a range of talks so please get in touch if your group would be interested. I am keen for the Worthing Society to be seen as part of the community. We are also hoping to introduce the Society and our work to the students at Northbrook College and other sixth-form school/college groups.

Now the Covid emergency is behind us we shall able to have a stall at the forthcoming 'Farmers Markets'. We were also very honoured to be invited by the Royal British Legion to lay a wreath on behalf of the Society at the Town Hall Remembrance Service. We also laid a Poppy Wreath at the site of the Blue Plaque in Montague Place in memory of WW1 soldier, Sergeant Walter Harrold, MM, and all the fallen of Worthing in the Great War. In addition, I am also pleased to report that we are now members of the Worthing Arts Forum and the Worthing Development Panel, so we are taking an active role in the community.

Following a very generous donation to the Society we were able to dedicate a Memorial Stone in tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II in Beach House Park. The event took place on 10 November 2023 and was attended by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor John Roser, Tim Loughton, MP, Lionel Harman, Vice- Chair of the Worthing Branch of the Royal British Legion and Councillor Noel Atkins, Armed Forces Champion. The stone was skilfully engraved and finished with gold lettering by local Stonemason, Graham Baker and has been laid at the base of the Memorial Tree. The tree, a 'Malus Sylvestrus', was also donated by the Society and planted in the late Queen's honour in December 2023. We were very grateful for the support of the Park's Team at Worthing Borough Council on both occasions. I hope the Memorial will be a tranquil space for the community to pay their respects.

Our work as Planning Consultees continues and we comment regularly on applications affecting our heritage assets. We were successful in our objection to prevent a large two-storey restaurant building being constructed on the beach opposite West Buildings. It could have set an unwelcome precedent. We are also monitoring the protection of our green infrastructure.

As you are probably aware the developers, Persimmon, are strongly pursuing their intention to build 475 dwellings at Chatsmore Farm, despite their Appeal being refused. They have the right to apply to have the Appeal re-determined and this will be dealt with at a Public Inquiry to be heard shortly. I have registered to speak at the Inquiry in defence of this important green area. The key point in our favour is that the Local Plan has now been adopted. It clearly designates Chatsmore Farm as a Green Gap between settlements, which offers the site protection. Worthing Borough Council has issued a strong statement in favour of protecting this land – we will keep you updated via our website.

We welcome new members of all ages. It's by increasing our membership that we increase our influence in the town to comment on planning applications and, more recently, the protection of our green open spaces.

I must conclude by thanking our President, Tony Malone and the Committee for their unstinting support and hard work. My sincere appreciation, as always, to our valued, loyal members for your ongoing support.

Susan Belton

Worthing Society Chair

LISTING AND CONSERVATION AREAS SUB-COMMITTEE (LCAS) REPORT

MEMBERS: Sue Belton (Chair), Natalie Cropper, John Head and, by invitation, Tony Malone

The Sub-Committee members have continued their excellent work during the last six months in monitoring all issues and planning applications affecting our built heritage environment and green infrastructure. We shall be commenting on the proposals for Union Place. Although redevelopment is necessary, we consider the design is too bland and the tall elements too high at 7 and 11 storeys.

The Team will also be commenting on the plans to demolish the Victorian Gospel Hall and No. 2 Bedford Row, a Georgian building, to make way for a 4 and 5 storey block of flats. (*See 3D picture of* p*roposed building*).

(3D visualisation of proposed building)

Wherever possible we must ensure that we use the current Planning Policy guidance to look for opportunities to strengthen or extend our conservation areas. These areas provide the historic backdrop and protection for our listed buildings and historic green spaces.

Following our detailed application to the Conservation Officer, Worthing Borough Council has carried out a review of the Goring Hall CA and the Steyne Gardens conservation areas. The proposal is to extend the Steyne Gardens CA with the possibility of including historic Denton Gardens, Beach House Park and Beach House Grounds. The Council is also proposing a new conservation area at Marine Gardens. Following the recent Public Consultation, the proposals will go to the Planning Committee for approval and we are cautiously optimistic. I will upload the result to our website.

Our work as Guardians of our heritage continues!

Susan Belton

Chair (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Sub-Committee)

A SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee extend their special thanks to our member Wendy Greene following the successful publication of her book entitled “What’s in a Name”. This attractive book has certainly added to our local ‘Heritage Map’ and has been very popular. I am delighted to tell you that after recovering production costs, Wendy has most generously donated the net profits from her sales to The Worthing Society, which is much appreciated.

Susan and the Committee

A NOTE ON PUBLICITY

I am pleased to report that we have agreed a location for the proposed Blue Plaque dedicated to John Henry Pull which will be on the Southern wall of the museum. Hopefully the Mayor will be available for the unveiling event which will be in May (date to be advised).

I hope you have been enjoying David Pateman's 'Building of the Month' articles in The Worthing Journal. David has covered The Burlington, Beach House, The Warnes Hotel, The Lifeboat Station, The Egremont and The Cricketers. If you wish to read them, please look under Members Articles on our website.

Planning has commenced for our participation in The Worthing Festival which is taking place between the 8th - 23rd June 2024. We will be doing two events i.e. a joint event with the museum and a Blue Plaque walk through the town ending up at Pizza Express for refreshments. The museum event will be a talk on Jane Austen's journey to Worthing and her time here in 1805 with costumes from the period on display around the room. Hopefully the museum garden will be open for tea and biscuits beforehand. ***Dates to follow.***

The new talk 'Pioneers of Worthing' has largely been completed. It will be launched at the Library's Lecture Theatre on Thursday 11th July. All members will be welcome.

David Clark
PUBLICITY OFFICER

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

WORKLOAD – CONSULTATIONS ETC.

Bearing in mind my 'Presidents Thoughts' in the previous Newsletter, I believe it is important that you, our Members, are kept in the picture regarding the Society's substantial workload and the nature of the work in which we are engaged.

Our Chairman, Susan, is working hard with a very heavy workload. Much of her time is spent dealing with an almost constant flow of often complex planning applications from WBC Planning Dept. I need to emphasise that she tackles most of these alone, following discussions with members of the Heritage Committee (LCAS), and Sandra assists her by typing and formatting, to a high standard, our decisions and forwarding our response to the Case Officer dealing with the application. We believe that maintaining this high standard in our dealings with WBC Planning Dept., is very important in order that we keep the respect which we have earned.

WBC, along with other Councils, is under increasing pressure from the Government to build far more homes than were set out in the Local Plan. That pressure inevitably bears down on WBC's Planning Committee. In turn, that pressure reflects on the Worthing Society in the number of planning application consultations we are asked to undertake. Our decision/comments to 'Support or Object' the applications, advises the Council's Planning Committee and helps with their decisions.

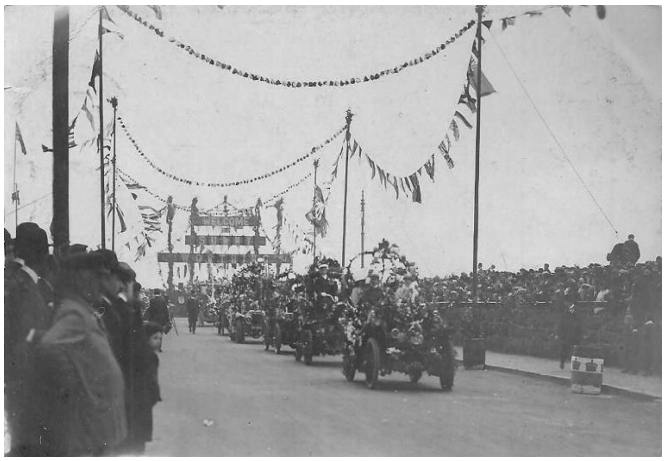
Susan's workload also includes regularly attending WBC Planning Committee meetings at which she is often required to speak on matters relating to planning decisions. She also accompanies our Publicity Officer, David Clark, to give talks to interested parties, and helps him with maintaining our website. She also spends much time arranging and dealing with matters concerning the Society's blue plaque commemorations.

So, if you think you can help out, like taking the Minutes at meetings, attending/helping at the talks etc, please do contact her.

Tony Malone
President

George Warne

One of the historical figures we are including in our new talk 'Pioneers of Worthing' is George Warne who was responsible for making York Terrace into The Warnes Hotel during the period 1899-1914. The hotel became internationally renowned with many famous visitors and was also a motoring mecca with the first hotel garage in Britain (and accompanying mechanic!). George Warne held a London to Worthing motor rally with lunch taken at Warnes and a motor carnival in the town. The pictures below have been sourced from the Ian Richardson pictorial library.



David Clark

PUBLICITY OFFICER

THE WORTHING SOCIETY MEETINGS FOR 2024

FEB - **Tuesday 27th at 7.30pm** **QUARTERLY MEETING at WORTHING LIBRARY LECTURE THEATRE. Followed by a talk from:-**

GUEST SPEAKER: Chris Hare, Worthing's Historian on "Worthing's Customs, Traditions and Superstitions during Victorian Times

Doors open at 7.00pm for Coffee / Tea and Biscuits ……..Cost £1.50

APR - **Tuesday 30th at 7.00pm** **AGM at THE WORTHING LIBRARY LECTURE THEATRE**
Doors open at 6.45pm for AGM at 7.00pm

After which there will be a short break for Coffee / Tea and Biscuits ……Cost £1.50
Followed by a talk from: -

GUEST SPEAKER: Andy Thomas on "The Mystery of Crop Circles".

SEP - **Tuesday 24th at 7:30pm** **QUARTERLY MEETING at WORTHING LIBRARY LECTURE THEATRE. Followed by a talk from:**

GUEST SPEAKER: Paul Holden, Editor of the Worthing Journal.

Doors open at 7.00pm for Coffee / Tea and Biscuits ……Cost £1.50

NOV - **Tuesday 26th at 7:30pm** **CHRISTMAS QUARTERLY MEETING at WORTHING LIBRARY LECTURE THEATRE. Followed by a talk from:**

GUEST SPEAKER: Martin Hayes - "Part 2 of the alternative History of Worthing".

Doors open at 7.00pm for Coffee / Tea and Mince Pies ……...Cost £1.50

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Please remember that prior to quarterly meetings Committee Members will be available from 6.30p.m. to talk to members wishing to discuss matters of interest or concern.

Visitors / Guests are welcome to attend the lectures – fee £3.00

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

THE WORTHING SOCIETY

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Dear Member/s

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

We write to advise you that the renewal of our Annual Membership Subscription for 2024/25 becomes due on 1st April 2024. I hope you will appreciate that, after many years and due to rising costs, it has become necessary to increase our fees from this year. Our subscriptions are now:

Single - £15.00 / Joint - £20.00 / Under 21 - £ 5.00.

Your payment can be made by cheque payable to **The Worthing Society** or by Bank Transfer to:

CAF Bank (*Charities Aid Foundation Bank*)
Sort code: 40-52-40 | Account no.00016107
(***please include your membership number and surname as a reference***).

For your convenience the CAF Bank can now accept payment by Standing Order to the above account. Please indicate below if this is your chosen method.

Please would you ensure that you return the application form below, duly completed, by the date of the AGM which will be held on Tuesday, 30th April 2024 at the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. Please also enclose a ***stamped, addressed envelope*** for the return of your new membership card. Kindly post this to me at the above address or pay at the AGM on 30 April 2024. If you are unable to renew your membership, you can simply let me know by email/telephone as soon as possible.

We hope you have enjoyed our programme over the past year and that you will renew your membership for the next season. The Committee value your membership and look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Brenda Whitmell
Membership Secretary

GDPR Compliance:

- Members' details will be processed fairly and lawfully in order to satisfy the agreement entered with you on your admittance to membership. This will ensure that you receive the latest news and information about all upcoming events.
- Your details will be kept safely and securely and you have the ability to opt out of our communications at any time.

Cut here ----------

THE WORTHING SOCIETY RENEWAL FORM (*Please use capital letters*)

Title ……. First name …….. Surname ……..

Address ……..

…… Postcode ……..

Tel: ……Email: ……..

Preferred method of communication (*please tick the relevant box)* **Email** ☐ **Post** ☐

I/We have set up a Standing Order, as requested. ☐