# THE WORTHING SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER
## AUTUMN/WINTER 2024

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**OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY**

**CHAIR/TRUSTEE:**
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**VICE-CHAIR:**
Vacant (but covered by the Committee)

**HON.SECRETARY:**
Vacant

**HON.TREASURER:**
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**SOCIAL SECRETARY:**
Vacant

**HON.MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**
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**HON.PUBLICITY OFFICER/TRUSTEE:**
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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & LCAS**
**(Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas)**

| | |
|---|---|
| John Head | Planning Consultant; (LCAS), Trustee |
| David Sawers | Policy Advisor |
| Jessica Gill | Publicity & Artwork |
| Susan Head | LCAS |
| Nevil Hopkins | LCAS |
| David Pateman | Member |
| Natalie Cropper | Trustee |

**WEBSITE MANAGERS:**
David Clark & Susan Belton
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**NEWSLETTER COMPILER:**
Sandra Malone

## CHATSMORE FARM/GORING GAP NORTH

## A VISION OF BLUE

**Looking down Highdown Hill**

**to Goring Gap North in Springtime 2024**

Which do you prefer, this view or a large new housing estate? This is what the Worthing Society and other local groups are trying to save - our Green Legacy!

**Photo – with thanks to Jan Crane**

## PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

### The state of the country

It will come as no surprise to you that the country is going through very difficult times and we can expect this to continue for some years ahead. The Worthing Society is committed to safeguarding the town's heritage but I don't believe that we can achieve this by simply burying our heads in the sand but rather by making the best use of the town's facilities and resources.

To get an overview of the Society's situation, I recommend that you read this current Newsletter containing our Chairman's Report; a Message From our Membership Secretary; the Listing and Conservation Areas Sub-Committee Report; the Publicity Officer's Report; an interesting article on one of the Pioneers of Worthing and, lastly, a list of the society's Forthcoming Events which I hope you will be able to attend.

### Worthing's Facilities

Worthing is a relatively prosperous seaside town with many facilities and resources for residents and visitors to enjoy and attractive countryside on its doorstep.

We have good entertainment venues such as The Connaught; The Dome and The Assembly Hall together with a variety of good restaurants, cafes, pubs & bars.

Worthing also has many resources such as The Worthing Sports Centre; Splash Point Swimming Pool; A great Museum; several Local Libraries and our newly refurbished Main Library with its comprehensive reference section and PC assistance on hand together with "buddies" to help you find what you are looking for or help with what you might like to do.

If we don't use them, we will lose them!!

***Tony Malone***
**President**

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I am delighted that we were able to participate in the second successful Worthing Festival and as a result welcomed several new members. We contributed a Blue Plaque Heritage Trail Walk and a talk at the Museum: 'Jane Austen and the Worthing Connection'. In May we were able to dedicate a Blue Plaque at Worthing Museum in memory of John Henry Pull, Worthing's pioneer archaeologist

I believe it is by contributing these events that we can highlight the value of preserving our built environment and stimulate interest in the town's unique heritage. This also ensures the Society takes an active role in our community. Following an excellent initiative by our Publicity Officer, David Clark, we have produced our new talk 'Pioneers of Worthing' which is a timeline charting from 1798 shining a spotlight on people who had a major impact on Worthing's built environment.

This has been a very busy Summer and in June we were honoured to carry out a tribute event in recognition of the RNLI Bi-centenary. The moving occasion was attended by the Mayor of Worthing, Councillor Ibsha Choudhury and the Mayoress and Sir Peter Bottomley in the Splash Point Memorial Garden. As you may remember, the Memorial Stone and Information Board recording the bravery of Worthing's early lifeboatmen was donated by the Society. Rob Blann, author of 'A Town's Pride' gave an address. Rob arranged for the Shoreham Lifeboat to come inshore so the Coxswain could come up the beach and lay a wreath which added significance to this memorable day.

Throughout this busy time our core work as Planning Consultees has continued. I am most appreciative of the dedication of our Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Sub-Committee who regularly review Planning Applications affecting our heritage buildings and conservation areas. We comment on an average of two applications per week. We were successful in preventing a large two-storey building being erected on the beach opposite West Buildings which could have set an unwanted precedent. I am pleased that our intervention has prevented the demolition and inappropriate redevelopment of Forest Barn (circa 1790) adjacent to the Castle Goring Conservation Area.

Increasingly we are monitoring the protection of our open green spaces - a major challenge considering the pressing need for housing and the Government's planning reforms. The significant increase in mandatory housing targets to deliver 860 dwellings per year is unrealistic for Worthing. Land availability is exceptionally low given the geographical restraints; the South Downs National Park to the north and the coast to the south. We understand Dr Rebecca Cooper, MP is reported to have raised this with the Minister and the Committee has asked for a meeting to discuss these issues.

I am delighted, therefore, that following our work with the Council's Conservation Officer and an independent Heritage Consultant, a new conservation area has been designated for Marine Gardens and the Steyne Gardens Conservation Area has been extended to protect Denton Gardens, Beach House Grounds and Beach House Park, all important green spaces for the town. The Consultant has revised the Character Appraisal for the Goring Hall CA stressing its importance to the Goring/Ferring Gap.

As you may be aware, the developers, Persimmon, are pursuing their application to build 475 dwellings at Chatsmore Farm, despite their Appeal being refused. They have asked for the Appeal to be re-determined and I will be speaking at the Public Inquiry on 17.9.24. The key point in our favour is that the Local Plan, which designates Chatsmore Farm as a green gap, has now been adopted. We are reassured that Dr Cooper, MP will speak in defence of the gap at the Inquiry.

I must also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the hard working Committee members for their unstinting support and to our President, Tony Malone, who is always there to lend an experienced ear. I am delighted to welcome David Pateman to our Executive Committee. I am sorry to let you know that

Karen Harman is standing down as our Social Secretary for family reasons. We very much appreciate her hard work but I am pleased to say Karen will continue to help during our Quarterly Meetings.

Please remember, we welcome members of all ages. We are Guardians of 'Our Heritage' and it is by increasing our membership that we can increase our influence in the town to protect our heritage.

Susan Belton

**Worthing Society Chairman**

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**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Dear Members,

We have had a very good response to membership renewals. The Committee thank you for supporting the increase in our subscriptions. I am also pleased to report that we have welcomed several new members during the Spring and Summer following our participation in the Worthing Festival. Our programme of events included our heritage walks and talks which proved very popular and we shall arrange more events next Spring.

Please do consider mentioning the Society's conservation work to friends or relatives who may wish to join us. By increasing our membership we can increase our presence in the town to protect both our built historic environment and green infrastructure.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Quarterly Members Meeting when our Speaker will be Paul Holden from the Worthing Journal (please see the back page of your Newsletter for details)

We have vacancies for the Society's Hon.Secretary and Social Secretary roles. A knowledge of planning matters, in either role, is not required so if interested and you would like more information about what is required, please contact our Chair and she will be happy to see you and explain further.

Brenda Whitmell

**Membership Secretary**

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**LISTING AND CONSERVATION AREAS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MEMBERS: Sue Belton (Chair), David Clark, John Head, Sue Head, Nevil Hopkins and, by invitation, Tony Malone**

There have been two meetings of LCAS since the last Newsletter. These were also attended by the Council's Conservation Officer. Some of the more important cases we have dealt with at these meetings are as follows:-

- We continue to monitor the repairs to **The Lido** although there seems to be no progress at the moment.
- There is similarly no progress on **The Colonnade (5-7 High Street),** which we are also keeping under review.
- We continue to press for repairs and maintenance to **St Paul's Church**.
- We still await a meeting with the Council about the state of the garden/car parking areas in **Bedford Row**.
- There is still no firm proposal for rebuilding the **Thatched Cottage in Pond Lane** after the disastrous fire last year and we are keeping this under review. The Conservation Officer is involved and it is likely that some additional development will be agreed that can fund the rebuilding.
- We have been monitoring graffiti and poor repair of some buildings in **South Street** and are in touch with the Council's Enforcement Team about this. Also in South Street, we have pressed for the replacement of the Foxglove Tree (Paulownia) that was removed by WSCC and have been told that it will be replaced by a Ginkgo Biloba.

- We were concerned about the lack of further consultation on the Council's scheme for **Montague Place** and were able to arrange a useful meeting with Fiona Burn from WBC, who is dealing with the proposals. The reinstatement of a garden is to be welcomed but we were concerned about the lack of information on paving materials and street furniture. We emphasised that the red brick paving fronting the buildings on the west side should be retained although, apparently, the current proposal is to remove all but a small strip. Retaining it would be a less expensive option than re-paving and we made that point to Ms Burn. We hope it will be taken on board.

*Montague Place looking north, from the west side towards Liverpool Terrace*

*Montague Place looking southwest at what was once the east wall of the Woolworths store*

- We are aware that **Nelson Passage**, linking South Street and Marine Place, has not been re-opened. This is a public highway and its continued closure is unlawful. There is apparently a problem about installing street lighting. We are in touch with WSCC Highways and WBC about this and hope the matter will be resolved soon.

- We have examined the plans for the proposed flats and houses on the site of the former **Plaza Cinema (Buzz Bingo)**. We are pleased to see that there would be a replica art deco style frontage to Rowlands Road, but concerned that the proposal represents overdevelopment, particularly at the rear. We have arranged an inspection of the building to see if there are any features of note remaining from the former cinema.

- We have objected to the "Beach Project" **telecommunications masts** which were installed by WSCC without any apparent consultation with the public or with WBC. Several of these have been erected close to Listed Buildings and in Conservation Areas and planning legislation requires their impact on these heritage assets to be minimised. This appears not to have been taken on board by WSCC. Susan Belton raised these points at the last WBC Planning Committee meeting, stressing the need for proper consultation and our view that the legislation relating to the masts has not been correctly applied.

- We have finally managed to get some agreement over responsibility for maintaining the traffic island surrounding the **Listed lamp post in Farncombe Road**. WSCC have agreed to be responsible for the planting and are proposing to return the island to a grass area, which can be more easily managed and will be better for highway safety.

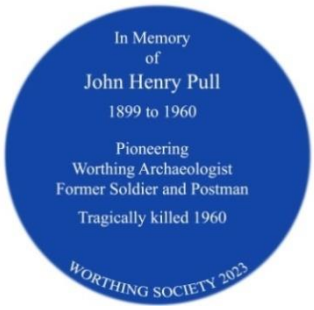
- Finally, agreement has been reached with the Planning Department that the **"Local List"** of buildings (those that are important locally but not considered suitable for Statutory Listing) can be reviewed and that we can organise this, as WBC has very little funding available for the task. The List has not been updated for many years. We will commence the review when suitable reimbursement of expenses is agreed with the Council.

John Head BSc(Econ), DipTP, MRTPI(Retd)
Planning Consultant to the Society

## A NOTE ON PUBLICITY

It has been a busy few months……

We held a dedication event in May to unveil a Blue Plaque for John Henry Pull on the southern wall of the museum (Richmond Road) to the right of the Museum Garden with Tim Loughton and The Mayor in attendance as well as members of John Pull's family. It was well reported in The Worthing Journal and The Herald.




Plaque photo by David Clark

. John Pull's grand-daughter Amanda O'Carroll and great-grandson.
Photo by Paul Holden
(The Worthing Journal)

Our two events at The Worthing festival were well attended with several non-members participating in the Blue Plaque Walk through the town and Jane Austen talk at the Museum. One of our projects for 2025 will be to update and reprint the Blue Plaque Heritage Town Centre Trail leaflets, any suggestions welcome.

David Pateman's 'Building of the Month' articles in the Worthing Journal remain popular and will continue beyond the initial 12-month period originally agreed with Paul Holden.

Our new talk 'Pioneers of Worthing' was launched at the Library's Lecture Theatre in July with over 40 members and visitors joining us. Thank you for all the positive feedback. This will now be added to our portfolio of talks to take the heritage message into the community. We are also exploring the possibility of adapting the talk into an exhibition showcasing the key figures who had a major impact on the built environment in Worthing and tying it to the wider development of our town from a hamlet to coastal town. This would be a major project for us so if any members have any expertise or contacts in putting together an exhibition please get in touch.

Finally, our profile in the planning community continues to rise as official Consultees on major planning applications. A shout out to Sue Belton, John Head, Nevil Hopkins and Tony Malone for their tireless work monitoring and responding to a huge number of applications over the course of the year in an effort to influence how our built environment is impacted by development.

David Clark

**PUBLICITY OFFICER**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Very special thanks to my secretary, Sandra Malone, for her expertise in compiling our Newsletters etc. During the last year too, Sandra prepared 82 Planning Consultations plus the Chair's letters and correspondence for our various events. This professionalism is the backbone in supporting our work.

Susan Belton

**Chairman**

## STANLEY ADSHEAD – ONE OF THE "PIONEERS OF WORTHING"

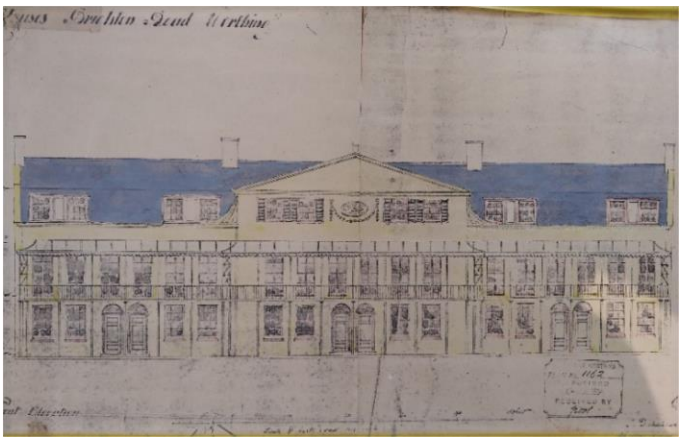
Stanley Davenport Adshead (1868-1946) was an architect specialising in the late eighteenth-century revival style. He is important as one of the founders of the profession of Town Planning, being one of the original members of what is now the Royal Town Planning Institute. He was also Professor of Civic Design at Liverpool University and later professor of Civic Design at University College, London. He undertook a number of commissions in seaside resorts and is probably best known in Worthing as the designer of two iconic buildings: the Lido (formerly the Band Enclosure) in 1925 and the Pier Pavilion in 1926.

Both of these were designed in collaboration with Stanley Ramsey, with whom he had set up a joint architectural practice, and also his daughter Mary Adshead, who designed some of the interiors, including the Pavilion's proscenium arch featuring the Greek Muses. Mary (who was only 22 years old at the time) is known for posters and murals and for designing the first postage stamps of Elizabeth II's reign.

Shortly after he started practising as an architect in London, Adshead won a competition in 1902 to design the new Public Library in Ramsgate and he also designed Royal Victoria Pavilion there. This shares several design features with the Worthing Pier Pavilion, built some 23 years later.

Less well known is Adshead's earlier connection with Worthing. At the same time as his work in Ramsgate, in 1903-4, he appears to have acquired a plot of land on Worthing seafront, just east of Navarino Road. He designed a terrace of six houses for this site, presumably as his own private investment. This was known as Albion Terrace, and Adshead is shown in Kelly's Directory as living at No 1 (now No 205 Brighton Road) in 1907-9. Unfortunately, only four of the houses of the terrace were completed, giving it a rather unbalanced appearance and this is probably because of a legal dispute concerning an existing property to the north. I imagine that Adshead moved to Worthing to supervise the construction of Albion Terrace, and he, with his wife and young daughter, may have used No 1 as holiday accommodation rather than living there permanently, given its sea views and proximity to the beach. He may also have been looking to provide himself with a regular income from letting the other houses, when architectural commissions were sporadic.

Albion Terrace exhibits some similar architectural details to the Ramsgate Public Library and it is interesting that, when I lived at No.205 Brighton Road myself (many years ago) I discovered in the loft a copy of the East Kent Times (a Ramsgate local newspaper) dated 1907, which tends to confirm Adshead's occupation of the house.



**Albion Terrace, The Lido and The Pier Pavilion are all now Grade II Listed Buildings**

***John Head***

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## 2024

**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 & Biscuits ……Cost £1.50**

**NOV- Tuesday 26th at 7.30pm – CHRISTMAS QUARTERLY MEETING at WORTHING LIBRARY LECURE THEATRE. Followed by 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**

*We will also have the Christmas Raffle during the evening*

## 2025

**FEB- Tuesday 25th at 7.30pm – QUARTERLY MEETING at WORTHING LIBRARY LECTURE THEATRE. Followed by a talk from:**

**Guest speaker: Chris Hare, Worthing Historian – "Folksongs – an Unexpected Source for Historians"**

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

**APR- Tuesday 29th at 7.00pm – AGM at 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 & Biscuits……..Cost £1.50**

**Followed by a talk from:**

**GUEST SPEAKER: James Sainsbury, Curator of Archaeology, Worthing Museum – "New Discoveries of Burpham 2014 to 2024"**

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**Please remember that prior to quarterly meetings, Committee Members will be available from 7p.m. to talk to members wishing to discuss matters of interest or concern.**

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

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**Don't forget to look at our Website for the latest news**
**www.worthingsociety.org.uk**

**and if you want to email the Executive Committee, our new email address is**
**contact@worthingsociety.org.uk**

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**For membership enquiries please contact our Membership Secretary Brenda Whitmell (Email: contact@worthingsociety.org.uk )**