



THE WORTHING SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2010

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 28th September at 7:30 p.m. QUARTERLY MEETING in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre when Dr. Janet Pennington will be speaking about:- '**Sussex Inns and their Architecture**'.

Tuesday 26th October from 2.30 – 3.30 '**A Behind the Scenes**' TOUR of Worthing Museum & Art Gallery. Tickets will be on sale at the September Meeting. Cost £2.50

Saturday 30th October official opening of the Splash Point Seafront Regeneration Project (if completed on schedule)

Tuesday 23rd November at 7:30 p.m. QUARTERLY MEETING in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre when Helen Ongley, of The Cowdray Heritage Trust, will be speaking on '**Cowdray – Past, Present & Future**'.

At this meeting mince pies and mulled fruit punch or coffee will be served. Cost £1. p.p. Also a pre-Christmas raffle will take place. Donations of raffle prizes will be very much appreciated on the night!

Tuesday 22nd February at 7:30 p.m. QUARTERLY MEETING in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre when Barry Keach will be speaking about '**Doctors, Dentists and Death – a Review of Attitudes to Health in Broadwater and Worthing from 1850**'.

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

A Reminder from your Membership Secretary

Subscriptions for the year 2010-11 (Single £7, Joint £10) were due on April 1st. Members who may not yet have renewed their **annual** membership please send a cheque made payable to The Worthing Society and send to Mrs. S. Miller, Membership Secretary, 92 Lyndhurst Road, Worthing, BN11 2DW, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, please.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

WEST PARADE – No.'s 42-44 - a professional carve-up

The Appeal by Roffey Homes against the refusal by the DCC of their new application to demolish 42-44 West Parade and build a block of 13 apartments was upheld by the Inspector John Gray, an Architect.

Councillors, residents and the Worthing Society were united in their objections to the loss of three good family homes but these were not considered significant. The Society submitted a dossier including a submission that No.44 should be saved as a Local Heritage Asset because of its link with the Marine Gardens concept. A recent WBC

Cabinet Meeting recommended that No.44 be considered for inclusion on the Local List.

At the Inquiry the officer charged with putting the case for refusal agreed that he had no objection to the demolition of the three houses. (It was he who recommended acceptance of the scheme to the DCC.) This was explicitly against the wishes of the Council - Councillors representing the people of Worthing versus the Executive – Us and Them – Again!

The Society sought legal opinion to consider going to the Courts to quash the Inspector's Decision. We were advised that success was not guaranteed and costs could be £20,000. Reluctantly we accept we can do no more.



No. 45 WEST PARADE

To lift my spirits I looked at the careful Architect supervised renovation of this well known Art Deco house. I was allowed a fleeting tour of the interior and commend the standard of design and finish. When completed it will be a dream seaside home and take its place as one of the finest houses in Worthing. Here is an example of Client, Architect and builder working to a common vision.

The architect is Nigel Dalby Architecture of Lewes and the builder Edgehill Estates of Petworth. Lian Marchant the site manager told me the firm had carried out work on National Trust and English Heritage properties.



THE AQUARENA

The Committee have concerns about this project which now has a political life of its own. The facilities on offer are not fit for purpose, the building and the scheme will have a damaging effect on the setting of Beach House and more seafront apartments could be built on the existing site. The Society has noted its misgivings to the planners. Urgent review of the project is called for.

BLUE PLAQUE

The Society has commissioned a plaque to mark the occasion Jane Austen visited Worthing in 1805 and stayed a while in Stanford Cottage, Warwick Street. Unveiling information should be available at our September meeting and on the WEB site. The Society is indebted to Janet Clarke of The Jane Austen Society who researched the historical background and has given enthusiastic support to the project. We are grateful to have the co-operation of Pizza Express who now occupy the building.

FUNDING SUCCESS

We have recently received a Grassroots Grant of £3,340 from the Sussex Community Foundation. We intend to use this money to buy Digital Equipment and Display Stands to assist in promoting Worthing's Heritage. We have plans to prepare a series of leaflets and associated digital presentations on a wide range of subjects and to make significant enhancements to our Web site. This will complement our ongoing work in erecting Commemorative Plaques on historic sites around the town. The Display Stands will be very useful at Exhibitions to further publicise the Society and its work. Particular thanks go to Barry and Mascha Richards who saw this funding application through to its successful conclusion.

MINUTE SECRETARY

The Committee has given a warm welcome to Pamela Kelly who bravely volunteered to be our Minute Secretary. Pamela has settled into this vital role with alacrity.

David Sumner

The Formation of The Listings & Conservation Areas Sub-Committee

The Executive Committee felt that Listed Buildings; buildings of local interest and our Conservation Areas are of such importance to the aims of The Worthing Society that they warranted the formation of a sub-committee to act as a 'watchdog'. This Sub-Committee has now been formed and has four key objectives:-

- 1.The identification of potential candidates for nomination to English Heritage for inclusion on The Statutory List.
- 2.The identification of potential candidates for inclusion on the Local Interest Buildings Approved List. Such buildings have not been Listed by English Heritage but are of local historical or architectural interest. WBC's Design and Conservation Architect oversees applications for inclusion on the list.
- 3.Monitoring Listed Buildings for signs of dilapidation or inappropriate development.
- 4.Participation in the Conservation Area Review. The form that our involvement will take are yet to be formalised with WBC's Design and Conservation Architect.

As an illustration of the sub-committee's recent activities we prepared, and submitted to English Heritage, a comprehensive case for obtaining Statutory Listing for Marine Gardens and its Pavilion. We await a decision.

Our sub-committee is headed-up by Ted Kennard, supported by Tony Malone (historical research); Sue Belton (liaison with, and preparation of submissions to, English Heritage); Natalie Cropper (our representative on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and our adviser on planning matters) and Bill Geddes (photographer of buildings or areas that we are researching).

Tony Malone

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2009 – 2010

The Society has continued to play a leading role in its areas of concern and, again, I thank the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for their work and sustained dedication to ensure the Society's views are heard and business carried out.

West Durrington – Titnore Lane – Core Strategy

Our critique of the draft Core Strategy, lobbying and a detailed campaign against the new outline planning application helped persuade the Development and Control Committee to refuse consent at the lively meeting on 15 March 2010. This was despite the advice of the Officers. We expect the Consortium to return with an alternative submission leaving out the plots to the east of Titnore Lane. Titnore Lane and woods seem to be safe but we must remain vigilant.

South Downs National Park

The announcement last November that the South Downs National Park would come into existence on March 31, 2010 was celebrated. Our submission at the Inquiry resulted in Castle Goring and hinterland being included in the Park.

West Parade & Marine Gardens

Our request for a 'listing' of the Pavilion in the gardens is still being considered by English Heritage. The Development and Control Committee listened to the objections from the Society and others and refused the application to demolish three houses east of Marine Gardens on West Parade and replace with a Deco style block of 13 apartments, against the advice of the Officers. We expect Roffey Homes to go to Appeal.

Miscellaneous

Your Committee liked the plans for an extension to the listed Burlington Hotel and also the proposal for No.7 The Steyne and the land between it and the Chatsworth Hotel. The design protects the integrity of the terrace which was not completed in the 1820's because money ran out!

We put forward ideas to the designers of the revamp at Splash Point. The Society continues to have a representative on the Planning User Group.

The Society exhibited at the Pier to mark National Pier Day in September.

Your Chairman wrote to the Leader of the Council expressing that the Society supported the campaign to persuade WBC not to sell the land adjacent to Cissbury Ring and explore ways of managing the land so access could be maintained.

Economic constraints continue to impede progress to develop and regenerate Teville Gate, Grafton, Guildbourne and Union Place.

The Society has just become an inaugural member of The Civic Voice, a new national organisation, replacing the defunct Civic Trust. It is an umbrella group of large and small amenity societies. The Committee thought we should join to test the benefits which should accrue. Civic Voice has a strong partnership with the National Trust and one of the benefits this year is **a N.T. Free Day Access Pass** to all our members. If you are already a member of the N.T. you can give it to another person.

To obtain the free pass send a S.A.E. to Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool L1 4DQ and mention that you are a member of the Worthing Society.

Exhibition

Our annual exhibition at Worthing Library in October devoted to Worthing's Conservation Areas stimulated much interest and was timely. Worthing Borough Council has now started an overdue conservation area review. We plan to hold future exhibitions in Spring to link with our AGM.

Plaques

The Society, helped by two generous donations, erected two blue plaques, one to writer Harold Pinter and one to Worthing local historian Henfrey Smail.

Social and Events

Quarterly meetings were well supported. Talks were by Adge Roberts on "The Shelley Family and Their Sussex Properties"; Curator Laura Kidner on "Worthing Museum and Art Gallery and It's Collection"; David Sawyer on "The South Downs Society" and Dave Allport MBE on "Cruise in the Solent". A sell out outing visited the Red House at Bexley Heath and Chris Hare's Guided Walk of Lewes was hugely successful.

It was full house, as usual, at the "Wine & Cheese Open House" with Barry and Mascha Richards at Beach House, Worthing in July.

Our work to preserve Worthing's sense of place, provoked interest in the town's heritage and concerns for the future remain as challenging as ever.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank Members of the Society for their support and encouragement.

David Sumner