



The Burtons' St Leonards Society

**A talk by Stephen Gray at the Royal Victoria Hotel
Sunday 28th October at 4 pm
(£2.50 members, £5 non-members, at the door)**

Modernism -on-Sea

A context for the concrete architecture of Sidney Little

The 1999 listing of the 1900 bus shelter in Rock-a-Nore Road contrasts its architectural style with the 2011 listing of the Carlisle Parade underground car park, its three ventilation shafts, and five sun shelters/bus shelters.

Stephen Gray's talk will examine whether there was an architectural *lingua franca* for seaside buildings in the era leading up to the First World War, and then whether the advent of Modernism, following the war, established a new way of thinking about seaside architecture. Whether Modernism was the genesis of Sidney Little's architectural works will be examined by looking at the various elements in the 2011 listing, which cover an extended period and show a developing sophistication of construction and style.



Stephen Gray MSc Dip Arch ACIfA APMP IHBC RIAS RIBA

In 45 years of practice Stephen Gray's career ranged across both public and private sectors and went beyond his first discipline of Architecture to include and often combine the disciplines of Archaeology, Historic Building Conservation and Project Management, in projects for buildings dating from the 14th Century through to the 20th Century Modern Movement. He has been a trainer for professional staff of the National Trust and the Duke of Westminster's Grosvenor Estate. For the last three years he has contributed to the National Trust's Seven Sisters Archaeology Project. Now retired from practice, he is frequent lecturer for The National Trust and for local historical and archaeological societies.

Sidney Little (1885-1961), who became known locally as the 'concrete king' for his knowledge of the uses of reinforced concrete, was the Borough and Water Engineer for Hastings from 1926 to 1950 and Borough Planning Officer also for part of that period. His well known works include Bottle Alley and the former open-air bathing pool in St Leonards as well as those referred to above.