

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)  
Registered Charity No. 257884



Autumn 2007  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 348

*"The love of our town leads us"*

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

Chairman: Mr Steve Villette

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The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at The Walpole Bay Hotel at 7.30pm on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> October when the Executive Committee for next year will be elected. A number of officers have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election next year and nominations are invited for those positions being vacated. Please do try to attend our AGM on that date and take part in the election of the Executive Committee for next year. Immediately following our AGM, there will be a talk given by Jane Bishop on The Walpole Bay Hotel. This promises to be a most interesting talk on a fascinating building which has now been our venue for our programme of talks for a number of years.

It is for all these reasons that this issue of the newsletter is being prepared ready for printing and distribution earlier than normal. However, it should be remembered that the majority of copies of the newsletter printed each quarter are distributed voluntarily by our members and it might be that your copy is not received by the date of our AGM. We are, of course, very grateful to those members who do distribute copies by hand as such practice saves the Society around £250 a year – nearly £1 a member.

One consequence of pulling the copy deadline forward in an endeavour to secure an earlier distribution date for this issue of the newsletter is that it has not been possible to include a report on the Margate Day Celebrations & Civic Service planned to take place on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September at the Winter Gardens. The celebrations are to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of Margate's Charter of Incorporation in 1857. The Civic Society will have a stand at the Winter Gardens on Margate Day and a report on day's events will be included in the next issue of the newsletter although, by the time you receive this issue of the newsletter, you might have actually partaken in the programme of Margate Day events. Unfortunately, the date of the celebrations was not known when the last issue of the newsletter was produced.

The Society has, however, received notification from Turner Contemporary of the next public meeting regarding the proposed new art gallery. David Chipperfield will present the latest designs for the new gallery at the newly re-launched Theatre Royal on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm. No charge is made for this public meeting but spaces are limited and, to avoid disappointment, should be reserved in advance. To reserve a place, please call Rachael Furlong on 01843 294363 or e-mail her at [rfurlong@turnercontemporary.org](mailto:rfurlong@turnercontemporary.org). □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

## *Welcome to new members*

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined the Society:

Peter & Laura Shawyer

Tim Spencer & Mariette Castellino

and we welcome back Dr C. R. Kirkpatrick to our membership.

We are sorry to learn of the passing on of two of our members who each joined the Society over 35 years ago: Mr Ken Gray and Miss Kanzler. We extend our condolences to both families. □

**Pat Snow**  
Membership Secretary

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## *Subscriptions now due*

Our new year commences on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. Once again, there is no change in the yearly subscription rates – they remain at only £5 for individual membership and £8 for joint membership. I feel sure that you will agree that these represent very good value for money. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. Members can renew at our meetings or by post to me at 34 Royal Esplanade, Margate CT9 5EG. □

**Pat Snow**  
Membership Secretary

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## *Do you fancy getting more involved?*

We would like to invite nominations from members of Margate Civic Society for the Executive Committee. If necessary, a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting in October. Please contact our Secretary, Tony Snow (Tel: 01843 221838). □



# President's Report

Another busy year for your Committee and, once again, I have to thank those members who have put in so much time and energy to improve the area we live in and promote our society.

Steve Villette has stated his wish to stand down as Chairman at the Annual General Meeting. I thank him for all his hard work over the past years. He has agreed to continue to check all planning applications in our area. This alone is time consuming.

Tony Snow continues with the Margate Walks and is now helped by Garry Cowans. These walks not only bring to life the fascinating aspects of Margate, but also bring in much needed funds which help in paying for our evening speakers and The Walpole Bay Hotel venue. He has many other activities as Secretary dealing with correspondence etc. of which I leave him to inform you. And we must not forget his excellent organisation of the Town Pride Awards.

Congratulations go to Harry Scobie on his election as a councillor on Thanet District Council. We hope he will stay with us and continue as Vice-Chairman.

I must mention Margaret Main for her dedication to the Dane Park Green Flag Initiative attending endless meetings and group discussions. Accompanying me to the Property Services Consultation Forum has been extremely useful as it is vital that we have another member able to take over if for some reason I am unable to attend.

James Brazier, our excellent editor. His publications have been a great eye-opener as to what can be achieved in this field. His Margate Cemetery walk and talk was very much appreciated by those who were able to go.

Pat Snow has successfully taken over the role of Membership Secretary from Jack Pilcher. Jack has for many years organised the delivery of the newsletter for which we are enormously grateful.

Phil Johnson has looked after our finances but has decided to hand over to someone else at the AGM. The new Treasurer will be able to start with a clean sheet, the books having come back from the auditor.

Garry Cowans and Margaret Main have made a great success of the raffle at our evening talks and thanks to all of you who generously buy tickets. Also Garry and Margaret have manned a Civic Society stall at various functions through the year.

Mike Wilton has been working on our website and those of you who have access to the internet can visit it at [www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk) a great asset which will, we hope, help increase our membership.

As for my contribution, I handed over as chairman of the Property Services Consultation Forum to Lee Ault of the Broadstairs Society in July, having held the chairmanship for the past two years. During that time we have seen the development of the former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital site, the sale of the Lido where work will soon commence, work has now started on 77 Eastern Esplanade, the property on the corner of Cliff Terrace has been sold to a developer and work will soon commence there. The Old Town is coming alive with new businesses, shops and cafés.

The proposed Turner Contemporary art gallery is at last taking shape and it looks as if building could start quite soon along with the development of the Rendezvous site. I know that a lot of people think that this project is a waste of money but my view is that it will help pull Margate out of decline and start an era of prosperity. Signs of this are already appearing with the greater interest in property. Plans for the Dreamland site are now short-listed and we hope to find out soon what will be happening there. It would be great if they decide on a Heritage Fairground site. I have attended a few functions, and have spent a lot of time seeking out speakers for our programme of evening lectures. This gets increasingly difficult trying to avoid repetition.

We have decided that this year not to publish our programme card with this newsletter as there will obviously be some changes to our Committee and it is a little presumptive of us to assume that we will all be re-elected. This is up to the membership. A speakers' list is published in this newsletter. □

**Ralph Handscomb**  
President



## Margate Cemetery Walk – May 2007

On what was probably the wettest Sunday so far this year, James Brazier led a group around Margate Cemetery, visiting the graves of many former personalities who had a Westgate-on-Sea connection. The heavy thunderstorm at the beginning of the walk added much atmosphere to the walk and this photograph, taken by Dawn Crouch towards the end of the walk when the rain finally stopped, shows the hardest members of the group who stayed the course – some even looking as if they had enjoyed getting drenched by the torrential rain! The group also benefited from having both Queenie Johnson and Dawn Crouch as fellow group members. □

## **WE ARE NOT ALONE**

As members of Margate Civic Society, you probably know that we cover more or less what was the old Borough of Margate plus some of the villages. Within the district, there are several other groups which endeavour to look after matters specifically for their own area often because something needs to be done quite urgently.

One such organisation is The Nayland Action Group which is trying hard to improve the urban environment in the area of Margate Railway Station and the roads from around the area of Westbrook shops. Towards the end of July, the secretary of the group kindly asked if I would like to attend one of their monthly meetings in order that I could get some idea of what they stand for. The members at present are relatively few in number but they seem to have achieved quite a lot. One of the frustrating problems has been having to deal with so many different agencies because everything seems to be split up into 'penny packets' these days and to get said agencies to accept some kind of responsibility for what is supposed to be part of their remit. That said, The Nayland Action Group seem to have had some success with, probably, the most high-profile improvements being the tidying up of the station forecourt which was in a very unkempt state with the overgrown scrubs and scattered litter. All is now much tidier but the group stresses that the work must be on-going and not just a one-off.

Another major achievement by the group has been to get approval for lighting to be installed along that very intimidating alleyway which runs alongside the railway at the back of the houses in Hatfield Road, Westbrook Road and the other roads which run off Canterbury Road. I know that whenever I have walked along there I have done so with some trepidation. A major problem with the lighting has been the seemingly inevitable doubling of cost since the inception of the scheme. The alleyway will also be cleared of dog fouling and dumped rubbish.

The Nayland Action Group is hoping to involve the younger community in helping them to improve and look after the Nayland area for the benefit of local people and visitors alike. They rightly believe that it should always look its best as it is an important 'gateway' to Margate, hopefully to uphold the high expectations of our 21<sup>st</sup> century town with the fine example set by the award-winning work at the former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital to be seen by those approaching by road or a good impression when coming by train.

This article could, I am sure, apply to the efforts of many other groups in our area so please, if you would like to spread the word about what you are doing, send in a report to Margate Civic Society and we can hopefully work together to make the district an even better place in which to be. □

**Tony Snow**  
Secretary

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**Have you visited our website yet?**

[www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

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## **The following report has been received from the Friends of Margate Cemetery:**

As we near the end of our seventh year, the Friends of Margate Cemetery are still making progress in clearing away unwanted trees which continue to break up graves and headstones. Meanwhile, we plant indigenous trees for wildlife. We are also looking for more volunteers to do a variety of tasks at any time of the year, any day of the week, for as many or as few hours as can be managed. If you would like to meet us, we would be delighted to meet you at the Cemetery Chapel on any Monday between 8.00am and 12 noon to chat over a cup of coffee.

Our ages currently range between 50 and 84 and there is work for all ages and abilities. We are also looking for a secretary.

May we also remind you that our booklet published to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Margate Cemetery makes an ideal Christmas gift at only £4.00. Copies of this booklet may be obtained and delivered through Vera Jenkins (who is also a member of Margate Civic Society) whose telephone number is 01843 230274. □

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## **Appeal from Margate Museum for local directories**

Bob Bradley, the Museum's Curator writes:

*In the Museum, we are steadily increasing our reference archive and wondered whether any of your members have any spare or unwanted Kelly's directories which they would like to pass on to the Museum. We are also looking out for any pre-1980s local telephone directories and any pre-1990s Thomson's directories. Any of these items would be most welcome and greatly appreciated.*

If you are able to help the Museum with their appeal, please contact Bob Bradley at Margate Museum. The Museum's telephone number is 01843 231213. □

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## **Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association plan to celebrate their Golden Jubilee in 2008**

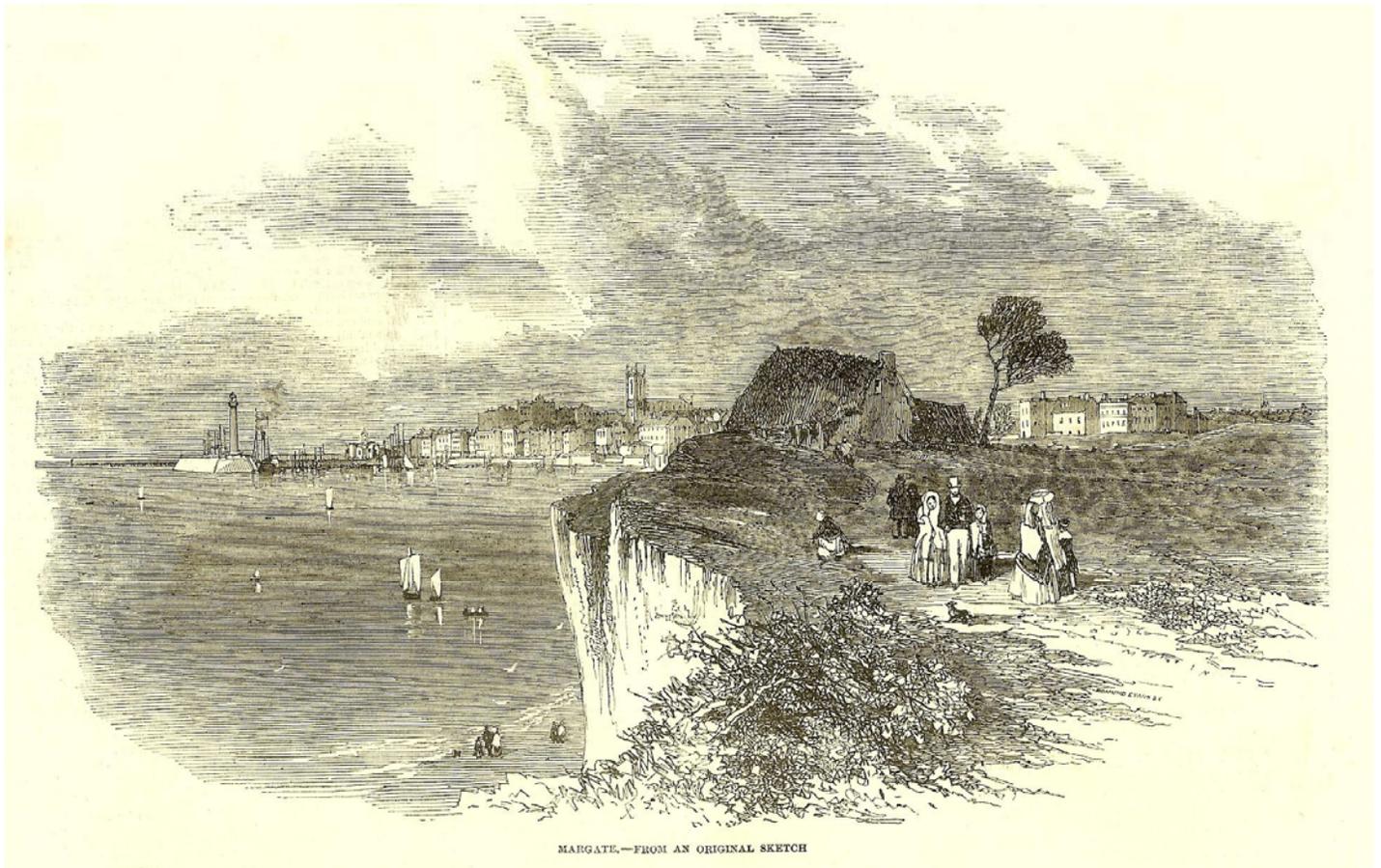
Next year (2008) will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association. The Association want to mark the occasion with an exhibition in Westgate Heritage Centre and their committee are appealing for the loan of any photographs or other material that could be used for display purposes. If you feel that you could assist in any way, please contact Dawn Crouch on 01843 832617. □

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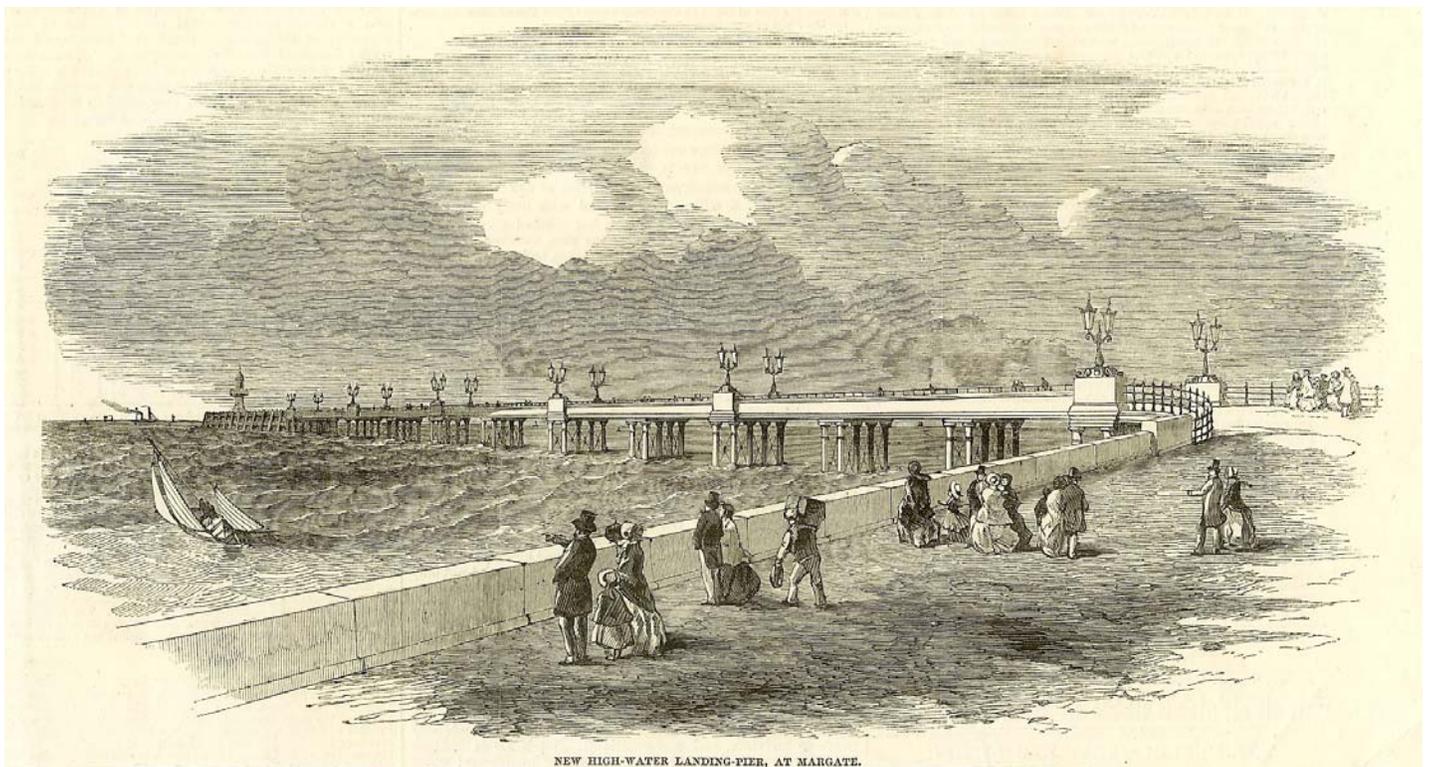
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# Margate around 150 years ago

With the Margate Day celebrations taking place on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of a Charter of Incorporation it was thought that members might enjoy these two old prints of our town:



From *The Illustrated London News* dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 1851



From *The Illustrated London News* dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 1853

# Memories of Margate – from Hollywood

*Members will recall that the Winter 2006/07 issue (No. 345) of the newsletter contained an article featuring two superb old photographs of local scenes donated to Margate Museum from former Margate resident, Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI, now living in Los Angeles. A copy of that issue of the newsletter was sent to Arnold Schwartzman and the following letter was received in reply. His unquestionable love of Margate shines through his letter and the influence that the town had on him during his formative years which led to his achievements as a successful film-maker, designer and author is very evident. Your editor feels sure that many older members of our Society will enjoy this wonderful nostalgic trip back to the Margate of the late-1940s and the 1950s and share many of the correspondent's very happy memories of life in our town in those now distant times. Your editor certainly did! Arnold Schwartzman's latest – and tenth – book Art Deco London was published in May. – Ed.*

'On Margate Sands.  
I can connect  
Nothing with nothing...'  
T. S. Eliot

Dear Mr Brazier

Thank you very much for your welcome letter and the enclosed Margate Civic Society newsletter, which I found most interesting. Your letter brought back fond memories of living in Margate, and I thought you may enjoy reading about them.

I was born in the East End of London in 1936. At age four, on the first day of the Blitz, our home – with us in it – suffered a direct hit from an incendiary bomb, resulting in my evacuation to Egham in Surrey.

After the war, my parents and I spent our first holiday in Cliftonville. My father, who was a head waiter at the Savoy Hotel in London, saw the potential of a post-war boom in holiday-making and opened a boarding house ('Rosanda' – made up out of my parent's' names Rose and David) in Warwick Road. The name has been retained to this day. I'm certain the present owners of the house are not aware of its origin!

While playing with my friends in the basement on the bomb site on the opposite side of the road (dropped by a German bomber on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1940), a large piece of roof slate fell on my head. This resulted in my having to have a number of stitches. However, the kind doctor in Cornwall Gardens calmed me by giving me a bar of chocolate. At the time I thought the injury was well worth it as chocolate was still on ration.

I fondly remember going to Moylers the confectioner and newsagent (where I got my weekly Film Fun comic) the day rationing ended, but of course not before long it came on again! After several successful seasons my parents bought a small hotel in Lewis Crescent which they named the Hotel Majestic. I understand that, during the war, it was used as a hospital for New Zealand troops. The walls were covered with drawings of Disney characters. Later, my parents purchased the adjoining building.

At age nine, I went to Holy Trinity School opposite the bombed-out church. After failing my 11-plus, which I took at Chatham House Grammar School in Ramsgate. I think I spent the whole of the examination period staring at a stuffed blowfish on top of the classroom's display cabinet. The result was that I would get the No. 8 bus each day to King Ethelbert School in Birchington. (I noticed on my last visit that the former East Kent bus office at the harbour is now a tea-shop.)

Recently, I had the pleasure of exchanging letters with my form-master Mr Bruce Marshall, who is now in his nineties and happily travelling around the world. He lives in Westbrook.

I very much enjoyed growing up in Margate, even the solitude of those blustery winter walks on the beach. Shortly after the war, the tide would wash up lots of brass shellcases rather than seashells.

I also enjoyed the summertime at Dreamland amusement park, which not long before had dispensed with its store of thousands of Ministry of Supply mattresses! My favourite rides were in the roller-coaster, the ghost-train, the helter-skelter, the caterpillar and the tubs. I also enjoyed the crowded beaches, donkey rides, ice cream and having our photographs taken by Chris the friendly 'Sunbeam' smudger.

One day in 1947 there was a film, 'The Weaker Sex', being shot on the beach below my parents' hotel in Walpole Bay. I was completely mesmerized by the event. The film's stars were Derek Bond and Ursula Jean, and the Director was Roy Ward Baker. Noticing my keen interest in the shoot, he asked me if I would like to be an extra in the film, to which I readily agreed. I'm convinced this experience is what put me on the road to Hollywood!

I loved going to the local cinemas, like Dreamland and hearing its streamlined Art deco Compton organ that would come up out of the bowels of the auditorium, its multi-coloured lights rippling beneath its frosted-glass frame to the tune of 'Meet me tonight in dreamland'. There was also the Regal. Next door was The Hippodrome theatre where I saw Todd Slaughter recreating his 1930s film roles of 'Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street' and 'Murder in the Red Barn'.

There was also the Parade cinema down by the harbour, which had a few double seats for courting couples!, as well as the cinema at the top of the High Street [*The Plaza – Ed*]. The nearest cinema to our home was the Cameo in Northdown Road, where the latest M.G.M. musicals were screened. I particularly enjoyed the films starring the likes of Esther Williams and Danny Kaye, both of whom I later got to meet in person in Hollywood.

My parents were friends with the owners of the Cameo and they managed to get me a summer job as an assistant projectionist. This however lasted only one day as it did not turn out to be as exciting as I had envisioned! To be perfectly honest I was not cut out for the job.

I was also much taken by the 'Film Stars' stall in Dreamland's amusement park. The stars' portraits would

rapidly light up one by one and finally stop on the winner. Incidentally, I recently came across this stall-holder along Portobello Road market where he's now selling second-hand silverware.

During the summer months there was a temporary cinema set up on Marine Terrace just to the west of the Dreamland cinema. Catering mainly to the holiday-makers, they only showed one film throughout the summer, Laurel & Hardy's 'Chumps at Oxford'! I never got tired of seeing the film over and over again!

So you can imagine how exciting it was when my parents took me to the Winter Gardens Theatre to see the 'two chumps' live on stage. Over the years I remember seeing live performances there by Benjamino Gigli, Gracie Fields, Terry Thomas and Tommy Steele, I even performed there once myself, in a gymnastic display by pupils from King Ethelbert's!

My main interest at that time was drawing, so my parents bought me a series of 'How to draw' books, 'How to draw eyes', 'How to draw ears', etc. etc. from Lovely's art store in Northdown Road.

On summer Sunday afternoons I would take my 'How to ...' books and sketchpad down to Dane Park to watch the cricket. On occasions, the two comedians from the Lido variety show, Reg Varney and Benny Hill, would sit behind me on the grass bank while I copied the illustrations out of my book. One day, Benny Hill looked over my shoulder and commented: 'Your noses are coming along very nicely!'

One of the guests who stayed at my parents' hotel was Ralph Sallon, the well-known caricaturist. He was sent down to Margate to cover the 1950 Labour Party Conference at the Winter Gardens. On learning that I was keen on drawing, he took me along to the conference and I sat with him on the wings as he drew the various politicians. We then took a taxi to Margate railway station where he telephoned the newspaper from the booth outside the station to tell them that he was putting his sketches on the train to London. To me it was like magic to see these drawings appear the next morning in the Daily Mirror!

My first attempt at photo journalism was of the historic arrival in 1949 of The Vikings who, clad in period costume, arrived from Denmark in the ship, the 'Hugin'. However, all I managed to capture with my father's camera of their arrival and reception by the Mayor was the backs of the crew! The ship has since been mounted at Pegwell Bay.

The Isle of Thanet Gazette published a series of my photographs of local decorative coal-hole covers, etc. offering a prize if anyone could identify their location.

I left school at age 15 and enrolled at the Thanet School of Art & Crafts in Hawley Square, going on to Canterbury College of Art. During that period, 1951-55, I spent many happy hours rummaging through Dr Horvath's 'junk shop' in Market Street. Sometimes, I would take along my younger sister. At each visit, the 'Dr' would register her height with a pencil on the shop's door-post! On a recent visit to Margate I noticed that these premises, or the one next door, is now a tea room.

Shortly after returning from National Service in Korea I joined my father's masonic lodge, Union 127, which was

just around the corner from the Town Hall in New Cross Street.

One building that I loved to visit as a student was Cobb's Brewery. A good friend at art school was a Cobb family member, so I was given permission to sketch inside the building. Sadly, this early 19<sup>th</sup> century structure, near Fort Hill, and King Street, was later demolished.

I would often pay a visit to the end of the Jetty to watch the 'Golden Eagle' paddle-steamer or the 'Royal Daffodil' steamer arriving from my birthplace of Wapping.



*The stereoscopic slide of Margate Jetty recently donated to Margate Museum by Arnold Schwartzman*

I remember the great storm of 1953. My father drove me down to the harbour, stopping on Fort Hill as the force of the gale was pushing the car off the road. We watched the beautiful Doric lighthouse collapse into the sea, as though it was in slow motion. The metal structure of the Jetty twisted as if it were made of mere hairpins. We also saw hundreds of deck-chairs reduced to matchsticks, even the seafront cast-iron dolphin-decorated lamp-standards were broken up. I often think of all those wonderful Kinetoscope ('What the butler saw') cabinets that were housed in the amusement arcade at the far end of the Jetty, now presumably sitting beneath the sea bed. At the foot of Fort Hill at King Street there was a Jeep from the American air-base at Manston trapped in several feet of water, with two military policemen standing on the vehicle's bonnet waiting to be rescued!

I also recall one morning, on my way to art school, seeing the centre of The Queen's Highcliffe Hotel burn to the ground.

Shortly after my wife and I moved to Hollywood, almost thirty years ago, I came across an art store that sold vintage posters. To my pleasant surprise they had for sale a copy of the 'This Little Piggy went to Margate' tourist poster. I now very much regret not buying it.

Los Angeles has a large British community, and just a few miles from our home is Santa Monica, which is sometimes affectionately called Santa Margate. There are several shops that sell British goods such as Marmite, Licorice Allsorts, British newspapers and videos including the 'Two Ronnies' and the 'Benny Hill Show'.

I even rented a copy of 'The Weaker Sex', and saw a young boy in the film that I assume was me lean forward from his deckchair and pay the attendant. My ten seconds of fame!

Please accept the enclosed items which may be of use to Margate Museum: an early stereoscopic photograph of Margate Jetty, a souvenir Letter-Card, a postcard of

Eastern Esplanade showing my parents' hotel and a sheet of stamps for The Margate Cottage Hospital extension fund which, as you know, later became the local Library in Victoria Road. I used to spend a lot of time there. On some nights we sat in the dark listening to classical music from a wind-up gramophone as part of the music society's programme.

You may gather from this rambling letter that I spent some of the happiest times of my life in Margate.

I hope I will make another visit to the town before too long.

With best wishes and thanks

**Arnold Schwartzman**

PS – I love this piece written by a journalist in 1842 on the August migration of Londoners:

‘Tooley Street removes to Ramsgate; Belgrave Square retires to Brighton; the chambers of Lincoln’s Inn occupy the second floors at Worthing; The Boro visits Herne Bay for the benefits of bathing. Now Mile End rusticates at Gravesend, and the Shambles of Whitechapel seek the shingles of Margate.’

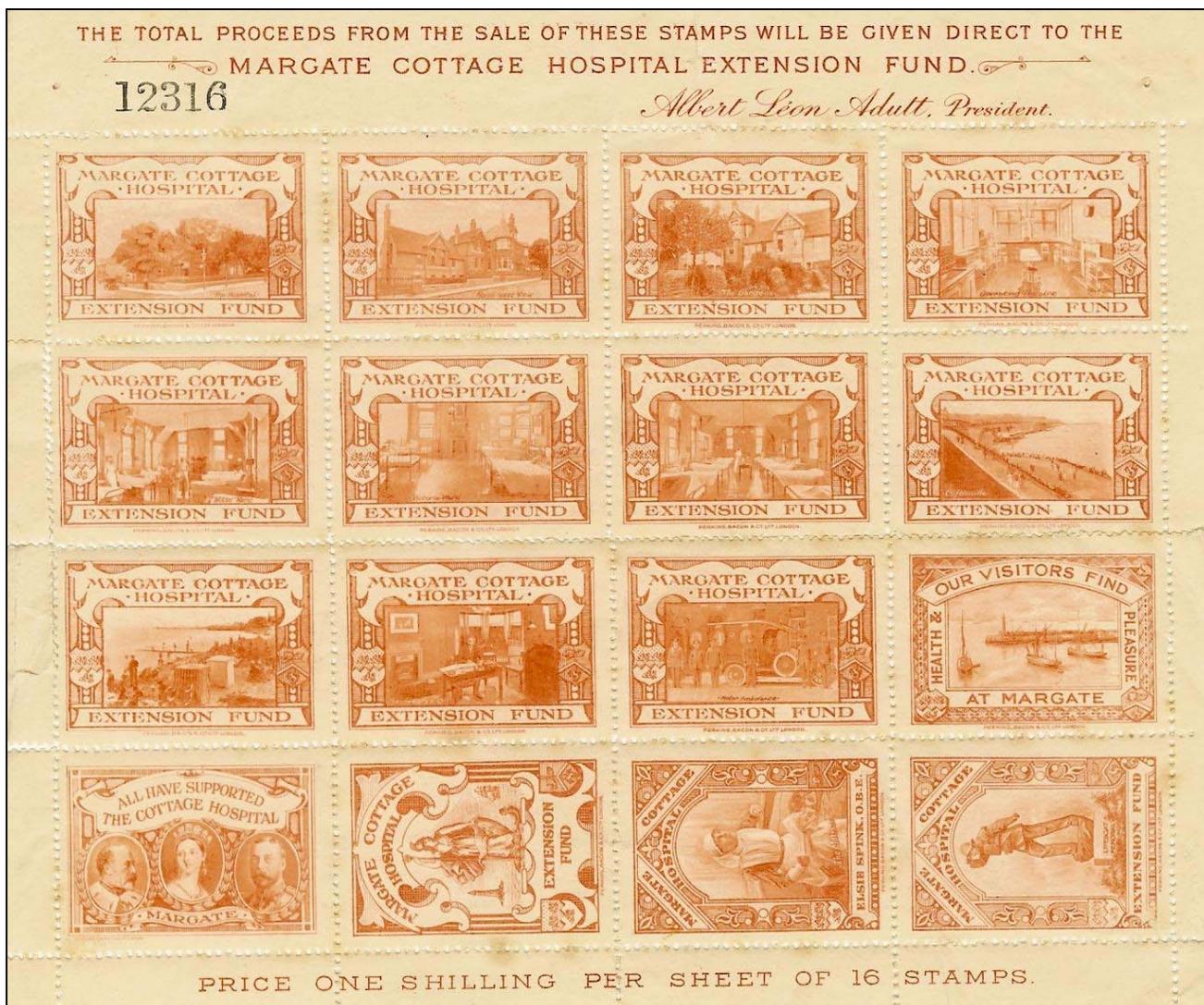
I obviously was destined to live in Margate! □



Another of the postcards donated to Margate Museum by Arnold Schwartzman. This charming postcard shows children playing on the guns at Hodges Flagstaff, on the cliff-top at Cliftonville. The flagstaff, seats guns and fence were all presented in 1870 by George Pitt of Mitcham, Surrey to Margate Town Council for the use of visitors and inhabitants as a tribute to his father who was much attached to this spot. The postcard dates from around 1905

Editor's Note:

Arnold Schwartzman still makes occasional visits to the town and the Curator of Margate Museum, Bob Bradley, and your editor are very much looking forward to meeting him on his next visit on 20th September this year. □



The sheet of stamps kindly donated to Margate Museum by Arnold Schwartzman. The stamps were sold in 1921 to raise funds for the extension to the Cottage Hospital in Victoria Road

# GREAT DISCOVERIES!



The last exhibition of 2007 in the Westgate Heritage Centre at St Saviour's Church is now on until 29<sup>th</sup> September. [It is hoped that this newsletter will be distributed to members before that date. – Ed.] As this year is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of some of the great battles which took place in the Western Front in 1917 – Arras, Vimy Ridge, Messines, Third Ypres (Passchendaele), and Cambrai – in which Westgate men fought, many giving their lives, we have given much time to thinking about those men whilst at the same time trying to give an overview of the battles. Recent discoveries have made the story of Westgate during the First World War even more poignant.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007, I (wearing my Churchwarden's hat) was having a grand de-clutter, aided by Neil Roberts, St Saviour's Bell Tower Captain. In the space between the back of the altar of the War Memorial Chapel and the back of the church organ, we found a great deal of rubbish, which we bagged up for disposal. The last thing lying around was a quantity of cardboard, which we thought we would put into our new wheelie-bin to be re-cycled. Thank heavens we had a look at it before doing so!

There were three sheets of card, somewhat dusty – we now think that they may have lain there since the Chapel was erected and dedicated in 1920. On retrieving them, we realised that they were covered with lists of names. Exhaustion and irritability were replaced with euphoria!



*The three Roll of Honour boards (before being framed) believed to date from the end of the First World War. The one of the far left lists the names those who fell in the war whilst the other two list the names of the Westgate men who were on active service*

Two contained the list of names of the Roll of Honour of men from the parish who were serving in the armed forces – 407 in total. They were in reasonable condition and perfectly legible. The third was the Roll of Honour containing the names of the Fallen on a hand-written scroll. They are rare. We knew that such lists were produced during the First World War because they are referred to in contemporary newspaper reports and in other documents, but it was thought that they had long since gone. Their discovery aroused a great deal of excitement.

James Brazier has photographed all three Roll of Honour boards and compared, using his computer, the names of the Fallen with those listed on St Saviour's Church War Memorial Tablet and those listed on the British Legion Memorial in Sea Road opposite the junction with St Mildred's Road. The results are fascinating and details of all the men listed are recorded in a file which he has compiled and is kept in the War Memorial Chapel. James very kindly donated a period oak picture-frame large enough to beautifully display, side by side, the two Roll of Honour boards listing the 407 Westgate men who were on active service at the time. James also beautifully mounted the two boards with the assistance of Julian Smith and the Roll of Honour of the Fallen has been beautifully mounted and suitably framed through the generosity of Alan & Ann Clark from St Saviour's Church. James and Julian very generously gave their time and skills to erect the finished works in the Chapel. As Churchwarden and Curator of the Heritage Centre, I should like to thank them very much.

Please visit the exhibition before it closes on 29<sup>th</sup> September, especially if you think you may have had a relative who fought in the First World War and lived in Westgate. I have started to analyse the list and have identified about half so far. It helps to build up a picture of Westgate in the war and how families were affected. We have also been given the Log Book of St Saviour's Infants' School, which covers the war. The entries for 1917 are fascinating, as they record the air-raids that took place that year. The exhibition is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays 10.00am to 12 noon and on Fridays 12 noon to 2.00pm.

On Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, the Friends of St Saviour's are putting on an evening in tribute to those named on the newly-discovered Roll of Honour boards. It will consist of some local history about Westgate in WWI, including some

readings from local sources, interlinked with poetry and music. It starts at 7.30pm although the church will be open from 7.00pm for those wishing to look at the exhibition. On Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> September there will be the last walk of the year around historic Westgate. We will meet at the corner of Westgate Bay Avenue and St Mildred's Road (outside Greville Lodge) at 2.30pm. The walk will be around the 'quadrant' formed by Westgate Bay Avenue, Sea Road, and St Mildred's Road. Both of these events are free, although donations to the work of the Friends of St Saviour's will be welcome. Please support us, if you can. □

**Dawn Crouch**  
**Curator of Westgate Heritage Centre**



*The Roll of Honour boards now framed, glazed and affixed to the wall of the War Memorial Chapel in St Saviour's Church, Westgate.*

#### **Editor's Note:**

These Roll of Honour boards formed what was known at the time as a War Shrine. In 1917, four War Shrines were erected in Westgate – one at the end of Waterworks Road (now Linksfield Road), one near the former railway level-crossing, one on a piece of waste land in Victoria Avenue and one at the bottom of St Mildred's Road (the site of the present British Legion Memorial). At the end of the war, the Vicar of St Saviour's Church, the Rev C. Pendock Banks, wanted to preserve those War Shrines as a permanent and historic record of Westgate's men who had served their King & Country during that war and it is considered likely that the Rev C. Pendock Banks arranged for the list of 407 names to be written up shortly after the end of the war – the names having been pulled together from the four War Shrines referred to above. As regards the Roll of Honour listing the names of the fallen, it is considered that this was probably compiled during 1917-18 as there is no end date for the years heading the list of names (the board actually shows the war being from 1914-191 – see photographs). Arrangements are in hand for these three important and historic Roll of Honour boards to be included as components of a Westgate War Shrine on the National Inventory of War Memorials at the Imperial War Museum in London. □



*Julian Smith justifiably looking pleased with his handiwork after helping to affix the oak picture-frame containing the two 'active service' Roll of Honour boards to the wall immediately beneath the oak WWI War Memorial tablet in the War Memorial Chapel inside St Saviour's Church on 30th July 2007.*

*All photographs by James Brazier*

**Ramsgate—High St., Tuesday, Sept. 5.**

**Broadstairs—Wednesday, Sept. 6.**

**Margate—Thursday, Sept. 7.**



THE £1,000,000 SHOWMEN.



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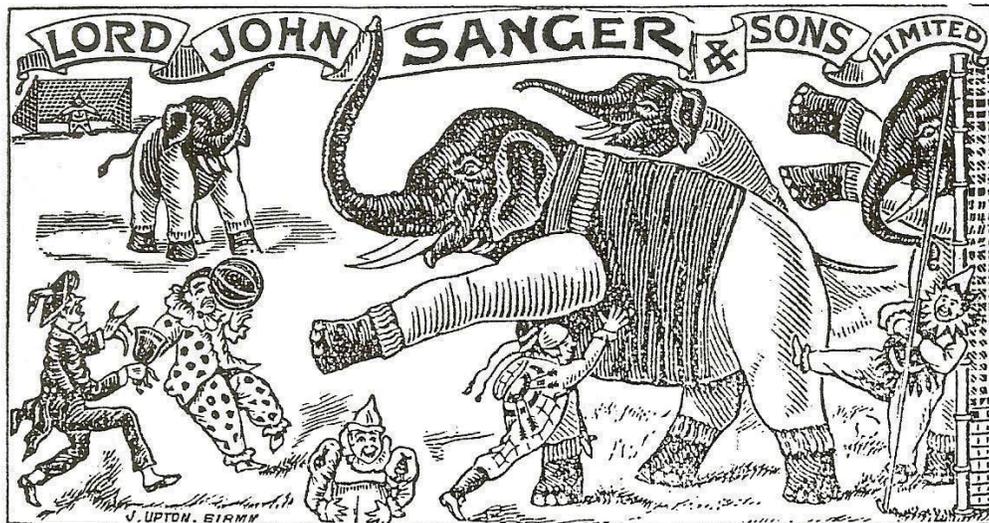
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## **What's on**

### **Margate Civic Society (talks all start at 7.30pm at The Walpole Bay Hotel):**

Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'The Walpole Bay Hotel' by Mrs Jane Bishop
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> November	'An Update on Turner Contemporary and the Rendezvous Site' by Mr John Haywood
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> December	'Traditional Kentish Trades, Crafts and Industries' by Mr Richard Filmer
<b>2008</b>	
January	No meeting
Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> February	'Margate Buildings' by Mr Damien Cooke
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March	'The Devil's Garden' by Mr Russell T. Bowes
Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	'An Update on Dreamland and other aspects of Margate' by Mr Mick Tomlinson
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May	2008 Town Pride Awards followed by a talk of which the arrangements have yet to be finalised

*Turner Contemporary (talks all start at 6.00pm at the Margate Media Centre, King Street). These talks, which are open to everyone and admission is free, are recommended. Places are limited, so please book early (Tel: 280261) to avoid disappointment.*

Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October	'Gender in the Interior Space' by Barbara Penner
Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> November	'Secrets of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton' by Jackie Marsh-Hobbs
Tuesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> December	'The Role of Materials' by an architect from David Chipperfield Architects Ltd

*Isle of Thanet Historical Society (talks all start at 7.30pm at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Minnis Road, Birchington)*

Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> October	'Thanet Links -2' by Mr John Robinson
Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> November	EGM (starts at 7.00pm) followed by 'The Huguenots' by Mr Norman Hopkins
Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	'Tales of a Battlefield Guide around the World' by Lt-Col (Ret'd) Mike Martin

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## **Useful telephone numbers:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Phone No.</b>	<b>Contact name/Notes</b>
Margate Museum, The Old Town Hall, Market Place	231213	Bob Bradley, Curator
Margate Public Library – Local Studies Collection	223626	Cecil Square building closed during building works – expected to re-open in December
Westgate Heritage Centre	832617	Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator
Birchington Heritage Trust Museum, Birchington Library	846502	Open Mondays and first Saturday in month – 9.30am to noon (both days)
Birchington Parish Archivist	842988	Jennie Burgess
Margate Historical Society	227574	Mick Twyman, Secretary
Isle of Thanet Historical Society	835587	Barry Hopper, Chairman
Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society	07906 360725	Val Robbins, Secretary
Isle of Thanet Geographical Association	863110	-
Kent Family History Society (Thanet Branch)	842933	Cliff Cole
Draper's Windmill Trust	226227	David Keep, Chairman
Margate Lifeboat Fund-Raising Committee	832846	Laurie Walton, Treasurer
Friends of Margate Cemetery Trust	230274	Vera Jenkins
Friends of Quex	842040	Edna Elven, Membership Secretary
Friends of Westgate Pavilion	226542	Mike Emery, Secretary
Turner Contemporary	280261	Victoria Pomery, Director
The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House, Birchington	842168	-
The Shell Grotto, Grotto Hill, Margate	220008	Sarah Vickery
Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Museum	821940	-
RAF Manston History Museum	825224	-
Cliftonville Residents' Association	226033	Keith Chadband, Chairman
Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association	831474	Norman Smith, Treasurer
Birchington Residents' Association	843594	Roger D. Walford



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity. It is also affiliated to both the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and the Kent History Federation.

The Society's purpose and aims are to encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Margate and its environs (Birchington, Westgate-on-Sea, Cliftonville, Westbrook, Garlinge, Acol, Sarre and St Nicholas-at-Wade); to stimulate public interest and care for the history and character of the area; and to encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general amenity and historical interest. To this end, Town Pride awards are given annually to those buildings which have been refurbished, cleaned or modified and which, in the opinion of the Society, have enhanced the appearance of the town. New high-quality buildings are also eligible for the award. The Society also vets planning applications and makes known to Thanet District Council any objections to those applications which it considers necessary.

Evening meetings are held monthly between October and May at The Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville. The lectures, mostly illustrated with slides, are interesting and of local interest; they are also varied in their appeal. A few afternoon meetings are sometimes also held. A newsletter is published four times a year.

**Committee for 2006/07:**

**President:** Mr Ralph Handscomb  
14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 293169)

**Chairman:** Mr Steve Villette  
29 The Ridgeway, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2TL (Tel: 221250)

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Harry Scobie  
45 Cornwall Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JG (Tel:291298)

**Secretary:** Mr Tony Snow  
34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG (Tel: 221838)

**Treasurer:** Mrs Phil Johnson MBE  
67 Palm Court, Rowena Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8QZ (Tel: 831469)

**Membership Secretary:** Mrs Pat Snow  
34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG (Tel: 221838)

**Newsletter Editor:** Mr James Brazier  
"The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ (Tel: 298038)

**Other Committee Members:**  
Mr Jack Pilcher, 7 Queen Bertha's Avenue, Birchington CT7 9BH (Tel: 833767)  
Mr Garry Cowans, Flat 3, 21 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate (Tel: 221938)  
Mrs Margaret Main, 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN  
Mrs Daphne Rowley, "Spring Cottage", 11 Pembroke Avenue, Westbrook, Margate  
Mr Peter Blore, 29 Yoakley Square, Margate CT9 4BA (Tel: 291778)

If you are interested in joining our Society, please fill in the enrolment form below.

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**Enrolment Form**

I enclose the sum of £ .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

..... **Tel:** .....

**Subscription rates for 2006/07:**

	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Joint</b>	<b>Junior (under 18)</b>	<b>Corporate</b>
<b>Annual</b>	£5.00	£8.00	50p	£10.00
<b>Life Membership</b>	£40.00	£60.00	-	-

and send it to the Membership Secretary (Mrs Pat Snow), 34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG