

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Autumn 2011
Newsletter
Issue No. 364



**Margate Civic Society is a
Founder Member
of Civic Voice**

An Invitation to all our Members



*The Mayor of Margate
Cllr Iris Johnston*

The Mayor of Margate, Councillor Mrs Iris Johnston - who is also a Life Member of our Society - has very kindly invited members of Margate Civic Society to a Reception to be held in the Mayor's Parlour on Monday, 26th September 2011 at 8.00pm. Cllr Iris Johnston, in her Mayoral year, is holding a number of similar Receptions for local organisations: a Reception for members of the

Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association held earlier in the year was attended by a number of our members who found the occasion most agreeable.

Please do come long to the Reception for our Society members on 26th September: it will provide an excellent opportunity for us to get to know each other - and Cllr Iris Johnston - better and to discuss local issues.

Space in the Mayor's Parlour is limited and members are requested to let our President, Ralph Handscomb, know in advance if they wish to attend this event. His contact details are shown on the back page of this Newsletter.

The Mayor's Parlour is in the Old Town Hall in Market Place. A meeting of the Margate Charter Trustees is due to be held at 7.00pm that same evening in the same building and some members might wish to take the opportunity to attend that meeting as members of the public before moving on to the Mayor's Parlour at 8.00pm. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

To take place in the Walpole Bay Hotel at 7.30pm on
Thursday 6th October 2011

Any proposals or nominations should be submitted as
soon as possible before the meeting to the President at:
14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville
Margate CT9 3AB

Welcome to new members

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

Harry Smith
Geoff Orton
Ian Kay
Colin Logan
Thorley Taverns (Corporate Membership)
John T. Williams
Doug Clark
Peter Hatcher
Meg Harvey
Simon Moores

Lynda Smith
Membership Secretary

Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2011 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. Please note the new subscription rates effective from 1st October 2011, as agreed at our AGM held on 7th October 2010, are shown on the back page of this Newsletter. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. Members can renew at our AGM on 6th October (or at subsequent meetings) or by post to me at:

5 Addington Square
Margate CT9 1NN

Lynda Smith
Membership Secretary

New Secretary wanted

We are looking for a new Secretary to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of our former Secretary. If you feel that you could help by filling this position, please contact our Chairman, Mrs Pamela Pople, who will be pleased to outline the duties of this post. The Committee meets about eight times a year only. Pamela's contact details are shown on the back page of the Newsletter. We are also looking for a Committee Secretary to record the minutes of our Committee meetings. Again, please contact Pamela if you wish to discuss the duties of either of these positions. The Society is run by volunteers: if you feel that you can assist us, please do consider this appeal for help. □

Ralph Handscomb
President

President's Report 2010/11

Sitting in the garden getting tanned by a hot sun, one tends to forget the horrors of the past winter. It is time again to write the President's report.

At last, the Turner Contemporary is open and the number of visitors has passed all expectations. The Old Town appears to be benefiting from this, the Motor Cycle Convention, the Air Show and other events. Is Margate on the up? I hope so!

It looks as if those who wanted Tesco on the Arlington House site might have their wish: I do hope we will not live to regret allowing this to happen. I still fear traffic congestion will become a daily problem especially when the Dreamland Heritage Park opens in 2013.

Your Committee have become involved with the quest to re-open both the Margate Museum and the Margate Caves.

We agreed to continue our membership of Civic Voice and have had meetings and consultations with various members of the organisation and the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies (KFAS). The amount of paperwork that arrives via the web from Civic Voice is staggering and sometimes too much for this 'oldie' to take in! We have been asked to host the KFAS Autumn Conference to be held at the Turner Contemporary on 12th November 2011.

We also meet up with both the Ramsgate Society and the Broadstairs Society but so far have had no success with Thanet District Council for the reinstatement of the Property Services Consultation Forum despite promises from both the Leader of TDC, Bob Bayford, and also the last Council officer responsible, that it would be started up again. I am tired of 'banging my head against a brick wall' and, now that I am no longer Chairman of the Forum, I have handed over to Jack Tullett, President of the Broadstairs Society, who continues the battle.

I still book our speakers and trust that you will enjoy those selected for the new season including John Robinson, a member of our Society, who was booked to give us a talk last December but the meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the very bad weather conditions that day. I have been booking speakers now for over ten years and I feel that it is time that I handed this task over to someone else. Are there any volunteers? I am not going to last for ever and the sooner someone takes on this task the better while I am still around to help.

Now it is time for my round of thanks:

Pamela Pople - our Chairman - has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Society attending many meetings and organising the Town Pride Awards with James Brazier and Mike Wilton. On behalf of our Society, Pamela was given a donation of £70 from Tony Leggatt for writing an appraisal on one of Coastal Developments Ltd's housing projects in Herne Bay - another welcome addition to the Society's funds. I must also thank Pamela for obtaining a suitable venue for our Civic Day event held on 25th June. Most of the Committee turned out on that day to help and some new members were enrolled.

Harry Scobie - turns out for meetings and events whenever his busy schedule allows and is a very useful Vice-Chairman.

James Brazier - his Newsletters get better and better, and he is taking on more tasks. A very useful and talented Committee member. On behalf of the Society, James attended a Civic Day Workshop at Ashford earlier in the year. His subsequent work on the our Civic Day event was very much appreciated by all who visited our display. James also stepped in to take a party from the Ramsgate 41 Club on a tour of Old Margate during the evening of 15th August. The person who was to have led the party was unavailable at the last minute and James had just six hours in which to prepare for the task before him. The tour proved to be a success and the 41 Club very kindly made a donation of £25 to Margate Civic Society as a gesture of thanks for James's services that evening.

Mike Wilton - has done wonders with our website. He is also our Treasurer and very efficient and willing to help out wherever possible. On 5th November 2010 - the 88th anniversary of the unveiling of Margate War Memorial - Mike put James's research of all the persons whose names are inscribed on Margate's civic war memorials on our website. The fruits of James's research are now available to anyone with internet access.

Lynda Smith - has cleaned up the Membership list, saving the Society a considerable sum in postage costs. Lynda has also chased those who have avoided paying their membership fees, and stopped postage of Newsletters to those who are no longer with us. Lynda, also, was one of the judges for the 2011 Town Pride Awards.

Steve Vilette - a mine of useful information and brings the loud-speaker gear etc. to our meetings and the display boards when needed.

Julian Smith - is a willing helper and was another of the judges for the 2011 Town Pride Awards.

Susie Hewins - our erstwhile Secretary - made a very valiant effort as Secretary but her ability with computers was not up to the task and eventually she gave up. Susie stays on the Committee and takes the minutes until we find a new Committee Secretary.

I must not forget to thank Garry Cowans. Although he is no longer a Committee member, he continues to help with Town Pride Award commendation certificates and other bits and pieces. Also we thank him for his work on the raffle.

It is difficult to describe all that Committee members have done during the year, but I thank them all for their continued work and dedication to our Society. At the AGM in October, I hope that we will receive at least two new nominations for our Committee. And, of course, we desperately need a new Secretary.

Finally, I thank on behalf of the Society the continued support of Jane Bishop and her family for the use of facilities at the Walpole Bay Hotel for our meetings.

Ralph Handscomb
President

Civic Day celebrations in Margate - 25th June 2011



Councillor Doug Clark (Chairman of Thanet District Council) with Louise Drelaud (Chairman's Escort) on the left and Pamela Pople, (Chairman, Margate Civic Society) on the right - at the Society's display of photographs of the properties that had been awarded Town Pride plaques by Margate Civic Society since 2006

As you are already aware, this year we celebrated the first national Civic Day by organising a photographic exhibition of the winners of the Town Pride Awards over the past six years.

We were fortunate to be offered the use of one of the studios that form the Harbour Arm Gallery, which is situated on the Stone Pier in Margate. This venue was courtesy of Pat Wilson-Smith, the curator of the gallery, to whom we are very grateful.

The day was very successful, attracting many visitors who were taking in the local scenery and attractions, including the Old Town, Turner Contemporary, Droit House, Margate Museum, Shell Grotto and the numerous cafés, pubs and art galleries. The weather was kind (after a horrendous storm during the night before) which was an added bonus and the day attracted new members and also raised awareness of Margate Civic Society and Civic Voice. Among the visitors to our display on Civic Day was Dr Colin Logan who lives in Columbus, Ohio and visits Margate each month to run his dental clinic in Thanet. Dr Logan was also amongst those who, that day, enrolled as a new member of the Society.

I should like to thank James Brazier for his dedication and unrelenting hard work in preparing the photographs and displays. In addition to this, he also gave his time throughout the whole day, which was quite an arduous task! Thanks also to the other Committee members who kindly gave their time and support in numerous ways, not only during the event, but also with preparations the day before, which contributed to its success.

Next time, we intend to build on this year's event and hope that Civic Society Members in addition to members of the public will be able to come along and give their support once again. □

Pamela Pople
Chairman

Civic Day 2012

Next year, Civic Day will be Saturday, 23rd June 2012. Your Committee has not yet decided how it will celebrate Civic Day next year but, as our Chairman (Pamela Pople) has written above, it is hoped that whatever we do decide that members of our Society and members of the public will again give their support to our celebrations.

Do make a note of this date. Full details of our 2012 celebrations of Civic Day will be announced both in the Newsletter and on the Society's website as soon as they become available. □

Volunteers wanted by Drapers Windmill Trust

Drapers Windmill Trust was founded in 1965 and saved the mill from demolition. Funds were raised to restore the mill in the 1970s and Kent County Council purchased the building. After 45 years, the Trust continues as a small registered charity dedicated to opening the windmill to the public and also doing some maintenance and restoration works.

All major projects are looked after by Kent County Council. The mill is open on Sunday afternoons in June, July and August.

The Trust Committee is looking for new volunteers and especially new Committee members to ensure that the group continues into the future. The existing officers will be there to work with any new members who we hope could be the officers of the future. Any interested people should contact Bernard McDermott on 01843 220995. The Trust's Committee meets three or four times per year. □

Robin Colyer
Hon Secretary
Drapers Windmill Trust



Drapers Mill photographed on Sunday 21st August 2011 when only one pair of sweeps was in place (the second pair of sweeps - seen just behind the mill - were due to be re-fitted before the August Bank Holiday). Drapers Mill was built in 1845



The refurbished second pair of sweeps awaiting re-fitting

Drapers Mill is open on Sunday afternoons during the summer months. The mill is owned by Kent County Council and managed by the Drapers Mill Windmill Trust which needs more volunteers to assist with keeping this heritage building open to the public. Can **YOU** help? □



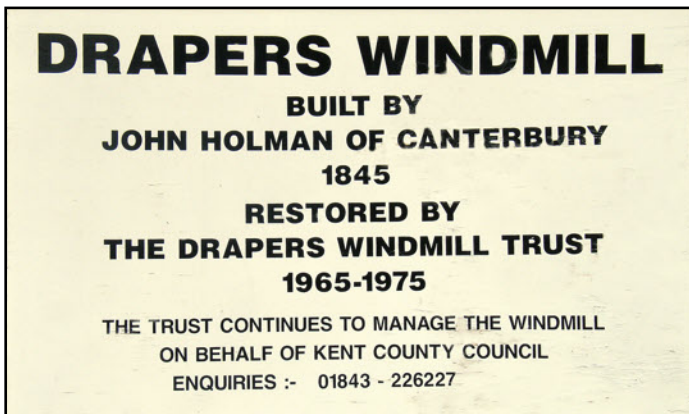
Some of the shutters on the pair of sweeps in situ on the day when these photographs were taken



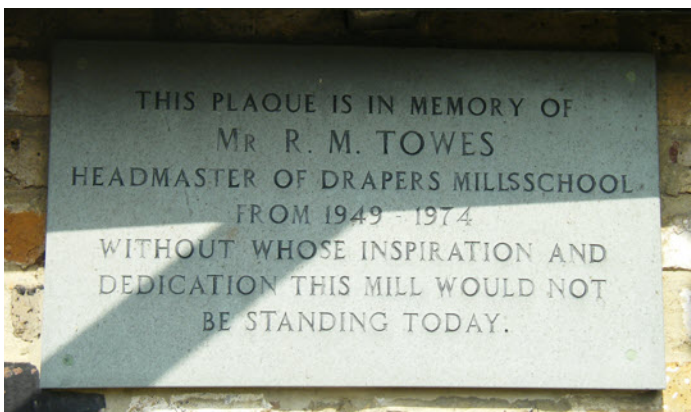
A late nineteenth-century miller's cart at Drapers Mill



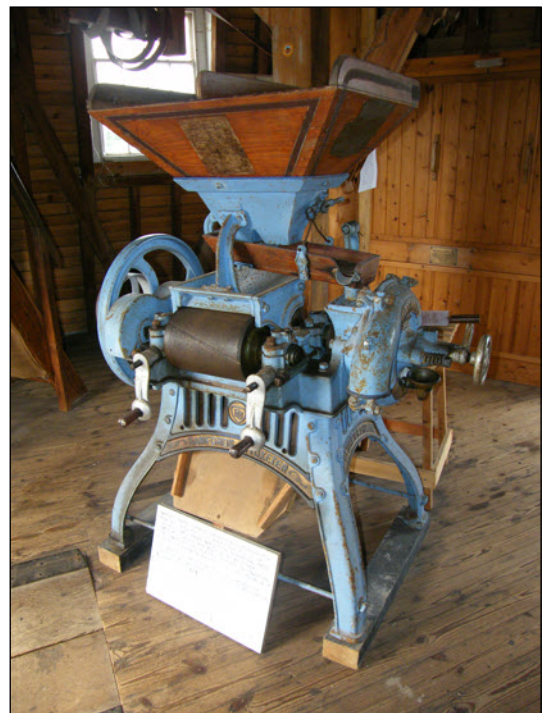
An early photograph showing the three windmills in a row that once stood on the site. Drapers Mill is on the left with the Pump Mill in the middle and Little Drapers Mill on the right. The view is looking towards north



The sign outside Drapers Mill



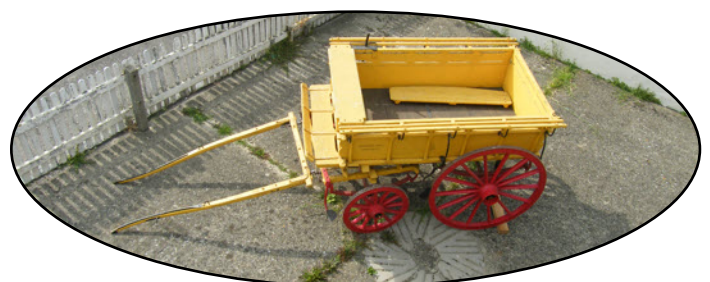
Above - The plaque in memory of Mr R. M. Towes, Headmaster of Drapers Mills School 1949 - 1974



The Bamfords "Rapid" Model 2C combined grinding-and-crushing mill on display at Drapers Mills. These machines were used mainly on farms for milling or crushing oats, maize, barley, etc., for animal feed. These mills would have been driven by either small barn-engines, electric-motors or tractors. This model is believed to date from 1935

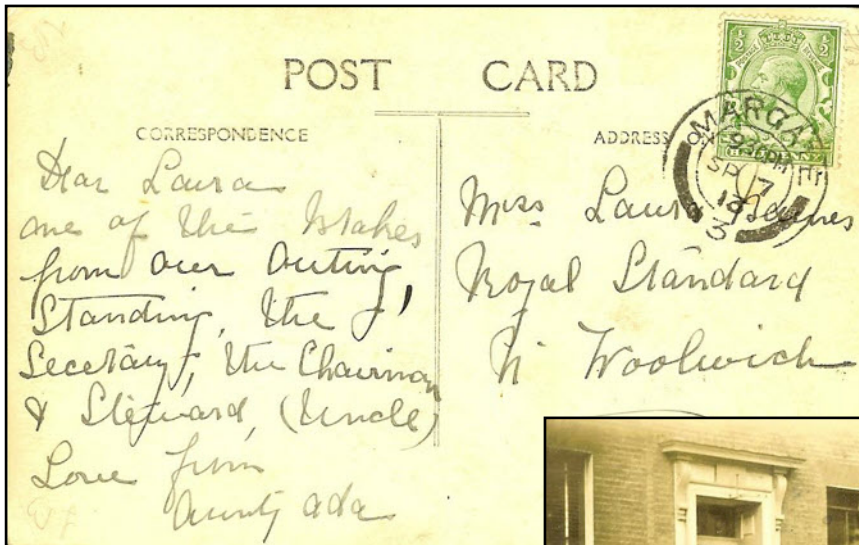


The wall-plaque on Drapers Mills School recording that the school was built in 1929



Bird's-eye view of the miller's cart

More mementoes of the Beaconsfield Conservative Working Men's Association (sometimes known as the Beaconsfield Institute or Beaconsfield Club) at Margate



In the last issue of the Newsletter, we featured this medal which 'Lord' George Sanger, as President of the Margate Beaconsfield Working Men's Association, had presented to each member of the Executive Committee of that body in 1882. In this issue, we feature some more mementoes of that Association which form part of Margate's history: two postcards and a war memorial.



Postcard of the Beaconsfield Club Outing June 1913

Postmark:
September 7th, 1913

Message:
Dear Laura
One of the brakes from our Outing.
Standing - the Secretary, the Chairman & Steward (Uncle)
Love from
Aunty Ada



Members of the Beaconsfield Conservative Working Men's Institute (known as Beaconsfield Club) moments before setting off on their outing in June 1913. The Club's premises at 10 Cecil Square can be seen behind the brake (note the word 'INSTITUTE' on the window bottom right) at the rear. It is most probable that a number of the younger seen men on this postcard are amongst those whose names appear on the Beaconsfield Conservative Working Men's Club War Memorial (see opposite page)

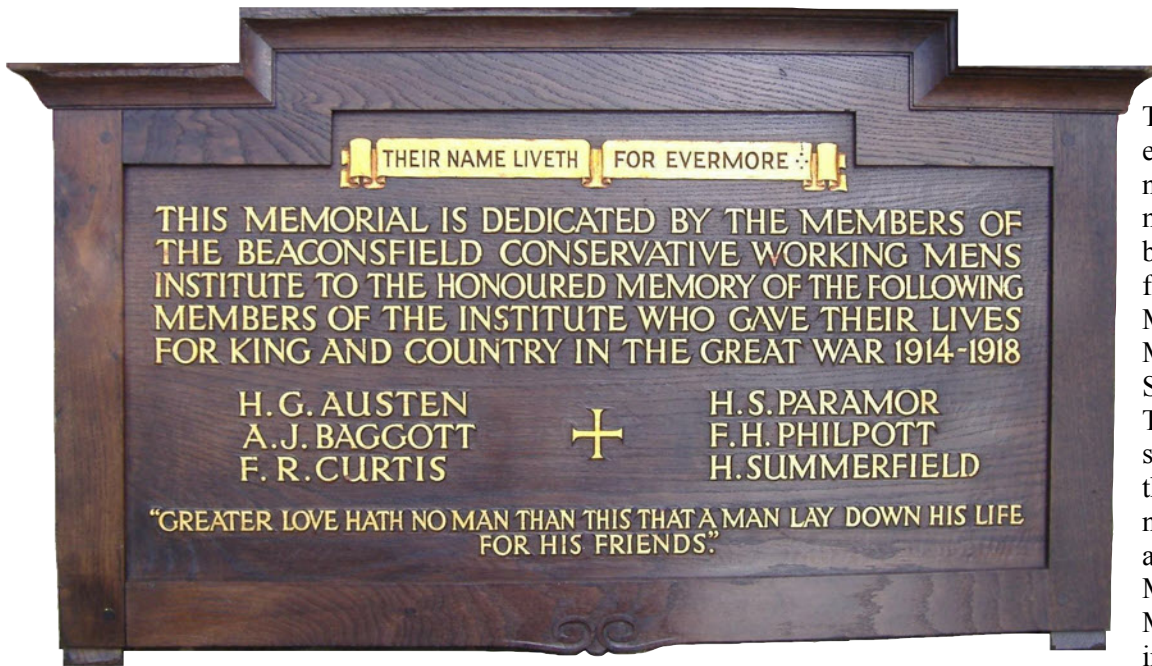
The postcard below shows the bunting-strewn Isle of Thanet Conservative Registration Offices in Elephant Hill (now Marine Gardens) and the postcard is believed to date from around 1920. Judging by the clothing worn, the photograph was taken during the summer months. Note also the roof of a motor-vehicle which can be seen going up Elephant Hill. Perhaps the occasion was a carnival or, possibly, local peace celebrations held in 1919 to mark the end of the Great War 1914-18. Records show that the Beaconsfield Club occupied part of these premises at around that time



The Beaconsfield Conservative Working Men's Institute Ltd - as it subsequently became known - later moved to premises in Hawley Square. It is understood that the club no longer exists. The Club was named after Lord Beaconsfield - formerly Benjamin Disraeli who was born on 21st December 1805 and died on 19th April 1881. He served as Conservative Prime Minister in 1868 and again from 1874 to 1880. □

Sincere thanks are expressed to Richard Clements for kindly loaning these postcards from his collection of old Margate postcards for the purposes of this article.

The Beaconsfield Conservative Working Men's Institute War Memorial 1914-1918



The information on each of the men named on this war memorial, as shown below, is extracted from the Margate War Memorial webpage on Margate Civic Society's website. The differences in the spelling etc of some of the names should be noted. Their names, as they appear on Margate War Memorial, are shown in **bold** below.

AUSTEN H. G.

2529 Sgt Horace George Austen, 7th Bn The Buffs

Killed in action on 28th November 1916, aged 22. He was born at Margate.

Interred at Stump Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France

BAGGOTT [sic] A. T. J.

S/15390 Sgt Alfred Thomas James Baggott, Royal Army Service Corps

Died when he was burnt while asleep at Hangest-sur-Somme on 11th February 1919, aged 37. He was born at Shropshire and lived at Zion Place, Margate. He left behind a widow, Eliza.

Interred at Crouy British Cemetery, Crouy-sur-Somme, France

CURTIS R. C. [sic]

Believed to be 1466 Trooper Frederick Rupert Curtis, Household Bn, Household Cavalry

Killed in action on 11th May 1917 aged 31. He was born at London and lived at Margate. Although his initials are different from those shown on both Margate War Memorial and Margate War Shrine, there is a reference in a contemporary local newspaper to a Trooper Charles Curtis who, it is believed, is the same soldier as shown above.

Commemorated by the CWGC on the Arras Memorial, France

PARAMOR H. S.

550710 Rifleman Harry Spencer Paramor, 2/16th Bn London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles)

Died in France on 7th November 1918, aged 30. He had enlisted in September 1914 and served in Egypt and France. He was a family member of the Margate builders Paramor and Sons who built the fine Margate War Shrine.

Interred at Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France

PHILLPOTT [sic] F. H.

Z.4283 Able Seaman Frederick Philpott, Nelson Bn, Royal Naval Division

Killed in action on 22nd January 1917, aged 26. He was working as a Newsagent when he joined the Royal Naval Division in November 1915 at the age of 25. His home was at Poet's Corner, Margate.

Commemorated by the CWGC on the Thiépval Memorial, France

SUMMERFIELD H. T.

M2/032089 Pte Henry Thomas Summerfield, 70th Auxiliary Petrol Coy, Army Service Corps

Killed by a bomb dropped from an enemy aircraft on 6th December 1917, aged 39. He was born at St Pancras, London and lived at Bailey's Cottages, Zion Place, Margate. He left behind a widow and five young children. Prior to enlisting, he was a motor-driver in the employ of Mr J. W. Sayer.

Interred at Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No. 3, Belgium

Margate's Wartime Rolls of Honour

Members will be aware that Rolls of Honour recording the names and personal information on those who lost their lives whilst serving their country during the twentieth century were launched on the Society's website last November. Since then, the Rolls of Honour - covering Margate, Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington - have attracted interest from around the world thanks to the internet. Additional information has been provided and a number of enquiries have been received from family members which has been most gratifying. Also, in a couple of instances, family members have supplied photographs of their loved ones whose names are inscribed on these war memorials. It is hoped that publication of the following examples will prompt others to submit additional information and photographs.

Shortly after the launch of the Rolls of Honour on our website, I received a telephone call from a David Impett who told me that he was the son of Henry Charles Impett whose name is inscribed on Margate War Memorial and that he was now living in Harrow, aged 76. His attention to the Roll of Honour had been drawn by a friend of his who had access to the web and had found Henry Impett's details on our website. Until I received that phone call, I was not aware that Henry Impett's son was named David and that David was now living at Harrow.

The entry on the Margate WWII Roll of Honour on the Society's website now reads as follows:

IMPETT H. C.

1572803 Gunner Henry Charles Impett, 48 Bty, AA Regt, RA

Died in a prisoner-of-war camp in Borneo on 21st July 1945. He was aged 33. He had volunteered for the Army in May 1940 and went to the Far East 18 months later. After being in Java for only three weeks, he was posted as missing. It was not until a year later that news was received that he was being held as a PoW. He left behind a widow, Violet, and a nine-year-old son, David.

Interred at Taiping War Cemetery, Malaysia

The following e-mail was received from Rebecca Eaton who lives in Canada:

Hello

I wanted to thank you very much for maintaining the Margate Roll of Honour. I have been trying to determine for sometime if my great-grandfather, Frederick Thurling, who was killed in France in WWI, was memorialised anywhere in England. He moved around a bit, so I wasn't sure where, until I found the information on your website - thank you again!

I do appreciate the memorial, and the fact that not only have you listed the name, but there is even some background information on the men who died - just a little something to humanise these great heroes, and remind us they were sons, fathers, and husbands. Thank you, Rebecca Eaton

The entry on the Margate WWI Roll of Honour on the Society's website reads as follows:

THURLING F.

46282 Battery Sergeant Major Frederick Thurling, 70th Battery, 34th Bde, Royal Field Artillery

Killed in action on 4th August 1916, aged 27. He was born at Maidstone and enlisted at Margate. He served with HM Forces for nine years. His parents lived at Ethelbert Road, Cliftonville.

Interred at Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz, Somme, France

In an exchange of e-mails, Rebecca Eaton told that her grandmother is the daughter of Frederick Thurling and that her grandmother was only two-and-a-half years old when her father lost his life. Rebecca's grandmother is now 97 years of age and living in Leicestershire. The photograph below of Frederick Thurling is the only one that Rebecca's grandmother has of her father and has kindly given permission for it to be published in the Newsletter.

The entry for Frederick Thurling on the Society's website will shortly be updated to include some of the additional information that Rebecca has kindly supplied.



A studio photograph of Frederick Murray Thurling kindly supplied by his great-granddaughter Rebecca Eaton. Frederick Thurling was 27 years old when he was killed in action during the Battle of Delville Wood. He left a widow, Teresa (née Lloyd), and a daughter, Jessie (now aged 97 and living in Leicestershire). His parents were Nicholas and Phoebe Thurling

The following e-mail was received from Jeremy O'Keefe:

Dear Sirs

I thought your members might be interested to see a photograph of Sgt Dennis Vivien Chant, RAF, former Margate resident and killed on the night of 14th October 1941 in an Avro Manchester bomber returning from an attack on Cologne. His name is inscribed on the Margate War Memorial.

Dennis was my father's second-cousin, Dennis's mother, Hilda Chant (nee Addis), was one of my grandmother's younger sisters.

My grandmother was a Margate resident and worked as a seamstress for Geo.A Heath on the corner of High Street and New Street, now site of Roy House.

Yours

Jeremy O'Keefe



Sgt Dennis Chant, RAF

The entry on the Margate WWII Roll of Honour on the Society's website reads as follows:

CHANT D. V.

1250594 Sgt Pilot Dennis Vivien Chant, 207 Sqdn RAFVR

Killed in action during a bombing raid on 14th October 1941. He was aged 21. He was educated at Margate Central School and had recently married.

Interred at Shaffen Communal Cemetery, Diest, Belgium



Geo A . Heath's shop on the corner of High Street and New Street, Margate, where Dennis Chant's grandmother once worked as a seamstress. It is believed that this photograph, which was kindly supplied by Jeremy O'Keefe, dates from around 1900



Foy House on the corner of High Street and New Street - July 2011

Margate's Wartime Rolls of Honour - Postscript

It is most gratifying that, already, a number relatives of those who fell in the two world wars and whose names are inscribed on Margate's civic war memorials have found information on our website of which they were previously unaware. By placing my research on our website as PDF files has enabled anyone - throughout the world - to find this information by simply 'Googling' a person's name. The search-engine takes the enquirer direct to the appropriate entry on our website in seconds.

James Brazier

Facility now available to pay annual subscriptions by internet banking

For the growing number of people who use internet banking, we can now offer the facility of membership payment by electronic transfer.

Please transfer the appropriate amount to:

Sort Code: 60-02-32

Account number: 99666928

Account name: Margate Civic Society

If you are asked to provide a reference name, please use your surname. When you have completed the transfer, please send an e-mail to our Membership Secretary, Lynda Smith, notifying her of your payment, along with your name, address, telephone number, email address and amount of payment.

Lynda's email address is membership@margatecivicsociety.org.uk

**Mike Wilton
Treasurer**

Copies of our Newsletter available electronically

Copies of our Newsletter are now available to be sent to members electronically. If you would like to help us keep down our printing costs and wish to receive your copy of the Newsletter by e-mail, please contact our Membership Secretary, Mrs Lynda Smith, by e-mail at membership@margatecivicsociety.org.uk giving your name and address. Such action will not only reduce our costs but will also help enormously with the distribution of the Newsletter. This applies particularly to those members to whom Newsletter are sent by post with ever-increasing postage costs. Members wishing to take up this option will also receive their Newsletter some two/three weeks earlier than those who receive printed Newsletters. Please do help us by taking advantage of this facility if you are able to do so. □

**Mike Wilton
Treasurer**

Some of Turner's Hand-Tinted Margate Prints



An engraving by George Cooke of one of J. M. W. Turner's many paintings of Margate. This engraving, published in 1824, shows salvage of a shipwreck in the foreground and Hooper's horizontal mill on the horizon. The White Hart Hotel on Marine Parade and houses in Albert Terrace can also be clearly seen. Holy Trinity Church was built four years after this engraving was first published



This engraving by R. Wallis was first published in 1832 clearly shows Holy Trinity Church on the horizon



This engraving by Thos. Lupton was first published in 1856 and was featured in our Autumn Newsletter (No. 360). Again, Holy Trinity Church can be clearly seen on the horizon

The three Turner prints shown on this page are identical to the three Turner prints listed in the former Margate Corporation *Catalogue of Prints, Drawings and Maps of Old Margate* that was printed in 1930, as follows:

Margate, Kent

Drawn by J. M. W. Turner, R.A.
Engraved by George Cooke
Published 1824
(as illustrated above)

Margate, Kent

Drawn by J. M. W. Turner, R.A.
Engraved by R. Wallis
Published 1832
(as illustrated top left)

Margate

Drawn by J. M. W. Turner, R.A.
Engraved by Thos. Lupton
Published May 7th 1856
(as illustrated bottom left)

The Stone Pier and the Lighthouse feature in all three prints

Margate Civic Society hosts KFAS Autumn Conference at Turner Contemporary - Saturday, 12th November 2011

The Kent Federation of Amenity Societies will be holding their Autumn Conference at Turner Contemporary on Saturday, 12th November 2011 and Margate Civic Society will host the event. The theme of the conference is 'Localism and the Big Society' - a topical subject and one that is likely to affect each of us one way or another. At the time of going to press, further details of the event were not available from KFAS. When details do become available, they will be put on our website. Announcements will also be made at both our October and November meetings regarding the arrangements for the day.

Do make a note in your diaries of this important event and please do try to come along on the day and give it your support. □

Margate Museum re-opens on a regular basis

After getting off to something akin to a false start earlier this year, the Friends of Margate Museum are now ensuring the opening of Margate Museum every Wednesday and Saturday from 11.00am to 5.00pm. This is a success story for the Friends and they deserve congratulations for achieving their goal to re-open Margate Museum. The Friends are all volunteers who freely give their time to the Museum and the numbers of visitors going through the door on each of the open days has been - and continues to be - most gratifying. Sincere thanks must also be expressed both to Thanet District Council for enabling this re-opening to happen and particularly to Chris Tull, TDC's Senior Leisure Officer who has also given up much of his private time to contribute to the success of the re-opening of the Museum to the public. □

***Who Do You Think You Are?* Tracey Emin**

The last in the current BBC1 series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* will feature Tracey Emin and it is understood that the programme will be broadcast on Wednesday, 12th October at 8.00pm. This popular TV series in which a well-known personality's family background is delved into by family-history experts is one of the BBC's most successful programmes. There can be little doubt that Margate will feature prominently in the programme on Tracey Emin's family background and that Tracey Emin will speak fondly of her time spent in our town. 'Mad Tracey from Margate' - as she is often known - is an ambassador for the town and always speaks highly of its architecture and, particularly, its amazing skies. Do make a note of the programme in your diaries. □

Dreamland's Scenic Railway's listing upgraded from Grade II to Grade II*

English Heritage has recently upgraded the listing of Margate's Scenic Railway from Grade II to Grade II* despite a large proportion of it being destroyed by fire some three years ago. The Dreamland Trust is currently restoring the Scenic Railway which it hopes will form the main attraction of the Dreamland Heritage Park when it opens, possibly, in 2013. The upgrading of the Scenic Railway's listing status by English Heritage follows an application made by Thanet District Council. Perhaps an unintended consequence of TDC's application has been the need to refer the plans for the proposed Tesco superstore on the Arlington House site back to the Planning Committee for further consideration. □

New Award for Sir David Chipperfield

Turner Contemporary architect Sir David Chipperfield has recently received an award from the Critics' Circle for his Turner Contemporary gallery at Margate and the Hepworth Gallery at Wakefield, Yorkshire. This award is additional to the Stirling Prize that he was awarded in 2008 and the Royal Gold Medal which he was awarded earlier this year by the Royal Institute of British Architects. These awards can only result in a greater appreciation of his work as a leading British architect and to recognition of his buildings as works of visual art in themselves. □

New Exhibition at Turner Contemporary

A new exhibition at Turner Contemporary is due to open on 17th September 2011. Its title is *Nothing in the World but Youth* and is a collection of 200 works by 94 artists. Amongst the exhibits that will on display are fifteen early works by Turner including several watercolours of Margate painted in the 1780s. The exhibition will run until 8th January 2012. The life-size marble sculpture *The Kiss* by Rodin will also be on display in the Sunley Gallery from 4th October until 2nd September 2012. Be sure that you don't miss these. □

Sketches at Margate - as published in *The Illustrated London News* dated 7th September 1872



SKETCHES AT MARGATE.

The opening of Turner Contemporary on Saturday, 16th April 2011 - and how computer software contributes to our Newsletter



The above panoramic photograph was taken on the day that Turner Contemporary opened its doors to the public - Saturday, 16th April 2011. It shows large number of visitors enjoying the walk along Margate's Stone Pier (sometimes known nowadays as the Harbour Arm) whilst the harbour has only one yacht and two small motor-boats in it. The weather on that day was glorious and no doubt encouraged many to enjoy the occasion. This scene would have been so different a hundred years ago. The harbour would have been full of fishing-boats, colliers, and boats of all sizes. The architecture would also have been quite different. Today, we have the sparkling Turner Contemporary at one end and Arlington House at the other. It can be seen from this picture how Arlington House completely overshadows Dreamland Cinema which, when it was built in 1934/35, dominated Margate's seafront. How things change!

For the technically minded, the above panoramic picture was created by taking five separate photographs using a digital camera and 'stitching' those five pictures together using Serif PanoramaPlus software. Although there is some loss of sharpness in the resultant picture, it is felt that the overall impact of such a panoramic view outweighs any loss of definition. My brother, Rob, took twelve photographs of his large garden by positioning himself in the middle of his garden and rotating clockwise ensuring that each time there was a sufficient overlap for the computer software to recognise common features. By 'stitching' all twelve photographs together, the 360° resultant panoramic view was quite dramatic.

Whilst on the subject of computer software, I am often asked what desktop-publishing package is used for producing the Society's Newsletter. For the last two years, I have used Serif PagePlus which I have found very easy to use. Before that, I managed - with some difficulty, it has to be said, over four years - to produce the Newsletter using Microsoft Word. The transition from a word-processing package to a desktop-publishing package was one that I have never regretted. I also use Serif PhotoPlus software to edit photographs within my Serif PagePlus desktop-publishing software. Finally, I would just mention that none of these packages has been paid for by the Society - and neither am I looking to the Society to meet the cost of them. They are simply part of my contribution towards the undoubted success of our Society. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Living Museum
at Walpole Bay Hotel

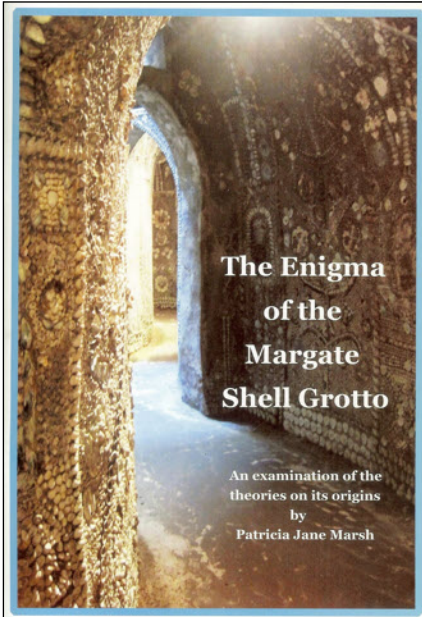
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Jane, Peter, Justin and Domini Bishop
welcome you to the ambience of a Bygone Era
Open Everyday, All Year Round
10am - 5pm
Come and Browse

ADMISSION FREE

For those members who have yet to attend one of our regular meetings, the above flyer for the Living Museum at Walpole Bay Hotel provides a flavour of our venue

Book Reviews



The Enigma of the Margate Shell Grotto: An examination of the theories on its origins by Patricia Jane Marsh. This 36-page softback in A5 format is published by Martyrs Field Publications at £4.99 - ISBN 978-0-9569437-0-5

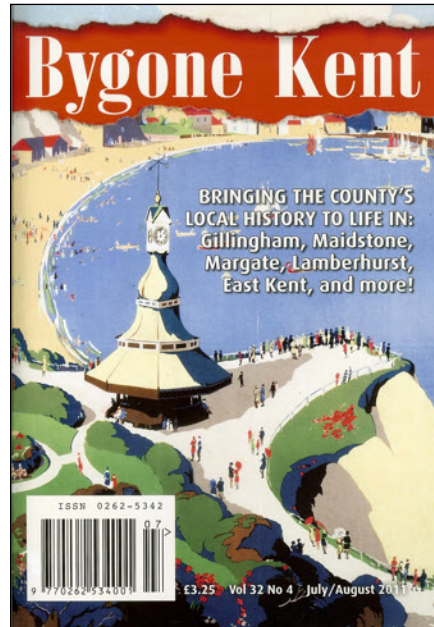
This is a most welcome addition to the bookshelf of anyone interested in

Margate's rich history. The author is a Master of Arts and was the former Director of Studies and Heritage Activities for The English Cultural Experience Ltd. The booklet is extremely well illustrated with many of the pictures in colour. As its title states, the booklet is an examination of the many theories as to the Shell Grotto's origins. The author does not come down in favour of any one theory nor does she outwardly seek to favour any of the many theories that have abounded for over 170 years as to the Grotto's origins - be they Phoenician, Roman, Knights Templar or of more recent origins. Perhaps one day the mystery of the origins of the Shell Grotto will be unearthed. Until then, the Shell Grotto will - in the reviewer's opinion - deservedly retain its Grade I listed status as being a building of major architectural and historical importance. Indeed, the Shell Grotto is Margate's only Grade I listed building - the only other Grade I building in the Thanet towns is Pugin's *The Grange* at Ramsgate. Copies of this very nicely produced booklet are available from the Shell Grotto and from Michael's Bookshop at Ramsgate. This book is highly recommended and should promote even greater interest in one of Margate's most significant attractions. If you still haven't visited the Shell Grotto, you should do so and get yourself a copy of this book. If you have already visited the Shell Grotto, you should still get yourself a copy of this booklet. Either way, you will not be disappointed.

Postscript

The origins of the Shell Grotto

One of Margate's well-respected local historians was Mick Twyman who sadly died last year. Although he had published some of his research into the origins of the Shell Grotto in *Bygone Margate* (the journal of the Margate Historical Society) a few years ago, he had hoped to have his findings published as a book. I remember him proudly telling me about three years ago that his book was to be published 'before Christmas' but, sadly, it never appeared. Perhaps, one day... - Ed



The magazine *Bygone Kent* is not, of course, a book but it was felt that it would be opportune, in this column, to draw the magazine's existence to the attention of those of our members who might not otherwise know of its availability. The magazine *Bygone Kent* has been published continuously since the late-1970s. Since those early days, the

format of the magazine is largely unchanged but the presentation of its contents has changed - to the better - almost beyond recognition. Today, the 52-page A5 magazine is published in full colour in a most eye-catching style.

The current issue (July/August 2011) as illustrated above contains feature articles a range of fascinating articles on Kent's history. For me, the most interesting of which is an article by the magazine's editor, Rachel Deeson, on the life of Sarah Thorne; the theatrical impresario who dedicated her life to entertaining audiences in Kent - including managing Margate's Theatre Royal over 140 years ago. But the range of subjects covered in each issue of this magazine is such that there will, undoubtedly, always be a number of articles that will interest anyone who wishes to learn more about the history of Kent and its many fascinating places and personalities.

Bygone Kent is our county's only full-colour local history magazine. It is published bi-monthly (i.e. six times a year) and copies are available by post at £26.00 for a year's subscription from *Bygone Kent*, C/o Deeson Group Ltd, 27 Castle Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2PX. Further details can be found on their website: www.bygonekent.org.uk. □

Schedule of Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings in Margate

Grade I

The Shell Grotto, Grotto Hill

Grade II*

Dent-de-Lion Gateway, Garlinge
Salmestone Grange (including chapel), Nash Road
The Tudor House, King Street
Dreamland Cinema, Marine Terrace
India House, Hawley Street
Surfboatmen's Memorial, Margate Cemetery
Scenic Railway, Dreamland Amusement Park

What's On

Margate Civic Society (talks all start at 7.30pm at the Walpole Bay Hotel)

Date	Subject
2011	
6th October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'Turner Contemporary' by David Yard, Communications Manager, Turner Contemporary
3rd November	'Harlequin to Soap-Opera - 300 years of Pantomime' by Alan Stockwell
1st December	'Thanet's Victorian Fire Brigades 1860-1900 - and a little local history' by Robert Varnham
2012	
January	No meeting
2nd February	'Archaeological Society' - speaker to be announced
1st March	'Thanet Links (1)' by John Robinson
5th April	'The Kent Air Ambulance' - speaker to be announced
3rd May	Presentation of our Society's 2012 Town Pride awards followed by a social evening

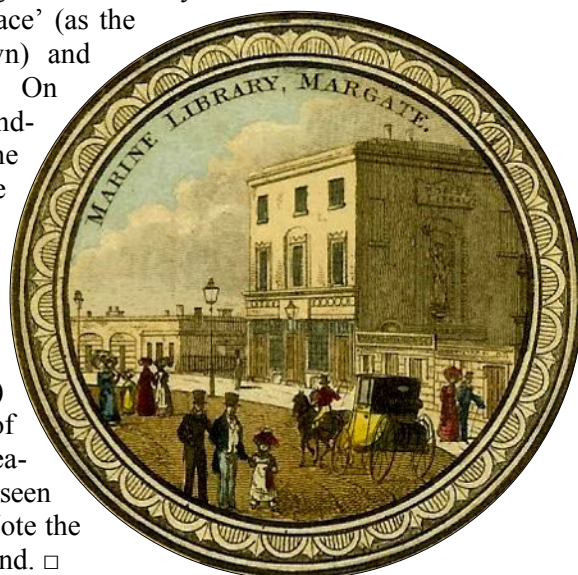
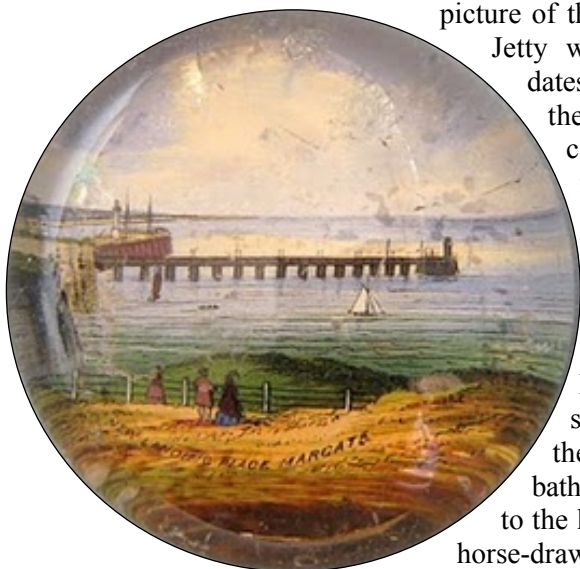


Westgate Heritage Centre (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Autumn/Winter Programme 2011/12**
Open on the first Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 12.30pm with a short talk given at 11.00am by Dr Dawn Crouch (Curator)

Date	Subject
2011	
3rd September	'Westgate's Lost Houses - Part 2 (St Mildred's Bay and Sussex Gardens)'
1st October	'St Saviour's Church Stained Glass and the people who paid for it'
5th November	'90 Years of the British Legion - Erecting the Sea Front War Memorial'
10th December	'A Look at the Covenants on Westgate Property'
2012	
7th January	'Westgate's Lost Houses - Part 3 (Westgate Bay Avenue)'
4th February	'Westgate Celebrates! - Past Coronations and Jubilees'
3rd March	'The Growth of Westbrook and Garlinge - based on new material'

More Pictures from the Past

On the left, is a Victorian glass-paperweight with a lovely picture of the 'New Landing Place' (as the Jetty was originally known) and dates from around 1860. On the right, is a hand-coloured print of the former Marine Library, circa 1840. This once-important building stood approximately where the Imperial Hotel (now Rokka) stands today. Some of the town's early sea-bathing rooms can just be seen to the left of the picture. Note the horse-drawn fly in the foreground. □



Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity. It is a founder member of Civic Voice and is 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 2010/11:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 293169) (e-mail: handscomb@talktalk.net)

Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople

Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 221689) (e-mail: pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk)

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Secretary: *VACANT* (e-mail: secretary@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

Treasurer: Mr Mike Wilton

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Membership Secretary: Mrs Lynda Smith

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Mr Julian Smith, 1 Barn Crescent, Margate CT9 5HF (Tel: 298292)

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



Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £

Name:

Address:

Tel: **e-mail:**

Subscription rates for 2011/12:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£9.00	£13.00	£2.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£8.00	£12.00	£1.00	£15.00
Life Membership	£75.00	£100.00	—	—

and send it to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN

* A Paper Newsletter means that a black-and-white printed copy of the Newsletter will be delivered to you

Electronic Newsletter means you will have a full-colour copy e-mailed to you which you can view on screen or print