

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Spring 2012
Newsletter
Issue No. 366



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

The cold February snow is now but a distant memory as the first shoots of spring begin to emerge. The snowdrops are out and it will not be long before daffodils are in full display mode. It was a long and hard winter but we can all now look forward to ever-lengthening hours of daylight - at least for the next few months - and rising temperatures.

The year 2012 promises to be a memorable one. Let's all hope that it is for the right reasons. First, we will have the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations shortly followed by the London Olympics. Whilst the Queen will not be visiting Margate on her nationwide tour, we have fond memories of her visit to our town last Armistice Day (11th November). As one who was invited to Turner Contemporary to welcome the Queen on her visit there on that occasion, I recall the wise words spoken to me by a fellow guest standing beside me and who I had never met before: "We are in the presence of the most important woman living on this planet today." He was, of course, absolutely right.

If you haven't yet visited, *Turner and the Elements*, the current exhibition at Turner Contemporary, you should do so. The exhibition of 88 original paintings by Turner runs until 13th May. When visiting it, do look out for some of his paintings of Margate. Visitors to Turner Contemporary since 14th February will have noticed that Daniel Buren's *Borrowing and Multiplying the Landscape* is no longer to be found in the Sunley Gallery. Its absence is most noticeable but, over time, I suppose that we will get used to it not being there. Rodin's *The Kiss*, however, remains on display in the Sunley Gallery until 2nd September.

I know that I am not alone in hoping that the magnificent oil-painting *Margate 1869* by James Webb will remain on display for a long, long time. Every time I visit Turner Contemporary, there is a cluster of admirers around it. The painting is hung in the perfect location and at just the right height.

There is no doubt that Turner Contemporary is a great success and many congratulations are due to Victoria Pomery and her team for all that they have achieved to date. Long may that success continue.

The 'Occupy Thanet' demonstrators set up camp outside Turner Contemporary at the end of January and, as I write this, are still there - in even greater number. The activists have seemingly gained the support and sympathy of many of the public but there is also a large proportion of the public who feel very strongly that the protestors really ought not to have been allowed to stay. What do you think? □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new member

We extend a warm welcome to the following new member who has recently joined the Society as a Life Member:

Les Ivory

Lynda Smith
Membership Secretary

Civic Day 2012

This year's Civic Day will be **Saturday, 23rd June**. Last year, Margate Civic Society put on a display at the Harbour Arm Gallery of photographs of buildings that had been awarded our coveted Town Pride Awards since 2006.

Plans are afoot for our Society to again participate in this national event which is overseen by Civic Voice. Pat Wilson-Smith has, again, very kindly allowed us to stage this year's event at her Harbour Arm Gallery. The Committee have yet to finalise all the arrangements but it has been agreed that the event will relate to Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. As soon as arrangements have been settled for our event, they will be announced at our April and May meetings to be held at the Walpole Bay Hotel. An announcement will also be put on our website. In addition, those members who receive their copies of the Newsletter electronically will also be notified by e-mail of the nature of the event and the opening times. In the meantime, do be certain to make a note of the date (**Saturday, 23rd June**) and the venue in your diary.

Your Committee very much look forward to seeing you at our Civic Day event this year and to you giving it your full support. □

Heritage Open Days 2012

This year's Heritage Open Days are **Thursday, 6th September to Sunday, 9th September**. Details of local organisations participating in this year's HODs will be listed in the Summer Newsletter. □

Margate Local History website

Do visit Anthony Lee's superb website for old maps, prints, guide-books, photographs, etc. of Margate on
www.margatelocalhistory.co.uk

Nominations for Town Pride Awards 2012

This year, the Society received eight nominations for Town Pride Awards. All of the properties nominated for the 2012 Town Pride Awards are shown below:



13 St John's Road, Margate



The Powell Arms, The Square, Birchington



The Hoy, Fort Hill, Margate



*Bake & Alehouse, off St Mildred's Road,
Westgate-on-Sea*



37 Linkfield Road, Westgate-on-Sea



*The Lifeboat Ale & Cider House,
1 Market Street, Margate*



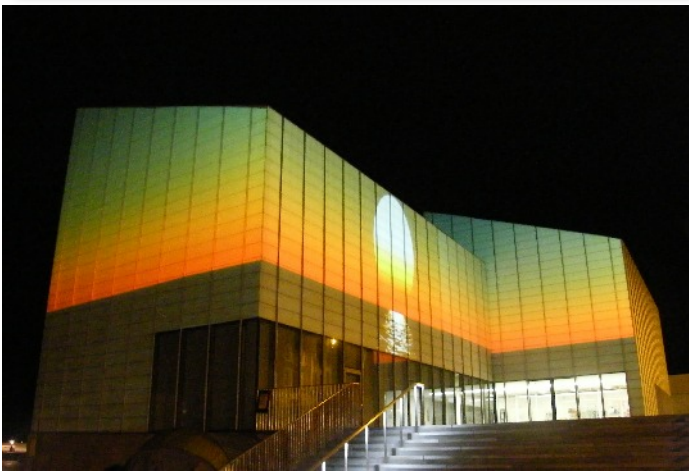
*West Bay Apartments, Westgate Bay Avenue,
Westgate-on-Sea*



*Former Thanet School of Art & Crafts (Department of
Building), New Street, Margate*

The results of the judging for the Society's 2012 Town Pride Awards will be announced at our meeting to be held on 3rd May 2012 when presentations of the Awards will be made to the winners. □

High-impact visuals at Turner Contemporary



These striking photographs were taken during the evening of Sunday, 29th January 2012. For four evenings from Thursday, 26th January to Sunday 29th January inclusive, Turner Contemporary served as a screen for a most wonderful light display by specialists Clever Projections. The display featured the poem *For Work For Play* written by the poet and playwright Lemn Sissay. The poem is based on Thanet and, at the preview evening for the current Turner exhibition (*Turner and the Elements*), the poet read the poem that was simultaneously projected on to the external walls of the gallery to an much appreciative number of spectators.

The weather was certainly not conducive to outside night-time photography but a few brave souls ventured out with their cameras and tripods on those evenings to capture some of the brilliant technical creations of animated designs that were on display. Those of us who did venture out to

witness this display went away well rewarded for their efforts. The six still images on this page give a flavour of the show but, by their very nature, they cannot fully convey the technical brilliance of the animated displays. Three co-ordinated projectors were used to achieve the 'movie' display and it was amazing how the images that were projected on to the three outside walls of the building 'wrapped' seamlessly around the building.

It is hoped that some of the movie film taken by yours truly that same evening will be shown at one or more of our forthcoming meetings as 'an additional feature'. If you missed the actual showings at Turner Contemporary (and you probably did), don't miss the opportunity to see some movie film, with accompanying musical soundtrack, of those amazing visual projections. □

JB

MARGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Registration No. 257884

GIFT AID SCHEME

The Society is a registered charity and your Committee has decided to seek registration with Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) under the Gift Aid scheme in order to take advantage of the financial benefit to the Society available under that scheme. A formal application for registration has been submitted to HMRC and all members will be advised once registration has been obtained. In the meantime, an indication of the potential benefit to the Society is set out below:

Dear Member

If you are a **taxpayer** and **make a declaration**, we can claim back the income tax you have paid to afford your subscriptions – for up to four years!

This could mean that for every Eight Hundred Pounds paid in subscriptions we can claim Two Hundred Pounds in Gift Aid.

This could mean up to a Thousand Pounds extra income to swell the coffers – and help keep subscription fees down.

So if you pay income tax and wish to allow the Society to claim back the tax on your membership fee, please fill in the declaration form, which we anticipate will be sent out with the next issue of the Newsletter, and hand it to any member of the Committee or post it to the Treasurer, Mike Wilton, at 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF.

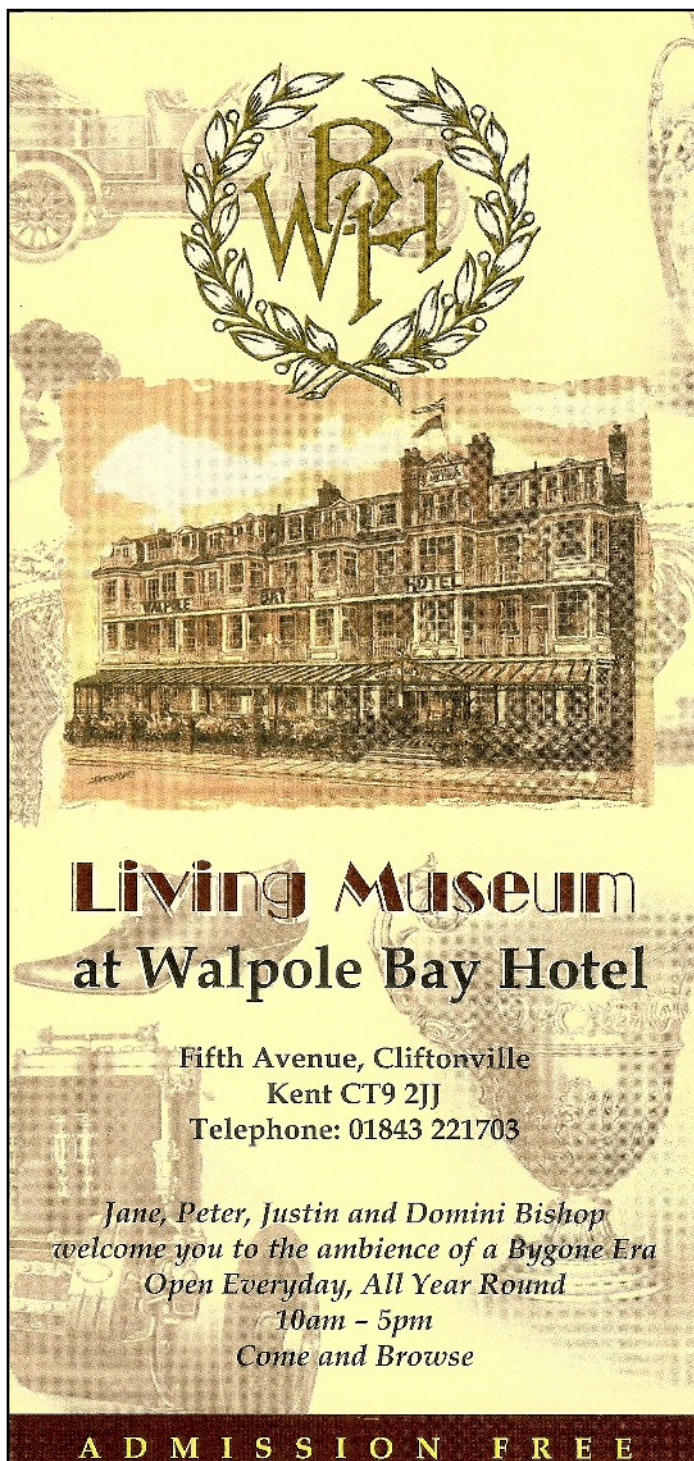
This is HM Revenue & Custom's short explanation of Gift Aid. We can give further details if you wish, or, if you have access to the internet, we have a link to HMRC Gift Aid from the Society's website. Note that membership fees to Margate Civic Society are treated for tax purposes as donations and are eligible for Gift Aid.

"The Gift Aid scheme is for gifts of money by individuals who pay UK tax. Gift Aid donations are regarded as having basic rate tax deducted by the donor. Charities take your donation - which is money you've already paid tax on - and reclaim the basic rate tax from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) on its 'gross' equivalent - the amount before basic rate tax was deducted.

Basic rate tax is 20 per cent, so this means that if you give £10 using Gift Aid, it's worth £12.50 to the charity. For donations between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2011 the charity will also get a separate government supplement of three pence on every pound you give."

Thank you.

Mike Wilton
Treasurer



The flyer features a central illustration of the Walpole Bay Hotel, a large, multi-story building with a prominent entrance and a flag flying from the roof. Above the hotel is a circular emblem with the letters 'WBI' inside, surrounded by a laurel wreath. The background of the flyer is a collage of historical images, including a vintage car and a portrait of a woman. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, starting with the title 'Living Museum at Walpole Bay Hotel' in a large, serif font. Below the title, the address and telephone number are provided. A quote from Jane, Peter, Justin, and Domini Bishop welcomes visitors to the 'Bygone Era' and states that the museum is open every day, all year round, from 10am to 5pm. At the bottom, a dark red banner with gold lettering reads 'ADMISSION FREE'.

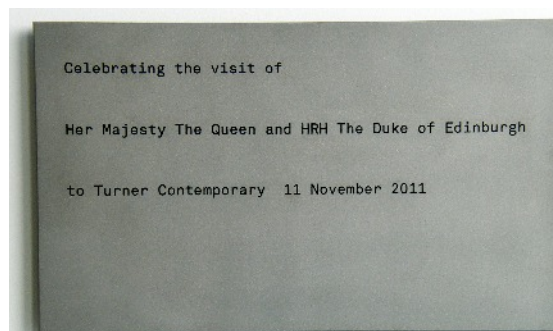
Living Museum at Walpole Bay Hotel

Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville
Kent CT9 2JJ
Telephone: 01843 221703

*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



Turner Contemporary proudly display this plaque in their entrance. The plaque certainly cannot be criticised for being ostentatious in design!

Local Mementoes of former Royal Jubilees



Margate's magnificent Clock Tower on Marine Terrace commemorating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887

The year 2012 will go down in history not only for the London Olympics but also for it being the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.

Of course, everyone knows that our Clock Tower was erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee but, if one looks around our area, it is surprising how many other structures/fittings also celebrate former Royal Jubilees. This short article draws attention to some of those structures/fittings, namely:

- The clock at the Church of All Saints, Birchington to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887
- The clock at the Church of St Paul, Northdown Road to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897
- The construction of Jubilee Terrace (west side of Belgrave Road) - it is believed that this row of houses was built around 1900 and named after Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897
- The 1898 extension to the former Cottage Hospital in Victoria Road, Margate to mark Queen Victoria's 60th year as the reigning monarch (see photo)
- The renaming of Walton Road to King George V Avenue in 1935 to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V (see feature in Margate Civic Society Newsletter No. 359 (Summer 2010))
- The opening of the Jubilee Bar in the Queen's Hall at the Winter Gardens in 1977 - the year of our present Queen's Silver Jubilee

If you know of any other local buildings/fittings named after a past Royal Jubilee, do please let us know. □

JB



The plaque on the wall of the former Cottage Hospital in Victoria Road, Margate

LAUS SEMPER DEO

**THIS HOSPITAL WAS ENLARGED
BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION
TO COMMEMORATE THE SIXTIETH YEAR
OF THE REIGN OF
QUEEN VICTORIA
20th JUNE 1897.
EDWARD MALTBY, MAYOR.
BY WHOM THIS STONE WAS LAID 16th JULY 1898.
W. H. TRELAWNY ASHTON-GWATKIN M.A. PRESIDENT
VICAR OF MARGATE.
W. JOHN MERCER, ARCHITECT.**

Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG) set up for Westgate-on-Sea

The Margate CAAG has existed for a number of years and a new sub-group, known as the Westgate CAAG, has now been formed to keep a watchful eye over developments in Westgate generally but particularly over its Conservation Area. The Westgate CAAG meets monthly and looks at every planning application in its area. It then makes a recommendation to Thanet District Council's Planning Committee either to approve or to reject the application, giving reasons. The Group's recommendation will always be focused on the likely impact that the project will have on the Conservation Area. It will have nothing to do with personal likes or dislikes.

It is important to stress that, like other CAAGs, Westgate CAAG has no executive power. However, there is no reason

to believe that its recommendations will not always be taken seriously by TDC. But advising on planning applications is only one part of what the CAAG does.


If the Group is to be successful in its aim to act as guardians of the Westgate-on-Sea townscape, it needs also to be pro-active. The CAAG needs to seek out any instance where the Conservation Area is in danger of being damaged in any way. The CAAG needs also to look for opportunities to improve the level of protection or conservation to the fabric of the town of Westgate with its very special appeal.

Margate Civic Society's representative on the Westgate CAAG is James Brazier and our representative on the Margate CAAG is Steve Vilette. □

Margate College - Gone but not Forgotten

Keble's General Advertiser. 5

1873



1873

Margate College,

(In union with the College of Preceptors.)

Established and conducted by

MR. WM. LEACH-LEWIS.

It is the constant aim in this Institution, to cultivate a manly spirit among the boys; to treat them as responsible beings; to lead and to guide them; to bring their reason to bear as far as possible in all they do, and to encourage a thoroughly honest and straightforward feeling between Master and Pupils, thus fulfilling in the highest sense of the word, the obligations of Education.

HONOURS--OXFORD LOCAL, 1883 (JUNIORS).

FIRST PLACE of all examined in **FRENCH.**
THIRTEENTH of all examined in **ENGLISH.**
FIFTEENTH of all examined in **GERMAN.**

Number of Pupils, 1873	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	ONE
" "	1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	OVER ONE HUNDRED & TWENTY.

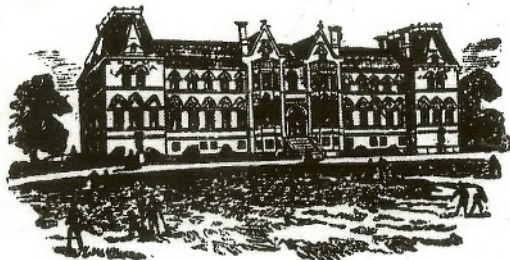
Boarders only.

There is a Preparatory Department under Ladies for little boys.

Keble's General Advertiser. 6

THE HIGH SCHOOL,

MARGATE.



Principal :

G. WHARTON ROBINSON, M.A., Oxon.

Member of the Council of the College of Preceptors.

Assisted by Four Resident Masters and Visiting Professors.

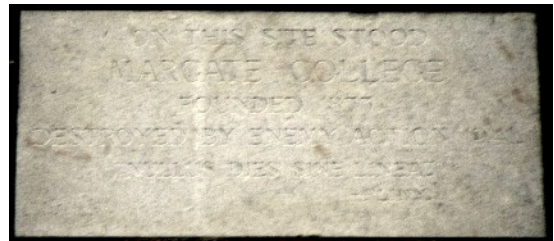
Boys are prepared for the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations, for the College of Preceptors, also for the Army and for the Universities. Great successes gained in the Cambridge Local and College of Preceptors' Examinations in year 1884.

Prospectuses and Class List on application.

Did you know that College Square shopping centre is named after Margate College which once stood on the same site?

The above advertisements appeared on consecutive pages in *Keble's Penny Guide to Margate and the Isle of Thanet 1885*. The following year, Margate College, under William Leach-Lewis, took over the former High School and it was re-named Margate College. William Leach-Lewis opened his first school at Margate in 1873, which he named The Clifton Collegiate School, in Grosvenor Place. The school prospered and subsequently moved to Bath House in Zion Place. The school continued to grow and it moved to 19 Hawley Square and later to Lausanne House in Addington Street with 19 Hawley Square becoming a preparatory school. By 1881, there were 70-odd boys in the three divisions of the school and a further 20 in the preparatory school. Lausanne House remained the centre of the college until, in 1886, bought the High School which then became Margate College. Lausanne House was retained and became the girls' school. William Leach-Lewis served on Margate Town Council and was elected Mayor for 1888/89, 1889/90 and 1905/06. He died in service as Mayor on 18th May 1906 aged 57. A fine large oil-painting of William Leach-Lewis wearing his mayoral robes hangs at the top of the staircase in the Old Town Hall.

Today, a plaque set in the College Square wall fronting Hawley Street records that Margate College was on that site. The plaque has not weathered well and the lettering can now be read only with difficulty. (see photograph below). But, at least there is a plaque to record another chapter of Margate's history.



ON THIS SITE STOOD
MARGATE COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1873
DESTROYED BY ENEMY ACTION 1941
NULLIS DIES SINE LINEA



Courtesy of Richard Clements

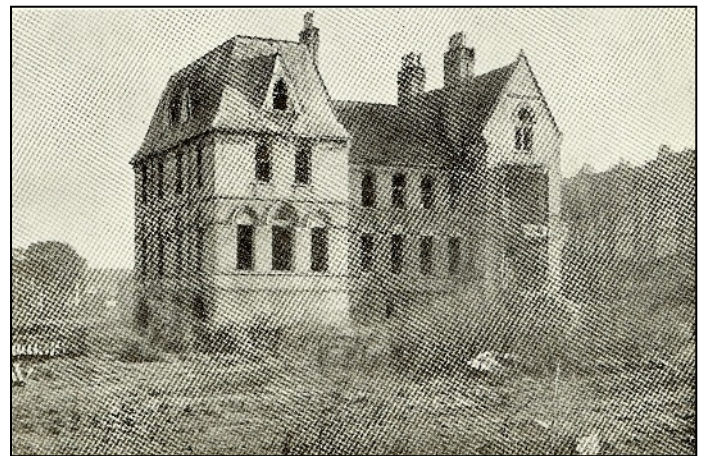
Published by G. E. Houghton Ltd, 55 Fort Road, Margate

A postcard showing Margate College being used as a prisoner-of-war camp for captured German officers in the First World War

The boys at Margate College were moved from Margate in 1917 to a former convalescent home at Hale (halfway between Farnham and Aldershot) where it continued to function as Margate College - the Margate building having been requisitioned by the Government for use as a prisoner of war camp for German officers.

The school returned to Margate in 1919. According to *A Short History of Margate College 1873-1940* by Laurie A. Wilde: "a relic of the German occupation of Margate College remained in the building right up until the the building was bombed in 1940. Some artistic Teuton had carved into the wall of Dormitory VI the words 'Gott Strafe England'. This was thereafter preserved behind a glass cover, until eventually the prayer was in some measure answered in 1940 [sic] by the bomb that demolished one end of the school building." During the Second World War, the school building was again requisitioned by the Government. It was handed over on 11th December 1939. There were few pupils left at that time and the College announced that they would be taking over Cliftonville School on 20th December 1939. However, within six months it was announced that the College would close for the duration of the war. It was hoped that the College would re-open after the war but that never happened.

In the early hours of 8th September 1941, Margate College received a direct hit demolishing part of the building and killing fourteen soldiers who were occupying the building. Three civilians in the town



All that was left of Margate College at the end of the Second World War. This picture is from the book Margate College 1873-1940

also lost their lives that day in enemy air raids. Another of the enemy bombs dropped during that day hit the Regal Cinema in Cecil Square also causing extensive damage.

In 1948, Kent Education Committee bought the remains of Margate College and its grounds for £18,700 with the intention of building a centre for further education. By the 1950s, however, Margate Corporation was using the cleared site as College Car Park which continued in operation until the late 1970s after which College Square shopping centre was built on the site. The main building was set back from Hawley Street which it faced. It must have been an imposing building and is just one of the many fine buildings which Margate has lost over the years.



**TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN
PROUD AND AFFECTIONATE
MEMORY OF
THE "OLD BOYS" OF
MARGATE COLLEGE
WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES
IN THE GREAT WARS
1914-19 1939-45**

*Had I a dozen sons, each in my love alike...
I had rather have eleven die nobly for their
Country than one voluptuously surfeit out of action.*

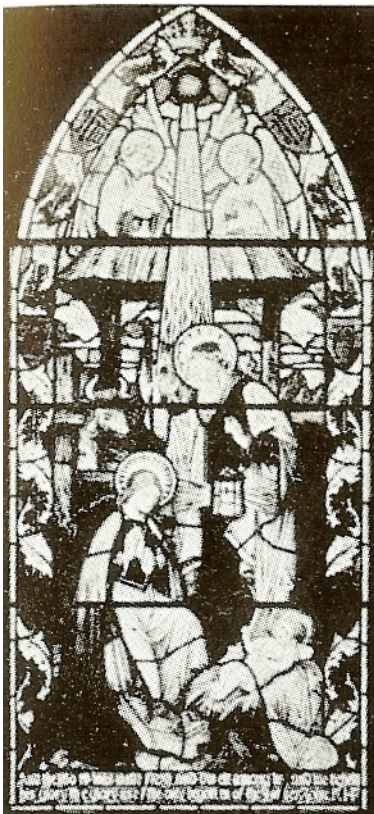
*Shakespeare
Coriolanus, Act I Scene III*

May their example inspire us all.



The above war memorial plaque was donated to Margate Museum in September 1994 by perhaps the then last active member of The Margatonian Association (known as the 'Old Boys'). Today, the war memorial is affixed to the stairwell in Margate Museum but the plaque was originally intended to be installed in the Friends' Chapel at Northdown. That never happened due to the delay in building the then-new Holy Trinity Church (in which the Friends' Chapel is now incorporated). The brass plaque is approximately 30 inches by 18 inches.

Sadly, no list of names of 'Old Boys' who lost their lives in the two world wars has come to light but it is hoped that such a list will be found somewhere, sometime. The name of one known 'Old Boy' of Margate College is, however, inscribed on Margate War Memorial (see box below).



Extract from Margate War Memorial 1914-18 Roll of Honour:

Major William Frederick Baldwin MC, DCM, MM, Croix de Guerre, 7th Field Coy, Royal Engineers

Killed in action on 27th May 1918, aged 23. He was born at Hackney and was an Old Boy of Margate College. Before enlisting in September 1914, he was a member of the staff of the Borough Engineer's Department and lived with his widowed mother at Albert Terrace.

← One of the stained-glass windows that were installed in Margate College's chancel destroyed by enemy bombing in the Second World War. The monochrome illustration and the accompanying text box are from *Margate College 1873-1940* and, sadly, are probably all that remain of this former memorial to those 'Old Boys' who served in the Boer War. □

TO THE GLORY OF ALMIGHTY GOD.
THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS
IN THE CHANCEL WERE ERECTED
BY THE PAST AND PRESENT OF
THIS SCHOOL IN MEMORY OF OLD
BOYS WHO AT THE CALL OF DUTY
WENT TO THE FRONT IN SOUTH
AFRICA, 1899-1902.



A silver-and-enamel button-hole badge worn by prefects at Margate College

This selection of mementoes of Margate College is from the collection of Richard Clements

The eye-catching front cover of a 1930s brochure containing a full list of 'Margate College Kit' obtainable from Messrs John Barker and Company, Ltd, Kensington High Street, London W3



Latin motto "Nulla dies sine linea" = No day without a line, i.e., without something done



The entrance to College Square shopping-centre in Hawley Street built on the former site of Margate College

Below:

The imposing President's Badge of The Old Margatonian Association (the 'Old Boys' of Margate College) together with silver medals awarded for boxing and football to Margate College pupils. The President's Badge is approximately three inches tall and was worn around the neck

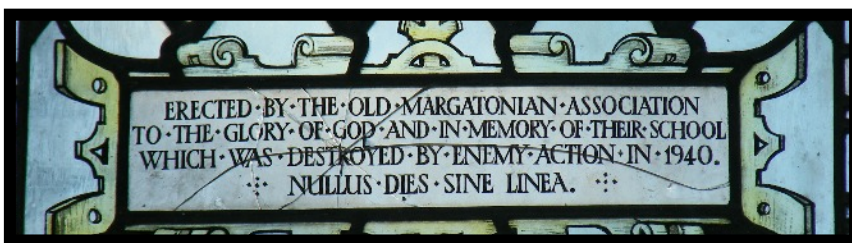




A close-up of the stained-glass window showing the Margate College building and, below, a close-up of the wording near the bottom of the window



The stained-glass memorial window in the Children's Chapel of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Margate. The window was erected by the Old Margatonian Association (the 'Old Boys' of Margate College). The memorial window was unveiled in the presence of some 120 'Old Boys' on Sunday, 6th June 1954 (the 10th anniversary of D-Day). The 'Old Boys' came from all parts of the country for the re-union and unveiling - one even making the trip from Paris



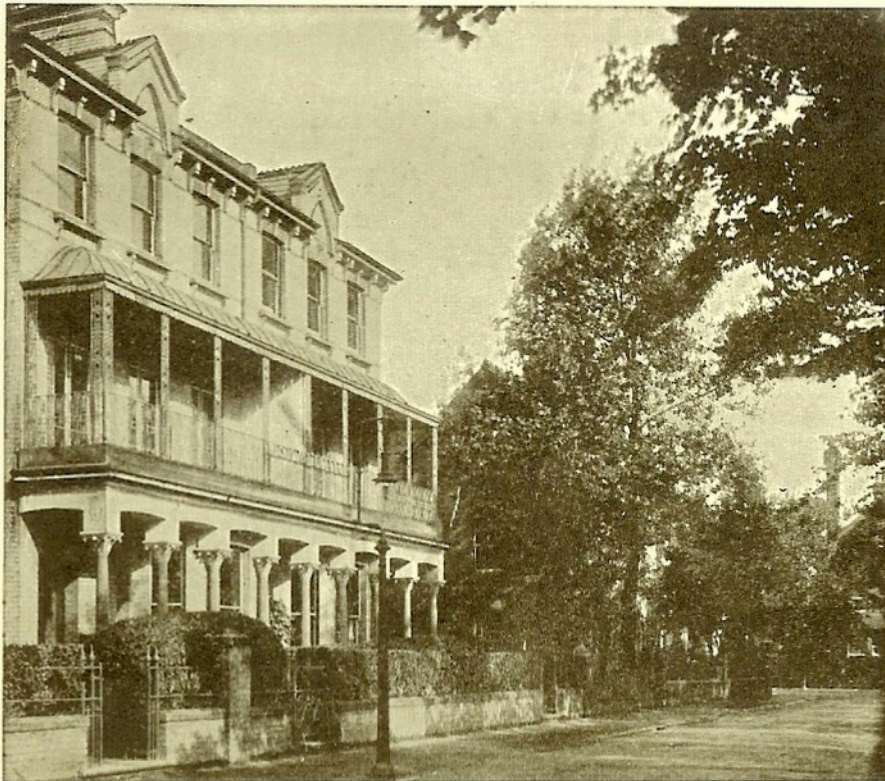
Reads:

ERECTED BY THE OLD MARGATONIAN ASSOCIATION
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF THEIR SCHOOL
WHICH WAS DESTROYED BY ENEMY ACTION IN 1940.
NULLIS DIES SINE LINEA.

Further reading:

Margate College 1873-1940 by Laurie A. Wilde (no date)
Prisoners of War in British Hands during WWI by Graham Mark (2007)

Westgate College - Remembered



WESTGATE COLLEGE.

Westgate College at 26 & 27 Adrian Square.

The above view is taken from a postcard bearing a March 1910 postmark

Westgate College was founded in 1894 by Arthur Blandford BA son of the Revd Thomas Blandford, first minister of Christ Church Congregational Church. The Blandfords lived in The Grove in a villa just south of Lockwood's premises, called *Copmanhurst*, where the school started. In the 1901 census, he is given as living in the villa next door - at one time called *Sunnyhurst* - with his family of wife and three small children and 11 boy pupils aged between 11 and 17. He may have well had some day pupils as this was not a Prep School and it was unusual in that it was a non-conformist foundation. Around 1907, the school moved to 26 and 27 Adrian Square, as it may have outgrown its premises or it may have changed its nature to a "crammer" as the people in the photograph below look older than schoolboys - we know that at least two went on to Hackney College which was the training college for Congregational ministers. The school continued to be listed in *Kelly's Directory of the Isle of Thanet* until the 1915/16 edition. □

Dr Dawn Crouch
Curator, Westgate Heritage Centre



For more information on Westgate-on-Sea's history, visit the Westgate Heritage Centre's website:

www.westgateheritagecentre.co.uk

Westgate College Schoolmaster, Arthur Blandford (age 45) with his wife, Amy (age 44) with their children Stanley (age 15), Evelyn (age 14) and Eric (age 12) together with staff and pupils. The postcard bears the date August 1913 printed on the front. This photograph was taken in Adrian Square with some of the houses on the east side of Adrian Square in the background. Westgate College was on the west side of Adrian Square



WESTGATE COLLEGE. August 1913.

Listed Memorials in Margate Cemetery

Three important changes were made to the schedule of Listed Buildings in St John's Cemetery (known locally as Margate Cemetery) in January 2012. The John Sanger Memorial has been upgraded from Grade II to Grade II* and the five Sanger family memorials (including 'Lord' George Sanger) adjacent to the John Sanger Memorial are now listed for the first time at Grade II as also is the memorial to Flight Sub-Lieutenant Reginald Lord, Royal Naval Air Service.



*The magnificent John Sanger Memorial
- now listed Grade II**

The **John Sanger Memorial** in Margate Cemetery was designated as a Grade II listed building on 16th January 2003. Almost exactly, nine years later its listing was upgraded to Grade II* on 26th January 2012. It was upgraded for the following principal reasons:

- Artistic interest: the memorial is of considerable artistic quality; it is a sentimental piece, composed and executed in a manner typical of the period's exuberance and visual vitality;
- Historic interest: as an appropriate subject commemorating John Sanger, a famous Victorian showman who, along with his brother, 'Lord' George Sanger, is credited with elevating the British circus into a massed spectacle; and
- Group value: with a series of other memorials commemorating members of the Sanger family. (see below)

The principal reasons for the listing at Grade II of the **Group of five memorials to the Sanger Family** are as follows:

- Sculptural quality: as high-quality examples of High Victorian funerary sculpture;
- Historical interest: the Sanger Family is of national historical interest as its members were the foremost showmen and circus owners of the Victorian period, credited with elevating the British circus into a massed spectacle. Of particular note are the dedications to 'Lord' George Sanger and his wife, the lion-tamer, Ellen Chapman; and
- Group Value: with the fine adjacent listed memorial to John Sanger in the form of a grieving circus horse. (see above)

John Sanger (1815-1889) was an older brother of 'Lord' George Sanger (1827-1911). John Sanger's son was also named John (1854-1928) and he too was a circus proprietor - like both his father and his uncle. It was after George Sanger adopted the title of 'Lord' that his nephew, John, similarly adopted the title of 'Lord' (uncle and nephew being rivals in the circus business for many years). Whilst some persons claim that John Sanger Senior adopted the use of the title of 'Lord' in his circus business, your contributor has found no primary evidence to support that claim. Interestingly, there is no reference to 'Lord' John Sanger in any of English Heritage's documentation relating to the John Sanger Memorial in Margate Cemetery. No doubt this - to some - contentious issue will become the subject of further dispute amongst a number of local historians.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
**LORD
GEORGE SANGER**
THE FAMOUS CIRCUS PROPRIETOR
WHO PASSED AWAY
NOVEMBER 28^h 1911
AGED 86 YEARS
A LOVING HUSBAND AND THE
BEST OF FATHERS
"IN THE MIDST OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH"

Above: The text of the dedication to 'Lord' George Sanger on the front panel of the memorial shown in the foreground of the adjacent photograph



The Group of five memorials to the Sanger family now listed at Grade II. 'Lord' George Sanger's memorial is shown in the foreground

The principal reason for the listing at Grade II of the **Reginald Lord Memorial** is as follows:

- Historic interest: as a memorial to one of the first British pilots killed attempting to counter the Zeppelin menace during World War I, the first sustained aerial bombardment in history.

In their assessment of the Reginald Lord Memorial, English Heritage wrote:

The memorial to Flight Sub-Lieutenant Reginald Lord RNAS (Royal Naval Air Service) is unusual in commemorating the specific action during World War I in which he lost his life, marking it out amongst the thousands of World War I war graves. Lord was one of the first casualties resulting from attempts to shoot down a Zeppelin over these shores. The first Zeppelin raid on Britain was carried out on 19th January 1915 but further attacks were infrequent until the spring due to poor weather conditions and few British pilots managed to engage the Zeppelins due to their high altitude. It is therefore likely that Lord was the first British pilot to die attempting to confront the Zeppelins over British soil. The raids, although causing largely minor damage and relatively low numbers of civilian casualties, were a major cause of alarm to the government and public and only ceased in mid-1918. As such, they represent the first sustained aerial bombardment in history. Although the monument is a standard Latin cross and not of special artistic merit, it is clearly of national historic special interest as a landmark in the history of military aviation. Lord's death was reported in the press at the time; it was especially poignant as he had been at a dance with his fiancée earlier on the night of the crash.

Flt Sub-Lt Reginald Lord was stationed at RNAS Westgate. He crashed on landing in the dark on the airfield. He was buried in Margate Cemetery with full military honours on 12th August 1915.

Westgate airfield was located on the Westbrook estate - not far from the Westgate RNAS seaplane station at St Mildred's Bay. In 1916, the Westgate RNAS airfield operations were transferred to Manston.

For further information on Westgate RNAS, see Geoffrey Williams's book *Wings over Westgate: the story of a front-line Naval Air Station during World War I* (published by Kent County Library, KCC in 1985). □

JB

Other listed memorials in Margate Cemetery are:

Grade II*

Surfboatmen's Memorial (see Newsletter No. 361)

Grade II

E. L. G. ('ELGY') Betts (see photograph - right)

C. L. F. Daniell RNR

H. S. Paramor



The Grade II listed Reginald Lord Memorial

**In Loving Memory of
FLIGHT SUB-LIEUTENANT
REGINALD LORD R.N.A.S.
OF NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
AGED 23
WHO LOST HIS LIFE IN A ZEPPELIN RAID
ON THIS COAST
MONDAY, AUGUST 10th 1915**

*Above: The full text of the dedication to
Flt Sub-Lt Reginald Lord*



The Grade II listed 'ELGY' Betts memorial featuring a model of a Miles Hawk Trainer - in which 'ELGY' Betts lost his life in a flying accident. Sadly, the propellor blades and the starboard wing of the model aeroplane are broken off

Margate Clock Tower - the four plaques

Have you ever looked closely at the four plaques on our Clock Tower and wondered as to the identity of the three members of the Royal Family whose portrait busts are permanently cast on this fine memorial to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887? The portrait bust of Queen Victoria is, of course, instantly recognisable but who are the other two? For many years, I had believed that the portrait bust of the sole male depicted on the Clock Tower was of Prince Albert, the late Consort to Queen Victoria. But if it were of Prince Albert, who was the other female whose portrait was so prominently placed?

Knowing that the Clock Tower was a Grade II listed building, I decided to look on English Heritage's website which, *inter alia*, contains information on every listed building in the country. I have to say that I was taken aback when I read the details of the Clock Tower on their website that the plaques showed 'Queen Victoria, Queen Alexandra, King George V and the Jubilee Crown'. What was a bust of King George V doing on our Clock Tower? In 1887, Prince George (later to be crowned King George V) was aged only 22! Not only that, Prince George was the second son of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) and, therefore, he was not expected - in 1887 - to succeed to the monarchy. If the bust were of King George V why should English Heritage state that the second female was Queen Alexandra? In any event, the Princess of Wales did not become Queen Alexandra until 1901 - some 14 years after Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The mystery was deepening..

It was at this stage that I remembered that Michael Child (of Michael's Books, Ramsgate) had republished, in 2005, the Margate section of *Kelly's Directory of the Isle of Thanet for 1899-1900*. I also remembered that the publication contained a detailed description of the opening ceremony held on 24th May 1889 when the Clock Tower was formally handed over to the former Margate Corporation. Sure enough, that report listed the three portrait medallions as being of Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales and the Princess of Wales. So there we have it. The portrait of the male figure is not King George V (as stated on the English Heritage website) but of the Prince of Wales (who, later of course, became King Edward VII). The second female portrait being the Princess of Wales (who, in 1901, became Queen Alexandra).

The apparent error on the English Heritage website was drawn to their attention by e-mail on 8th February 2012 when I offered to e-mail images of each of the plaques to them. To their credit, English Heritage replied immediately requesting such images - which I sent without delay. Watch this space for developments!

But all is not actually what it seems. The original four medallions were cast in *terra cotta* by Doulton and it is reported that, by the middle of the last century, those medallions had all but crumbled away due to the corrosive effects of the salt air and

they were replaced by new copper *repoussé* panels created by Ronald Stone, a talented local craftsman. It is believed that the three replacement medallions bearing portrait busts are indeed virtual copies of the originals. However, the replacement fourth medallion bears minimum information compared with the original medallion which, in addition to bearing the Borough Arms in the centre, also bore the following inscription: "Erected by public subscription in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee 1887. Henry F. Hermitage, Mayor; G. Foord-Kelcey, Town Clerk; Henry A. Cheers, Architect." □



Portrait of Queen Victoria



Portrait of the Prince of Wales
(later King Edward VII)



Portrait of the Princess of Wales
(later Queen Alexandra)



Another view of the replacement portrait bust of the Prince of Wales on Margate Clock Tower



'JUBILEE 1887' with the Jubilee Crown

JB

What's On

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

Date	Subject
2012	
5th April	'The Kent Air Ambulance' - speaker to be announced
3rd May	Presentation of our Society's 2012 Town Pride awards followed by 'The Margate Clock Tower and its Time-Ball' by Mike Bundock



Westgate Heritage Centre (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Summer Programme 2012**

Open on from Saturday 5th May until Wednesday 29th August
Saturdays: from 10.30am to 12.30pm and Wednesdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm

Programme of Talks by

Dr Dawn Crouch on the first Saturday of the month at 11.00 a.m.

Displays are linked to the talks and are usually in place for one month after the talk.

Date	Subject
2012	
5th May	'Westgate and Sport 1880-1940'
2nd June	'All our Yesterdays - Westgate 60 years ago - the end of austerity'
7th July	'Adrian and Ethelbert Squares 1875-1925'
4th August	'Westgate's Blue Plaques - five worthy residents'

Come along and browse through our collection of material and photographs of Westgate, which is growing all the time. We have large-scale maps and plans which reveal great detail about your street or area.

Schedule of Grade I and Grade II* buildings in the the Margate Area

The following list of Grade I and Grade II* buildings in our area has been extracted from English Heritage's website at www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/listed-buildings which contains details of every listed building in the country. As can be seen from the list below, a good number of local buildings have been upgraded from Grade II to Grade II* in recent years.

Grade I

Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Margate (first listed 10th April 1951)

The Shell Grotto, Grotto Hill, Margate (first listed 22nd February 1973)

Grade II*

Dent-de-Lion Gateway, Dent-de-Lion Road, Garlinge (first listed 10th April 1951)

Salmestone Grange (including chapel), Margate (first listed 10th April 1951)

Tudor House, 45-49 King Street, Margate (first listed 10th April 1951)

Dreamland Cinema, Marine Terrace, Margate (first listed 11th August 1992 - upgraded to Grade II* 2008)

India House, 12 Hawley Street, Margate (first listed 10th April 1951 - upgraded to Grade II* 2010)

Surfboatmen's Memorial, Margate Cemetery (first listed 11th July 2005 - upgraded to Grade II* 2010)

Scenic Railway, Dreamland Amusement Park, Margate (first listed 1st March 2002 - upgraded to Grade II* 2011)

Church of All Saints, Birchington (first listed 10th April 1951)

Theatre Royal, Addington Street, Margate (first listed 25th August 1955)

John Sanger Memorial, Margate Cemetery (first listed 16th January 2003 - upgraded to Grade II* 26th January 2012)

Because Margate is not regarded by English Heritage as a 'Parish', it is unfortunately not possible to search for properties on the English Heritage website by inserting 'Margate' as a parameter in their search fields. This does make searching for individual properties more of a challenge but, with perseverance and determination, I have not yet failed to locate a building which I knew was listed. However, if it is not known whether a property is listed as a building of historic or architectural interest, searching for it on the English Heritage website can be a most frustrating experience. □

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 2011/12:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

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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