

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Spring 2014
Newsletter
Issue No. 374



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

There can be little doubt that our Society has become more active over the last few years or so. Indeed, the level of activity will increase further in the coming months. In addition to our monthly meetings at the Walpole Bay Hotel, we have a visit to the Palace of Westminster planned for Monday, 14th April (see page 12 for further details). The coach will drop members off near the Palace of Westminster where they will be free to do as they wish for four hours before meeting up for the tour of the Palace of Westminster. Members might wish to take the opportunity to take a short walk along the Victoria Embankment to 'Cleopatra's Needle' (see article on page 9). The following month, we will have our prestigious annual Town Pride awards evening on Thursday, 8th May. Fourteen properties have been nominated by members for the awards - which is probably a record number. Our thanks are extended to KCC Councillors Will Scobie and Mo Eleanor for backing the funding application submitted by our Chairman, Pamela Pople, for funding towards our Town Pride events for the next five years. Pamela has written further on this in the next column.

But our main event this year will be the re-opening of the the Time Ball on the town's Jubilee Clock Tower at 1.00pm on Saturday, 24th May. Members will recall that Arnold Schwartzman suggested a couple of years ago that we should seek to reinstate the Time Ball mechanism to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. The Society followed up that excellent suggestion and, under the direction of Lynda Smith, we are now well on the way to raising all the necessary funds to achieve this objective. For an update on the Time Ball, see Lynda's report on page 2. Tickets are available for the reception to take place at The Sands Hotel in Marine Drive after the re-opening of the Time Ball mechanism. Tickets are also available for the special concert to be held at the Theatre Royal that afternoon. The day promises to be a memorable one and it will be good to see as many of our members present on those two occasions as possible.

Then in June we have our Civic Day event on Saturday, 21st June at the Droit House (see next column). Please do come along that day and support both your Committee and your Society.

We will then have a break until our Annual General Meeting in October when our next season of talks will commence. The next Newsletter will be published in June 2014 and will contain a full report on the Time Ball events to be held on Saturday, 24th May. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new members

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

Mervyn Pritchard
Jonathan & Virginia Austin
Ray & Tracy Hazelton

Lynda Smith
Membership Secretary

MARGATE TOWN PRIDE AWARDS

Good news! Following the submission of a funding application to the KCC Member Community Engagement Grant Scheme, I am delighted to report that confirmation has now been received from Kent County Council confirming that £1,000 has been awarded. This funding will support part-costs of this event over the next five years and also enable us to commission newly-designed plaques, with which Arnold Schwartzman has kindly offered his support. My thanks to KCC Councillors Will Scobie and Mo Eleanor for both backing this application.

Pamela Pople
Chairman

Civic Day 2014

This year, we will be holding our Civic Day event on **Saturday, 21st June**. Plans are afoot for our Society to again participate in this national event which is overseen by Civic Voice. This year, we will be mounting a display on our Time Ball Restoration Project and the Town Pride awards in the meeting room at the back of Droit House from 11.00am to 4.00pm. We are most grateful to Thanet Visitor Information Service for making this space available to us. Do be certain to make a note of the date (**Saturday, 21st 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. □

Pamela Pople
Chairman

Heritage Open Days 2014

This year's Heritage Open Days are **Thursday, 11th September to Sunday, 14th September**. Details of local organisations participating in this year's HODs will be listed in the Summer Newsletter. □

Margate Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project - Latest News

On Thursday 16th January, restoration work began on Margate Clock Tower's Time Ball. It was an anxious moment for those of us who went to witness this event as the Time Ball had not moved in almost a century, but we were not to be disappointed. Wires have now been attached to each side of the Time Ball and threaded over the pulleys at the top of the pole to reach down inside the Clock Tower. To prove that the Time Ball would rise, the contractor Keith Scobie-Youngs pulled the wires from inside lifting it half-way up the pole.

There will be a few weeks to wait until the microprocessor/motor is ordered and before being connected enabling the completed restoration to be realised.

I'm delighted to report that we have raised just over £12,600 after costs. With the further £1,000 donation from KCC members' grant fund, the Society will produce a display board which we hope will be mounted next to the Clock Tower so that everyone can read about the Clock Tower's history and the Society's part in it.

The 'silent auction' of a painting of Margate Clock Tower by Anthony Giles, held last December at Lovely's art gallery, raised £150 for the Time Ball project. The bidder will remain anonymous but I trust this original painting will give lasting pleasure and a reminder of the occasion. Margate Civic Society would like to thank both Anthony Giles and Caroline Lovely and her staff for their time and effort in this venture.

At our Society's February meeting, cheques to the value of £1,200 were presented for the Time Ball Restoration Project from three Masonic Lodges namely: Kingsgate Lodge, Union Lodge and Trinity Lodge. Margate Civic Society would like to thank them for their most generous donations.

Last year, I reported that The Mechanical Elephant, the J D Wetherspoon public house opposite Margate Clock Tower, had encouraged their contractors Mansfield Property Maintenance to strip and repaint the door to the Clock Tower in time for our event in May. Unfortunately, the detailed work-report required by TDC for their approval has not been forthcoming. However, an anonymous donor has very kindly agreed to fund this work. Local firm W W Martin Construction, which has operated in Margate since 1877, has agreed to carry out this work to the required high standard prior to the necessary agreement with TDC.

Birchington Silver Band, which is to play for the public at Marine Gardens on Saturday 24th May, prides itself in being an active concert band. Members of the band have agreed to perform this day for a small donation to cover expenses. Although consisting of all age groups, it encourages and assists youngsters to become brass players, tuition being provided by several of its own members. As a concert band, it provides music at many bandstands and venues in Kent. Concerts are also performed to assist local and national charities in their fund-raising activities. Since the opening of a Birchington Village Centre in the 1960s, the band has given a concert once a month for nine months of the year. The concerts are supported by local residents and many visitors from further afield.

In the mid-1970s, twinning arrangements between Margate, Idar Oberstein in Germany and Les Mureaux in

France were taking place. Birchington Silver Band was invited to take part in several twinning ceremonies in these towns. Although only one visit was made to Idar Oberstein, the band has continued an exchange with friends and families in Les Mureaux to this day, the next visit being this coming June. As on all other visits, programmes of music will be given to our French friends. On one of its visits to Les Mureaux, at a ceremony at the Hotel de Ville, the band was given the honorary title of "Official Town Band of Les Mureaux". The Les Mureaux town coat-of-arms is worn on the sleeves of the band-members' uniforms.

The aim of the band is to provide a variety of music for all tastes and, with a busy season ahead, the members continue to meet and rehearse in the "Music Room" on Wednesday evenings at King Ethelbert School, Birchington. The band performs regularly on the last Sunday in every month at 2.30pm in the Birchington Village Centre. There is no charge for the concerts but donations are welcome.

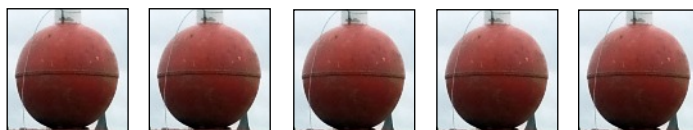
More than 1,500 of our Christmas cards, which depicted Margate sea front and the Clock Tower in 1889, were sold. The cards were only available for sale through the Society and were very popular. Due to such popular demand, cards without the Christmas greeting have also been produced and are now for sale at the same price, (£4.50 for a packet of ten), as "notelets". You can purchase them through Lynda Smith whose details are to be found on the back of this Newsletter or at our Society's meetings.

Tickets for the performance of "Jubilations" by the Thanet Festival Choir at the Theatre Royal Margate on Saturday 24th May at 4.00pm are on sale now at £7.50 each via the Society. We still have a few tickets remaining tickets left. Tickets can also be purchased in the normal way by contacting the Winter Gardens on 01843 292795 or via their website www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

The building of a model of Margate Clock Tower in twopenny coins is taking shape and can be located on the reception desk of the Walpole Bay Hotel by kind permission of Jane Bishop. For Society members only, there is the opportunity of winning £100 prize money for the person who guesses the "nearest" amount of money raised in the twopenny coins when the model is finally completed. Entrance tickets for this competition will be available at our meetings at the Walpole Bay Hotel until May 2014.

Finally, Margate Civic Society would like to invite as many as can to watch Margate Clock Tower's Time Ball drop at 1.00pm on Saturday, 24th May this year. Marine Drive will be closed on that day from 12 noon until 2.00pm when dignitaries will proceed from outside "Rokka" at the bottom of the High Street at 12.30pm to the paved area at the Clock Tower for a ceremony to dedicate the restoration of the Time Ball to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. □

Lynda Smith
Chairman, Clock Tower Time Ball
Restoration Project Sub-Committee



Generous donations from Thanet Freemasons - cheques totalling £1,200 presented to Margate Civic Society at our February meeting



Worshipful Brother Ray Pople, Kingsgate Lodge, presents a cheque to Ralph Handscomb and Lynda Smith for £500 from Kingsgate Lodge towards the Society's Time Ball Restoration Project



Worshipful Master Shaun Connell, Union Lodge, presents a cheque to Ralph Handscomb and Lynda Smith for £500 from Union Lodge towards the Society's Time Ball Restoration Project



Worshipful Master Ray Hazelton, Trinity Lodge, presents a cheque to Ralph Handscomb and Lynda Smith for £200 from Trinity Lodge towards the Society's Time Ball Restoration Project

These photographs record the happy moments at the Walpole Bay Hotel on 6th February 2014 when Ray Pople lead the generous support from local masonic lodges towards our Society's Time Ball Restoration Project Appeal. The group photo (right) shows Ray Pople with members of the Time Ball Sub-Committee (left to right) Ralph Handscomb, Lynda Smith, Geoff Orton and Mike Wilton. Ray Pople is, of course, the husband of our Chairman, Pamela Pople

Photographs by Roger Hayes



Nominations for Town Pride Awards 2014

This year, the Society received fourteen nominations for Town Pride Awards. All of the properties nominated for the 2014 Town Pride Awards are shown below and on the following page:



50a & 50 Surrey Road, Cliftonville



89 Ramsgate Road, Margate



Ales Of The Unexpected micro-pub,
105 Canterbury Road, Westbrook



Left:
43 & 45 Ethelbert Square,
Westgate-on-Sea



Right:
Two houses next to
92 Trinity Square,
Margate



Left:
Arterworks Gallery,
80 Northdown Road,
Cliftonville



Right:
70 & 72 Harold Road,
Cliftonville

Nominations for Town Pride Awards 2014

Continued



25 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook



Sandhurst Place, Northdown Road, Cliftonville



Forest House, 26 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea



The Steps (Flood Prevention Works), Marine Drive, Margate



*Sands Hotel, 42 High Street/
15 Marine Drive, Margate*



*Rickus Restaurant, 44 High Street/
16 Marine Drive, Margate*



*Morgan's Vintage Dance Hall & Coffee Lounge,
46 High Street/18 Marine Drive, Margate*

The results of the judging for the Society's 2014 Town Pride Awards will be announced at our meeting to be held on 8th May 2014 when presentations of the Awards will be made to the winners. □

Historic pictures of the start of work to the Time Ball



Photo: Mike Wilton

Above: Our Editor, James Brazier, on the 'cherry-picker' used by Keith Scobie-Youngs of The Cumbria Clock Company on 16th January this year

Left: a 'birds-eye view' of the Time Ball and the Clock Tower as seen from the 'cherry-picker'



The hands on the Clock Tower clock point to the Time Ball halfway up the pole at mid-day on 16th January



The scene at the Clock Tower on 16th January with inset of Keith Scobie-Youngs giving instructions to his team

The Hussar Hotel, Garlinge - Old & New



The Hussar Hotel, Garlinge.

These three super photographs are reproduced in the Newsletter thanks to the late Mick Twyman. The photos were part of his collection which he had put together over many decades. Mick Twyman ran the Margate Historical Society for many years before his sad death in 2010.

The first of the three photos shows the original Hussar Hotel built in Victoria times and supplied by Walmer brewers Thompson & Sons. Note their advertisement for their 'celebrated ales, stout & porter'. It is believed that this photo was taken around 1900. A magnificent gas lamp can be seen hanging in front of the front entrance to the 'old' Hussar Hotel. Judging by the man standing in the doorway, the lamp must have measured some four feet in height! I wonder if it still survives somewhere. The entrance to the famed former Tea Gardens can be seen on the right of the picture



The second photo shows both the original Hussar Hotel and, behind, the later Hussar Hotel under construction. The 'new' Hussar Hotel was built further back from Canterbury Road to allow for road widening. The 'new' Hussar Hotel bears the date 1926 so this photograph probably dates from 1925/26.

The third photograph shows the Hussar Hotel shortly after its completion in 1926. Note that it continued to serve Thompson & Sons' beers.

Today, the exterior of the Hussar Hotel is little changed from how it looked nearly 80 years ago.

It is planned to feature more superb pictures from the Mick Twyman Collection in future issues of the Newsletter. Thanks are expressed to Mick's widow, Eve, for permission to reproduce pictures from her late husband's collection. □



OSCAR-WINNING FILM-MAKER DESIGNS UNITED NATIONS MEMORIAL FOR SOUTH KOREA

Members will need no introduction to Arnold Schwartzman, perhaps our most distinguished member now living in Hollywood, California. Last November, Arnold sent me the following reports relating to his design for the new United Nations Memorial in South Korea. The memorial was subsequently unveiled in Seoul on 20th December 2013. Arnold and his charming wife Isolde are planning to be in Margate for the Time Ball event on 24th May this year.



Arnold at work on his design for the United Nations Peace Bell Memorial, Seoul, South Korea

A 20-foot-high aluminum monument designed by Oscar-winning film-maker Arnold Schwartzman, a Hollywood resident, will be unveiled next month (December 2013) in Seoul, Korea.

The celebrated British-born graphic designer, who won his Oscar in 1981 for producing and directing the documentary feature film *Genocide*, designed the peace monument for the Korean Informational Association. It is being erected at the Korean War Memorial Museum in Seoul. Groundbreaking took place on 7th November 2013.

"Shells Into Bells." The memorial's bell is cast from shrapnel gathered from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and is suspended from two links of a chain forming the letters UN, to symbolize a binding link between the nations that assisted South Korea during the Korean conflict. The monument stands on a circular stone base straddling the United Nations crest and is surrounded by the flags of those nations.

Schwartzman said he took his inspiration from the famous Biblical quote, "...to beat swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks...".

A documentary feature on Schwartzman's career, which was broadcast this year on Korean national television, led to the invitation to design the memorial.

Schwartzman graduated from Canterbury College of Art in 1955 and shortly thereafter he served a year in South Korea with the British Army's 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment. Prior to his regiment's departure, Schwartzman was entrusted with the task of designing the four plaques of the "Gloster Memorial."

Schwartzman's military service in Korea also provided him with the opportunity to produce his first documentary film, *The Morning Calm*, which was filmed

with a movie camera purchased at the US Army PX Store in Seoul. The film is now considered to be a historic chronicle of immediate post-war Korea and is in the collection of the Imperial War Museum, London.

"You know," Schwartzman mused, "some of the ordnance produced by my mother while she worked in a British munitions factory during WWII, could well have continued to be used later in the Korean War. I wonder if any of it might be contained within this memorial? Wouldn't that be something."

In 2001, Schwartzman was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by HM Queen Elizabeth II for services to the British film industry in the United States, and in 2006 he was conferred the distinction of Royal Designer (RDI) by Britain's Royal Society of Arts. □



The scene at the unveiling of the United Nations Peace Bell Memorial in Seoul, South Korea on 20th December 2013. The memorial was designed by Arnold Schwartzman who, 57 years earlier, had created a temporary "Gloster Memorial" in South Korea as described in the box below. The letters UN in the United Nations Peace Bell Memorial above are links of a chain, symbolizing the union between the nations, and the premise of the unification of North and South Korea. Suspended within the letter U is the Peace Bell. The bell is cast from ammunition recovered from the DMZ.

UNVEILING OF THE "GLOSTER MEMORIAL" KOREA, 1957

It is almost 60 years since the following article appeared in the Royal Army Chaplains Department Journal:

...By July, Korea is in the midst of a season of heavy and almost continuous rain. It was impossible to have the ceremony any later than June 29th, but it proved impossible to get the slabs from Hong Kong by that date. An artist, Pte Schwartzman, of the Royal Sussex Regt, painted plywood as imitation slabs as temporary makeshifts to enable the ceremony to take place. So cleverly was the work executed, with due regard to the angle of the sun and the positioning of shadows, that many people had to be convinced that they were imitations.

Fifty-seven years later, on 20th December 2013 Schwartzman's design of the 20ft high UN Peace Bell Memorial was unveiled at Korea's War Memorial Museum, Seoul. □

Sir Erasmus Wilson F.R.S.



The development of Westgate-on-Sea owes much to Sir Erasmus Wilson who lived at The Bungalow (which, later, became the Rowena Court Hotel, Sea Road and which, sadly, was demolished in the 1960s). His house in Westgate-on-Sea was one of the first bungalows - if not the first bungalow - built in this country. In 1878, Sir Erasmus Wilson had earned the thanks of the nation by defraying the expense of bringing the Egyptian obelisk (known colloquially as Cleopatra's Needle) from Alexandria to London, where it was erected on the Thames Embankment. The British Government had not thought it worth the expense of transportation.



Sir Erasmus Wilson was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1881, and died at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent in August 1884. His widow, Dame Charlotte, died at Westgate in 1886: they had no children. The Bungalow was subsequently bought by Sir William Ingram who greatly enlarged it for his own use. □



The inscription at the base of the memorial showing that it was sculpted by Thomas Brock (later Sir Thomas Brock).

A close-up of the Grade II listed statue of Sir Erasmus Wilson (see also below) →



'Cleopatra's Needle' on the Thames Embankment at dusk



The bronze statue of Sir Erasmus Wilson in the forecourt of the former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital. The sculptor was Sir Thomas Brock



One of the four bronze plaques near the base of the Egyptian obelisk brought from Alexandria and known as 'Cleopatra's Needle'.

The text of the plaque

THROUGH THE PATRIOTIC ZEAL OF
ERASMUS WILSON F.R.S.
THIS OBELISK
WAS BROUGHT FROM ALEXANDRIA
ENCASED IN AN IRON CYLINDER
IT WAS ABANDONED DURING A STORM
IN THE BAY OF BISCAY
RECOVERED AND ERECTED
ON THIS SPOT BY
JOHN DIXON C.E.
IN THE 42ND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
QUEEN VICTORIA
1878

Remembering PC Rolfe who lost his life whilst in the execution of his duty at a fire in 1905

One of the Heritage Quiz questions at the Society's Christmas Soirée held last December at the Walpole Bay Hotel was the location of the mosaic tiles at the entrance to the former Margate Branch of the ironmongers George Mence Smith Ltd (see photo bottom right). Only one person answered that question correctly. So, in an endeavour to encourage members to keep their eyes open and to be ever on the look-out for other interesting heritage features in our area, I will take this opportunity to draw readers' attention to the sad story of PC Rolfe.

John Richard Rolfe was serving in the Margate Police Force as a Constable in 1905. In those days, the town's Police Station was the Old Town Hall building (now Margate Museum). During the evening of 23rd January 1905, a fire broke out in George Mence Smith's ironmonger's shop at 17 & 18 Market Place when a container of paraffin caught alight. The emergency services were called including three policemen from the Police Station who rushed across the road to the property in which the shop-manager and his family were living in a flat above the shop. The family were trapped by the fire. After a short while, the family were saved and the other two policemen got out of the burning building without sustaining injury to themselves. Sadly, however, 25-year-old PC Rolfe was trapped in the building - losing his life.

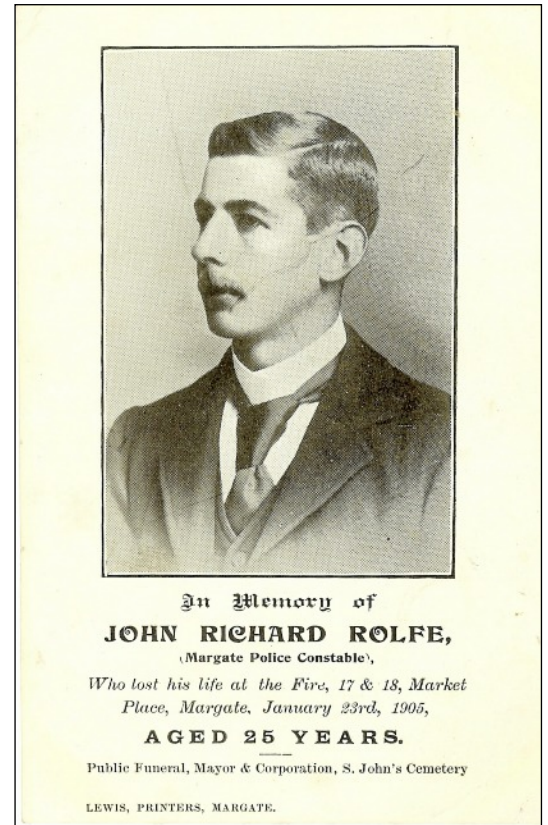


Note the inscription at the base of the headstone. This low resolution photograph was taken some 20 years ago

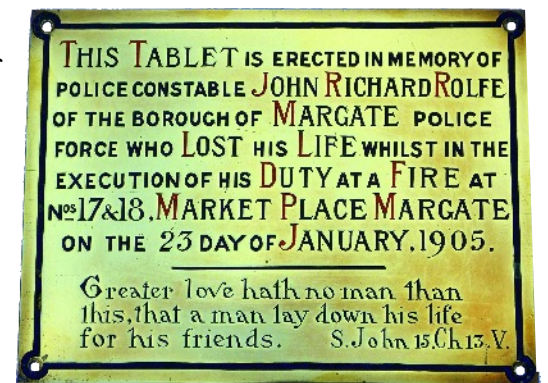
PC Rolfe was buried in Margate Cemetery next to the grave of another of the town's disasters - the Surfboatmen's grave. It is believed that the positioning of PC Rolfe's grave was deliberately sited. Interestingly, the headstone bears the inscription at its base: THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED BY GEORGE MENCE SMITH. Today, the level of the soil and the plant life on the grave hide that inscription. In my humble opinion, the soil level ought to be lowered by a couple of inches or so to reveal this inscription before it is, sadly, forgotten and lost. □ JB



This photograph was taken in May 2006. A corner of the Surfboatmen's grave can just be seen on the left of the photograph



Postcard produced at the time in memory of PC Rolfe



The brass tablet erected in memory of PC Rolfe originally a fixture at the Old Police Station until 1960



The attractive George Mence Smith Ltd mosaic which still can be seen at the doorway to 17 Market Place

The camera returns to Canterbury Road, Westbrook



A group of happy visitors pose for a photographer outside Carisbrooke Boarding House, Canterbury Road, Westbrook circa 1910. Note the tramlines in the foreground



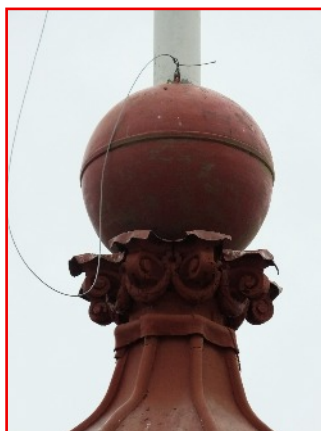
The same properties today (December 2013). The happy visitors have been replaced by two large packing-cases and motor-cars now line the street. The front gardens have all gone and the once-attractive ground-floor bay windows have been replaced by modern shop-fronts. The late-Victorian sash-windows have been replaced with modern plain windows, some of the attractive balconies have also gone as has the tall chimney-stack on the right-hand side of the upper photograph.

(The scene contained within the dotted line matches that in the upper photograph: The slightly larger scene allows the reader easier identification of this particular row of properties at Westbrook)

Time Ball - more photographs



Work starts promptly at 9.00am on 16th January 2014



Two close-up photos taken from the 'cherry-picker' on 16th January



I found this old photograph recently. It was taken on a rainy day in October 1989 - nearly 25 years ago when restoration work was being carried out on the Clock Tower. Note the seating arrangement

COACH TRIP TO WESTMINSTER

Following the success of our day out in Greenwich in May 2013, your Committee decided to offer another trip which would be of interest to our members. Thanks to the sponsorship of Sir Roger Gale MP, we have been able to offer forty places on a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster on Monday, 14th April. Our Carol Peters coach will leave Thanet at 8.30am, arriving Westminster at around 11.00am. The guided tour comprises two parties of twenty people each, one starting at 3.05pm and the other at 3.10pm, and we will be leaving London to return home at about 5.00pm. There will be time for shopping or sight-seeing between arriving at 11.00am and gathering for the tours at 2.30pm.

At the time of writing, we have only one ticket unsold for the tour. Because our coach holds 49 passengers and we can only take 40 people on the tour of the Palace of Westminster, we have nine seats available for any members who would just like a return coach trip to London, without the tour. We have unsold seats on this basis, so if anyone would like to join us, please contact me by phone or email.

Our coach trips are proving successful and we are looking at others later in the year. Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill, has been suggested and also available is a complementary Westminster tour, which includes a visit to the Elizabeth Tower and a behind-the-scenes look at Big Ben. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions for future trips. □

Mike Wilton
wilton@btinternet.com
(01843) 844717



The above photo was taken from the 'cherry-picker' in January and shows all of the the Scenic Railway in what was once Dreamland Amusement Park. Perhaps one day it will be restored to its former glory

Friends of Margate Cemetery **Margate Cemetery Walks for 2014**

The cemetery is on Manston Road just past the crematorium entrance. Limited parking is available on the outside road and within the adjacent crematorium grounds.

General Cemetery Tours

These tours are about the general cemetery and will include some of the listed graves and give an overview of the site. This tour starts at the times detailed below from the Chapel. As this year will see the Anniversary of the start of the First World War there will be some graves that we will visit showing the historic links between Margate and the those who died due to enemy action.

Wednesday, 28th May starting at 7.00pm
 Wednesday, 11th June starting at 7.00pm
 Wednesday, 26th June starting at 7.00pm
 Wednesday, 9th July starting at 7.00pm
 Wednesday, 23rd July starting at 7.00pm
 Saturday, 9th August starting at 2.30pm

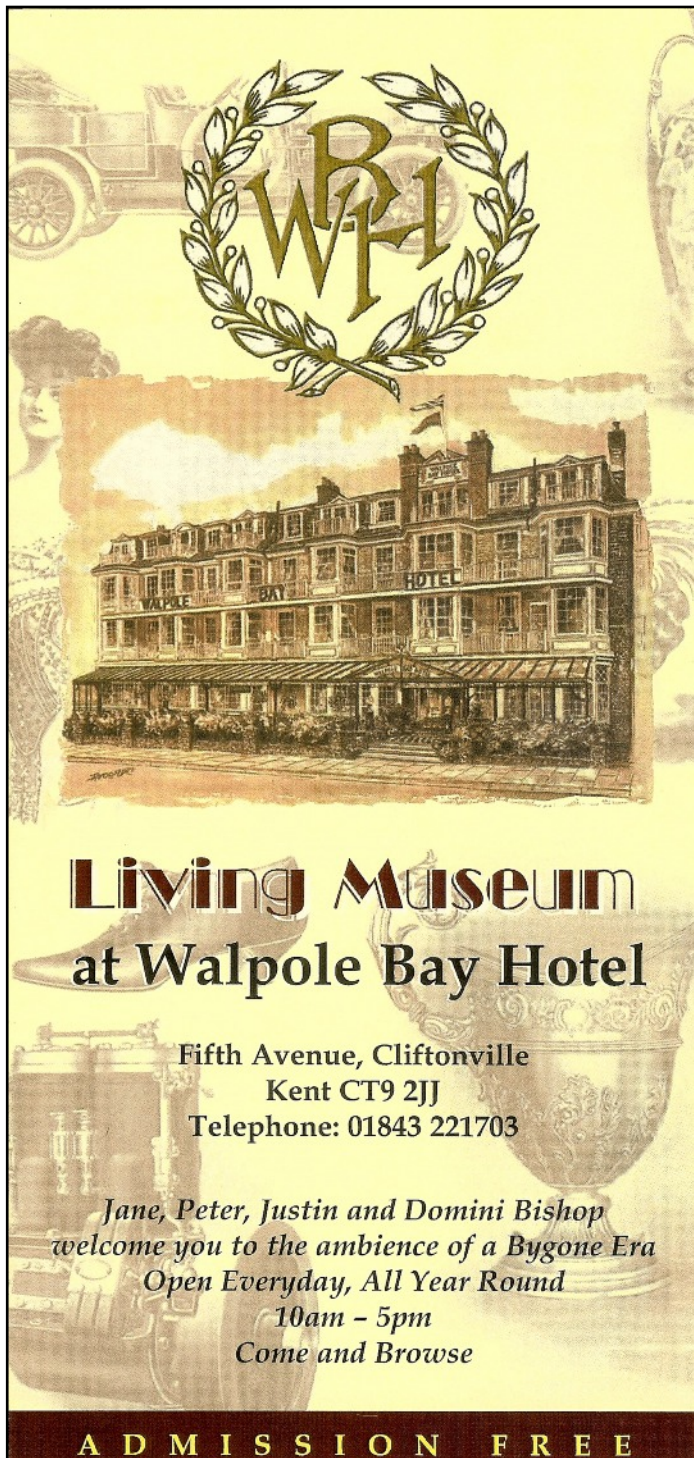
Maritime Tours

These tours are specifically about the lives of those people interred in the cemetery who have had links with the sea. Being a coastal town and a base for a Lifeboat this tour focuses on those who have had involvement with the sea. Again as with the general tours there will be visits to graves who have links with the First World War.

Wednesday, 4th June starting at 7.00pm
 Wednesday, 18th June starting at 7.00pm
 Wednesday, 2nd July starting at 7.00pm
 Wednesday, 16th July starting at 7.00pm
 Wednesday, 30th July starting at 7.00pm
 Saturday, 16th August starting at 2.30pm

All tours take place in the cemetery and on occasions those taking part may be invited to leave the main footpath and roadways to look at specific memorials, as such sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Tours generally take two hours.

Please contact Norman Smith on 01843 831474 or by e-mail on niscas@hotmail.co.uk to book places on these most interesting walks. □



The flyer features a central illustration of the Walpole Bay Hotel, a large, multi-story building with a prominent balcony. Above the hotel is a circular emblem with the letters 'WBI' inside, surrounded by a laurel wreath. The background includes faint images of a vintage car and a woman's face. Below the hotel illustration, the text reads: 'Living Museum at Walpole Bay Hotel', 'Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville Kent CT9 2JJ Telephone: 01843 221703', and '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'. At the bottom, a dark red banner contains the text 'ADMISSION FREE' in gold capital letters.

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

Centenary of the Great War

This old postcard show men of the National Reserves (Margate) lining up for active service on 31st October 1914. Only the police sergeant is in uniform! Can any of our members identify where this photograph was taken? The distinctive first-floor balcony in the background must be a clue. One would normally expect such a parade to take place in Cecil Square or possibly at The Parade yet neither of these locations seem to be candidates. The gentleman wearing a hat, seen on the extreme left of the picture, looks as though he might be the Mayor or some other civic dignitary. Do any of our members recognise anybody in this historic photograph?



Courtesy of Richard Clements

Answers to Christmas Quiz



In the last Newsletter, members were invited to (a) locate the whereabouts of the property shown in the above photograph when it was being used as the HQ of the 6th (Thanet) Battalion, Kent Home Guard, and (b) to state what use the building was put to before it was used by the Home Guard. Two of our members successfully provided the correct answers: Arnold Schwartzman and Richard Clements. Thanks to all those who had a go at the quiz: it was not an easy one as the building is believed to have been demolished in the 1950s! Congratulations go to Arnold and Richard. The building was 67 Harold Road, Cliftonville, and was used as offices of HM Inspector of Taxes. The up-to-date photograph on the right shows the public toilets which now occupy the site at the entrance to TDC's pay-and-display car park on the site. The blue portacabin is used by TDC's street-cleansing team. The roof line of the now-demolished house can still be seen on the house next door. □

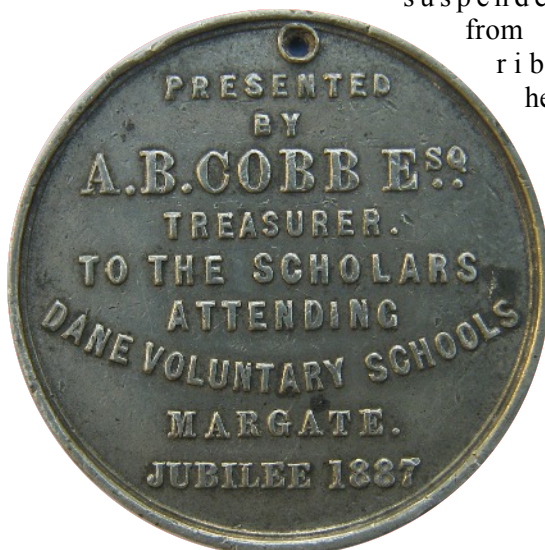
Queen Victoria - Empress of India

The townspeople of Margate commemorated Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 by erecting the Jubilee Clock Tower. Mr Anthony Blackburne Cobb, Treasurer to the scholars attending Dane Voluntary Schools, Margate presented a white-metal medallion to each of the pupils as a memento of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee as shown in the accompanying photographs. The obverse of the medallion shows Queen Victoria as 'Queen of England - Empress of India'. The pierced hole at the top of the medallion would indicate that it probably was

suspended
from a
ribbon

held in
place by a

safety-pin. Anthony Cobb later served as Hon Treasurer of the Clock Tower Committee and his wife set the clock going at the Clock Tower Opening Ceremony on 24th May 1889. He was born in 1841 and lived with his wife, Marianne, and family at 29 Dalby Square, Cliftonville. He was a prominent local banker (Cobb & Co). □



It is believed that the decorative features at each of the four corners at the top of the Clock Tower are representative of Queen Victoria's title of Empress of India

The images of the Jubilee Medallion are courtesy of Richard Clements

What's On

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

Date 2014	Subject
6th March	'Doing Their Bit: The Home Front 1914-18' an illustrated talk by James Brazier
3rd April	An illustrated talk on the artwork of Christopher Alexander given by his son, Steven Alexander
8th May	Presentation of Town Pride Awards 2014 followed by a talk by Rory McEvoy, Curator of Horology, Royal Observatory Greenwich



Westgate Heritage Centre (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Spring/Summer Programme 2014**
Open May to end of September - Wednesdays and Saturdays 10.00am to 12 noon. On the first Saturday of each month at **10.30am**, there will be a talk by Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator of Westgate Heritage Centre. This year, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One, displays and talks will be related to Westgate in that war

Date 2014	Subject
5th April	'What's New?' As the meeting held last August - when members talked about their discoveries - was such a success, members will again be invited to talk about what new information they have discovered about Westgate's people and its built environment
3rd May	'Westgate in the Summer of 1914'
7th June	'The Waterplanes come to Westgate' - the establishing of Westgate's Royal Naval Air Service base at St Mildred's Bay and its effect on life in the town
5th July	'The Role of the Parish Church' - was to provide comfort and support to families and to servicemen billeted in the town. Many weddings of servicemen were carried out during the war and soldiers paraded at church on Sundays. This talk will be based on the extensive archives of St Saviour's Church
2nd August	'War comes to Westgate' - the difficulties faced by those in charge, based upon Parish Council Minutes

Come 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

The RNAS base at St Mildred's Bay was an important part of the history of Westgate and the nation. There are to be two additional Westgate Heritage Centre events to commemorate the RNAS base as follows:

Tuesday, 10th June 7.00pm for 7.30pm

An illustrated talk 'The Royal Naval Air Station at Westgate-on-Sea during the Great War 1914-18' will be given by James Brazier at The Knot (formerly the Nottingham Castle public house), Beach Road, Westgate-on-Sea

*Entry for the above event will be by **ticket only**, paid for in advance, £10 each (includes buffet) **
Tickets available from Westgate Heritage Centre (All enquiries: 01843 832617)

Wednesday, 30th July 7.30 pm

A guided and illustrated walk, relating to the former RNAS base, led by Marcus Russell. The walk will start at St Mildred's Bay and finish at West Bay Café *

***Numbers are limited for each of these two additional events**

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 2013/14:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb, 14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 01843 293169)
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If you are interested in joining our Society, please fill in the enrolment form below:

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Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £

Name:

Address:

Tel: **e-mail:**

Subscription rates for 2013/14:

	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