

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



**Summer 2013**  
**Newsletter**  
**Issue No. 371**



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

Margate Civic Society has been very active since the last Newsletter. In early May, we held our prestigious annual Town Pride awards' evening which, once again, proved both successful and enjoyable. After the awards, we were treated to a most interesting talk on Herne Bay Clock Tower given by Mike Bundock, the author of the Society's recently-published book Margate Clock Tower.

On Friday, 24th May, members of the Society visited the Royal Observatory Greenwich where we were met by Jonathan Betts MBE, Senior Curator of Horology and Rory McEvoy, Curator of Horology - both of the Royal Observatory Greenwich. The primary purpose of the visit was to see the Greenwich Observatory Time Ball and to be given a talk and tour of the Observatory. Lynda Smith, Chairman of the Society's Time Ball Sub-Committee has kindly written a report on the visit (see page 4) and your Editor has included some of his photographs taken that day on pages 6 and 7.

Three days later, Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI gave a talk "Oh! For Another Day at Margate" at the Walpole Bay Hotel. A short report on his talk is shown on page 5.

Those members who went on the trip to Greenwich will know how successful the visit was and, equally, those who attended Arnold's talk will know just how good that was too. Arnold's talk featured many of the old music-hall songs that featured Margate in their lyrics. In addition, Arnold showed a number of film-clips which related to our town and played sound recordings of old songs about Margate.

This issue of the Newsletter contains a six-page article by Arnold which he has entitled Melodious Margate. A number of the songs and sheet-music covers that Arnold featured in his talk are featured in his article which he wrote especially for our Newsletter.

Our Margate Clock Tower book, the Greenwich trip and Arnold's talk were all designed to raise funds towards our Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project - and they all have. If you haven't yet purchased a copy of the Margate Clock Tower book, you are encouraged to do so.

Earlier this year, the St Albans Civic Society approached me to enquire whether I would act as a guide to a party of their members making a day-trip on 18th May to Margate by rail from St Albans. I suggested that we met at the Clock Tower where I told them the history of the building and, more specifically, of our Time Ball Restoration Project. We then walked along Marine Drive into the Old Town. I was more than delighted when, a few days later, I received a donation of £40 from the St Albans Civic Society towards our Time Ball Restoration Project □

**James Brazier, Newsletter Editor**

## Welcome to new members

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

Paul & Robina Verrall  
Gay Gower  
Diana Ziekenoppasser (née Schwartzman)  
Revd David Cawley (Life Membership)

**Lynda Smith**  
**Membership Secretary**

## New Heritage Help website launched

With funding from English Heritage, the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies (which includes Civic Voice) has launched a new Heritage Help advice portal [www.heritagehelp.org.uk](http://www.heritagehelp.org.uk), bringing together for the first time the expertise offered by heritage organisations and offering support on saving and caring for historic assets. The free information service is aimed at local history groups and town and parish councils facing new responsibilities for the care of their historic environment under the recent Localism Act 2011, as well as individual owners of historic properties.

You can access the website at:

<http://www.heritagehelp.org.uk>

(From: *Civic Update* - March 2013)

## Civic Day 2013

This year, we will be holding our Civic Day event on **Sunday 23rd 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 of the Society's activities in the meeting room at the back of Droit House and we are most grateful to Thanet Visitor Information Service for making this space available to us. In addition, we have arranged with Thanet District Council to open the doorway of Margate Clock Tower to allow the public to look inside the building. Both events will be open from 11.00am to 4.00pm on 23rd June. Do be certain to make a note of the date (**Sunday, 23rd June**) and of the two venues in your diary.

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

**Pamela Pople**  
**Chairman**

# Presentation of the Society's 2013 Town Pride Awards

The results of the judging of this year's prestigious Town Pride awards were announced by our Chairman, Pamela Pople, at our meeting held on Thursday, 9th May at The Walpole Bay Hotel. Pamela reported on the high standard of the refurbishment works and of the attractive architecture of the new developments for all the properties nominated by members of the Society for this year's Town Pride awards and our President, Ralph Handscomb, presented the awards.

This year, the Panel decided to award three Town Pride Plaques and three Town Pride Commendation Certificates.

## Town Pride Plaques were awarded to:

- Dalby Square, Cliftonville (Town & Country Housing Group)
- Roller Coaster House (Town & Country Housing Group)
- Old Town T.Stall (Sharron, Steven & David Cove)

Tim Warren of Town & Country Housing Group received a Town Pride Plaque (together with a Certificate) for the Dalby Square development and another Town Pride Plaque for Roller Coaster House. It is believed that this is the first year that two Town Pride Plaques have been awarded to the same developer.



*17-23 [formerly Warrior Crescent] Dalby Square, Cliftonville (including 21-23 [formerly Warren Court Hotel] Arthur Road and new-build houses in Arthur Road and Dalby Road). Development by Town & Country Housing Group*



*Our Chairman Pamela Pople with Tim Warren, of Town & Country Housing Group proudly displaying one of the two Town Pride Plaques awarded to Town & Country Housing Group*

The undoubted success of this year's Town Pride evening was due to the hard work put in by our Chairman, Pamela Pople, whose father sadly passed away unexpectedly just a few days before the presentation of the awards. Our thanks to Pamela for making all the arrangements for the evening and our sincere condolences to Pamela on the sad loss of her father, Denis O'Leary.

*Roller Coaster House and associated housing, All Saints Avenue, Margate. Development by Town & Country Housing Group*



*Old Town T. Stall, Market Place, Margate*



*Sharron Cove displaying the Town Pride Plaque awarded to Old Town T. Stall, with Pamela Pople*

In addition to the three properties each awarded a 2013 Town Pride plaque and certificate, three Town Pride commendation certificates were awarded to each of the following properties:

Priory Mews, 8 The Square, Birchington  
 Lady Tesla's Loose Leaves & Mud, 9 King Street, Margate  
 Maman House, 234/236 Northdown Road, Cliftonville



Above: Priory Mews, 8 The Square, Birchington - conversion of hay-store and new-build

Below: Maman House, 234/236 Northdown Road, Cliftonville  
 (The owner of Maman House, Mrs Marcelle Maman, was out of the country and unable to attend our presentation evening to receive her Town Pride commendation certificate for works to the property.)



Left: Roxana Tesla with Pamela Pople



Right: Alan Pither from Priory Homes with Pamela Pople

Below: Lady Tesla's Loose Leaves & Mud, 9 King Street, Margate



### Proud happy winners display their 2013 Town Pride plaques and certificates



Left to right: Ralph Handscomb, President, Margate Civic Society; Roxana Tesla from Lady Tesla's Loose Leaves & Mud, 9 King Street, Margate; John Healey, Coombs (Canterbury) Ltd; Gary Mills, Lawson Queay, Chartered Surveyors; Tim Warren, Town & Country Housing Group; Terry Lucas, Town & Country Housing Group; Keith Beavers, Croudace, building contractors; Pamela Pople, Chairman, Margate Civic Society; Andrew Belsey, Churchill-Hui, Architects; and Sharron & Steven Cove from the Old Town T. Stall, Market Place, Margate

# THE TIME BALL RESTORATION PROJECT - UPDATE

The Margate Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project has now raised £3,908.20. Margate Civic Society would like to thank Mike Bundock for producing an excellent book on the Margate Clock Tower. The books are available at £10 each plus £2 p&p. The Society would also like to thank Dr Philip Gore, of Gore Brothers Ltd, for paying the cost of the printing charges of all 250 books. If you would like to purchase a copy of this book, please get in touch with Lynda Smith, whose contact details are on the last page of this Newsletter.

The coach trip to Greenwich on Friday, 24th May was a great success. The rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who travelled by coach to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich Park with the Society. At the Observatory, we were privileged to be given an introduction to the history of the Meridian by Jonathan Betts MBE, Senior Curator of Horology. Greenwich is the home of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and the Prime Meridian of the world. From Rory McEvoy, Curator of Horology, we learned about the extraordinary objects and collections and, most especially, the Harrison timekeepers in Flamsteed House - one of the Observatory's four Time Galleries. With so much to do and see at Greenwich, four hours went all too quickly. After almost continuous rain it was a pleasure to arrive back in sunny Thanet.

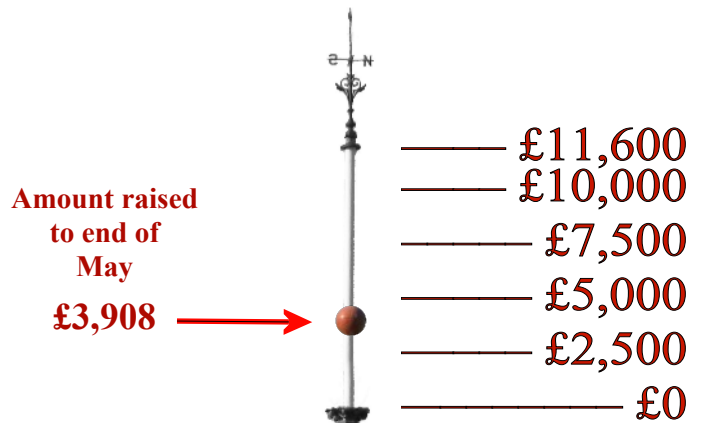
Margate Civic Society is linking with Holy Trinity & St John's CoE primary school and the Tudor House to organise an art competition. It is planned that artwork from the school will be displayed at the Tudor House during the week beginning Monday 17th June, following judging. Our President, Ralph Handscomb, and artists Pat Wilson-Smith and Sally Childs - who is also a member of the Society - have kindly agreed to judge the artwork. There will be three categories: the Clock Tower; the Tudor House; and Turner Contemporary.

Our Civic Day event this year is to be held on Sunday, June 23rd when MCS Committee members will be at Droit House to promote the Society. Mike Bundock has agreed to join us on the day when there will be an opportunity to purchase a copy of his Margate Clock Tower book. The Society is also working closely with Thanet District Council to have Margate Clock Tower doorway open on the same day to allow the public to peep inside the building.

Comedian and TV personality Griff Rhys Jones, toured Kent last month in his role as President of Civic Voice to encourage everyone to play a bigger role in our community. Griff also made a fleeting visit to Margate to visit the Clock Tower and be presented with a copy of Mike Bundock's book Margate Clock Tower, for which Griff Rhys Jones had very kindly written the foreword.

I should like to say a special thank you to John & Janet Robinson for the loan of their digital-projection equipment, and to Steve Vilette for his help with the sound equipment, which together helped make Arnold Schwartzman's talk 'Oh! For Another Day at Margate' at The Walpole Bay Hotel on Bank Holiday Monday 27th May such a resounding success raising £216 towards the Time Ball Restoration Project. Thank you so much Arnold. It was a super talk.

**Lynda Smith**  
Chairman, Time Ball Sub-Committee



The front cover of the recently-published Margate Clock Tower book

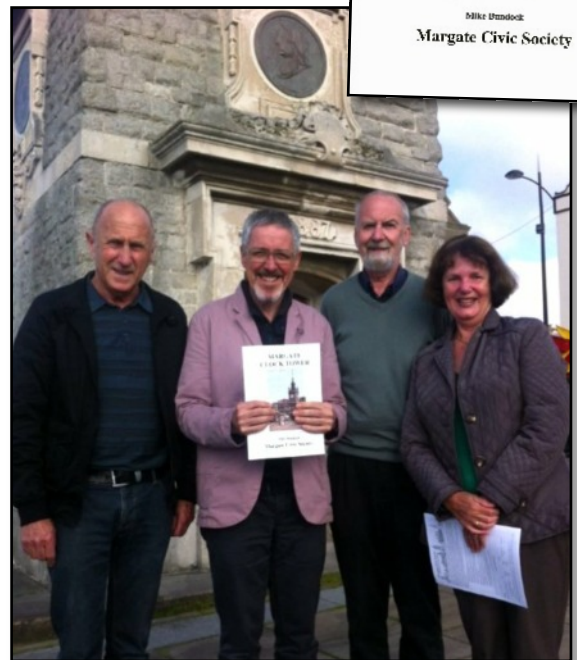
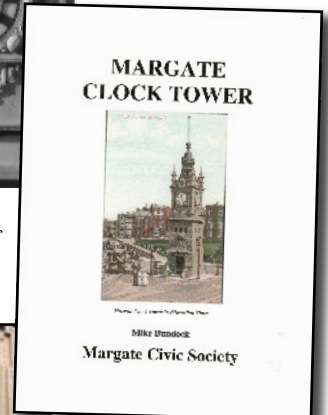


Photo: John Walker

Griff Rhys Jones, President of Civic Voice, proudly holding a copy of the book Margate Clock Tower that was presented to him on 16th May. Also in the photograph taken in front of the Clock Tower are left to right: Harry Smith, Mike Wilton and Lynda Smith

# “Oh! For Another Day at Margate”

A talk by Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI

Over seventy persons attended Arnold Schwartzman’s unforgettable presentation at the Walpole Bay Hotel on what used to be known as Whitsun Bank Holiday Monday on 27th May where we were treated to his illustrated talk “Oh! For Another Day at Margate”. What a treat it was. Everyone who attended - including Cllr Iris Johnston, Deputy Town Mayor of Margate - thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Arnold, who has lived in Hollywood, Los Angeles since 1978 had ‘slotted in’ this talk especially to support our Society’s appeal to raise funds for the Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project, on one of his return visits to the UK.

Arnold has contributed a number of articles to our Society’s Newsletter and it was in the Summer 2011 issue of that Newsletter that Arnold’s article *When Margate Dropped the Ball* was published. In that article – all about Time Balls and, in particular, Margate own Time Ball – Arnold ended his article with the thought-provoking question: “Would it, therefore, not be fitting that, in celebration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth upcoming Diamond Jubilee, an effort be made through voluntary contributions or from corporate sponsorship to resurrect Margate’s Time Ball as in Deal where the now working time ball has become a rallying point for the townsfolk on New Year’s Eve? This would be a worthwhile endeavour, even if it takes place a couple of years late!”

It is now two years since Arnold’s first suggested that the Clock Tower Time Ball be resurrected. In that time, your Committee ‘picked up the ball and run with it’ making much progress in raising the funds to have the necessary work carried out. Indeed, provisional arrangements have been made for the work to be carried out in time for its re-opening on 24th May 2014 - exactly 125 years after the Clock Tower was ceremoniously opened on 24th May 1899 (which happened to be Queen Victoria’s 70th birthday).

Arnold very kindly agreed to be Patron of our Time Ball Restoration Project and we greatly indebted to him for giving his time freely in support of the Society and for sowing the seed to resurrect the Time Ball. Please do help our appeal to ensure that sufficient funds are raised to meet our target. □

JB



*The enraptured audience at Arnold Schwartzman’s talk at the Walpole Bay Hotel*

*Arnold reminiscing of his younger days at Margate where his parents had the Majestic Hotel in Lewis Crescent, Cliftonville for many years and from where his career as a successful designer, film producer and author all started with him acting as a relief projectionist at the Cameo Cinema in Northdown Road in the 1950s*



*Arnold was unaware that I had spotted him from across the road photographing the Margate Meltdown motorcyclists in town during the afternoon of Bank Holiday Monday, 27th May*



During his recent stay at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Arnold Schwartzman donated his fourth napkin to the hotel’s unique collection of napkins each featuring artwork. His latest design features drawings of four napkins folded origami-style such as to create shapes. This photograph shows Oscar® award-winning Arnold together with his long-time friend John Tribe and Jane Bishop. John Tribe is an illustrator and graphic designer best known for his work for the British television broadcaster London Weekend Television which now forms part of the ITV network. In 1985, John won the Primetime Emmy Award for 'Outstanding Graphic and Title Design' for his work on the ten-part television series *Agatha Christie's Partners in Crime*. Arnold first met John whilst attending King Ethelbert’s School around 1950, both went on to Thanet Art School and then to Canterbury Art College. John now lives at Whitstable.

# Margate Civic Society visit to the Royal Observatory Greenwich

Lynda Smith has already made reference in her Time Ball Update on page 4 to the very successful visit that she organised on behalf of the Society to see the Greenwich Observatory Time Ball on Friday, 24th May. Although it rained throughout the day, it can be seen from this selection of photographs that the rain did not dampen the spirits of those who joined the coach party and who thoroughly enjoyed their day at Greenwich.

Arriving at the Royal Observatory, we were met by Jonathan Betts MBE, Senior Curator of Horology, Royal Observatory Greenwich, who gave a most interesting talk on the history of the Greenwich Meridian. Because of our particular interest in the Margate Clock Tower Time Ball, Jonathan gave his talk in the shadow of the Greenwich Observatory Time Ball - which was very much appreciated by us all. Jonathan was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2012 Birthday Honours for services to horology.

We then went inside Flamsteed House - the original Observatory building - where Rory McEvoy, Curator of Horology, Royal Observatory Greenwich, took the party on a most interesting tour of the building and told of the development of the astronomical clock from the Observatory's foundation in 1675 through to the 21st century.

It was a great privilege for us that both Jonathan Betts and Rory McEvoy should give us such a magnificent welcome and share their enthusiasm and their great knowledge with us that day.

Sincere thanks go to Lynda Smith for organising the coach party and, in particular, for arranging for us to receive such interesting presentations by both Jonathan Betts and Rory McEvoy.

Jonathan Betts has confirmed that he will attend next year's inauguration of Margate Clock Tower's Time Ball on 24th May in his role as Master of the Worshipful Company of Clock Makers. He has also confirmed that he will be wearing his full regalia for the occasion.

Lynda sold all the tickets for the coach trip and, in so doing, achieved a financial surplus which has gone towards our Time Ball Restoration Project. The whole day was a great success for the Society and there was unanimous support for the Society organising another outing in the future. Chatham Dockyard seems to be the favourite destination for a future outing. Watch this space!

**JB**



*Members of our party listening intently to Jonathan Betts. We were fortunate that, for a few minutes, the rain held off whilst Jonathan gave his excellent presentation*



*Jonathan Betts telling the party about the origin of the Greenwich Meridian. The O<sub>2</sub> arena can be seen in the background*



*Rory McEvoy with Greenwich Park in the background*



*Flamsteed House with the Greenwich Observatory Time Ball with inset photograph showing position of the Time Ball immediately before it falls at 1.00pm each day*

# Some more photographs taken at Greenwich on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013



Jonathan Betts (left) and Rory McEvoy (right) gesticulating with their hands. Is this use of their hands related to their profession as horologists? After all, clocks tell the time by their hands (excluding, of course, digital clocks!)



Right: Rory McEvoy shows us the metal pipe containing the mechanism for the Greenwich Time Ball which is located at the top of this pipe. The pipe is located behind a locked door and is not normally seen by visitors to the Observatory



The Cutty Sark - no trip to Greenwich is complete without seeing the Cutty Sark - even though we were the only ones there to see it in the rain!



Arnold Schwartzman with Cllr Iris Johnston, Deputy Town Mayor of Margate, inside Flamsteed House. Note the astronomical clock behind. Arnold, together with his daughter Hannah, had briefly joined us on our memorable visit to the Royal Observatory



Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich

Right: This is the working mechanism of a 'turret clock'. The mechanism of the original 'turret clock' manufactured by Wm Potts & Sons Ltd that was inside Margate Jubilee Clock Tower would have been similar. The 'turret clock' mechanism on display inside Flamsteed House was manufactured in 1888 and is contemporaneous with the original Margate Clock Tower clock mechanism



Not quite "Singin' in the rain" but four happy members of the party enjoying Greenwich - Susan Brazier, Glenys Clements, Richard Clements and Pamela Pople

Right: The Painted Hall, Greenwich - this was a real delight to see



# MELODIOUS MARGATE

by

Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI

I found that the most pleasurable part of making a documentary film is the research. During my current production "Margate Paradiso", I have discovered 120 musical pieces and still counting, including ballads, rondos, quadrilles, lancers and last but not least, music-hall songs. Their magnitude is a testimony to Margate's past popularity.

Long before Chas 'n' Dave's successful song "Margate", composers were penning the praises of Margate over the past several centuries. The Victorians produced some unusual song titles, such as "Descent from the Moon into a Carpet at Margate". The subject matter covered a broad spectrum, from the seaside's promenade, its jetty, transportation by boat and train, bathing girls, honeymoons, Cockneys, even environmental issues.

I would like to share some of these wonderful lyrics with readers of the MCS Newsletter. Despite the generous space afforded me by its editor, it is well-nigh impossible to include the complete lyrics. I have therefore chosen a few lines from among my favourite pieces to provide a flavour of their sentiments.

Some compositions were by such luminaries as W.M. Thackeray, W.S. Gilbert and Kurt Weill.



However, the majority of the songs are from the late Victorian music-hall days, sung by stars including Florrie Ford, Vesta Tilley, George Robey, Harry Fragson, Billy Williams and Lillie Langtry. Thanks to invention of the phonograph and its cylinder by Thomas Edison in 1877, and later the gramophone record, many of their performances can still be enjoyed today.

One of the earliest ballads written in 1783 was the "Margate Hoy", which referred to the hoys that sailed between London and Margate from the beginning of the 18th century.

*Now's the season for laughing and jollit,y [sic]  
Crowding together, all nations and quality,  
Margate, a hoi, as I halloa cry,  
All come on board while the sea breezes  
blow...*

There was a later version referring to the hoys "The Margate Hoy", 1848, by Charles Dibdin,  
*Standing one summer's day on the Tower slip,  
Careless how I my time should employ,  
It popp'd in my head that I'd take a trip  
Aboard of a Margate hoy.*



Curiously, each year at the annual Mid-Winter Civil War Ball in Fort Worth, Texas, hosted by the 8th Arkansas Regiment, the attendees dance the "Margate Hoy". I suspect the members are oblivious to the composition's origin.

Other songs referring to the boat journey include:

"An Adventure in Margate", 1781; "The Margate Steam Yacht"; "The Steam Packet", 1820; "A Trip To Margate, A Sea Yarn", 1876; "Trip On The Margate Boat", 1908, and "On The Margate Boat", 1899,

*Now if you want a jo-ly time you'd bet-ter take  
a trip on the steam boat,...  
down to Margate;...  
A-way from care and wor-ry ev-ry - bo-dy  
seems to skip  
On the steam boat...  
Down to Margate.*

Other titles include:

"Father's Whiskers", 1911  
*Some time ago we went and spent a fortnight  
by the sea  
He thought he'd bathe one day, So dived into  
the briny spray  
The Margate boat came dashing in, the crowd  
began to squeal  
The boat became a total wreck  
Because she caught her paddle wheel in...  
Chorus: Father's whiskers, Father's wiry  
whiskers*

"The Husbands Boat", 1869  
*Come listen to my ditty, I'm a merchant in the  
city*



*I've got a wife, the best in life; she's forty, fat,  
and fair  
And though I love her dearly, it happened very  
queerly  
I sent her down to Margate, as she wanted  
change of air.  
(She went by train; I meant to follow by,)*

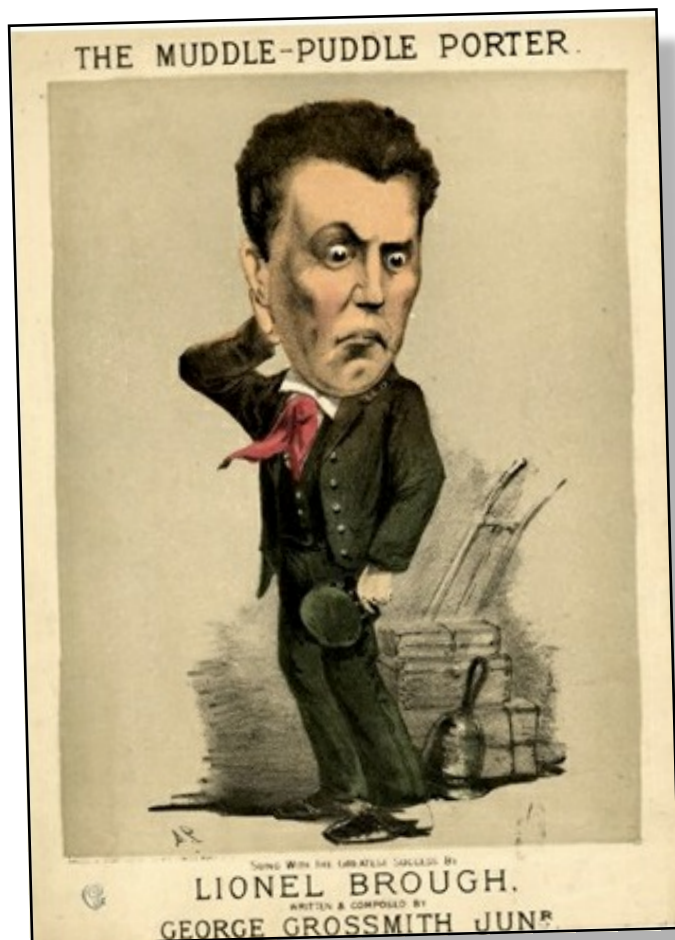
*Chorus: The husbands' boat, the husbands' boat  
For Margate in the morning.*

*On Saturday according, the boat I soon was  
boarding  
And with a lot of husbands got, a jolly set were  
we  
Imagine my surprise, then, I chanced to turn  
my eyes on, when*

*I saw a lovely damsel who was looking straight  
at me.  
We got in conversation; I stood a cold collation,  
We soon got near to Margate Pier; the time  
went quickly by  
Around her taper waist, then, my arm I just had  
placed when*

*I heard a voice that brought me to my senses  
instantly.  
Then take your arm away when you're in sight  
of Margate Pier.  
(Oh, look, Ma! There's Father. Isn't it kind of him  
to bring your dressmaker with him on board?)*

Then take your arm away when you're in sight  
of Margate Pier.



One Music Hall song's popularity is endorsed by this extract from Elspeth Huxley's biography... "Coming from the landowner class in Britain and the possessor of thousands of acres in British East Africa, he lived in a mud hut with no mod cons bar a gramophone with a single record, "All Aboard for Margate"!

The introduction of the steam engine brought about a number of humorous songs, often about railway porters, such as the

"10-15 to Margate"  
Any more for the Margate train?  
"Is this the 10-15 to Margate,  
Porter?  
What class? First class. Oh, first  
class, this way Madam..."

and a porter, who gets into a  
pickle by mixing up the destinations  
from different terminals:

"The Muddle Puddle Porter", 1894  
There was a rail-way porter on the North South  
Eastern Line,  
Whose in-tel-lect was lim---ited, whose age  
was for-ty-- nine.

His post was si-tu-a--ted at the Mud-dle, Pud-  
dle Junc---tion.  
The station's, names he call'd out indistinctly,  
...Change here for London, Chat-ham, Peckham,  
Brighton, Margate, Bow.  
'Change here for London, Chat-ham, Peckham,  
Brighton, Margate, Bow.

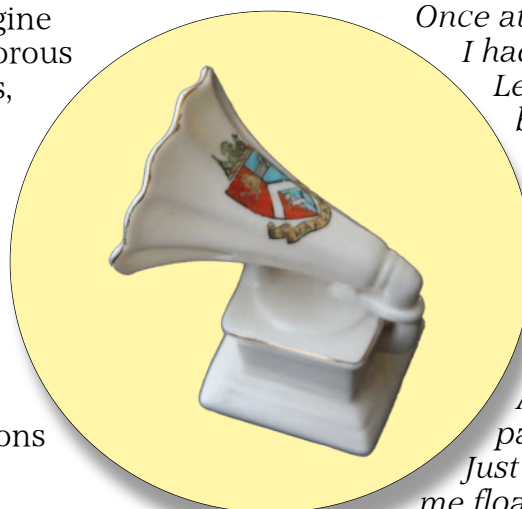
Then there was "The Railway Porter", 1906, who  
suffers from an affliction:  
What do you th-th-think I'm here for?  
To answer qu-qu-questions I suppose?  
I've told you tw-tw-twenty times already  
What time the train to MA-Ma Margate goes  
It's the-te-ten to five from platform seven mum  
You'd better look sharp if you don't want to  
walk.  
Said she. Oh' that's all right sir, I don't want to  
go to Margate,  
It's my little boy that likes to hear you talk.

There is also a well-known song about another  
Margate, "Trein na Margate" (Train to Margate),  
some 6,000 miles away in Natal, South Africa.

There were a number of *risque* tunes dedicated  
to the seaside ladies, including the "Cheeky  
Chappie" Max Miller's monologue in "Down At  
The Bathing Parade", 1939:

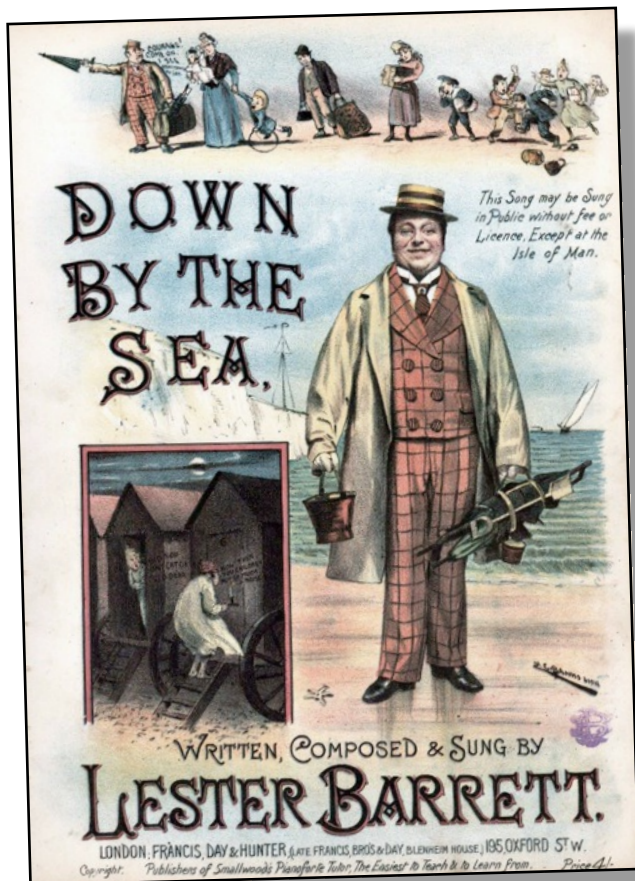
I should never forget when I went bathing, I  
went to Margate, and I went out with a young  
lady... We got out about three miles from the  
shore and I lost her...  
When she got on the shore I said what's the  
matter. Well you know the two piece suit I was  
wearing, yes, I lost the top half...

"With My Little Wigger-Wagger in My Hand",  
1909



Once at the seaside, Margate way  
I had a little dip in Pegwell Bay  
Left my clothes on a sandy  
beach  
Put them where I  
reckoned that the water  
wouldn't reach  
Sidestroke, wide stroke, I  
began to swim  
Bobbing in the water like  
a boat  
And on my cane I tied a  
pair of bladders  
Just to hold me up and make  
me float.

Chorus: With my little wigger-wagger in my  
hand  
I left the salt seawater  
But I felt a jay - to my great dismay



“What Would The Seaside Be Without The Ladies”, 1915  
*And what is it at Margate that makes old Johnson break the pledge?  
 Is it the barmaids? Oh no!  
 And what is it that makes him linger near the water's edge?  
 Is it the fair maids? Oh no!  
 And why does everyone go absolutely mad...*

“She Looked A Perfect Lady”, 1900  
*At Margate once a gay and giddy bachelor  
 Was watching ladies bathing in the sea  
 He smiled at one sweet girl in pink  
 And tipped her such a saucy wink  
 As she bobbed up and down so merrilee  
 He met her on the beach one evening later  
 And when he tried to kiss the pretty saint  
 She seemed as bashful as could be  
 She didn't mind the kiss, but she  
 Was so afraid he might rub off some paint  
 But when he stood wine, she didn't decline  
 She smacked her sweet lips and said, 'Isn't it fine.'*

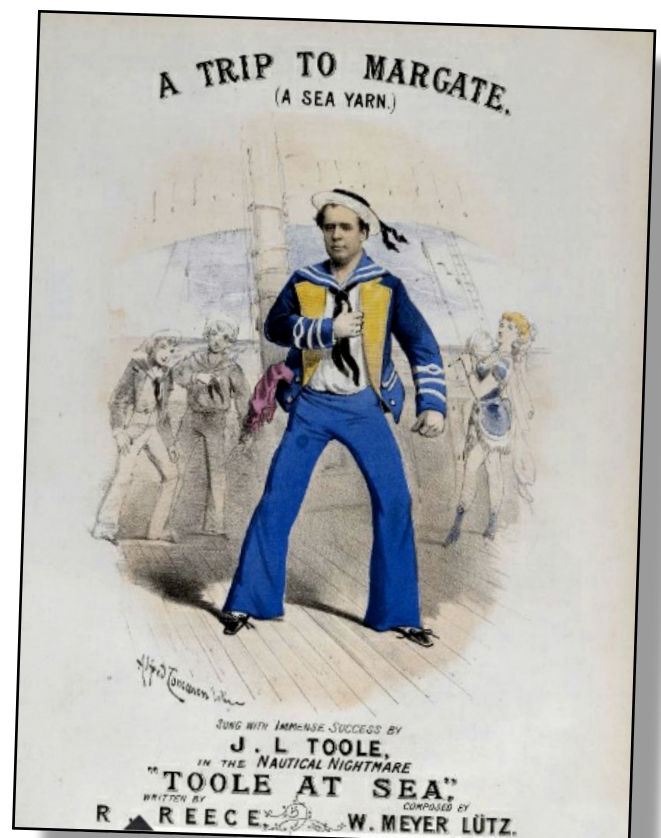
*For the waves carried all my toggery away  
 I there I felt a pie there  
 For all the girls were laughing on the sand  
 As away I raced with a kipper round my waist  
 And my little wigger-wagger in my hand.*

One of the most popular hall songs relating to the ladies was

“Hello, Hello, Who's Your Lady Friend?”, 1913  
*Jeremiah Jones, a ladies' man was he,  
 Every pretty girl he loved to spoon.  
 Still he found a wife along beside the sea,  
 Went to Margate for the honeymoon.  
 But when he strolled along the promenade  
 with his little wife just newly wed,  
 He got an awful scare when someone strolling  
 there  
 Came up to him and said: “Hello, hello, Who's  
 your Lady Friend?”*

Also:  
 “Seaside Girls”, 1899  
*Down at Margate looking very charming you  
 are sure to meet  
 Those girls, dear girls, those lovely seaside girls.  
 With sticks they steer and promenade the pier  
 to give the boys a treat;  
 In piqué silks and lace, they tip you quite a  
 playful wink.  
 It always is the case: you seldom stop to think.  
 You fall in love of course upon the spot,  
 But not with one girl – always with the lot...*

“The Simple Pimple”, 1891  
*I took her down to Margate, and while bathing  
 in the sea  
 The people looked and shouted out 'Whatever  
 can that be?'  
 Said one, 'It is a porpoise' but some folks who'd  
 just come down*





Talk about your Brighton or your Margate  
 The ozone's strong and free  
 It's a sea-side place all upon its own  
 Down at Berm-on-Sea.



“She told Me To Meet Her At The Gate”, 1923  
 One evening at a fancy ball I met a lovely girl  
 Oh she had a lovely curl, and she was a lovely girl  
 I saw her into a taxi and her fare she let me pay  
 She borrowed half a crown from me and then she drove away.  
 Chorus: And she told me to meet her at the gate  
 Meet her at the gate, but she didn't say what gate  
 I've been to her gate, my gate, Highgate, and Reigate  
 Aldgate, Moorgate and I'm in such a state  
 I've been to Margate, Ramsgate, Tollgate, and Billingsgate  
 I can't find her anywhere  
 And when I told a policeman, he said, "Pop round to Newgate,  
 You might find the Lady there".

“Seaside Posters Around The Home”, 1919  
 There's Margate in the kitchen  
 And it brightens up the place  
 The cook declares it absolutely grand  
 Well yesterday she spread our bit of sugar on the floor  
 Then sat on it and fancied it was sand.

The subject of the promenade, the jetty and seashore brought us Bob Geldorf's  
 “Love Like A Rocket”, 1987  
 ...She's looking at a picture taken Margate '66  
 Of Terry on the pier looking cool.

“Mr Mangle”  
 Not far from the jetty in Margate Town  
 A few minutes walk from the Rose and Crown  
 You'll come to a neat little red-brick street  
 To mention whose name would be indiscreet  
 As a matter of fact, I have thought it judicious  
 To make all the names in this story fictitious.

“Margate Sands”, 1874  
 He was five, or six, she four years old,  
 When they met on the Margate Sands,  
 And he gravely looked in her great blue eyes  
 With hold of her little fat hands,  
 And he said, “ I love oo well Rosie;  
 I know, dat I'd rather have oo,  
 Dan all de lickel girls on de sands to-day,  
 Iss, even dan de girl in blue

“Muschel von Margate” (Mussels of Margate).  
 Music by Kurt Weill, 1928.  
 The song tells the story of a seaside town destroyed by the oil industry:  
 In Margate on the promenade  
 Where the tourists sit when it's fine  
 There stood an old man selling souvenirs  
 With a big tin shell as his sign.  
 That old man had a pail  
 Of painted shells for sale  
 And everyone could hear him yell  
 Shell! Shell! Shell!  
 Seashells from Margate  
 Act like a charm  
 Seashells with gold decorations  
 Seashells from Margate  
 Cannot do you harm  
 Keep the memory warm  
 Reminding you of happy vacations.  
 In Margate on the promenade  
 There's a stink to raise the dead.  
 Where once a pail of seashells stood  
 There's an oil tank now instead.  
 That old man had a son who found  
 A fortune buried underground.  
 And now the son prefers to sell  
 Shell! Shell! Shell!



**Thank you, Arnold, for such a lovely article - Ed**

(Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI is both a Member of Margate Civic Society and Patron of the Society's Time Ball Restoration Project)

## Arlington House is 50 years old this year

This photograph shows the workmen engaged on the construction of Arlington House enjoying their 'topping out' ceremony on the roof of Arlington House, sometime during 1963. The photograph was kindly supplied by Syd Shoesmith who is shown in the photograph (see arrow) and who worked as a carpenter and joiner on the construction site for nearly two years. During that time, the sea froze for a few weeks and work on the construction stopped due to the bad weather conditions and Syd was put 'on the day' until the weather conditions improved

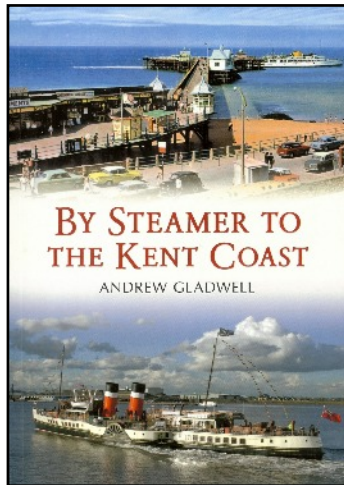
The Jetty was destroyed in the 1978 storm and Fort Hill was then a dual-carriageway (albeit with only one car using it when this photograph was taken!). Turner Contemporary has since been built and, more recently, the 'steps' along Marine Drive have been built as part of the flood-prevention works.



## Book Reviews

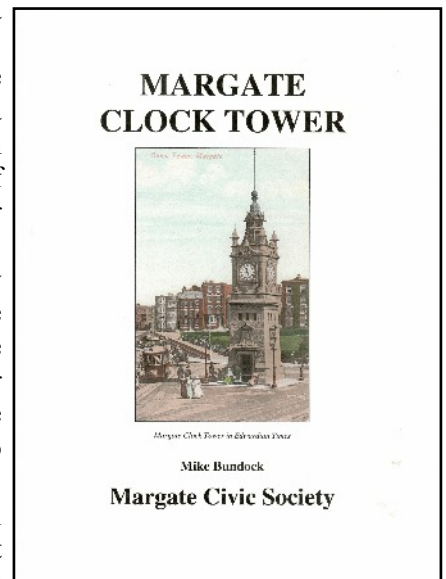
**By Steamer to the Kent Coast** by Andrew Gladwell. Published by Amberley Publishing at £14.99, softback, 128pp, full colour, ISBN 978-1-4456-0375-9. Copies of this book are available from W. H. Smith, Margate Museum, and Turner Contemporary

This is another of the 'Through Time' books aimed at the nostalgia market and the quality of the reproduction of the images - mostly in colour - is again superb. Older members will recall with much fondness the steamers which used to stop at the end of Margate Jetty both for passengers from London to disembark or for passengers to embark for trips to Southend or, if lucky, even a day-trip to France. The *Daffodil*, *Royal Sovereign*, *Queen of the Channel* and so many others are now, sadly, just memories. This book will re-ignite so many happy reminiscences of those far-off days. The author has done a fine job in selecting over 200 images including many fine old advertisements. This book is definitely one for the nostalgia buffs amongst us. □



**Margate Clock Tower** by Mike Bundock. Published by Margate Civic Society at £10 plus £2 p&p, A4 softback 46pp available from Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN

This super book is a credit to our Society. The author, Mike Bundock, has done a first-class job in telling the story of how our Clock Tower came to be built. Mike very kindly researched and wrote this book entirely free of charge to our Society and we are greatly indebted to him for so doing. Members will recall that Mike gave a most interesting illustrated



talk on Margate Clock Tower to the Society last year followed by talk on Herne Bay Clock Tower at our May 2013 meeting.

The book is designed to help raise funds towards our Time Ball Restoration Project and, within a month of publication, over half of the print run of this book has already been sold.

A chapter of the book is devoted to time balls and, in particular, our very own Time Ball atop Margate Clock Tower.

If you haven't yet secured a copy of this book you are encouraged to buy a copy and, in doing so, contribute towards the Society's Jubilee Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Fund. □

## Heritage Open Days 2013

This year's Heritage Open Days are **Thursday, 12th September to Sunday, 15th September**. Details of local organisations participating in this year's HODs will be listed in the Summer Newsletter. □

# What's On

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

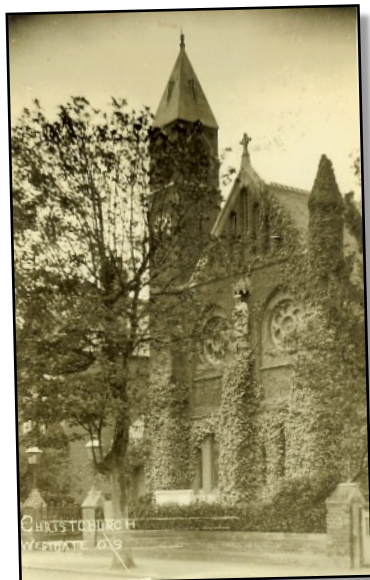
Date 2013	Subject
3rd October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'War Girls 1914-18: An illustrated talk based on picture-postcards from that time' by James Brazier



**Westgate Heritage Centre** (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Spring/Summer Programme 2013**  
 During June, July and August, the Heritage Centre will be open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. In addition, on the first Saturday of each month at **10.30am**, there will be a talk on some aspect of Westgate's history by Dr Dawn Crouch.  
**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME FOR TALKS** (previously started at 11.00am)

Date 2013	Subject
6th July	<b>PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THIS MEETING TO BE HELD AT CHRIST CHURCH URC CHURCH HALL IN WESTGATE BAY AVENUE</b> 'Laying the foundations' - 2013 is the 130th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stones of Christ Church Congregational Church (June) and St Saviour's CoE Church (August) - two important events, which led to the creation of two very different communities. There will be an opportunity to look at the interior of this fine Victorian building ( <i>see images below</i> )
3rd August	Members' Day - some of the Committee will share the results of their recent research.
7th September	150 years ago an historic event took place, which was to lead to the creation of a new and fashionable watering-place – the Westgate Estate. On 28th August 1863, the first train of the new London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company arrived in Margate carrying the Directors of the Company – the Heritage Centre celebrates this red-letter day.
5th October	<i>Grand Hotels...had to stand out from surrounding buildings, not only in size, but often in different materials. By 1890, every resort of consequence had at least one or two.</i> - Sarah Howell, <i>The Seaside</i> (London 1974). 130 years ago, in 1883, Westgate's two 'grand hotels', St Mildred's and the Westcliff, were opened. This is their story.
2nd November	'70 years ago – 1943' - How the nation continued to face danger and privation and the story of the people of Thanet from that year. We shall hear from some of those who have special reason to remember it. Also, the Heritage Centre pays its annual tribute to the men of Westgate who fought and died in two World Wars.
7th December	'Hons and Royals – a look at some of Westgate's blue-blooded visitors'

**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**

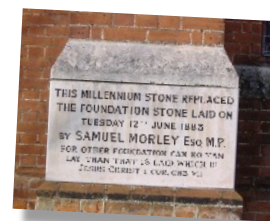


*Left: A postcard from the 1920s showing Christ Church Congregational Church clad in ivy. Note the original wall and gates. The building must have looked quite different then*

*Right: The church today. Note the missing cross that once graced the top of the front gable. Today, it is almost impossible to photograph this building without parked motor vehicles*



**Christ Church (former Congregational - now United Reformed Church),**  
 Westgate Bay Avenue,  
 Westgate-on-Sea



*The millennium stone which replaced the original 1883 foundation stone*

# Margate Civic Society

[www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://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 2012/13:

**President:** Mr Ralph Handscomb

14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 01843 293169) (e-mail: [handscomb@talktalk.net](mailto:handscomb@talktalk.net))

**Chairman:** Mrs Pamela Pople

Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 01843 221689) (e-mail: [pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk](mailto:pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk))

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Harry Scobie

45 Cornwall Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JQ (Tel: 01843 291298) (e-mail: [harryscobie@hotmail.com](mailto:harryscobie@hotmail.com))

**Secretary:** Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085)

(e-mail: [geoff.orton@tesco.net](mailto:geoff.orton@tesco.net))

**Treasurer:** Mr Mike Wilton

30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF (Tel: 01843 844717) ((e-mail: [wilton@btinternet.com](mailto:wilton@btinternet.com))

**Membership Secretary:** Mrs Lynda Smith

5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN (Tel: 01843 228174) (e-mail: [lyndylou\\_smith@talktalk.net](mailto:lyndylou_smith@talktalk.net))

**Newsletter Editor:** Mr James Brazier

"The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ (Tel: 01843 298038) (e-mail: [jasbrazier@talktalk.net](mailto:jasbrazier@talktalk.net))

**Planning and Conservation issues:** Mr Mike Thompson,

7 Seymour Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5HT (Tel: 01843 832834)

(e-mail: [mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com))

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 2012/13:

	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

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