

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)  
Registered Charity No. 257884



Winter 2006  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 341

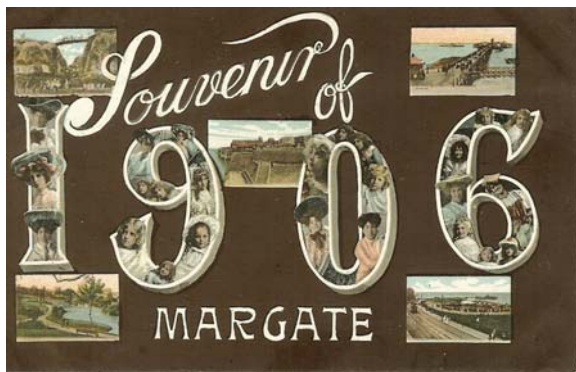
*"The love of our town leads us"*

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

Chairman: Mr Steve Vilette

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A Happy New Year to all our members with a reminder of bygone days in Edwardian Margate exactly one 100 years ago.



One hundred years ago, Margate did not have its Winter Gardens nor did it have Dreamland. But at least the clock on the Jubilee Clock Tower showed the right time. It has been showing the time as 5:21 for at least three months now and any visitors to Margate during that spell could be forgiven for thinking that the town had finally wound down and that time was no longer a consideration to those living in what was once one of the country's premier seaside resorts. But all is not lost. According to recent local press reports, Thanet District Council has arranged for works costing some £5,000 to be carried out to the clock's mechanism. These works include an upgrade of the electrical equipment and the conversion of the manual time mechanism to a fully-automated winding system which will even provide for an automatic change from Greenwich Mean Time to British Summer Time. Well done TDC!



The Jubilee Clock Tower is one of Margate's finest buildings (it is also Grade II Listed) and it is sited in what is arguably the town's most prominent position. It is a great asset to the town and I am sure that I am not alone in looking forward to the clock showing the right time throughout the day. But wouldn't it be marvellous if both the time-ball surmounting the dome of the Clock Tower – and the five bells which used to strike on the hour and quarter-hours – were to be re-activated?

*(Continues from first column)*

That would be a very worthwhile project for the Council to pursue and one which would help restore a measure of civic pride in the town. Come on TDC! There might even be funding available from English Heritage or even from the Heritage Lottery Fund to finance such a project. □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

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## Town Pride Awards 2006

It is time to start inviting nominations for the Margate Civic Society Town Pride Awards. As you know, these awards are seen as quite prestigious, receiving a lot of coverage by the local media. Members of the Society can propose anything which they consider has in the last year improved the appearance of anywhere covered by the Civic Society. It really does encourage people if we can show how much their efforts are appreciated by the community.

Don't forget also to let us know of any 'sore thumbs' for the Town Shame List. We will automatically include any that haven't been improved since last time. The closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006. Judging will take place in March and the awards will be presented as usual at our May meeting. Can you pick a winner?

Please contact our Secretary, Tony Snow (see back page for contact address).

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## Subscription Reminder

A number of members have not renewed their subscriptions for the current year (commenced October 2005). They are reminded that, unless they pay their subscriptions by no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, this will be the last Newsletter that they will receive.

*Welcome to new members*

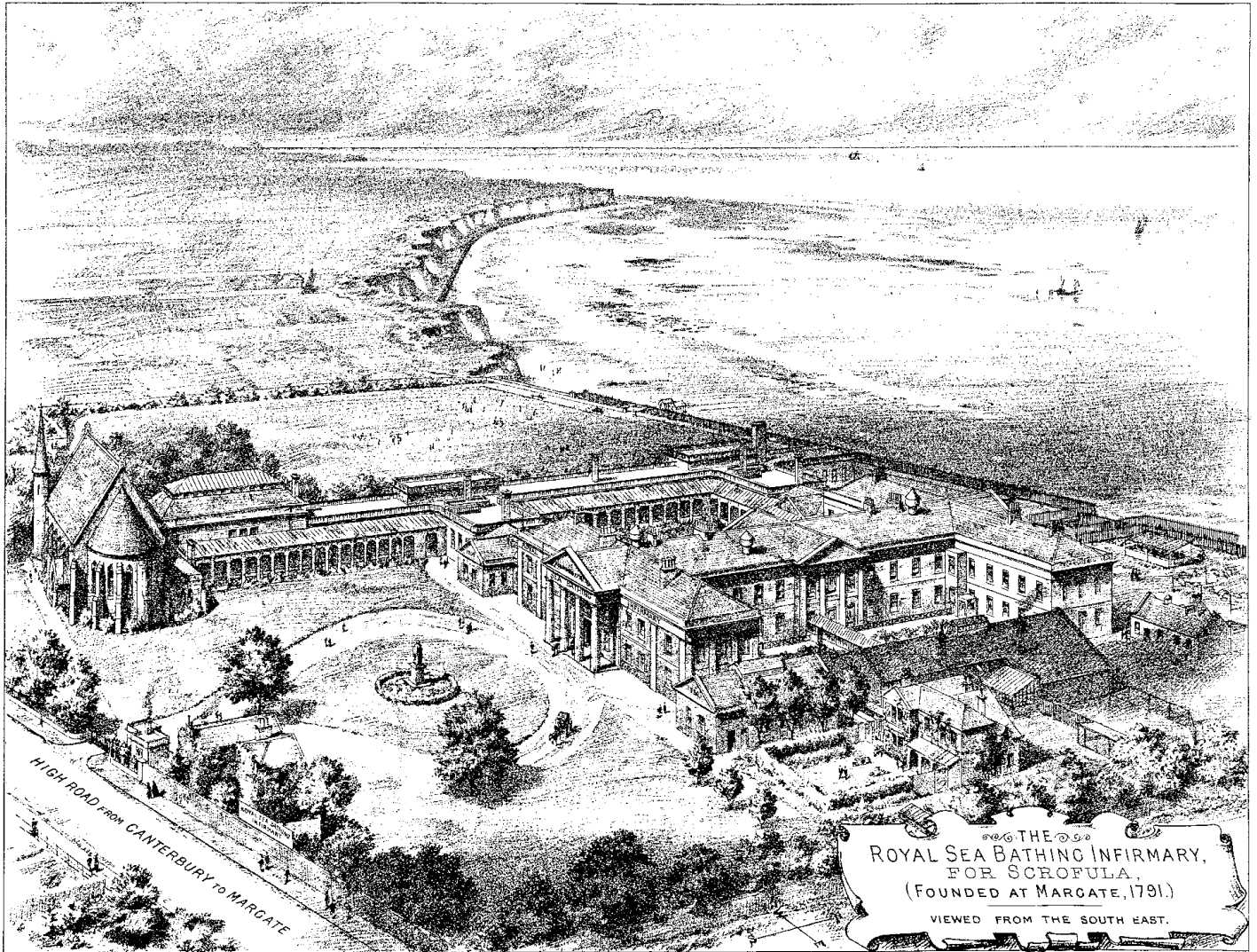
We extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined the Society:

Mrs Jane Maloney  
Mr Tony Ovenden  
Mr E. A. Summers  
Mr J. R. Woodward

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# The former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Westbrook

Derek Austen's article in the last issue of the Newsletter of his reminiscences of working at the RSBH as an orthopaedic nurse from 1948 to 1980 struck a chord with many members of our Society and brought back many memories of that fine old hospital which was held in high esteem for many years before it sadly closed in 1995.



The above line drawing shows a bird's-eye view of the former RSBH. The drawing shows no buildings at all on the land west of the hospital site (other than the ruins of Reculver Church in the far distance) although it does show the statue of Sir Erasmus Wilson in the forecourt of the hospital. This fine statue, sculpted by Sir Thomas Brock, was erected in 1886 by which time there were houses in what is now known as Westcliff Gardens. Perhaps the artist was being selective about what to include in his drawing and what to exclude as the houses in Westcliff Gardens are not shown in this drawing. The bay in the foreground is now known as Westbrook Bay but was previously known as Infirmary Bay and there are a number of bathers in the sea along with two bathing-machines on the foreshore. Building works on the site are currently in progress converting the building into apartments and the completion of those works is awaited with much interest. During this work, the statue of Sir Erasmus Wilson has been moved but it is understood that the statue will be reinstated in its original position on the completion of the work. It will be interesting to see whether the statue is repositioned such that the statue of Sir Erasmus Wilson will be looking to the west (as it was originally with Wilson facing the hospital wing that he so generously funded) or such that he will be facing south (towards the Canterbury Road). In the meantime, however, this drawing does show how isolated the hospital was originally and also how the hospital's wings related one to another. The drawing is reproduced courtesy of Tony Snow. □

## Contributions for publication invited

Articles, book reviews and, indeed, any other contributions from members are invited for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter. Ideally, they should be submitted to the Newsletter Editor in typed form and any original photographs, or pictures, will be returned immediately after scanning.

*The following text has been extracted from 'Keble's Illustrated Penny Guide to Margate and the Isle of Thanet' (1887):*

## **ROYAL SEA-BATHING INFIRMARY FOR THE SCROFULOUS POOR OF ALL ENGLAND**

Founded 1791

*Patron: Her Majesty the Queen (Victoria)*

This Institution is the only hospital in the Kingdom exclusively devoted to the treatment of Scrofula. Pure sea air and sea bathing, so necessary to patients suffering from this disease, are therein obtained; the site of the hospital on the cliffs at Westbrook, a short distance to the west of Margate, being especially suitable in these respects. The building was commenced in 1792, the first stone being laid on 21<sup>st</sup> June of that year by Dr Lettsom, who was the originator of the project. The number of In- and Out-patients from London and from the Kingdom generally, has averaged of late years about 900. The building, although generally plain, is spacious and affords accommodation for 220 beds for In-patients. The disease Scrofula attacks all ranks, and can only be successfully resisted by means of nourishing and wholesome diet, together with sea air and sea bathing; such remedies are beyond the reach of the poor, and this hospital, which endeavours to give such indispensable assistance to the thousands of victims, who would otherwise sink under the debilitating effects of this distressing complaint, can fairly claim the sympathy and support of all those who are removed from the wants and sufferings of poverty. The new Wing, which was completed in 1882 at a cost of £30,000, was the gift of the late Sir Erasmus Wilson FRS, who, from the nature of his profession, was well qualified to judge of the importance of the disease, and of the kind of succour which it is likely to require. Two of the prominent features of the Erasmus Wilson Wing are, a tepid sea-water swimming bath and an elegant chapel. A life-sized bronze statue of the late Sir Erasmus Wilson, presented by Lady Wilson, was unveiled on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1886, by Sir James Paget FRS. It is the work of the celebrated sculptor Thomas Brock ARA and stands on a pedestal of Cornish marble. Sir Erasmus is represented in the robes worn by him when President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

*Secretary: J. T. Walker Esq, 30 Charing Cross, SW*

There is a Resident Surgeon and Assistant attached to the Hospital. The visiting Surgeons are W. K. Treves Esq, B. Thornton Esq, and Dr A. Rowe, one of whom attends daily.

**The Hospital being a national one, the National Purse may be justly called upon to support it.**

If any information about the progress of the Institution is desired, write to the Secretary. The Hodgson "Five Shilling List" is opened at Messrs Cobb & Co's Bank; at Miss Bayly's Bookseller, 72 High Street, Margate; and at the Infirmary.

*C. H. Chexfield, Superintendent*

## EXTRACTS FROM THE LAWS

Every Donor of Ten Guineas, at one payment, shall be a Governor for life, with the privilege of recommending one In-patient and two Out-patients annually. Each Subscriber of One Guinea shall be deemed an Annual Governor, and be entitled to the like privilege of recommendation, after the payment of a second subscription, or two guineas in one payment.

Every Donor of £105, and every Annual Subscriber of £10 10s shall, in addition to the foregoing privilege, be entitled to recommend two In-patients free of any charge whatever for board; and four Out-patients annually.

Any Clergyman who may have preached a sermon in favour of this Charity, whereby the sum of Thirty Guineas or more may have been collected, shall, during a succeeding period of five years, be entitled to all the privileges of a Life Governor of £10 10s.

Every collector of a sum of £5 in Five Shilling Annual Subscriptions shall, after the payment of such sum to the funds of the Charity, be entitled for that year to recommend one In-patient to the Infirmary. □



*Sir Erasmus Wilson*

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*Editor's Note:* Sir Erasmus Wilson lived for many years at *The Bungalow*, Westgate-on-Sea. His home was one of the four original bungalows built in 1869-70 between Sea Road and Sussex Gardens (his bungalow – built in 1869 – being the very first bungalow to have been built in this country). After Sir Erasmus's death in 1884, his widow, Dame Charlotte Mary Wilson, continued to live in the property until her death in 1896. The property was then purchased by Sir William Ingram (the Managing Director of *The London Illustrated News*) who extensively added to the original bungalow and retained its name of *The Bungalow*. After Sir William's death in 1924 (his wife predeceased him), the property was operated as *Rowena Court Hotel*. The hotel was demolished around 1960 and a new estate of houses built on the site. □

*(See also the article on Sea Tower in this Newsletter)*

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# Westbrook Memories

My memories of childhood in Westbrook are all of pleasure. To be able to run around with no shoes on the warm sand and to paddle around in the little rock-pools was heaven. In those days – the late 1920s – you were not allowed to dress or undress on the beach. If you did not own, or rent, a beach hut in which to get changed, you hired a bathing-tent for sixpence in which to change. Other civilised arrangements in those days were that ball-games on the promenade were prohibited and there was simply no chance of any water-bombs being thrown over the top of Westbrook Café whilst you were having a snack. In the evening, a walk along the top of the cliffs – all cornfields in those days with just the beginning of building as one approached Westgate.

My other happy memories are of being allowed to play in the garden of the Dog and Duck Hotel in Canterbury Road where there was a large glass-fronted display-case, the width of the garden bar, containing the biggest hog in Kent – stuffed of course – which we used to stare at. It was still there after the war. Also in the garden of the Dog and Duck Hotel were little wooden chalets with fairy lights. All simple pleasures – a glass of lemonade and one of those huge arrowroot biscuits, which some people bought their dogs, at a penny each (1d of course!). After the war when the ban (on access to the area) was lifted we came back, but things were never quite the same. But, so lovely after six years of war, we thought it was bliss – the freedom to have meals on the bay and to stay on the beach all day until dusk. Some of our neighbours with chalets had huge lamps and stayed all night to play cards and then have a bonfire on the beach. In the morning, the Vicar would bring a portable organ and we would sing hymns and have prayers. There were sand-competitions and wonderful castles would be made from the wet sand and deep holes would be dug. We watched one afternoon in fascination as a man with a large tray full of cups of tea came down the steps and disappeared with his tray as he fell into a hole in the sand. Poor man; but it all added to our entertainment. Another occupation was, if you bought a certain newspaper (*The Daily Herald* as I recall) you watched for a man in a ‘Mac’ and had to say to him: “I challenge you, are you Lobby Ludd?” If you were right, you were given £1. Can you imagine doing that now! Happy Days. □

**Daphne Rowley**



*Cup and saucer from the Dog and Duck Hotel*



*With my father, Harold Dubock ISM on the sands at Westbrook, September 1929. Note the bathing-tents in the background*



*The bathing-tents at Westbrook Bay referred to in Daphne Rowley's article. Note the Westbrook Pavilion in the background which was destroyed by a storm in 1953 and the smart kiosk where one paid to use the bathing-tents. This postcard was published around 1930*

# Margate Museum Corner

(Another contribution from Bob)



## The Women's Voluntary Service

The Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) came into existence in 1938, at the direct request of the Government, in order to provide a channel through which women could enrol and serve the Air Raid Precautions (ARP). Later, the terms of the WVS were enlarged to embrace the whole of the Civil Defence (who succeeded the ARP) and the Minister of Home Security ruled that the WVS could properly undertake any work arising from the war which might be asked of it by a Government department. The Founder of the WVS was the Marchioness of Reading GBE.

The Margate WVS Rest Centre was established in October 1940 and, on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 1940, the headquarters were opened at the Royal School for the Deaf in Victoria Road for the enrolment of volunteers. Women who could knit, sew, or mend – either at home or at the WVS Rest Centre – on days convenient to themselves, were invited to enrol. On the first day, 50 women enrolled as members. The first Centre Organiser was Mrs Beatrice Hoare, Mayoress of Margate.



Mrs Beatrice Hoare,  
Mayoress of Margate 1940/41 and 1941/42

The Margate WVS got off to a fine start with a gift of hundreds of pairs of boots and other articles of clothing donated by the American Red Cross Society. In December 1940, Margate WVS appealed for the use of two motorcars: a smaller one for emergency service and a larger one which could be converted into a mobile canteen for which there was an urgent need.

The Margate WVS acted under the authority of the former Margate Corporation and went on to do sterling work throughout the war in not only knitting, sewing and mending but also helping in the evacuation of children, the collection of salvage and organising help to families who had been bombed out, supplying them with clothing, food and re-homing them, plus much, much more.

In July 1966, HM The Queen granted the WVS the great honour of adding 'Royal' to their title thus becoming the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS). □



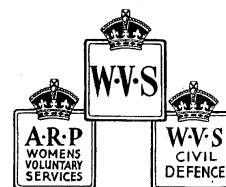
G. P. Hoare's shop at 12 The Parade c.1920  
(Premises now occupied by the Visitor Information Centre)



The grave of George Philip Hoare and of his wife Beatrice Mary Hoare in Margate Cemetery



The inscription on the Hoare family headstone in Margate Cemetery



# Sea Tower faces demolition

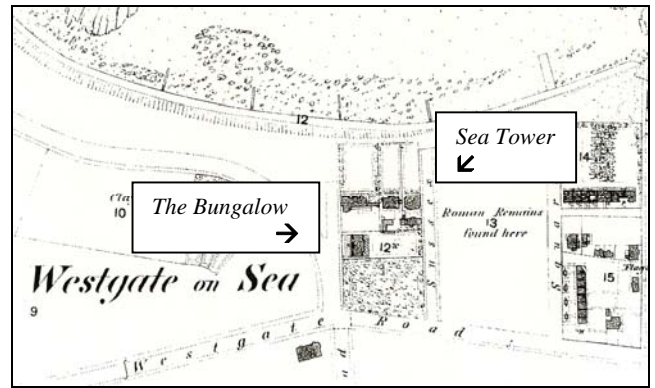


Sea Tower today – but not for much longer!

Of the four original ‘bungalows’ between Sea Road and Sussex Gardens at Westgate, only *Sea Tower* still remains – but probably not for much longer. On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005, Thanet District Council gave planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and the erection of 14 self-contained flats. So, yet another of Westgate’s fine old historic buildings will almost certainly be lost despite a last-minute protest by a number of residents seeking its preservation including an eleventh-hour application for the building to be listed. There is some confusion as to whether the four original houses – all by the noted London-based architect John Taylor were all ‘bungalows’. Certainly, Sir Erasmus Wilson’s home – known as *The Bungalow* and built in 1869 – was the very first ‘bungalow’ to be built in Britain and pre-dates any of the ‘bungalows’ that were built in Birchington in the early 1870s. The 1872 Ordnance Survey map clearly shows four dwellings on the land between Sussex Gardens and Sea Road. Early prints also clearly show two tower bungalows; one of which is *Sea Tower*. It is believed that the name of the other tower bungalow was *Cliff Lodge*. It is also believed that *Cliff Lodge* was demolished around 1898 as part of the works carried out by Sir William Ingram in the 1890s when he made extensive additions to Sir Erasmus Wilson’s original bungalow.

When *Sea Tower* – sometimes described as a mock Indian palace – was built in 1869, it was a very prominent building overlooking St Mildred’s Bay (as can be seen from the two prints reproduced alongside this article). In recent years, however, the area of land between Sea Road and Sussex Gardens and the St Mildred’s Hotel site has been extensively developed with a number of high-rise developments which now dwarf *Sea Tower*.

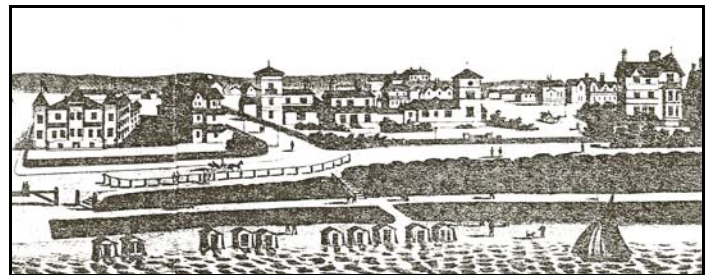
It is believed that the architect’s plan for the proposed development of the *Sea Tower* site provides for a replacement tower to be incorporated in the design. Such provision would sympathetically retain perhaps the most important design feature of the property to be demolished. If *Sea Tower* falls, let us hope that no changes to the plan are made before the new building is completed. □



Westgate’s Tower Bungalows as shown on the 1872 Ordnance Survey Map



Westgate’s Tower Bungalows from the sea at St Mildred’s Bay - 1876 (Sea Tower is the Italianate-style detached villa to the left of the centre of the picture)



The view of Westgate’s Tower Bungalows c. 1896 showing St Mildred’s Hotel (built in 1883) and Sussex Mansions. When compared with the earlier view, little seems to have changed during those 20 years! Soon, the last of those Tower Bungalows will probably fall and a bit more of Westgate’s history will be lost forever. The names of the three other original ‘bungalows’ were The Bungalow, Sea Lawn and Cliff Lodge



This 1950s photograph shows – left to right – Sea Tower, Sea Lawn and Rowena Court Hotel which was built on to The Bungalow by Sir William Ingram in the 1890s for his own use (Sir William Ingram had bought The Bungalow in 1887)



# Thanet District Council to provide funds to restore two war memorials in Margate

The Council has recently pledged to set aside the sum of £45,000 over the next five years in order to carry out urgent repairs to four memorials in Thanet. Two of those memorials are the Bourner Memorial Fountain (on the Queen's Promenade opposite Second Avenue, Cliftonville) and the All Saints' Church War Memorial at Westbrook. The other two memorials to be repaired are both in Ramsgate. A survey of 29 memorials throughout Thanet was carried out by the Council in 2005 and it is very good news that the Council has recognised the need for these urgent repairs to be made to these important environmental features.



The Bourner Memorial Fountain was erected by Councillor Arthur Bourner in memory of his eldest son, Lieutenant Rowland ("Rowley") Moody Nicholson Bourner

who died on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1918 from wounds received in action in France whilst serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy, Machine Gun Corps. He was aged 27 and his grave is at Wimereux Communal Cemetery – the same cemetery, incidentally, in which Lt John McCrae (who wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields*) is buried. The Bourner Memorial Fountain is of Forest of Dean stone.

When comparing the photographs taken at the unveiling with the picture above showing the fountain today, it can be seen that not only has the superstructure of the fountain been removed but the main pedestal has been replaced with one that is taller than the original. The taller pedestal, combined with the thicker base (which is now circular, but was originally square), has – by raising the level of the bowl – altered the general appearance of the fountain and has resulted in making it aesthetically less attractive than it was originally. In addition, there is large-scale erosion of the pedestal and there are a number of chips to the rim of the bowl.



*The scene at the unveiling of the Bourner Memorial Fountain on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1922  
(Note the original height of the structure)*

The fountain also originally featured Lt Bourner's next-of-kin bronze memorial plaque and the Borough of Margate Coat of Arms. The whereabouts of these features, and of the superstructure with a drinking-cup on a length of chain seen in the photograph of the Mayor below, is unknown. According to the newspaper report on the unveiling of the fountain, Lt Bourner was passionately fond of animals and a place for dogs to drink from was also incorporated into the base of the structure. Again, there is no evidence today of that feature.



*The Mayor, Alderman Harry Smith, taking a drink of water from the Bourner Memorial Fountain at the unveiling ceremony*

Whilst it might be unreasonable to ask for all of the original features to be replaced and for the fountain to once again be a source of drinking water as part of the urgent works to be carried out by the Council, perhaps the Council will endeavour, when carrying out those works, to ensure that the bowl is set at a height from the ground more in keeping with its original height as shown in the photograph at the bottom of the first column.



*All Saints Church  
WWI War Memorial, Westbrook*

The All Saints Church WWI War Memorial is the other memorial that has been identified by the Council as being in need of urgent works. There are cracks in the stone base and there is also a loss to the inscription at the base of the memorial. The memorial was unveiled by Lord Harris on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1921 and Revd David Railton MC, Vicar of Margate, performed

the dedication ceremony. Interestingly, *The East Kent Times* reported at the time that the Union Jack used as an altar cloth in the church on that occasion was the same flag as was associated with the burial of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1920. Society members will be aware that it was David Railton who is credited with the original idea of the Unknown Warrior: an idea now adopted virtually the world over. □



## Book Reviews

Tony Snow recently suggested to me that the new-look Newsletter should include reviews of recently-published books of local interest as a regular feature. It seemed like a good idea but would there really be a sufficient number of new books published to warrant such a feature and, if there were to be such a feature, who would write the reviews. My immediate reaction was that there simply would not be a sufficient number of books published. How wrong I was on that count! Perhaps it was to meet the Christmas demand that at least three books were published in the weeks running up to Christmas and at least two other books were published earlier in the year which also merit mention in this issue. Members are invited to submit their reviews of any other recently-published books which are related to our area for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter.

Four of the books to be reviewed this time are from the same publisher – Michael's Bookshop, 72 King Street, Ramsgate. Although all four are basically reprints of earlier publications, each of the books is reasonably priced and is available at a fraction of the cost of an original edition. Indeed, original copies of some of these books reprinted by Michael's Bookshop are 'as rare as hen's teeth' and would cost considerably more to buy. Michael's Bookshop has now published 27 titles of Thanet interest and a full list of those books is available from the publisher. The four books – all in softback – now reviewed are:

### *The Birchington & Westgate Directory 1900*

48pp A5 format with many photographs, some in colour, ISBN 1-905477-26-0 £3.99

This is a reprint of the Birchington and Westgate sections of *Kelly's Directory of the Isle of Thanet 1899-1900* supplemented by a selection of delightful local photographs depicting life around that time. The book contains a fascinating narrative of the two communities at the end of the nineteenth century and lists a full street directory showing the name of the head of the household at each address. It also contains separate lists in alphabetical order showing the villas and terraces; the private residents; and the commercial undertakings. The photographs are mainly from postcards published in the early 1900s and many are reproduced in colour. This book is a treasure and will appeal to anyone interested in old Birchington and/or old Westgate. At £3.99 it is excellent value for money. Highly recommended.

### *Margate in the Early 1900s: Some Pictures, a Map and a Street Directory for 1900*

92pp A5 format with 8 colour photographs ISBN 1-905477-21-X £4.99

This is a reprint of the Margate section of *Kelly's Directory of the Isle of Thanet 1899-1900* and contains much the same analysis of information as the Birchington & Westgate volume (see above) except that, as the book's title indicates, the Margate reprint volume contains only the street directory and a listing of the villas and terraces in the town: it does not contain either the alphabetical listing of residents nor the listing of commercial undertakings in the town both of which would have been included in the original *Kelly's*. The book's two centre pages are taken up with a super map of the town believed to date from 1906. The map shows the railway lines – and Margate's three railway stations – and the tram line very clearly: it also shows how Margate has expanded over the last hundred years. The book contains a very full description of the Jubilee Clock Tower and describes in much detail the time-ball and the five bells which used to strike on the hour and on each of the quarter hours. The book's eight colour photographs are all reproductions of commercial postcards published in the early 1900s. Like its companion volume, this book will appeal to anyone interested in life in Margate a little over a hundred years ago. At £4.99, this book is excellent value and is highly recommended.

### *A New & Complete History from the earliest records to the present time of the Isle of Thanet – Volume 1* by Edward Wedlake Brayley (originally published 1817) ISBN 1-905477-11-2 £6.99

This book is another reprint from Michael's Bookshop except that it has been printed on A4 paper and folded vertically (rather than horizontally which would have produced A5 size) and each page of the reprint contains two pages from the original book. This form of presentation has resulted in a 112-page publication which, presumably, had it been printed in A5 format would have resulted in twice that number of pages and necessitated a more expensive form of binding. The reprint contains numerous copies of delightful engravings of local views by William Deeble as originally printed and, at £6.99, is very good value and recommended.

### *Picture of Margate and its Vicinity* by W. C. Oulton (originally published 1820)

ISBN 1-905477-20-1 £4.99

This reprint has also been printed in the same format as the book reviewed immediately above. Although the book was originally published only three years after Brayley's, much of the information contained in this book is quite different from that on Margate contained in Brayley's. The reprint of *Picture of Margate* contains 80 pages (equivalent to twice that number as originally published) and many most interesting engravings of local views. At £4.99 this book is highly recommended to lovers of old Margate.

(Note: Michael's Bookshop actually trades as Michaels Bookshop but, as your reviewer is someone who fights for the retention of the apostrophe, he has chosen to insert an apostrophe into the trade name used by the publisher as a matter of principle in each of the above reviews. No offence is intended.)



The fifth book reviewed is:

*Birchington, Now, Then and Gone Forever* by Marian Evans, Stuart Horner and Nick Evans

160pp AF format ISBN 0-954-52524-8 £11.99

This book contains some 150 photographs of Birchington scenes – both old and new. The book takes the reader on a nostalgic trip through old Birchington with many views of buildings sadly no longer standing and little, if any, traffic on the roads. Surprisingly, the book claims that Miss Denning, matron of St Michael's nursing home during the First World War (formerly known as The Thicket) unveiled the village war memorial whereas it was actually unveiled by Lord Harris. That aside, the book contains many interesting photographs which, no doubt, were eagerly poured over in many Birchington homes during the recent Christmas festivities. At £11.99, the book could be considered to be a little expensive.

*Note:*

All prices are shown net of postage and packing. Copies of Michael's Bookshop books are available locally from the Albion Bookshop, Northdown Road and *Birchington, Now, Then and Gone Forever* is available from most local bookshops or by mail order from Stuart Horner, 25 Alpha Road, Birchington CT7 9RG at £14.00 inclusive of postage and packing. □



*The scene at the unveiling by Lord Harris of the Birchington & Acol War Memorial on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 1920. Between the memorial and Lord Harris are (left to right) Mrs Serres (wife of the Vicar of Birchington), Mrs Annie Erlebach (wife of the Principal of Woodford House School) and Mrs Powell-Cotton (wife of Major P. H. G. Powell-Cotton). Mrs Erlebach lost three sons in the First World War: their names are amongst those inscribed on the memorial*

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## The Green Flag Award Scheme

In December, Thanet District Council convened a meeting between a representative of the Civic Trust (our parent body) and the Thanet civic societies with the Parks Department to 'unwrap' the Green Flag Award scheme which is the Civic Trust's response to the Government's Public Parks Initiative.

Your Society is keen to encourage the local authority's efforts to maintain and restore all our public green spaces to the high standards anticipated by this award scheme.

As a start, your Committee have suggested Dane Park, Westgate Gardens (those gardens between Sea Road and the cliff top) and Marine Gardens as being immediately suitable for the development of separate management plans for the long-term maintenance and improvement of those public green spaces.

However, it is intended that every public green space should have its own management plan and Society members can start assessing their own local or adopted green space against the national criteria for Green Flag Award status. Look at your green space, award marks out of 10 and note its 'strengths' and potential for 'improvement'.

The Green Flag Award is judged against eight criteria, they are:

- a welcoming place** (good and safe access; signage; and equal access for all)
- cleanliness and maintenance** (litter; buildings and grounds)
- conservation and heritage** (wildlife, natural features and historic structures);
- marketing** (promotion and interpretation);
- healthy, safe and secure** (play equipment, toilets, cafes, sports facilities and personal security);
- sustainability;**
- community involvement and management.**

Any green space which is freely accessible to the public, and which has a site-specific management plan in place, will be eligible for an application to be made for a Green Flag Award. □

**Steve Vilette**  
Chairman

# Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals' Boundary-Markers in Westbrook and Westgate-on-Sea

The term 'street furniture' covers a very wide of items such as direction signs and public seats; but there are also numerous other examples which could be considered as environmental heritage features – and which sometimes are of historic importance. This article looks at two specimens of such a heritage feature: one in Westbrook and the other in Westgate. It is important that these features remain in place and are not removed in any 'improvement' works carried out in the future by anybody.

The two features are cast-iron boundary-markers believed to have been originally positioned in 1836 by the Trustees of the Bridewell Hospital and/or the Bethlem Hospital (*see note below*). Of course, in those days the whole area would have been cornfields and it is likely that both of the boundary-markers illustrated in this article would have been re-positioned upon the making up of the roads.

The first boundary-marker can be found on the corner of Pembroke Avenue and Royal Esplanade, just to the left of the left-hand support of the road-sign. It can be seen from the two photographs of this marker that the top of the marker is at pavement level.



The second boundary-marker can be found in Station Road (south side), Westgate near the junction with Saxon Road.

This second marker differs from the first in that the top of this marker now stands some six inches above the level of the pavement. The marker is the same diameter as the first but, as can be seen from this photograph, it was cast from a different mould. Both markers are now painted black.



*BH boundary-marker at the junction of Station Road, Westgate with Saxon Road*



*BH boundary-marker at the junction of Pembroke Avenue with Royal Esplanade*

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*Note: Up until the 1930s, much of the land in Westbrook was owned by the Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals in London and many of the roads on the Westbrook Estate were named after eminent personalities associated with those hospitals. An article on these road names will be included in a future Newsletter.*  
 +++++

It is considered most likely that there were, originally, more than just these two BH markers sited in the Westbrook and Westgate areas and it is quite possible that other BH markers can still be found today. If any members are aware of any more markers, please do let us know as we would be very pleased to learn of them.

As the two known markers are on public pavements, it is likely that they are now owned by Kent County Council as the local highway authority. Originally, of course, they were owned by the Bridewell Hospital and/or the Bethlem Hospital as owners of the land when the markers were originally put in place.

Do you know of any other interesting heritage features in our area? If so, a short article for a future issue of the Newsletter would be very welcome. Perhaps the above article could be the first of a series of such articles drawing attention to further examples of such features before they, like so many of the fine Victorian houses that once lined our roads, are condemned to the scrap-heap in the interests of 'development' and so-called progress. □



## **What's on**

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

Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2006	“The Thanet Coast Project” by Alistair Bruce
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2006	“RNLI, Lifeboats and the Margate Branch” by Michael J. Baker, Operations Manager
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2006	“Safety in the Home: How not to get conned and Fire Prevention” by Terry McCormick

### **Other organisations:**

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

17 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	“British Surrealism” by Andrew Causey, Professor of Modern Art History, University of Manchester
28 <sup>th</sup> February 2006	“Coast Projects Commissioned by Firstsite” by Lyndall Phelps, Project Manager, Commissions East
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2006	“Sea Themes” by Sue Jones, Independent Curator, Ramsgate
25 <sup>th</sup> April 2006	“St Ives School” by Chris Stevens, Curator, Tate Britain

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

16 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	“Faversham’s four ‘B’s – Brewing, Brickmaking, Barges and the Big Bang (Gunpowder)” by Margaret Burns
20 <sup>th</sup> February 2006	“The Victoria Cross and its many anomalies” by Lt-Col Mike Martin
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2006	“Hellfire Corner – 20 <sup>th</sup> Century of the Kent Coast” by John L. Grimwood (AGM starts at 7.00pm)
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2006	“Old Ramsgate” by Brian Fagg, followed by light refreshments

*Kent Family History Society [Thanet Branch](talks all start at 8.00pm at Birchington Village Centre):*

18 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	“Dad’s Army in East Kent” by David Collyer
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2006	“Genealogy and Genetics” by Geoff Swinfield
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2006	“Kent 1800-1899” by Bob Ogley
19 <sup>th</sup> April 2006	“Comedy of Errors” by Richard Ratcliffe

*Birchington Heritage Trust (meetings start at 7.30pm at Birchington Village Centre, Alpha Road):*

27 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	“Wine & Wisdom” evening
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2006	“Grandmother’s Shopping-Basket” by Miss Felicity Stafford MPhil, BA(Hons)

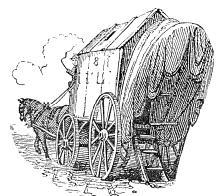
(Note: Arrangements are in hand for a guided walk around the Mill Lane and Mill Row area of Birchington in early May 2006)

### **Useful telephone numbers:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Phone No.</b>	<b>Contact name/Notes</b>
Margate Museum, The Old Town Hall, Market Place	231213	Bob Bradley, Curator
Margate Public Library – Local Studies Collection	223626	Tuesdays 2.00pm to 6.00pm, Fridays 2.00pm to 6.00pm and the first Saturday each month
Birchington Heritage Trust Museum, Birchington Library	846502	Monday mornings only, 9.30 to 12. 00
Birchington Parish Archivist	842988	Jennie Burgess
Margate Historical Society	227574	Mick Twyman, Secretary
Isle of Thanet Historical Society	835587	Barry Hopper, Chairman
Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society	07906 360725	Val Robbins, Secretary
Kent Family History Society (Thanet Branch)	842933	Cliff Cole
Draper’s Windmill Trust	226227	David Keep, Chairman
Margate Cemetery Trust	230274	Vera Jenkins
Margate Lifeboat Fund-Raising Committee	832846	Laurie Walton, Treasurer
Friends of Quex	842040	Edna Elvin, Secretary
Friends of the Theatre Royal Margate	293397	David Rankin, Secretary
Turner Contemporary	280261	Victoria Pomery, Director
The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House, Birchington	842168	Museum closed during winter months
The Shell Grotto, Grotto Hill, Margate	220008	Sarah Vickery
Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Museum	821940	Museum closed during winter months
Cliftonville Residents’ Association	226033	Keith Chadband, Chairman
Westgate & Westbrook Residents’ Association	295326	Sylvie Nicholls, Treasurer

### **Special exhibition at Margate Museum**

Don’t forget to visit the special exhibition at Margate Museum to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The exhibition is entitled “Doing their Bit – The Home Front in East Kent” and runs until April 2006. Don’t miss it.





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

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

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

**Committee for 2005/06** – as elected at the Society's Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005:

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

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

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

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

**Treasurer:** Mrs Phil Johnson MBE  
14 Sherwood Court, Dent-de-Lion Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8NU (Tel: 831469)

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

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

**Other Committee Members:**  
Mr Jack Pilcher, 7 Queen Bertha's Avenue, Birchington CT7 9BH (Tel: 833767)  
Mr Garry Cowans, Flat 3, 21 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate (Tel: 221938)  
Mrs Margaret Main, 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN  
Mrs Daphne Rowley, "Spring Cottage", 11 Pembroke Avenue, Westbrook, Margate (Tel: 292089)

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

**Enrolment Form**

I enclose the sum of £ .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Tel:** .....

**Subscription rates for 2005/06:**

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

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