

Margate Civic Society

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Registered Charity No. 257884



Winter 2009
Newsletter
Issue No. 357

"The love of our town leads us"

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb
Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st October 2009. If you have not renewed your subscription, please note that this issue of the Newsletter will be the last one that you will receive. To ensure that you do receive future issues of the Newsletter without interruption, please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary, 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN. The subscription rates for the current year are shown on the back page of the Newsletter. □

Garry Cowans
Membership Secretary



We wish all our members a very Happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year



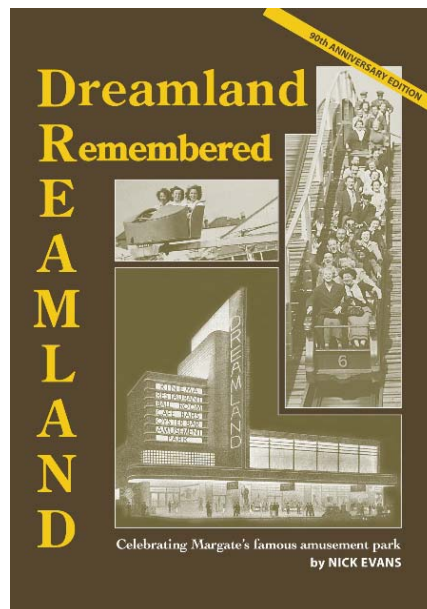
A number of changes to our Committee took place at our Annual General Meeting held on 1st October at the Walpole Bay Hotel. Firstly, Pamela Pople was elected as our Chairman following Margaret Main's departure from our shores to start a new life with her family in Florida, USA. And secondly, Elaine Phillips was elected as our Secretary following Tony Snow's decision not to seek re-election after a good number of years in that role (as well as performing numerous other tasks in support of the Society for more years than I care to remember). Pamela and Elaine both served on the Committee before taking up their newly elected roles and I am sure that the Society will continue to flourish under their leadership and guidance. For the benefit of those members who have not met our new Chairman, Pamela has very kindly written a profile of herself which is published on page 3 of this Newsletter.

It is very pleasing that this Newsletter contains three very different articles from Barrie Smith, Laura Sandys, Mandy Wilkins and Robin Fleet. Further articles have already been promised by other contributors for inclusion in future Newsletters which is most encouraging. However, a change of computer operating system, used for the production of the Newsletter, has resulted in some minor technical production problems in this issue. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Book Review

Dreamland Remembered by Nick Evans
Published by Bygone Publishing at £15.99
ISBN 978-0-9545252-3-1



I am sure that those of you who were present at our Annual General Meeting in October will remember the very entertaining talk and slide-show on Dreamland given by Nick Evans and his mention of the book that he was about to publish.

Having had the opportunity (whilst on holiday) to read it from cover to cover, I can

thoroughly recommend this latest edition of *Dreamland Remembered* as a 'must have' book containing nearly 250 illustrations and revised text that is right up to date. It is much more than just a coffee-table book being so fascinating that I could hardly put it down. The sort of book you never want to finish. A real treat. □

Tony Snow

Good news for the Dreamland Trust

It has recently been announced that a grant of £3.7 million has been awarded to the Dreamland Trust from the government's Sea Change Programme for revitalising the nation's coastal towns. It is understood that this grant is the largest yet awarded from the Sea Change Programme and is additional to the £500,000 already granted to the Trust from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is reported that the grant of £3.7 million will go towards the £12.4 million needed to start Phase I of Dreamland's redevelopment which will include the repairs of the Grade II listed scenic railway as the main feature of an amusement park of heritage rides. Importantly, the scheme includes the renovation of the Grade II* listed Dreamland Cinema. It is hoped that the heritage amusement park will open to the public in 2011. □

Jack Pilcher
28th April 1925 – 5th October 2009



I was very sad when, in early October 2009, I learned that Jack had died. Sad because he was no longer with us but it brought back memories of just how important Jack was to Margate Civic Society.

A few years ago, some of us felt that the Society was really in the doldrums. So three of us got together (Jack, Ralph Handscomb and me) and we resolved to make an all-out effort to raise the profile of our organisation. Jack handled the work of several people being Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Distributor and Delivery Boy all at the same time! Admittedly, the task was made somewhat easier with the help of his charming wife, Anne.

Jack's effort was a major contribution to the establishment of the very successful Society that we have today and we should thank our lucky stars that somebody so willing and able as Jack was there to help us along the way.

Margate Civic Society is much the poorer for his passing. □

Tony Snow

Jack Pilcher
– another personal tribute

Jack joined Margate Civic Society shortly after retiring from the Post Office at the age of 65. It was not long afterwards before Jack was persuaded by the late Dr Alan Kay to join the Committee. Indeed, Jack served on the Committee for eleven years before standing down a little over a year ago. During his time on the Committee, Jack held a number of positions – often holding more than one position at a time. Shortly after joining the Committee, I found myself elected to the position of Newsletter Editor. It was at that stage that I fully appreciated the huge amount of work that Jack put in each time arranging the distribution of the Newsletter to our members. I should also add that Jack was ably assisted in that task by his delightful wife, Anne.

Fortunately for the Society, Jack had the foresight a couple of years ago to look for someone to take over from him and to show his successor how he successfully co-ordinated the distribution of the Newsletters by the area-distributors. As a Society, we are indeed fortunate in having such members come forward and give up their time for the Society so freely. And, of course, that sentiment goes to everyone who serves on the Committee or serves as an area-distributor.

Farewell Jack, we shall miss you and your encyclopaedic knowledge of the byways of our town. Our condolences go to Anne, to their two daughters and to their seventeen grandchildren at this sad time. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Margate Museum

There is still no news of the re-opening of our museum although there is a rumour that the exhibits might be relocated in the proposed Dreamland complex at some future date. But can the town afford to wait that long?

Unveiling of painting in memory of Penny Ward

On Thursday 9th November, I was invited to go at 6.30pm to the Margate Library where, after many years, a painting of Margate Harbour was to be unveiled in memory of Penny Ward.

Penny died on 2nd April 1998, she was only 53. At the time, she was custodian of the archives in both Margate and Ramsgate libraries. A memorial fund was opened and many friends and family contributed. It was years later that the fund of £907.10 came to light and the trustees of the fund commissioned a local painter Peter White to produce a painting.

Penny was a translator of Russian and spent many of her holidays in that country. Her main love was local history and she was a long-standing member of our Society and for a time was Secretary. For a short time, was also a trustee of the Powell-Cotton Museum.

Among those present at the ceremony were Penny's brother, Rod Ward; former colleague, Hazel Halse; and retired librarian, Iris Huckstep, who all made short speeches.

The painting can be seen on the top floor of Margate Library in the local studies area. □

Ralph Handscomb
President

Our new Chairman – Pamela Pople – introduces herself to you

Originally from Harrow, I came to live in Thanet eight and a half years ago – although have been visiting Margate since I was born – when my grandparents retired to the area. I have fond memories of spending happy carefree days on Westbrook Sands and visiting Dreamland not only during my childhood but also with my children when they were young.

I have 20 years' vocational teaching experience, the last three of which were spent at The Ramsgate School but, five years ago, I decided to leave teaching in order to retrain in Community Development at Thanet Community Development Trust.

I was initially funded by the Local Schemes Grant but for the past two years have been funded by the Safer Stronger Communities Fund. As Community Development Support Worker for the Cliftonville Partnership – whose members consist of businesses and charitable organisations in the Northdown Road area of Cliftonville – I work in a democratic role, representing the members' views and interests, interacting with Councillors, the Neighbourhood Police Team, Community Wardens, Council personnel, local community groups, residents and other organisations.

The aims of the Cliftonville Partnership are to raise the ethos of Cliftonville, promote the Northdown Road area, encouraging Members to work together and support each other, whilst also assisting to create a safer, more attractive environment for the community as a whole.

I am the 'point of contact' for businesses and organisations and organise local projects and events. I also support local events and provide a link between businesses and local community organisations by encouraging them to work together for the benefit of the area.

Details of the Cliftonville Partnership can also be found on www.cliftonville-partnership.co.uk. This website provides details of all the local businesses and organisations that are members of the Cliftonville Partnership as well as other useful links and information for residents to access. □

Pamela Pople

Correction



In the last issue of the Newsletter it was inaccurately stated that this castellated building in Dreamland Park had been demolished. I am grateful to Nick Evans for drawing attention to this error and I am pleased to report that the building still exists forming part of the Grade II listing of 'Lord' George Sanger's former animal-cages on that site. □

Kent Federation of Amenity Societies



The KFAS produce an 8-page A4-size Bulletin four times a year. Copies of this Bulletin are now available to be sent by e-mail to members of civic societies in Kent free of charge. You will need, of course, an internet connection to take advantage of this availability.

If you wish to register with the KFAS for a copy of their Bulletin to be sent to you each quarter by e-mail, all you have to do is to send a request by e-mail giving your name (mentioning that you are a member of Margate Civic Society) and your e-mail address to:

bulletin@kfas.org.uk

Back-issues of Margate Civic Society Newsletter from Winter 2005 issue now available on-line

The Society has its own website thanks to our member Mike Wilton who kindly set it up for the Society a few years ago and who has maintained it ever since. The website provides much information about the Society and invites visitors to the site to join us.

Earlier this year, our Editor purchased a new computer having the ability to produce copies of our Newsletter as PDF files. This advance in technology means that back-issues of the Newsletter can be put on our website allowing them to be accessed by anyone with an internet connection. Importantly, the back-issues show the pictures in colour. The transformation from monochrome to colour really is quite amazing. To see these back-issues, go to the Society's website www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk and simply click on 'Newsletter Archive' on the website's Home Page. You will not be disappointed. □

Margate's Victorian Letter-Boxes

Standard letter-boxes in the UK are normally one of three different types. Firstly, there is the well-known pillar-box, varying in size, but easily identifiable. Secondly, the wall-box; this is set into a wall, or occasionally a specially-built brick pillar; as a result the box has a front, but no sides or back. A lamp-box, on the other hand, is designed to be fixed on to a post or pedestal and so has four sides plus a top and bottom. Confusingly, lamp-boxes are sometimes built into a wall, so that only the front is visible.

The first pillar-boxes in the Margate area date back to the Victorian era, to the final years of the 19th century. There are eight of these in Margate. Two of these are in the High Street and one in Northdown Parade. Four more are to be found in Cliftonville, on or just off Northdown Road. The final box is on the Ramsgate Road, just near the Victoria traffic lights: it is no longer in use, having been replaced by an EIIR box. However, the Victorian pillar-box still stands, with its history, on a plate. This shows that the box started its life in 1903 in Helena Avenue. In 1935, it moved to Buckingham Road and, finally in 1977, to its present position. It was sealed off in 1997. There seems to be an unwritten agreement between English Heritage and the Royal Mail that old historic boxes should if possible be left in situ. However, this does not always work – as in the recent case of the box in Broadstairs, which was eventually listed by Thanet District Council to prevent its removal by the Royal Mail. Another Victorian pillar-box in the Margate area is on the junction of Sea Road and Rowena Road in Westgate.

All these boxes were made by the Derby firm of Andrew Handyside & Co. The maker's name usually appears on



Victorian pillar-box at junction of Sea Road and Rowena Road, Westgate

the black-painted area near the base of the box. The Handyside Co's output varied from cast-iron garden ornaments to railway bridges, from post-boxes and lamp-posts to pre-fabricated markets. They produced over four-hundred bridges for the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway. Trent Bridge in Nottingham and the Albert Bridge in London are two of their most famous products. Others were Liverpool and Manchester Central Stations and Olympia, Earls Court. Handyside's granddaughter lives in Broadstairs and was involved in the recent campaign to save the Broadstairs box. Although Andrew Handyside died in 1887, the company continued to manufacture

pillar-boxes until 1910 and wall- and lamp-boxes right up to 1932.

Victorian wall-boxes are to be found in Westgate (The Grove) and Birchington (at the junction of Alpha Road and Epple Road). Both of these were designed by W T Allen & Co of London. The slightly earlier wall-box of



Victorian wall-box at The Grove, Westgate

1879 at Minster Station was made by the Eagle Foundry of Birmingham. A variation can be seen in the wall of the house which was until recently the Monkton sub-post office. This type of box, known as a Ludlow-box, only exists in the walls of sub-post offices. The posting aperture is on the outside, with a white enamel plate, but the door for emptying the box is on the inside. Just round the corner from this box is an old cottage, site of an even earlier post office, with an early non-standard box, no longer in use. It, too, has a white enamel plate stating

that "Letters which contain coin will, if posted as ordinary letters, be charged on delivery with a special registration fee of eightpence". This could well be Thanet's oldest box.



Victorian lamp-box at Flete Farm

The only Victorian lamp-box to be seen locally is at Flete Farm, in Vincent Road, near Manston. This is built into the wall of a barn and is no longer in use. Its lifespan stretched from 1903 to 1996. There is now a larger, more modern letter-box nearby. A later box of the same type, but with a GR cipher, stands in Shottendane Road. Both these boxes were made by Handyside & Co. □

(Note: These letter-boxes were all in place in 2004 when I did a survey. It is possible, though unlikely, that some have since been moved, been sealed off or been replaced.)

The Civic Movement – a new Era of Action and Results

Members will be aware that Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart sadly passed away last year. Before his elevation to the House of Lords, he had served as Chairman of Kent County Council for a number of years. At the time of his untimely death, he held the highly-regarded position as President of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies (KFAS). Margate Civic Society member Laura Sandys was subsequently appointed to succeed him as President of the KFAS: she had previously served as a Deputy Chairman of the Civic Trust which organisation sadly went into administration earlier this year due to lack of funds.

Laura Sandys's father, Lord Duncan Sandys, was one of the original founders of the Civic Trust in 1956. In this timely article, Laura Sandys writes on the Civic Society Initiative, the successor body set up earlier this year with the support of the National Trust, the Campaign to Protect Rural England and other organisations to ensure a future for the civic society movement throughout the country. Laura Sandys very kindly accepted an invitation to write this article for the benefit of our members. - Editor

The Margate Civic Society has always been a highly vocal and strong voice for the local community and is recognized for its determination to improve and protect the heritage of our beautiful town. But for many years at national level, the civic movement has lost its voice and has not been able to counter the raft of legislation that has been passed. Top-down housing targets, back gardens designated as 'brown-field sites' and an appeal process that overturns local democratic decision-making, have all made the Margate Civic Society's life more difficult.

However, change is on its way and I am so very pleased to be playing a part in the development of a new and reinvigorated civic movement – named the Civic Society Initiative. At a Kent-wide meeting organised by the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, the Margate Civic Society and Thanet's other civic societies contributed to help define this new organisation. From that meeting – and others around the country – the Civic Society Initiative is on its way to become a real voice for local societies reflecting your needs, and serving our movement generally.

The future holds some really important opportunities for the movement – opportunities but also challenges that we will have to face and for which we will have to be ready.

Localism is the new political catch-phrase – bringing decision-making down to the town, village and community – but what do politicians mean when around us we have never seen so much centralization – decisions taken out of YOUR hands and put into THEIR hands? Rhetoric and language are not enough – there needs to be big changes in where power lies.



Laura Sandys at the Lido site, Cliftonville, Margate

The civic movement can and needs to be at the centre of localism. With over 250,000 members nationally, we have more members than any political party. We have common aims whatever political persuasion. We are united in our pride and love for our communities and will fight to protect them.

This is a really powerful force. One government minister said to me about the new movement: "If you got each of your members to write individually to a Secretary of State about a key issue they would have to listen. 250,000 with a common vision and a common aim would be impossible to ignore!"

The power is in your hands: it is now for you to decide how to use it! And that is why I am here to commend the Civic Society Initiative.

The new grassroots-based organization aims to perform three key functions: firstly, to support the civic societies through information and ideas; secondly, to provide a strong national voice to protect and secure sustainable development of our communities; and thirdly, to provide us with a stronger presence locally through pressure nationally.

This is an important moment for the civic movement – for you and for me to ensure that our voice is heard clearly and that decision-makers, at all levels, start to realise that the civic societies are at the heart of the community and its future.

I know that the Margate Civic Society will be discussing the Civic Society Initiative over the next few months and I hope that you will support the development of this strong national movement to ensure that we are not ignored as an important force within our communities. □

Laura Sandys
President of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies

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For more information on this new civic movement, visit their website: www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk

For information on the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, visit their website: www.kfas.org.uk

The Nayland Rock Shelter

An article on the possible listing of the Nayland Rock promenade shelter was featured in the Spring 2009 issue of the Newsletter (No. 354). Credit was given in that article to the tireless efforts of Nick Dermott, TDC's local Heritage Advisor, in seeking to achieve the listing of this fine Edwardian shelter. Thanks to Nick Dermott's efforts – and to Mandy Wilkins's detective work – the shelter has now been granted Grade II status. In the following article, Mandy Wilkins very kindly tells the story – especially for our members – of TS Eliot's role in achieving that Grade II listing.



The work of an historical researcher is always interesting and challenging, however, in the three years that I have worked as a researcher to Thanet District Council, few tasks have been quite as testing as the request to find a link between the shelter and TS Eliot and his hugely influential poem *The Waste Land*, in order to support the listing application the Council wished to make.

This was always going to be difficult. Firstly, although the poem contained the lines:

*On Margate Sands
I can connect
Nothing with nothing.*

(*The Waste Land* 1922... The Collected Poems, Faber and Faber 2002)

this did not prove that TSE wrote these lines at the shelter and, secondly, proof was needed to identify that the Nayland Rock shelter was the shelter referred to.

We do know that TSE stayed at the Albemarle Hotel, Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, in October/November 1921 recovering from a nervous breakdown but the problem was how to find a reference in his work that tied it in with the shelter. My first port of call was Frances Dickey, Historian to the TS Eliot Society in America, which turned out to be a most fruitful move. Ms Dickey suggested contacting Hugh Haughton, Professor of English at the University of York and editor – with Mrs Valerie Eliot – of the recently-published Volume 2 of TS Eliot's letters. Professor Haughton's reply to my request was outstanding in that he furnished the exact quote needed, taken from a letter TSE wrote to his friend Sydney Schiff from the Albemarle Hotel on 4th November 1921, which reads:

*I have done a rough draft of Part III (of *The Waste Land*), but do not know whether it will do, and must wait for Vivien's opinion as to whether it is printable. I have done this while sitting in a shelter on the front – as I am out all day except when taking a rest. But I have written only some fifty lines, and have read nothing, literally – I*

sketch people, after a fashion, and practise scales on the mandolin.

(*The Letters of TS Eliot* ed. Valerie Eliot, Faber and Faber 1988 p.485)

The answer to the authenticity of the shelter was suggested by Nick Dermott, Heritage Advisor to Thanet District Council, when asked this exact question by an interested party. I quote:

Between Buenos Ayres in the west and the Winter Gardens in the east there are only three seaside shelters (which were also there in 1921) that could qualify. The Nayland Rock shelter of c1910, the Albert Terrace shelter (sometimes known as the Marine Drive shelter – Ed.) of c1910 and the Fort Hill shelter of c1900, rebuilt in the 1950s. The tram passed all three so it rather comes down as to which has the most direct connection with Margate Sands.

Although the Fort Hill shelter had a fine view of both the Jetty (the seaside pier – now gone) and the stone pier, its view of the sands is/was oblique in the extreme. The Albert Terrace shelter is on the land side of the road from both the promenade and the sands, and is low down with the sea-wall on the sands side of the road obscuring the view. The Nayland Rock shelter is in an elevated position and from it you can see the entirety of the beach. I feel that it must be the last – Eliot says 'sitting in a shelter on the front'.

Armed with this proof, plus other relevant information, Thanet District Council put together a comprehensive 'Supporting Information to Listing Application' document. It was then felt that I should approach various influential people who would, hopefully, offer their support.

It was thought that this would not only add a certain *gravitas* to the application but would help publicise the plight of the shelter were it to remain unlisted. The response was amazing: Alan Bennett; the then-Poet Laureate Andrew Motion; and Valerie Eliot, among others, all wrote in support. In addition, both local and national press gave the story extensive coverage.

The application was submitted and we were encouraged to hear that it had been very well received. We then waited for some months before we heard on 9th October 2009 that the Nayland Rock shelter had been granted Grade II status. Naturally, we were delighted that such an iconic structure was now protected and as Andrew Motion pointed out in his letter to us 'the survival of the Victorian [sic] shelter in which TS Eliot wrote part of *The Waste Land* is a minor miracle.' □

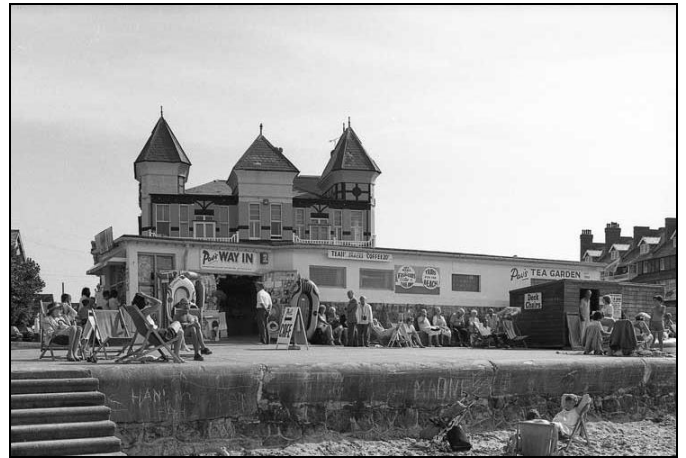
Mandy Wilkins BA (Hons) History

The Story of Pav's Tea Gardens, St Mildred's Bay, Westgate-on-Sea from 1950 to the present day

The Pav's story started in 1950 when J. Arthur Rank decided to close Denham Studios which at that time was the largest film studio in the country and the chief-executive controlling all the films made there was my Dad, Herbert Smith.¹

Herbert was truly miffed by the Rank decision so he came to Thanet and played golf at North Foreland golf course. At this time, my mother Pamela – known as Pav – wanted something to do, so Herbert bought a lease on the wooden café situated in St Mildred's Bay from the one-time actress and freeholder Vanda Gréville² who lived in the coast guards cottage in Old Boundary Road, Westgate.

So the business was called Pav's Tea Gardens, now known as Pav's Café. My mother often told the story of how she knew so little about such a business that she was hit in the tummy the first time she tried to put money in the till when the drawer sprang open! The first season was quite successful with lots of evening business as, in those days, people would sit out in the trellised garden listening to the music of Joe Blake playing in the St Mildred's dance hall opposite.



Pav's Café as seen from the sands c.1978 (Note the former Assembly Rooms behind the café where Joe Blake and his band performed in the 1950s and 1960s when the Assembly Rooms formed part of St Mildred's Hotel)

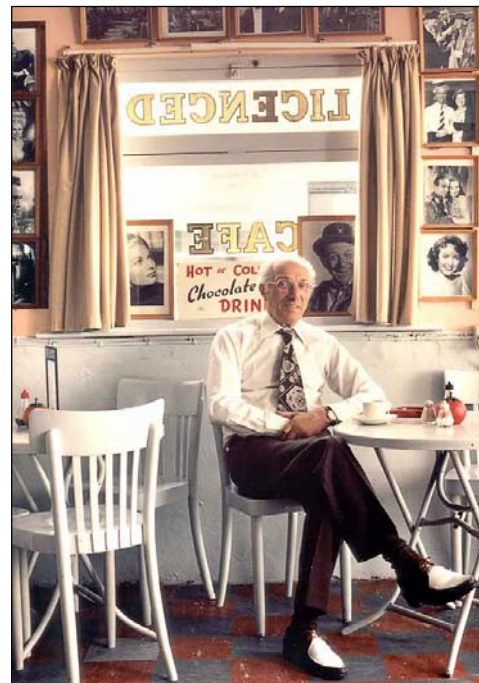
Herbert had many film still-photos of the stars he had worked with after 40 years in the film business and he had frames made so that the photos could be displayed in the café. Most of the pictures were signed and dedicated to him. His friends, like Peter Rogers who was making the *Carry On* series of films at Pinewood, kept the collection updated and, over the years, the whole of the interior walls were covered with the movie-stars. They can still be seen on Herbert's memorial website at www.frenchpix.com/herbert.html.



Pamela (known to all as 'Pav'), her husband, Herbert Smith, and Gwen Hurrell welcoming customers at the counter of Pav's Café in the 1970s

During the winter of 1953, there was the terrible storm which hit the south-east coast of England and it was pretty bad in the Margate area. Pav's newly-acquired wooden café was pretty much flattened and the ice-cream fridges where last seen floating out to sea.

A local builder, Charlie Predith, was commissioned to rebuild the café in brick this time and plans were drawn up and approved. The building is much as it is now with a walled garden, a storage shed at the end of the garden and the "tea room" inside with large glass-brick windows giving light on the seaside.



A dapper Herbert welcomes customers to Pav's Café surrounded by signed pictures of the movie-stars of the 1950s and 1960s which covered the walls

The café was a huge success throughout the 1950s and '60s. Herbert loved the contact with the public and they loved him. He would tell stories about the stars he worked with and the films they made from the twenties till he stopped temporarily in 1950.



A crowded St Mildred's Bay in the 1950s

(Note the former seaplane slipway which was popular with sunbathers until it was demolished by Thanet District Council in the 1980s)

In those days, the British seaside was the place everyone went for their holidays. Customers would fill the local hotels and B&Bs for two-week holidays from the Midlands and they came back every year. At weekends, I well remember making 1,000 toffee-apples in the shed in the mornings and all were gone by the evening. That was four boxes of apples and I do not remember how many pounds of sugar, but all had to be stuck with a wooden stick, dipped and wrapped once they had cooled on a buttered marble-slab. I used to make about 50-60 in one boiling of two pounds of sugar, so 20 boilings a day. It took from early morning to lunchtime with a constant threat of wasp-stings as the sweet smell brought wasps from all around. In the afternoon, I would get promoted to making candy-floss which was a much better job right on the seafront where I could chat with the girls.



The outside seating-area at Pav's Café c1979

There were several groups of young lads in St Mildred's Bay. The deck-chair lads, who worked for the council: the likes of Tony Gale, John ("Bunny") Norman and Graham ("Gilly") Potter. Then there were the Pedalos which were on hire for a quick trip round the bay if calm enough. Working with the Pedalos was a plum job as in good weather you were in the water with the bathing beauties.

In poor weather, you had nothing to do but got paid all the same. Then there were Alf Brown's donkeys that were thrilling the younger visitors with rides up and down the sands. Alf was often helped by his very tall son, Terry, who sported long sideburns as I remember. Other characters included the old fisherman, Bill Miller, who used to row the children round the bay for 6d. in his fishing boat.



The deck-chair lads c1959, left to right: John ("Bunny") Norman, Tony Gale, Robin ("Cheesy") Reid and Nik Turner (later of Hawkwind fame)

All these chaps would come into the café every day for a free cuppa, sometimes twice, Herbert looked after the local lads and they loved him for it. In the winter of 1956, Herbert had a call from an old colleague who enticed him back into the film business again and he was off like a shot. He made *The Tommy Steele Story* for Sidney Box which was a huge financial success and that was followed by five other films through to 1960.

By this time, Herbert and Pav had rented the café at Joss Bay as well as the St Mildred's Bay café. They had both for about seven seasons when it became too much so they just kept Westgate which had now been purchased from Vanda Gréville. After making the movie of the TV programme *Six-Five Special*, Herbert purchased the dresses from the film props department and had all the café girls dressed in the same glamorous uniform, it might have been the finest season, 1959!



Pav and Herbert with the class of 1958

There were many members of staff who so enjoyed the fun of working at the café during the summer seasons that they came back year after year and became like members of the family. People – in no particular order – such as Gwen Hurrell, Colin Bagge, Martin Phillips, Steven and Bill Southgate, Robin Myring, Jocelyn Phillips, Nick Pinkham and Olive Bland. One day, a chap arrived from the local labour-exchange named Malcolm Dick. Malcolm had been incarcerated for many years at Chartham Hospital for psychiatric patients. My Dad asked what he had been doing for a job and he explained he had been in the psychiatric hospital. Herbert asked if he had a certificate to say he was now sane. Malcolm replied: “Yes”. Herbert said: “Well, you must be saner than me because I do not have one” immediately putting the nervous Malcolm at ease. Malcolm worked at the café for more than twenty seasons: a splendid chap.



Malcolm Dick with Herbert

Also, we had wonderful relations with some of our suppliers. John Keel and George da Costa would sell us beach goods. Herbert always had fun dealing with them trying to extract better prices. Then we had Paul Bailey who supplied the juke-box and pin-ball machines. Paul is still a friend who lives in Westbrook. I was in charge of buying the latest records for the juke-box. So, once a week, I would set off to Thornton Bobby’s in Cliftonville to see Phillip Strange and bought about five records from the ‘top ten’. They would play and play, so much so that Herbert was so fed up with hearing them. He would make me take them off the machine. I said: “Dad, that is the big success of the week”. He replied: “I can’t listen to it any more, take it off!” The juke-box was very successful and popular. Paul used to supply us with a new one every season. We mostly had Rock-Ola 1465s, 1468 “Tempo” and AMI/Rowe H & K models, we even had a Seeburg 161 but never a Wurlitzer. I think they must have been just too expensive. Juke-boxes were amazing objects of Americana which we saw in all the cafés. We did not see many American cars but the juke-boxes had the same styling as the cars of that period: beautiful. I even had a customer who wrote to me recently (he is now about 50). He wanted to buy a Rock-Ola juke-box like we had in the café in the ’50s and he wanted to know the model number!

In those days, Pav’s was a very cosmopolitan place as each morning the students from the nearby St Mildred’s

School of English used to come over for their coffee-break. There would be about 70-80 of them arrive at 10.45am and stay for half an hour. Our speciality was fast efficient service and these lovely clients would all be served within seven or eight minutes allowing them to bring a continental flavour to the place every week-day.



Herbert and Jocelyn Phillips.

Other customers returned, got married, bought their kids to see Herbert and they in turn bought their kids to play on the super safe sands of St Mildred’s Bay. Herbert died in 1986. He had enjoyed working and living in Westgate for some 36 years. The café was then sold.



Pin-ball wizards at Pav’s Café c1973

Today, it is still there but much of the old magic is not the same as when Herbert and Pav were there. It was such fun for the customers as well as the staff. Happy Days. □

Notes:

¹ <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0808458/>

² <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0137474/>

Barrie Smith
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Close scrutiny of the shelter, however, reveals that there are, in total, 106 panes of glass in the shelter and that there are actually 29 panes of glass along the centre-length of the shelter as shown in the table below (not 26 as claimed). At first glance, the shelter looks symmetrical. It is only when you look more closely at the spacing of the groups of glazing bars that it becomes clear that the shelter is not absolutely symmetrical. A fact that is evident when one looks at the positioning of the letters making FALSE TEETH. There are actually seven groups which are of three-panes width and two groups which are of four-panes width making a total of 29 panes. Whilst this lack of symmetry might not cause an artist any distress, it does trouble a retired chartered accountant like me! It also challenges the references to the number of teeth and the number of letters in the alphabet. It does not help when both shelters actually date from the Edwardian period rather than from the Victorian period as claimed by Turner Contemporary.

According to Turner Contemporary, the text work in the Marine Drive shelter (DO WE ACCUSE THE COOK...) is:

“ a more direct reference to the Duchampian idea of the ‘ready-made’ artwork; i.e. that of taking something that already exists in the world and representing it. Bethan’s text is a reference to the criticism often levelled at contemporary artists, in particular conceptual artists, that they do not physically ‘make’ the work. Bethan is therefore asking why the same question is not levelled at cooks, for example, who similarly work with existing material and transform it into something else.”

So now you know. □



Turner Contemporary nears reaching its high point



These two pictures record the recent progress made on the construction of the Turner Contemporary gallery. The photograph on the left, with the helpful brown tourist sign, was taken in bright sunshine on 8th October 2009 looking in a north-easterly direction. The photograph on the right was taken from near the top of Fort Hill on 21st November 2009 looking in a westerly direction on a very dull, misty day. Just a few days later, on Tuesday 1st December, a small topping-out ceremony was held at the site to mark the reaching of the building’s highest point. □



What’s on

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| January | No meeting |
| Thursday, 4 th February | ‘The Shell Grotto’ by Sarah Vickery |
| Thursday, 4 th March | ‘The Theatre Royal, Margate’ by Will Wollen (Artistic Director, Theatre Royal) |
| Thursday, 1 st April | ‘Birds, Beasts and Bacchanalia’ by Chris McCooley |
| Thursday, 6 th May | Town Pride Awards followed by a talk and speaker yet to be announced |

Westgate Heritage Centre – Autumn/Winter Programme 2009/10 – Exhibition of historic material together with a short talk given at 11.00am by Dr Dawn Crouch (Curator) on the first Saturday of each month at St Saviour’s Church, Westgate-on-Sea:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Saturday, 9 th January | ‘Let’s go shopping again’ (The ‘new’ shops in Cuthbert Road and St Mildred’s Road) |
| Saturday, 6 th February | ‘The Doon House Estate’ (Mansion, school, British Legion home, nursing home, RC church) |
| Saturday, 6 th March | ‘Westgate – a place for schools’ (Westgate’s top prep schools and their significance) |
| Saturday, 3 rd April | ‘Expanding southwards!’ (Westgate’s post-war growth) |



Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity. 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 2009/10:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 293169)

Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople

Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 221689)

Vice-Chairman: Mr Harry Scobie

45 Cornwall Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JG (Tel: 291298)

Secretary: Ms Elaine Phillips

Flat 1, 9-11 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DW

Treasurer: Mrs Pat Snow

34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG (Tel: 221838)

Membership Secretary: Mr Garry Cowans

32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN (Tel: 221938)

Newsletter Editor: Mr James Brazier

"The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ (Tel: 298038)

Other Committee Members:

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Mrs Daphne Rowley, "Spring Cottage", 11 Pembroke Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EA

Mr Peter Blore, 29 Yoakley Square, Margate CT9 4BA (Tel: 291778)

Mr David Kinnear, 26 Linden Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8BY (Tel: 833394)

Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN (Tel: 228174)

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:

Subscription rates for 2009/10:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual	£6.00	£10.00	50p	£10.00
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and send it to the Membership Secretary (Mr Garry Cowans) 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN