

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Winter 2014
Newsletter
Issue No. 377



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

The recent de-listing by English Heritage of 47/48 and 49/50 Hawley Square, Margate has caused much concern to Margate Civic Society, the Margate Conservation Area Advisory Group (MCAAG) and a number of other environmental bodies over the last few days. For background information on these formerly Grade II listed buildings, see the article on page 11 inside.

As the Newsletter was nearing completion, an e-mail was sent to English Heritage by MCAAG seeking a full explanation as to why there had been no consultation with any of the above-named organisations. In a reply dated 21st November, English Heritage, *inter alia*, wrote:

The fact that the facades remain relatively intact was noted in both instances but does not justify retaining the buildings on the List when so much of the rest of the historic fabric has been lost. It should be emphasised that although listed status has been removed, protection, for the facades in particular, remains due to the inclusion of the buildings in the Margate Conservation Area.

Hopefully, the attractive Georgian facades of both 47/48 and 49/50 Hawley Square will remain notwithstanding that the buildings have been de-listed. Let us hope that lessons will be learned from this unfortunate example of non-consultation and that TDC's 'Heritage Champions' will fulfil their responsibilities to the local area and ensure that all the appropriate bodies are properly consulted with regard to any similar development proposals in the future.

Finally, on a much happier note, I convey a sincere 'thank you' to the Mick Twyman Collection for a number of images of old Margate reproduced in this Newsletter. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Town Pride Awards 2015

Nominations of specific properties in our area are invited from members of our Society for the 2015 Town Pride Awards. All nominations should be submitted to our Chairman, Pamela Pople (see back page for contact details), by not later than 14th February 2015. The results of the Judging Panel will be announced at our meeting to be held on 14th May 2015. □



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



Welcome to new members

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

Gillian Anne Allwright
Jacob Amuli
Lynda Gooda

Roger Hayes
Membership Secretary

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st October 2014. 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, Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ.

The subscription rates for the current year are shown on the back of this Newsletter. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. □

Roger Hayes
Membership Secretary

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Cancellation of Christmas Soiree

It is with great regret that I have to announce that the Christmas Soiree - planned to be held at the Walpole Bay Hotel on Thursday, 11th December 2014 - has been cancelled at short notice due to low ticket sales. Full refunds will be made to all those who purchased tickets for the event.

Instead of having a Christmas Soiree on 11th December, your Committee has decided to hold a normal meeting at which a number of interesting old films of Margate will be shown followed by a Christmas Quiz, wine and mince pies. There will be no charge for members attending this meeting. Please do come along and partake in the Christmas spirit.

I do apologise for the this late change in our programme of meetings but feel that members will understand the reason for the change. □

Pamela Pople
Chairman

Angel Award to Lynda Smith

The Angel Awards scheme is run by English Heritage in conjunction with the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. The awards celebrate the unsung heroes of the heritage world. They recognise the volunteers working tirelessly, up and down the country, to rescue those historic places so important to us all. For her work in securing the reinstatement of the operation of the Time Ball on Margate Clock Tower, Lynda Smith was duly nominated for an Angel Award. The Award recognises the time, effort and determination which Lynda unquestionably put into our Time Ball Restoration Project. Well done Lynda. □



Lynda Smith proudly holding the English Heritage Angel Award Certificate which was presented to her at our October 2014 meeting by our President, Ralph Handscomb, on behalf of English Heritage



The Angel Award certificate awarded to Lynda Smith

Lynda Smith finally decides to step down from serving on the Committee

At the meeting of the Committee held on 4th November, Lynda Smith announced that she had finally decided to stand down from the Committee. Our Chairman, Pamela Pople expressed regret on behalf of all members of the Committee and thanked Lynda for her contributions especially over the last two years when she headed up the Time Ball Project.

Before taking on the lead role for the Time Ball Project, Lynda had served the Society well as its Membership Secretary for a number of years.

Our sincere thanks go to Lynda for all that she has done for the Society. We shall particularly miss Lynda at meetings of the Committee but will, of course, continue to see her at meetings of the Society at the Walpole Bay Hotel.

May I take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to Lynda for all her hard work in distributing the Newsletter to our members for four years. □

JB

TDC replaces original 1920s Beach Huts at Westbrook Bay

It was reported in our last Newsletter that TDC had planned to replace some of the original eight then-remaining 1920s beach huts at Westbrook Bay due to the danger from asbestos in them. Sadly, TDC decided subsequently to remove all eight of them and to replace them with eight new beach huts. Whilst the new beach huts are considered to be more visually attractive than the basic 'shed-type' beach huts that TDC has erected elsewhere in recent years, the original beach huts at Westbrook are sorely missed as they provided a greater degree of privacy and shelter than the new ones as well as being far more 'architectural'. □

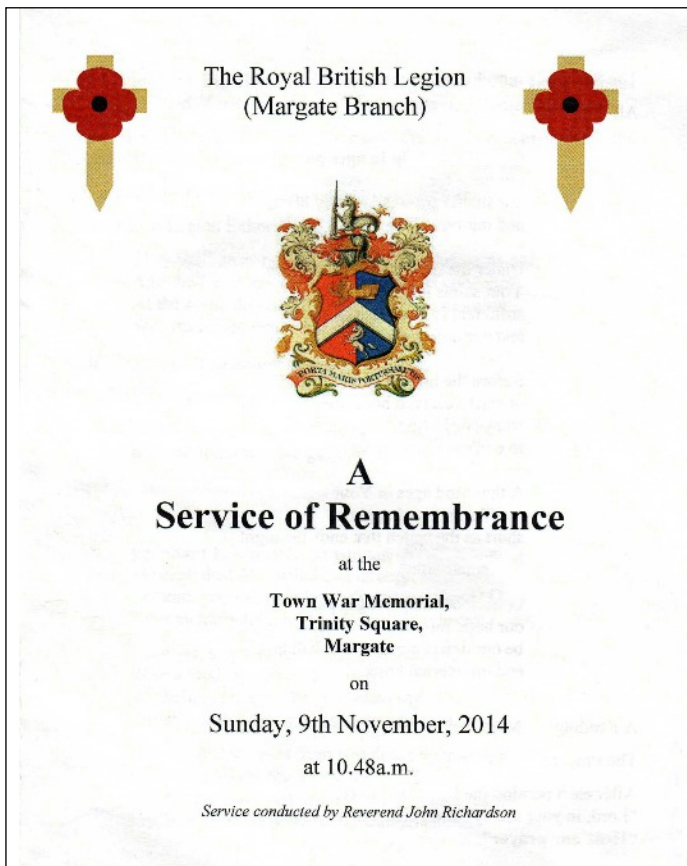


The old beach huts - photographed August 2009



The new beach huts - photographed October 2014

Margate Remembers its Fallen on Remembrance Sunday



The Band of 438 Squadron Thanet Air Training Corps and members of the congregation at the town's war memorial

The wreath laid by the Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr John Edwards



**WE WILL
REMEMBER
THEM**

This year, the annual Service of Remembrance held at the town war memorial in Trinity Square was particularly poignant as the year was the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War 1914-1918. The service attracted a very large congregation as might have been expected with all the interest in the centenary of WWI. The moving service was conducted by the Rev John Richardson, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Cliftonville and a seemingly larger-than-ever number of wreaths were laid at the base of the war memorial. The rain held off and the sun came out for much of the service. The sound of the maroons going off at both the start and the finish of the two-minutes' silence caused the usual panic amongst the seagull population of that part of the town. □



The two wooden crosses planted by Wendy James in the Garden of Remembrance

Mrs Wendy James wearing her grandfather's WWI medals (Ernest Hatcher) at the Garden of Remembrance at the rear of the war memorial. Wendy is a member of Margate Civic Society and had just planted two crosses in the Garden of Remembrance - one for her great-uncle, Pte Percy Hatcher, 6th Bn The Buffs, who was killed in action at the Battle of Loos on 13th October 1915 and one for Pte Ernest Hatcher (Wendy's grandfather) and George Hatcher (Wendy's father) who both thankfully survived their war services. The two crosses are those nearest Wendy James



Proposed Ethelbert Road and Athelstan Road Conservation Area

Thanet District Council held two drop-in sessions at the former Pettman's Depository building in Athelstan Road in October. Your Editor went along to one of those sessions to view the Character Appraisal report that had been prepared for TDC and to find out more about the proposed conservation area and to learn more about the buildings in these two roads. I was given a questionnaire and was asked to return it to TDC, duly completed, by 31st October. It was very fortunate for me that Jacob Amuli, TDC's recently appointed Conservation was in attendance when I called to the drop-in session as was a member of the Planning Department who was also most helpful.

Like most Margate residents, I must have driven up both Ethelbert Road and Athelstan Road many times - perhaps hundreds of times - but it was not until I had both read the Character Appraisal report and walked both of those roads that I came to appreciate the architecture and character of the properties in those roads.

To be honest, I had previously had doubts as to the suitability of these two roads for a conservation area but after I had walked the two roads taking time to look at each of the houses and to identify many of the features used in the architectural styles of the properties, I had changed my opinion.

The appearance of both of the roads is unquestionably spoilt by the large number of cars parked on both of the roads. Consequently, the resultant width of the road is considerably narrowed.

If TDC does decide to approve the two roads as a conservation area - and I for one certainly hopes that it does - the problem of parked cars will need to be addressed by TDC if the appearance of the roads is to be enhanced.

Athelstan Road as it looked in Edwardian times



The view from the Ethelbert Terrace end of the road



The view from the Ethelbert Terrace end of the road. This is similar to the view immediately below but is from further down the road towards the sea



The view from the Northdown Road end of the road showing Pettman's Depository on the right. Interestingly, the building that once stood to the right of Pettman's Depository can be seen in this picture (Note the wonderful gas-lamp outside the chemist's shop on the left of the picture advertising that the property is a chemist's shop)



The first and second floors of the former chemist's shop on the corner of Athelstan Road and Northdown Road. The word CHEMISTS can still be read painted vertically on the brickwork of the building. Also, above the modern sign pointing to the Shell Grotto can still be seen the original street name-plate for Athelstan Road

Note the total absence of cars in each of the three early photographs reproduced above. Only trams and pedestrians can be seen using the road which produces an appearance of a much wider road than seen today due to the number of cars parked in every available space along both sides of Athelstan Road. □

Some photos of what can be seen in both Ethelbert Road and Athelstan Road

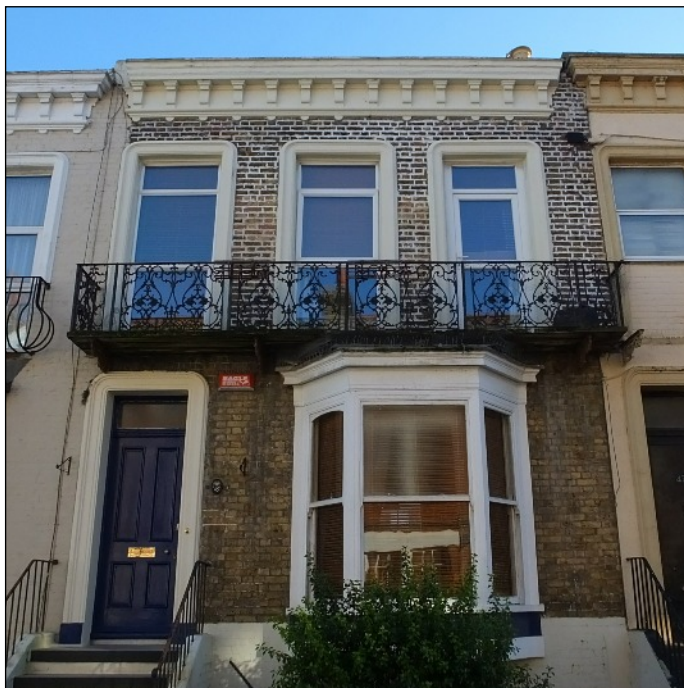
Ethelbert Road



Looking north from the Northdown Road end with The Lido tower in the background. Note the adverse visual effect of parked cars!



An abundance of terracotta sunflower decorate this fine Queen Anne Revival property (now Kathleen Court). Most of the buildings in both Ethelbert Road and Athelstan Road date from the 1860s and 1870s



45 Ethelbert Road - a fine example of the good quality of many of the houses in this road. The heavy eaves, the cast-iron railings and the cantered bay window all add prestige to this terrace of houses

Athelstan Road



Pettman's Depository building dominates to southern end of Athelstan Road. The decorative design of the front of this building and the use of red bricks contribute towards its appeal. This building, in particular, has much potential to enhance the proposed conservation area. Certainly, it would be good to see the original sign restored!



The east side of Athelstan Road showing how the Pettman's building dominates the southern end of the road



A steam lorry outside Pettman's around 100 years ago

English Heritage lists Walpole Bay Tidal Pool at Grade II

Last August, English Heritage granted Grade II listing status to Walpole Bay Tidal Pool. According to English Heritage:

Walpole Bay Tidal Pool was built in 1900 - one of two tidal pools constructed in Margate at the same date, the other being at Marine Terrace. These two tidal pools were constructed to make it possible for large numbers of people to bathe in the sea at all states of the tides because the beach at Margate and Cliftonville sloped gradually, and there was a considerable tidal range so that the low water mark could be as far as 300 yards from the promenade. The Walpole Bay Tidal Pool was designed by the Borough Engineer and built by his successor at a cost of £7,000 out of interlocking blocks strengthened by old tram rails. It covers an area of four acres and is 450 feet wide at the seaward end and 550 feet wide at the landward end. There are walls on three sides with the chalk beach used as a floor. It originally had two diving boards.

Prior to the Walpole Bay Tidal Pool being listed at Grade II, there were no other tidal pools listed anywhere in the country. The architectural or design interest of the structure at Walpole Bay lies chiefly in its scale. It occupies four acres which is larger than the two largest listed seawater lidos - Penzance and Lymington - and in shape forms roughly three sides of a rectangle, the seaward end and two sides which increase in width towards the landward end where there is no wall. The beach acting as the fourth side. The wall is two or three feet wide and ranges from two or three feet above the shore at the landward end to about seven feet deep at the seaward end. Its shape and scale can best be appreciated from the top of the cliffs.

This was an ambitious engineering feat. Each concrete block weighed about one ton and had to be fixed into position by hand crane. The work was carried out by day and night to take advantage of every tide. Two-foot wide overflows were built into the top course of blocks so that the water line was always below the top of the wall and three penstocks were fitted in the outer wall in order to empty the pool in about two hours.

As a structure the Walpole Bay Tidal Pool has social historical interest as it provided an improvement to sea bathing at the period of the greatest popularity of the English seaside.

When I read that old tram rails had been used in the construction of the tidal pool, I recalled that the Thanet tramway system was opened in 1901 and that it had closed in 1937. So where had the 'old tram rails' come from?

I thought that it would be good to illustrate this article with some old photographs of Walpole Bay Tidal Pool showing it as it was in Edwardian times. I managed to find some old postcards from that period but none of them showed the tidal pool. I did however, locate some post-WWII postcards which showed the tidal pool very clearly. So why didn't the Edwardian postcards show the tidal pool

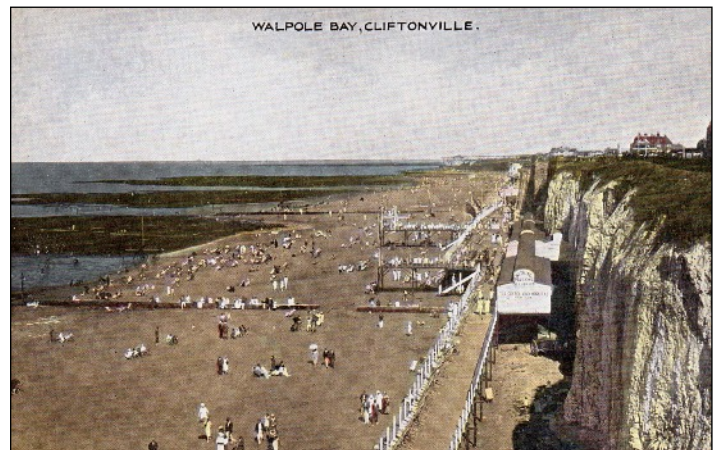
if the pool was built in 1900, as claimed by English Heritage? Something seemed wrong somewhere!



No Walpole Bay Tidal Pool can it be seen on this Edwardian postcard...

I then remembered that I had a copy of the late Alan Kay's book *Cliftonville in old picture postcards*. Surely, Alan would have included a postcard of Walpole Bay Tidal Pool in that book. I was right: he did. Illustration 40 showed a postcard of the pool and, in his caption, he had written: 'The Walpole Bay Bathing Pool was opened in June 1937'.

Things were beginning to add up. The Thanet tramway had closed in 1937 and the iron rails would have been taken up from the highways very quickly and have been available for use in the construction of the pool if, indeed, it had been constructed in 1937 as claimed by Alan Kay.



...nor on this Edwardian postcard...

I then Googled the words "Walpole Bay" and pool and came up with, what to me, was conclusive evidence that the pool had indeed been constructed in 1937 rather than in 1900 as claimed by English Heritage. On the web, I found the complete text of an article which had been published in the January 1938 copy of *Baths and Bath Engineering* (The Official Journal of the National Association of Baths Superintendents) which dealt specifically with construction of both the Walpole Bay Tidal Pool and the Marine Terrace Tidal Pool. The article started: 'The two bathing pools recently constructed at Margate...' The article also named the two Borough Engineers involved which, again, dates the construction of the two pools to 1937.

The full article is available on the Internet at www.bathsandwashhouses.co.uk/archive/your-local-buildings/margate/marine-terrace-pool-and-walpole-bay-bathing-pool.



But the Walpole Bay Tidal Pool can clearly be seen on this postcard which is believed to date from the 1950s

So, there we are. Walpole Bay Tidal Pool was constructed in 1937 - not in 1900 as claimed by English Heritage. Whether the later date would have made any difference to the pool being listed is, however, a matter of conjecture.

Just a few weeks after the listing at Grade II of the Walpole Bay Tidal Pool, the Walpole Bay Cliff Lift was also granted Grade II status (see the separate report elsewhere in the Newsletter). We now know that the Cliff Lift was actually opened some three years before the construction of the Walpole Bay Tidal Pool - not thirty-four years after! It seems likely that Margate Corporation wanted to provide easy access to Walpole Bay before the Tidal Pool was opened to the public. That, to me, is a fine example of good planning and is indicative of the foresight that Margate Corporation's chief officers had to support the town's position as one of the country's premier seaside resorts at that time.

But how did English Heritage get the date of the construction of Walpole Bay Tidal Pool so wrong? □

JB



Two photographs showing Walpole Bay Tidal Pool as it is today. In the lower picture, two boys fishing can just be seen at the far end of the wall on the left of the picture. This tidal pool at over four acres is huge: its construction in 1937 by Margate Corporation's direct labour force was rightly considered to be an engineering feat



An interesting feature of the Walpole Bay Tidal pool is that, according to the January 1938 article published in Baths and Bath Engineering, 'there are copious fresh water springs arising from the beach within the confines of the walls and the pool is continuously overflowing by the supply of fresh clean water from the floor of the pool'



Some early souvenirs of seaside holidays spent at Margate

Cliff Lift, Queen's Promenade, Cliftonville now Grade II Listed by English Heritage



Showing the shutters to secure the building and many weeds which have taken root at the foot of the doorway



Note the plain entablature inscribed 'LIFT' in serifs above the overhanging shelter.



Looking east. The pairs of circular openings seen in each of the three recessed areas are for ventilation purposes



Looking west with the Lido Swimming Pool at the rear



The former 1911 Cliftonville Cliff Railway at Newgate Lower Promenade. The tall building with the dark roof-line is in Ethelbert Terrace at the junction with Athelstan Road. The structure in the foreground on the right of the picture is believed to be the Lido Swimming Pool. According to English Heritage, this cliff railway was not demolished until 1978 (With grateful thanks to the late Mick Twyman for this super image)

All of the above photographs above were taken in November 2014

Thanks to Margate resident, Louise Oldfield, English Heritage have now listed the Cliff Lift at Queen's Promenade at Grade II. The Cliff Lift was built in 1934 for Margate Borough Council in order to allow easier access in the summer months from the top of the cliffs to the sands at Walpole Bay. Before 1934, access to the sands at Cliftonville had been either through Newgate Gap or by means of the 1911 Cliftonville Cliff Railway (see accompanying photograph).

The principal reasons given for the recommendation that the Cliff Lift be designated at Grade II were:

Architectural interest: a stylish Art Deco design with Egyptian influences in the form of a tapering pylon;

Intactness: the cliff lift is externally unaltered;

Rarity of building type: this is a rare building type nationally with only four other cliff lifts currently listed;

Comparability: comparable in date, materials and style with a listed 1926 cliff lift in Ramsgate (Grade II);

Group value: adjoins Walpole Bay Tidal Pool and is part of a series of historic seafront buildings in Cliftonville, most of which are listed.

The Cliff Lift has not been used since 2009. Whether it ever will re-open is not known. Let us hope that Thanet District Council will at least maintain the structure and regularly clear the weeds from the vicinity of the upper-promenade door to the lift.

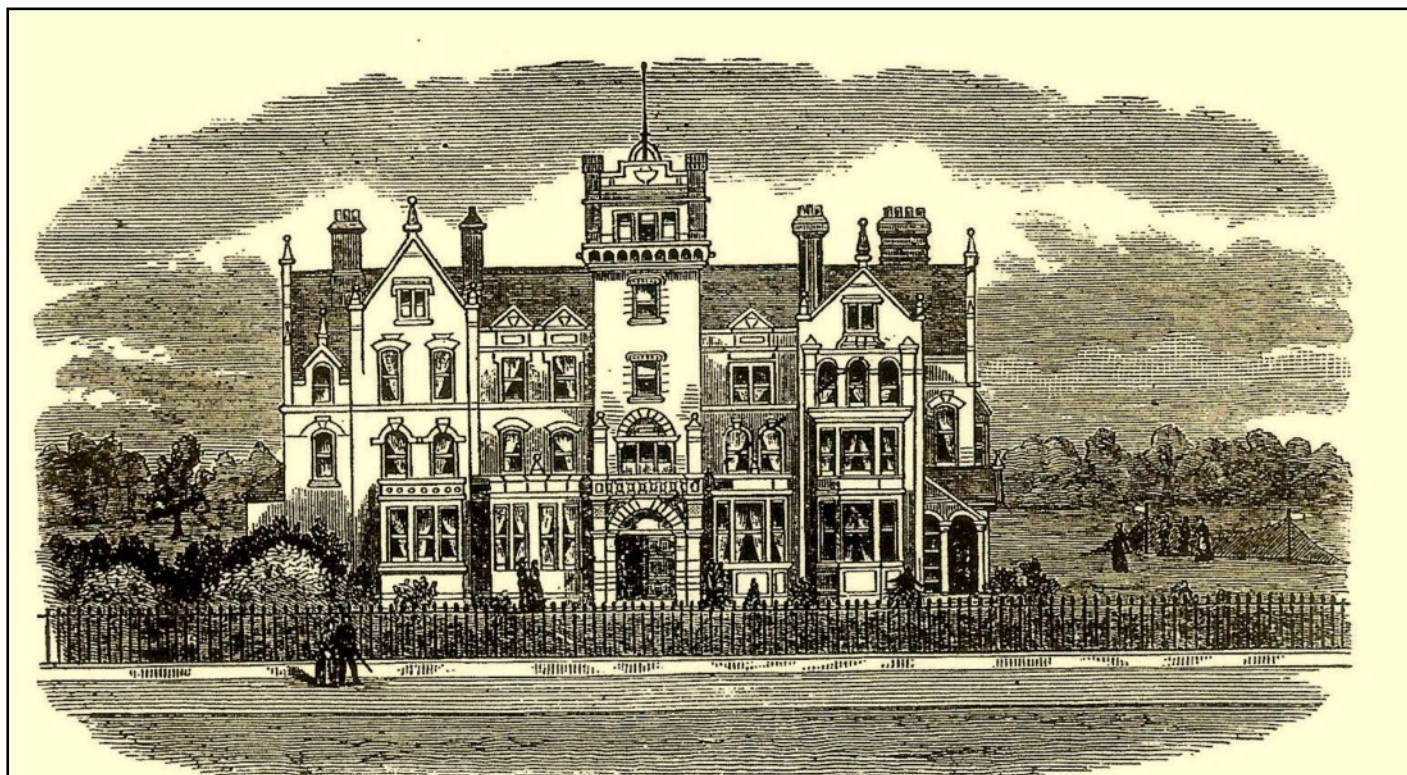
This listing at Grade II of the Queen's Promenade Cliff List follows the listing earlier this year of the Walpole Bay Tidal Pool also at Grade II. Together with the listing of the former Clifton Baths and the Winter Gardens (both at Grade II), Cliftonville possesses a number of seaside structures which are now recognised as being of both architectural and historic importance. □

Tokens from Westgate's intemperance past?



These tokens, each the size of an old penny, are believed to have been from Westgate's Tower House when it was a retreat for alcoholics. It is believed that the tokens were issued to the in-patients to spend at local shops but could not be used to purchase alcohol either in shops or in public houses.

The token on the left had a value of 6d and was marked 'A' and the one on the right had a value of one shilling (1/-) and bore the mark 'B'. Each token is blank on the reverse and are believed to date from the 1880s. The advertisement below for the Tower House Retreat in Canterbury Road is from a guide-book published in the 1880s. □



TOWER HOUSE RETREAT, WESTGATE-ON-SEA.

INTEMPERANCE.

TOWER HOUSE RETREAT, WESTGATE-ON-SEA, KENT.

(Licensed under H. D. Act, 1879.)

Principal: J. H. BROWN—*Visiting Physician:* ALFRED F. STREET, M.A., M.D., B.S. (Cantab.)

For the reception and treatment of Ladies and Gentlemen, who can be received under the Act or privately.

This Establishment is the only building in the United Kingdom which has been specially designed and erected to meet the requirements of the H. D. Act. It therefore offers many additional advantages to patients desirous of overcoming habits of intemperance.

The House, standing in its own grounds, and having all modern improvements, contains Billiard, Drawing, Smoking, Bath Rooms, etc.

The bracing air of Westgate-on-sea is universally acknowledged to assist materially in the treatment of patients suffering from nervous exhaustion, caused by intemperance, over work, or excessive use of narcotic drugs.

TERMS:

First Class Patients, under the H. D. Act from - Four to Five Guineas per week.

Second Class Ditto - - - - - Two to Three " "

The following amusements can be indulged in under proper supervision:—Riding, Driving, Boating, and Fishing. There are also excellent Swimming Baths within a few minutes' walk.

For Prospectus and further particulars, address J. H. BROWN, TOWER HOUSE RETREAT, WESTGATE-ON-SEA. One hour and three quarters from Victoria, by the L.C.D. Railway.

CHARABANC CORNER

Following our successful coach outings to Greenwich and Westminster, we visited Dover Castle on Wednesday, 15th October. Some 32 adventurous souls who joined the trip had a very agreeable day. For those who haven't been to Dover Castle recently, there is a huge amount to see and do, ranging from beautifully executed displays of life in the time of King Henry II in the Great Tower to the underground tunnels used during WWII. We were blessed with lovely weather in the morning to stroll around the walls, enjoying the views over the Channel and visiting the Roman lighthouse, the medieval St Mary-in-Castro church and the Admiralty lookout. The Society's membership of Civic Voice meant that we were able to take advantage of free entry to the castle and thus keep the price of the trip down to £12, a real bargain.

We also enjoyed a stop in Sandwich on the way home for tea and cake, albeit rather soggy (the weather, not the cake) as the rain had set in by then.

Thank you very much to members who joined this coach trip. We hope to continue arranging them and the next one we are planning will be rather special. As part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Operation Dynamo, in which, of course, Margate played a huge role, we will be arranging a coach trip to Dunkirk, provisionally on Tuesday 19th May 2015. We will be leaving Thanet around 7.30am, taking the ferry from Dover and, in Dunkirk, visiting the Memorial du Souvenir museum which tells the story of the evacuation from Dunkirk. There'll be time for sightseeing and shopping in Dunkirk before we come home. The price will be around £32, which includes the museum entry fee. Your committee has yet to firm up on the arrangements; we will confirm them as soon as possible but please note the date in your diary.

We're always keen to hear suggestions from members for coach trips. If you have an idea for somewhere for us to go, please don't hesitate to tell any member of the committee, either by email or at a meeting. □

Mike Wilton
Treasurer

Come and be part of the most
inspiring time in history

75TH ANNIVERSARY of the evacuation of DUNKIRK (Operation Dynamo)



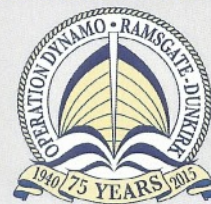
RAMSGATE & MARGATE

20th to 25th May 2015

*A living history event for the next
generation to experience*

For more details visit:

www.operationdynamo75th.co.uk



Let us all endeavour to ensure that Margate
receives full credit during these 75th anniversary
events for its role in Operation Dynamo

The statue of Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay KCB, KBE, MVO at Dover Castle. Admiral Ramsey and was responsible for the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940 codenamed Operation Dynamo. Working from the underground tunnels beneath Dover Castle, he and his staff worked for nine days straight to rescue troops trapped in France by the German forces. On 2nd January 1945, he was killed when his plane crashed on takeoff at Toussus-le-Noble, southwest of Paris. He was en-route to a conference with General Bernard Montgomery in Brussels.

The life-size bronze statue, which stands in front of the old officers' mess was unveiled by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in November 2000. It was sculpted by Stephen Melton, a Ramsgate artist. The statue shows Admiral Ramsay in uniform holding a lowered telescope looking towards the French coast.

A bronze plaque mounted on the sandstone plinth reads:

*In memory of Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay KCB, KBE, MVO.
1883-1945, Vice Admiral Dover, 1939-42, C-in-C Allied Naval
Expeditionary Force June 1944 and of those who died in the
Dunkirk and Normandy operations*



Two Grade II Georgian houses in Hawley Square de-listed

Shortly before this issue of the Newsletter went to press, notification was received that both 47/48 Hawley Square and 49 & 50 Hawley Square had been de-listed (each of these two houses was originally one house). These attractive Georgian houses had been de-listed without any known consultation with the Margate Conservation Area Advisory Group (MCAAG), The Georgian Group SAVE or with Margate Civic Society. It seems that the application to de-list came from the agent of the the developers.

Numbers 49/50 Hawley Square were badly damaged by fire in 2008. The two photographs below were taken that year and an article on the building was published in MCS Newsletter 352.



49/50 Hawley Square (now one property) photographed after the fire in 2008 when the roof was destroyed

exactly what consultation with interested organisations took place before the properties were de-listed and the extent, if any, to which Thanet District Council was involved in the de-listing of these properties. It is understood that TDC has designated both Cllr David Green and Cllr Alasdair Bruce as its 'Heritage Champions'. For what purpose, one might well ask? Let us not forget that it was the demolition of 54 Hawley Square in the late-1960s that led directly to the founding of our Society in 1968! □



The imposing doorway and fanlight at 49/50 Hawley Square shortly after the fire

It is understood that, in 2010, Thanet District Council allocated funds to purchase the property under CPO (compulsory purchase order) powers in order to safeguard the future of this once-listed building.

It is very concerning that there was apparently no consultation by English Heritage or Thanet District Council to de-list both 49/50 Hawley Square and the adjacent property of 47/48 Hawley Square.

Enquiries are currently being made to determine

Margate's coat-of-arms also used in Natal, South Africa



came across this Coronation medallion from Natal South Africa. I noticed they had adopted the coat of arms of Margate.

Do you know what the tower is next to the seahorse at the top of the coat-of-arms?



Close-up of the coat-of-arms on the South African medallion

A search on the Internet revealed that the Margate in Natal is a seaside resort just about twenty kilometres south-west of Port Shepstone. In

1908, Henry Richardson, a surveyor, laid out the town and named it Margate, Kent after the seaside resort on the northern coast of the county of Kent. Interestingly, there is also a Ramsgate just south of Margate, Natal. The

medallion illustrated above commemorates Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953. The Latin motto ANIMO ET FIDE (Courage and Faith) used by Margate (Natal) is the same as that of the Adjutant General's Corps.



Our town's coat-of-arms with the motto PORTA MARIS PORTUS SALUTIS

A search on the Internet also shows that the 'tower' beside the seahorse at the top of the coat-of-arms is actually the mast of a ship with yard and rigging.

The similarity between the two coats-of-arms is very evident. Interestingly, our town's coat-of-arms was granted in 1858 (following the granting of the Charter of Incorporation in 1857) and the town of Margate, Natal was laid out and named in 1908 - exactly 50 years later.

TDC creates a new Parish Council for Westgate but decides not to replace Margate Charter Trustees with a Margate Town Council

At an Extraordinary Meeting of full Council held on 18th November 2014, Thanet District Council decided to create a new Westgate Parish Council but to not to make any changes to the Margate Charter Trustees. It took the Council just under an hour to reach these decisions after much discussion and consideration of numerous changes to the original proposal that the recommendations of the Council's Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party be approved.

So, 80 years after the abolition of the former Westgate Parish Council in 1935, Westgate will once more have its own parish council next year. Elections for the ten parish councillors will take place on 7th May 2015.

TDC finally reached these conclusive decisions after a lengthy - and very costly - community governance review which was launched last March. The Margate Charter Trustees had requested Thanet District Council to carry out the community governance review and there was an expectation that the result of the review would be that a Margate Town Council would be created to replace the Margate Charter Trustees. The outcome of the review was - for many councillors - totally unexpected.

The Council's Boundary & Electoral Arrangements Working Party held a meeting on 22nd October when it was resolved to recommend to the meeting of the full Council to be held on 18th November that Westgate should have its own parish council and that the Margate Charter Trustees should continue in being, albeit for the area of the former Borough of Margate after the exclusion of Westgate-on-Sea.

The community governance review legislation required TDC to consult the public on the options and two drop-in sessions were held at which first-stage questionnaires were handed out to those members who attended the meetings. It has to be said that the drop-in sessions failed to attract many members of the public. Only 75 completed first-stage questionnaires were returned (mostly on-line) to TDC which did not bode well for the review.

The second-stage of the review was for TDC to consult the public on the Council's proposals which were for a town council to be created for Margate and for a parish council to be created for Westgate. Again, members of the public were invited to attend meetings, this time held at both Margate and Westgate. At the Margate meeting, less than 20 members of the public were sufficiently interested to want to attend the meeting. At the Westgate meeting, some 70 attended.

Due to exhaustive endeavours by TDC staff, 337 responses were received by the Council to the second-stage questionnaire. However, whilst the returns from Westgate residents showed a majority view in favour of the creation of a Westgate Parish Council, only 28% of Margate residents indicated that they were in favour of a town council being created for Margate.

A surprise announcement was made at the start of the meeting of the Working Party held on 22nd October that the anticipated precept for Westgate next year would be some £36 for a Band D property when the indicative

precept previously announced by TDC for Westgate was £24.58 for a Band D property. One must wonder whether the level of support within Westgate for a parish council would have been lower had that higher precept level been used in the consultation process! Currently, Westgate residents pay a council tax precept of £6.57 a year at Band D to meet the costs of Margate Charter Trustees.

It was also announced at the meeting of the Working Party that Margate Charter Trustees' annual precept would need to be reduced by some £14,000 next year if the precept at Band D were to be kept at the current year's level. Members of the Working Party seemed to think that such a saving could be achieved by reductions in the services provided by the Charter Trustees. A member of the public present, who was allowed to speak at the meeting, expressed the view that savings of that order could, in reality, be achieved only by large reductions to both the Mayor's Allowance and the Deputy Mayor's Allowance of around 20%.

Thus, the likelihood is that next year the residents of Westgate will face an increase in their council tax of some £30 at Band D just to meet the costs of their parish council. This increase at Band D translates to increases of £36 for a Band E property, £43 for a Band F property, £49 for a Band G property and £59 for a Band H property! Importantly, Westgate's precept for next year will relate to administration and the provision of allotments only. In future years, their precept will depend on what other services the parish council wishes to provide within the Westgate area - such as litter collection, children's play equipment, etc.

Furthermore, unless the Margate Charter Trustees can effect reductions in their spending next year to offset the loss of £14,000 arising from the 'hiving off' of Westgate, it is likely that the Charter Trustees' precept in Margate next year will increase by some 16% purely as a consequence of creating a parish council for Westgate.

It can be seen, therefore, that not only will council tax payers in Westgate face an increase in their council tax next year - of the magnitude shown above - but that council taxpayers in Margate will also face an increase in their council tax, all resulting from a community governance review which ended up with a result that no-one at either the Margate Charter Trustees or TDC seemed to have expected or even wanted.

In addition, it would be interesting to know how much the review cost (£40,000 would seem to be a reasonable guess) and which particular council taxpayers will have to meet that one-off cost. Will the cost be borne by the Margate Charter Trustees who requested the review or will the costs be borne by the council taxpayers across Thanet? Either way, it looks to have been a very expensive exercise with costly consequences to council taxpayers for ever after. With all the other problems currently facing TDC, it does seem rather untimely that the council should have devoted so much time and resources to the review. □

JB

Christmas Night Market

Lower High Street and Seafront Piazza
Margate

JOIN US FOR A FEAST OF FESTIVE FUN!

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2014

5-9pm

- ★ Local Food & Drink
- ★ Mulled Wine & Cider
- ★ Artisan Crafts
- ★ Hot Food
- ★ Live Music

Margate
Town Team



Thanet
Farmers'
Market

Margate Civic Society Christmas Cards



The original painting of Margate Harbour is by Christopher Alexander ARE ARCA (1926-82)

www.christopheralexander.co.uk

Copyright © Steven Alexander

These attractive Christmas Cards designs featuring two of Christopher Alexander's fine paintings of Margate will be on sale at our evening meeting on 11th December 2014. The cards (including envelopes) will be on sale at 65p each or a packet of five for £3.00. They are printed on high-quality paper and are considered good value for money.

Please do support the Society by buying some of our cards to send to your friends and relatives this Christmas.

*With Very Best Wishes
for a
Merry Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year*

The message inside the Christmas cards

Christopher Alexander (1926-1982) was born in Margate and won a place at the Royal College of Art. He taught students of Fine Art and Architecture, specialising in figure drawing, initially at Thanet School of Art in Margate and then at Canterbury College of Art. His enormous energy, his optimism and his festive temperament were an inspiration to all his students.

A book of his drawings and oil sketches, compiled by his son Steven, was published in 2013. An exhibition of Christopher Alexander's work will be held at Turner Contemporary, Margate, from 14th July until 13th September 2015

Published by Margate Civic Society
Registered Charity No.257884
www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk

With the kind permission of Steven Alexander

The back of the Christmas cards



The original painting of Margate Old Town is by Christopher Alexander ARE ARCA (1926-82)

Copyright © Steven Alexander

www.christopheralexander.co.uk

Another chance to hear Part I of Steven Alexander's talk on his father's artwork

Those members who missed Part I of Steven Alexander's talk given to our Society in April 2014 on his father's artwork will have another opportunity to hear the talk in January 2015. The Thanet Branch of U3A (University of the Third Age) has arranged for Steven to give the same talk to their members and has opened the meeting to members of Margate Civic Society and other interested persons. Steven's talk to our Society was very popular and, as a consequence, Steven has been invited back to the Society to give Part II of his talk on 2nd April 2015.

Details of the talk to be given to the Thanet U3A are as follows:

Title: 'Margate and Thanet through the eyes of Christopher Alexander ARE ARCA (1926-82) - Part I'
Date: Thursday, 22nd January 2015 from 2.00pm to 3.00pm
Venue: St Peter's Church Hall, Hopeville Avenue (opposite the Co-op), St Peter's, Broadstairs CT10 2TR

Refreshments will be available afterwards, guests welcome - £1 donation requested by Thanet U3A

Further details can be obtained from Bev Whitehead by email at bevwhiteheadu3a@live.co.uk

What's On

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

Date	Subject
2014	
11th December	Please note that the Christmas Soiree, that had been arranged for our December meeting, has now been cancelled and has been replaced by an evening showing old films of Margate supplemented by a Margate Architecture Quiz by James Brazier followed by wine and mince pies. There will be no charge for attending this meeting other than for guests who will be asked to make a donation of £3.00 per head
2015	
January	No meeting
5th February	'The Southouses - An East Kent Family' a genealogy talk by Elizabeth Peters
5th March	To be confirmed
2nd April	Part II of 'An Illustrated talk by Dr Steven Alexander on the artwork of his father, Christopher Alexander ARE, ARCA (1926-1982) - a figurative artist of the highest calibre and certainly among the very best of his generation'
14th May	Presentation of Town Pride Awards 2015 followed by an illustrated talk by James Brazier to mark the 75th anniversary of the evacuation from Dunkirk and Margate's large contribution to that event

Forthcoming Exhibition of Christopher Alexander's Artwork at Turner Contemporary

An exhibition of Christopher Alexander's artwork will go on display at Turner Contemporary from Tuesday, 14th July 2015 to Sunday, 13th September 2015. Don't miss the exhibition - and don't miss Part II of Steven's talk at our April 2015 meeting at the Walpole Bay Hotel.

If you missed Part I of Steven's talk - or you would like to hear it again - he will be giving it to the Thanet Branch of U3A on 22nd January at St Peter's. See page 13 of this Newsletter for details of the talk to U3A. □



Westgate Heritage Centre (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Winter/Spring Programme 2015**
On the first Saturday of each month at **10.30am**, there will be a talk by Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator of Westgate Heritage Centre.

Date	Subject
2014	
6th December	'Sally and Dawn in conversation' – a discussion about ongoing research into the Wellington House School Honour Boards in St Saviour's Church by Sally Whitworth and Dr Dawn Crouch
2015	
3rd January	'The Tower House, Canterbury Road, Westgate: retreat, convent, school – and wedding venue' Short talk by Dr Crouch, followed by the showing of a DVD made by a Westgate resident, Mr L. Wake
7th February	An illustrated talk by Heritage Centre member Chris Wyer on Westgate's Post Boxes
7th March	'120 years of service' - a celebration of the work of the Westgate Branch of the St John Ambulance Brigade founded in 1895
4th April	'A loss of identity?' - on 1st April 1935, 80 years ago, the civil parish of Westgate-on-Sea became part of the Borough of Margate. What effect did it have on the town?

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

Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk



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

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

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

Committee for 2014/15:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb, 14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 01843 293169)
(e-mail: handscomb@talktalk.net)

Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople, Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 01843 221689)
(e-mail: pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk)

Vice-Chairman: Mr Harry Scobie, 59 Gloucester Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3NP (Tel: 078 6227 6466)
(e-mail: harryscobie@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085)
(e-mail: geoff.orton@tesco.net)

Treasurer: Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF (Tel: 01843 844717)
(e-mail: wilton@btinternet.com)

Membership Secretary: Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ
(Tel: 01843 228858) (e-mail: membership.mcs@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Mr James Brazier, "The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ
(Tel: 01843 298038) (e-mail: 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)

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 2014/15:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£10.00	£14.00	£3.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£9.00	£13.00	£2.00	£20.00

Please note that Life Membership subscription is no longer available

and send it to the Membership Secretary, Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ

* A Paper Newsletter means that a black-and-white printed copy of the Newsletter will be delivered to you

Electronic Newsletter means you will have a full-colour copy e-mailed to you which you can view on screen or print