

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



**Autumn 2014**  
**Newsletter**  
**Issue No. 376**



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

Despite Thanet District Council's endeavours to engage the public in their 'community governance review' - to determine whether the people of Margate desire a Town Council to replace their Charter Trustees - there can be little doubt that there is simply no appetite in the town for a Town Council. At a public meeting held on Thursday, 28th August at TDC's offices called to discuss TDC's proposals that a Margate Town Council be created (together with a Parish Council for Westgate), only fourteen members of the public were in attendance. This poor attendance repeated the abysmally low response rate to TDC's first-stage questionnaire which attracted only 75 responses despite the holding by TDC of two earlier public-consultation meetings, the sending out of 1,000 letters to members of the public and giving encouragement to TDC's 800 employees to complete the questionnaire. Furthermore, 16 of those 75 responses were from residents of Ramsgate, Broadstairs and the villages. To receive less than 50 responses from Margate residents illustrates the distinct lack of interest and enthusiasm in the town for any change from the existing Margate Charter Trustees. Nevertheless, TDC is now seeking further responses to their proposals by inviting residents to complete a second-stage questionnaire on the specific proposals for a Margate Town Council and a Westgate Parish Council. Another public meeting was held on Wednesday, 27th August at Westgate Pavilion to consider the proposals for a Westgate Parish Council. That meeting was attended by around 70 members of the public of whom many expressed support for the creation of a new Westgate Parish Council. Embarrassingly, TDC had to admit at both of these meetings that the formula used to determine the indicative precept levels for both councils was flawed.

A possible satisfactory outcome of the review might be that TDC agree a new Parish Council for Westgate but that Margate Charter Trustees should continue in being for the former borough area less both Birchington and Westgate. The deadline for submission of the second-stage questionnaire to TDC is 29th September 2014. Please do complete the questionnaire if you can. Your views on this subject are important. □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

## Welcome to new members

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

Marion Simpson  
Ann Wright

**Roger Hayes**  
Membership Secretary-elect

## A Town Council for Margate?

As reported in the Editorial, TDC want your response to the proposals to replace the Charter Trustees with a Town Council and to create a new Parish Council for Westgate. Visit [www.thanet.gov.uk](http://www.thanet.gov.uk) (and follow the links) to complete the questionnaire online or phone TDC on 01843 577050 and request a hard-copy questionnaire. The deadline for receipt of responses is 29th September.

## Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2014 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. Please note the new subscription rates effective from 1st October 2014, as agreed at our AGM held on 3rd October 2013, are shown on the back page of this Newsletter. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. Members can renew at our AGM on 2nd October (or at subsequent meetings) or by post to me at:

11 Saltwood Gardens  
Cliftonville  
Margate CT9 3HQ

We also offer the facility of membership payment by electronic transfer. For details, please see our website [www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

**Roger Hayes**  
Membership Secretary-elect

## The Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

will take place at the Walpole Bay Hotel on Thursday,  
2nd October 2014

Any proposals or nominations should be submitted as soon as possible before the meeting to the Secretary at:  
25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea  
Margate CT8 8RR

**Geoff Orton**  
Secretary

## President's Report 2014

This year has been unique in the history of our organisation. Two years ago, a suggestion by an old member - one Arnold Schwartzman, film director and producer in Hollywood - put forward the idea of reinstating the Time Ball on the Margate Clock Tower. After much discussion by the committee it was decided to "have a go". A sub-committee was set up with Mike Wilton as Treasurer, Geoff Orton as Secretary, Lynda Smith and myself as Chairman. Soon after forming the sub-committee, I had a hip replacement. As Lynda was so enthusiastic and committed, I asked her to take over as Chairman of the sub-committee: I could not have made a better choice! The rest is now history.

After months of fund raising and hard work by all and with the help and enlistment of Mike Bundock who generously donated the funds from the sale of his book *Margate Clock Tower*, through sales of postcards, mugs, etc, and generous donations from our members, from members of the public, from local businesses, organisations and public houses, the necessary funds were raised to meet the cost of reinstating the operation of the Time Ball on the Clock Tower. On Saturday, 24th May this year, with a certain amount of pomp and ceremony, the Time Ball rose to the top of the pole after nearly one hundred years. Every day, the Time Ball will now rise shortly before 1.00pm and then fall at 1.00pm.

The whole of the committee were eventually involved in the project and I am proud to be President of such a forward-looking organisation.

Now then, who and what are your committee and what is each of their functions?

The Chairman (or Chair if you prefer) - Mrs Pamela Pople (since taking over from Margaret Main) - has progressively become more adept in her position, now organising the speakers at our monthly meetings and the Town Pride Awards as well as generally keeping an eye on the running of the organisation. She is an excellent Chairman.

Vice Chairman - Harry Scobie - is a Thanet District Council Councillor and a very useful member of the committee. Having knowledge of council workings, he has been a great help in advice and procedure. He is always helping at meetings and events.

Secretary - Geoff Orton - is always willing to go that extra mile, is reliable and has now taken on the position of Minutes Secretary as well. He was indispensable with the Time Ball event.

Treasurer - Mike Wilton - has kept our finances in perfect order and for the past two years has had the onerous task of managing two accounts: the Society's Account and the Time Ball Account. His final Time Ball Account totalling around nineteen thousand pounds was no easy task and he has my full confidence in his ability and integrity. Mike's wife, Heather, has been a great help in organising and running the raffle on the nights of our monthly meetings.

Membership Secretary - Roger Hayes - took over this role from Lynda Smith earlier this year. Roger is in the process of re-arranging the format to his way of thinking. We will not know the result of this until later in the year. It is an important position and we hope he will settle in with the rest of the committee.

Newsletter Editor - James Brazier - writes one of the best newsletters I have come across. Full of subjects of local interest, people in the news, photos, especially our annual Town Pride Awards. James is always there to help in times of need and on occasions like Civic Day.

Lynda Smith - is 'resting' after her hard work and dedication to the Time Ball project. We do not want to lose her! Her husband, Harry, also worked tirelessly at her side. No doubt, in time, we will find something for her to get her teeth into.

Mike Thompson keeps an eye on Planning applications and keeps us informed of any that need looking into. A valuable committee member. Willing to help out when asked and has come up with some useful ideas.

That is your committee and I hope when it comes to the AGM you will vote them back on to the committee. I do not think we could have a better group of individuals. It has been a pleasure to have worked with them. If any member would like to join the committee please contact the secretary.

I wish to thank all our members for continuing to support us, especially those who turn out for our meetings whatever the weather.

**Ralph Handscomb  
President**

### CHARABANC CORNER

Members enjoyed the Time Ball fundraising trips to both Greenwich and Parliament and thought that we should organise regular outings. There are still places for the Dover Castle trip on Wednesday, 15th October: £16 only altogether (we are taking advantage of our Civic Voice membership). Cheques in favour of Margate Civic Society and a note of preferred pick-up place (The Wheatsheaf - Beacon Bingo - The Hussar - Summerlands - The Square Birchington) please to our Treasurer, Mike Wilton 30 Barrington Crescent Birchington CT7 9DF.

As it will be the 75th anniversary of Operation Dynamo (Evacuation from Dunkirk) next year and Margate and its lifeboat played such a vital part, we are proposing a trip to the new Dunkirk Museum provisionally for Thursday, 21st May - by boat, no Stukas. Likely cost £28 (includes the Museum): you have been warned. And we are also thinking of an excursion to *Batemans*, Rudyard Kipling's place in Sussex, for the centenary of the Battle of Loos (his son, Lt John Kipling, Irish Guards, and a fair number of Margate men serving with The Buffs were killed in that battle - you may remember the poignant TV film *My Boy Jack*). That will be sometime in October 2015.

All suggestions for expeditions will be welcomed by the Committee.

**Geoff Orton  
Secretary**

# Time Ball Report

There was a cheer from the hundreds of people who gathered to witness Margate Clock Tower's Time Ball drop at precisely 1pm on Saturday 24th May 2014 for the first time in about 100 years. Whether by divine intervention, or was it just plain luck, the clouds had drifted away for the two hours required for the Ceremony to take place in sunshine.

The week prior to this event, The Cumbria Company had visited Margate to fit the mechanism inside the Clock Tower which was to lift and drop the red copper ball. We had every confidence in Keith Scobie-Youngs and his engineers to have the Time Ball work precisely on the day and I had been privileged to witness the testing of the Time Ball.

The door to the Clock Tower had been restored for this occasion from the drab weather-worn red to its former bright pillbox red with superior locks in black and new toughened glass panels. I should like to thank the anonymous donor who paid for this work to be carried out also Rosemary Nurseries at Manston for their contribution in giving two large pots of flowers which complemented the front of the Clock Tower.

It had taken 20 months to raise the money for the restoration work and to organise a fitting Ceremony and a great many people helped in one way or another to achieve this. All remunerations have now been paid and the Time Ball bank account, opened on 4th October, has been closed.

A well-documented display board commemorating Margate Jubilee Clock Tower has now been erected on the east side of the Tower. It gives detailed information on why the Clock Tower was built, who built it and when it was opened. The display board also depicts the four copper medallions (replacements for the original porcelain medallions), which are situated around the Clock Tower. Most importantly, there gives the reason why the Time Ball was originally placed on top of the Clock Tower with how and why Margate Civic Society became involved in the restoration of the Time Ball. Mike Wilton, our Treasurer and Mike Thompson, both on the MCS committee did a splendid job in producing the display board. Shelley Signs Ltd of Market Drayton made the display board and our thanks go to our KCC County Councillors, Mo Elenor and Will Scobie along with Wetherspoons who between them donated grants for the cost.

I must also give thanks to all those who donated their small change to build the tower of twopence pieces which was dismantled on Civic Day, Saturday 21st June. More than £175 was raised in this way. Jane Bishop kindly gave permission for this to be constructed and to sit on the reception desk of the Walpole Bay Hotel.

My task now complete I would like to give sincere thanks to all those



*The new MCS display board at Margate Clock Tower*

who helped the Society in achieving the aim to have a working Time Ball in Margate. I am very grateful to my fellow committee members for their support and total commitment in the project, our members without whom there would be no Margate Civic Society and to all those people who donated money in one way or another. Last, but not least, my husband gave me his total support in so many ways every day during the project; I could not have done it without him. Thank you, Harry.

I heard recently that many doubted that the project would ever become a reality; well I never had any such doubt.


**Lynda Smith**

## MARGATE JUBILEE CLOCK TOWER

Following much local debate about how best to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, the choice of the townspeople was to build a Clock Tower. A Committee was formed, chaired by the Mayor of Margate, to oversee arrangements and collect donations. A design by Henry Arthur Cheers, of Twickenham, was eventually chosen and work commenced in late 1888, with Frederick Pearce, a builder from Westgate-on-Sea, being awarded the contract.


The clock mechanism was produced by William Potts of Leeds. The four five-foot diameter dials were illuminated by gas and the five bells to chime every quarter hour were cast by John Warner & Son of London. The bells were replaced in 1908 by bells cast by Gillett & Johnston of Croydon.

The Clock Tower was officially opened on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1889, Queen Victoria's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, in a ceremony led by the Mayor, Alderman William Leach Lewis. In 2005, the clock mechanism was replaced by electric equipment and the chimes are now produced by a synthesised electronic sound. The Clock Tower is a Grade II listed building.




The Opening Ceremony on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1889


The copper medallions on each side of the Tower




Queen Victoria



Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII)



Princess of Wales (later Queen Alexandra)




Jubilee Crown

The Time Ball on top of the Clock Tower was raised slowly just before 1.00pm each day and was dropped precisely on the hour. This allowed ships off Margate and people in the town to set their clocks accurately, in the days before radio time signals.

The Time Ball had not worked since the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI suggested to Margate Civic Society that funds should be raised to restore the Time Ball to full working order, as a way of the town commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Society took up the challenge and, thanks to sales of Clock Tower related goods and many generous donations, restoration work by the Cumbria Clock Company commenced in January 2014.

The completed restoration of the Time Ball was marked by an official opening ceremony on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clock Tower's opening.

This display produced by Margate Civic Society with funding and assistance from



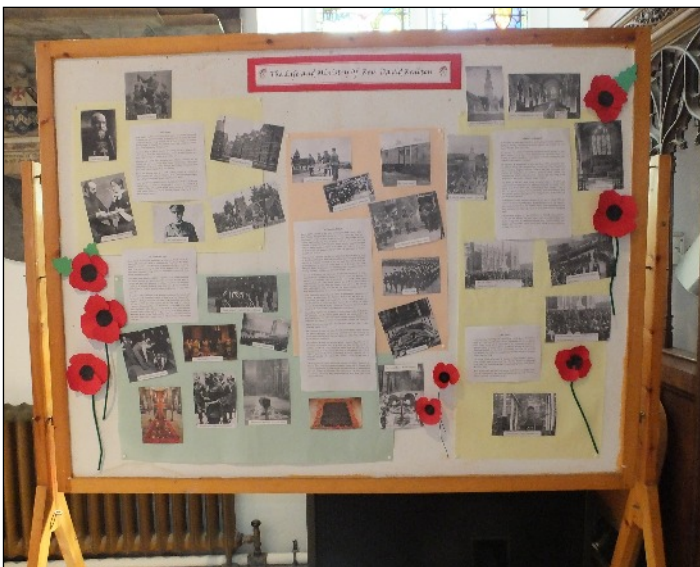
# St John's Church commemorates the centenary of the start of WWI with displays and a short service held on 4th August 2014



*The Chapel in St John's Church was known as the War Memorial Chapel for a time immediately after WWI and was, appropriately, used for some of the WWI displays on 4th August 2014*



*The Altar Cross formed the focal point of the brasswork on the Altar which included British, French and German WWI decorated shellcases. The Altar Cross was given in memory of George Burton Taddy Friend who was killed in action in Flanders whilst serving as a Captain in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 26th July 1915. The Altar Cross was the gift of his son, Geoffrey, to the Church*



*The display on Revd David Railton put together by Robin Colyer*



*Part of the BEF window in St John's Church*



*A number of Margate-related mementoes from WWI were on display including a number that featured in the slide-show that ran on a loop throughout the day*

A number of displays were put on at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Margate on Monday, 4th August 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the start of WWI on 4th August 1914. Among the displays was a slide-show which was run continuously from 10.00am to 8.00pm. The slide-show contained many photos taken of service personnel in Margate during 1914-18 as well as photos of the unveiling of Margate War Memorial in 1922 and many other Margate-related WWI images. In addition, there were three display panels especially prepared for the day including one devoted to Revd David Railton who was Vicar of Margate from 1920 to 1925 and who is best known today as being the originator of the idea of the grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. Other displays included a selection of trench art dating from WWI and a range of WWI mementoes which were displayed in a glass-fronted cabinet. One of the most intriguing artefacts on display was a small alms-dish which belonged to the Church. An inscription on the back of the alms-dish showed that it was given in memory of two soldiers who lost their lives in WWI. It is hoped that research will reveal the link between the two soldiers and Margate as neither of their names are amongst those inscribed on the town's War Memorial. Lastly, there was even a life-sized model of a WWI trench on display. The event was organised by St John's Church Outreach Group and was well supported by a good number of visitors. A short service was held in the Church in the afternoon to remember those who fell in WWI. □

**JB**

# Lt Marc Lawrence's name added to Westgate War Memorial



The scene at Westgate-on-Sea War Memorial shortly before the start of the dedication ceremony



Westgate-on-Sea War Memorial

On a very wet and windy August day, the new tablet placed in memory of Lt Marc Lawrence RN was dedicated by Revd Barbara Way, Vicar St Saviour's Parish Church. On Sunday, 10th August 2014, a short service was held at Westgate-on-Sea War Memorial to dedicate a stone tablet in memory of Marc Lawrence who, sadly, lost his life in a tragic helicopter accident on 22nd March 2003 during the Iraq War. The cost of the stone tablet was generously met by the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association (W&WRA) as, after waiting some eleven years, Thanet District Council had not added Lt Marc Lawrence's name to the town's war memorial. The new tablet has been added to the base on the east side of the memorial with the simple inscription: 'M. LAWRENCE 2003' in the uppermost top left-hand corner. To the regret of some, the opportunity was not taken to add any information relating to Marc Lawrence's tragic loss. There is no mention of Iraq on the tablet nor, indeed, to the tablet being in his memory. Whilst the font used for the inscription is consistent with the font used for both the WWI names and the WWII names, the style of presentation is inconsistent in that only one of Marc Andrew Lawrence's initials has been used and the one initial is shown before his surname rather than after it (viz. all of the other names shown on the war memorial). Nevertheless, the W&WRA are to be congratulated on finally getting Marc Lawrence's name added to the war memorial which has provided much comfort to Marc Lawrence's family in their knowing that his name will be forever remembered in Westgate-on-Sea. Let us hope that there will never be a need to add any further names to the new tablet. □ **JB**



The full inscription on the original British Legion War Memorial that was unveiled on 4th August 1923



The new stone tablet inscribed with Marc Lawrence's name and the year of his death



A single rose and poppies laid by members of Marc Lawrence's family



The new stone tablet was, appropriately, covered by the White Ensign during the dedication ceremony



The poppy wreath laid in remembrance of Lt Marc Lawrence RN by his family

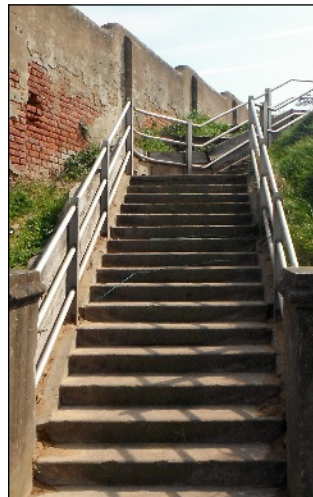


The WWII tablet that was added in 1951 by Margate Corporation

## Queen Alexandra's Rose Day



*This photograph of two Alexandra Rose Day collectors was taken near the bottom of the steps leading from the corner of Westbrook Gardens and Royal Esplanade leading to Westbrook Bay. It is believed to date from June 1913, the first year of Queen Alexandra's Rose Day*



*The same steps today showing the addition of handrails. The Royal Sea Bathing Hospital wall at the rear, however, remains as it was although a section of it further along has recently been demolished to make an access to the former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital land for, it is believed, housing development*

Part of the message written on the back of this photograph reads:

*This is a [photograph] of auntie and I, and I thought you would like it. Not bad is it? I collected £2 16s - odd from 9 o'clock till one o'clock. We are enjoying ourselves here. Weather quite respectable. I hope to see you on Friday. Please write to me, you bad girl. Lots of love  
Norah*

The photograph was printed by Fotosnaps, THE Photographer, Westonville, Margate. Because it was not sent as a postcard, it sadly neither bears an address nor a postmark..

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Queen Alexandra's arrival in London, the Dowager Queen's army of admirers insisted that the day of her arrival should be celebrated in a special way. A processional drive was suggested but Queen Alexandra wanted an occasion that would help the sick and needy. She developed an idea which would benefit the funds of London hospitals through the sale of artificial wild roses, which were to be made by people with disabilities. The day was to be called "Alexandra Rose Day".

Today, the event raises money for charities that do not normally get national attention for fundraising. The Prime Minister traditionally launches the day by being the first to buy a rose.

During WWI, Alexandra Rose Days were held in Margate in 1915 (23rd June), 1916 (21st June), 1917 (17th June), and 1918 (19th June). They were the most successful of all the Flag Days held in Margate during those momentous years. □

**Living Museum  
at Walpole Bay Hotel**

Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville  
Kent CT9 2JJ  
Telephone: 01843 221703

*Jane, Peter, Justin and Domini Bishop  
welcome you to the ambience of a Bygone Era  
Open Everyday, All Year Round  
10am - 5pm  
Come and Browse*

**A D M I S S I O N F R E E**

*For those members who have yet to attend one of our regular meetings, the above flyer for the Living Museum at Walpole Bay Hotel provides a flavour of our venue*



*The Duchess of Wales (former Princess Alexandra of Denmark) as depicted on Margate Clock Tower. She arrived in England in 1863 when she married the Prince of Wales. He became King Edward VIII and she Queen Alexandra*

## Time Ball Project Financial Statement

The success of the project to restore to service the Time Ball on top of Margate's Jubilee Clock Tower is one for which the Society can be proud, and the ceremony on 24th May was a high-spot, for both the Society and the town. This was the culmination of much hard work by the project team of Ralph Handscomb, Geoff Orton and Mike Wilton, ably led by Lynda Smith.

The Society raised the grand total of £21,906.84. Of this, by far the largest amount (£8,841.30) came from donations. We received twenty donations of £100 or more, and many smaller ones. All donations were equally appreciated and the Society is most grateful to everyone who gave.

Mike Bundock's book *Margate Clock Tower*, which he wrote especially for us raised a net income of £1,723.49. Mike did not charge us a penny for his work and we very much appreciate his generosity, as well as acting as our expert advisor on all things horological.

KCC councillors Will Scobie, Mo Elenor and ex-councillor Michael Jarvis gave us grants amounting to £2,611 from their community funds. Proceeds from raffles, collections, quiz night, Lynda's 2p tower & bank interest amounted to £1,015.91 and we received £582.29 from Gift Aid on the donations. Thanet District Council, whose councillors and officers were helpful to us throughout the project, gave us a £500 event grant to help defray the costs incurred for the 24th May Big Day. We also raised money

from the sales of commemorative mugs, tankards, trays and postcards and from the very successful Christmas cards and Notelets which featured an image showing the 1889 Clock Tower opening day.

The cost of restoring the Time Ball, including renovation of the Clock Tower door and hire of a huge mobile hoist ('cherry-picker'), was £13,030.00. The display board which we designed and had produced and which is now mounted adjacent to the Clock Tower cost £870.00, and the cost of goods for resale was £2,839.85. Expenses for the May 24th events, including the celebration at the Clock Tower, the reception at the Sands Hotel and the *Jubilation* concert at the Theatre Royal came to £2,979.60, much of which was defrayed by ticket sales.

We are left with a surplus of £2,029.24 which is presently in our main bank account. Your committee will be giving consideration on how best to utilise these funds.

Again, our thanks to members and non-members alike who supported the Society's project and allowed us to restore this unique piece of heritage, commemorating both Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2002 and the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Clock Tower in 1889 which, in turn, marked Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

**Mike Wilton**  
**Hon Treasurer**

## Is this the end of these grand old beach huts at Westbrook?



The above group of eight mock-tudor style beach huts on Westbrook Promenade are all that are left from the original beach huts at Westbrook that were erected by the former Margate Corporation in the 1920s. Sadly, it is feared that by the time that this Newsletter is published, some - if not all of these eight beach huts - will have been removed by Thanet District Council for demolition. It is understood that there is a concern regarding the possibility of asbestos in these beach huts and also that some of the beach huts are now considered to be uneconomic to repair. These old beach huts have so much more character and colour than the modern 'garden-shed' style beach huts which now proliferate our promenades. Wouldn't it be nice if the replacement beach huts were of the same design as the original beach huts? Now, there's a thought! □

## 1914-2014: Centenary of RNAS Seaplane Base



*Dr Dawn Crouch, Westgate Heritage Centre Curator, proudly stands at the recently cleaned plaque at St Mildred's Bay. This plaque was put up by TDC in 1996 following the removal of the wide slipway that was built for the Royal Naval Air Station seaplanes 100 years ago. The beach huts at the rear are replacements put up by the former Margate Corporation in the 1960s following an extensive fire which destroyed a number of the original beach huts in that location. The building at the rear is the original Beach House Hotel erected in 1865 - one of the first buildings in Westgate-on-Sea*

# At last - an image of the original bust of Queen Victoria on Margate Jubilee Clock Tower has come to light!



I wrote the article on the following page last year and I delayed publishing it in the hope that a photograph would come to light which showed at least one of the four medallions on Margate Clock Tower. Well, such a photograph has been found which shows quite clearly the original bust of Queen Victoria that once graced this fine building. I must thank Richard Clements for finding this photograph and for giving his permission for it to be reproduced in our Newsletter. Perhaps, one day, further photographs will be found showing the other medallions, That would be good, wouldn't it! □

**JB**



*A close-up of the original Queen Victoria bust seen in the accompanying postcard*



*The replacement bust seen today above the doorway to the Clock Tower*



*The original ceramic terracotta medallion bust of Queen Victoria on the Clock Tower showing the Queen wearing her 'Jubilee Crown'*



*The 'Jubilee Head' bust of Queen Victoria from a 1887 shilling*



*The replacement copper repoussé bust of Queen Victoria on the Clock Tower. Note that the bust is very similar to the 'Old Head' bust of Queen Victoria used on coinage from - I believe - 1893*



*This is an enlargement of the activity at the door to the Clock Tower and shows a hackney-carriage operating a return service from Margate to Birchington at a charge of 9d for the return fare. In addition to the driver, there appear to be around nine passengers seated in the car. The man standing closest to the car is wearing a cap and might be selling tickets for the ride. Let's hope it wasn't raining for the return journey! As usual, for those days, everyone is wearing a hat (the baby in the pram is wearing a bonnet). Vehicle registration number D.1034 was issued by Kent County Council. It is believed that the car is an early Panhard-Levassor model imported from France. It had oil lamps and solid rubber tyres*



## Another look at the Jubilee Clock Tower

The original architectural ceramic terracotta medallions, made by Doulton, that once graced each of the four sides of the Jubilee Clock Tower were replaced with copper repoussé panels around the middle of the last century. Terracotta is porous and it is believed that the salt-laden air had effected the terracotta so badly that they were beyond repair thus necessitating the replacement copper repoussé medallions. Unfortunately, there do not appear to be any photographs available showing close-up images of the former terracotta medallions. (*One has now been found - see accompanying article.*)

It was when I was guiding a party from St Albans Civic Society around Margate in May 2013 and we were standing beside the Clock Tower that 'the penny dropped'. The image of Queen Victoria's head on the medallion above the doorway to the Clock Tower showed the veiled of Queen Victoria very similar to that used on the late-Victorian 'Old Head' coinage. As the Clock Tower was to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, surely the more appropriate head to be displayed on the Clock Tower would be similar to that shown on the 'Jubilee Head' coinage that was used in 1887 and for a few years afterwards.

Perhaps the terracotta medallion had deteriorated so badly that the image was no longer distinguishable when the replacement copper repoussé panels were created. The 'Jubilee Head' was certainly used on 1887 coinage (see illustration of the 'Jubilee head' on a 1887 shilling below). It is unlikely that Doulton manufactured any of the four medallions before 1888 and it is believed that the 'Old Head' was first used on coinage in 1893. It would seem most unlikely, therefore, that Doulton would have manufactured a terracotta medallion containing a bust of Queen Victoria with a 'veiled head' before 1893? (*It can be seen from the accompanying article that the original Queen Victoria medallion did indeed show Queen Victoria wearing her 'Jubilee Crown'.*)

Having looked closely at the bust of Queen Victoria, I then looked at the copper repoussé panel showing a bust of the Prince of Wales (later, of course, King Edward VII). I could not help but think that the image resembled Prince Albert. Readers might recall that last year, English Heritage stated on their website that this particular medallion was of King George V. I drew English Heritage's attention to that error and I am pleased to report that their website now states that the bust is of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII). But is it? Prince Albert died in 1861 aged 42. The medallion struck at the Great Exhibition of 1851 illustrated bottom left shows how he would have looked around 1851 when he was 32. The Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) was born in 1841 and would have been aged 48 in 1889. Do any of our members have an image of the Prince of Wales around that time? It would be interesting to compare such an image with that shown on the Clock Tower.

Finally, I would add that if either of these images were to be proved, conclusively, that they did not replicate the original designs of the busts shown on the original Doulton terracotta medallions, I would most certainly not advocate any changes to the copper repoussé panels. The copper repoussé panels are part of the charm of this magnificent structure of our Clock Tower and have become part of its fascinating history. □



*The bust of Queen Victoria on the Clock Tower*



*The 'Old Head' bust of Queen Victoria from the 1897 Diamond Jubilee medallion*



*The bust of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) on the Clock Tower*



*The 'Jubilee Head' bust of Queen Victoria from a 1887 shilling*



*HRH Prince Albert as depicted on a medallion struck at the Great Exhibition of 1851*



**JB** *The 'Young Head' bust of Queen Victoria from a 1857 penny*

# Margate Carnival 2014

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014

The weather was perfect and the standard of the entries was again very high. There were 82 floats which all contributed to a very colourful and musical event. It was all great fun and made for a very joyous and happy occasion. These photographs give a flavour of the carnival. □

*Snow White - One of the most charming entries this year*



*The Town Mayor, Cllr John Edwards, leads the carnival procession*



*An imaginative float promoting greyhound racing at Sittingbourne*



*Steve & Ollie Moore as Batman & Robin in their ever popular entry - complete with two 'female passengers' in the back!*



*Shaun Collier leading the Thanet Classic Car Club's Flintstones float*



*Thanet Life Guards Club's colour co-ordinated float*



*The Army 'fly the flag'*



*Margate Carnival Queen and her Court*



*Two 'Funshine' sunflowers adding colour to the carnival*



*Miss Ramsgate and her Court appropriately remembering the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI*



*Brazilian dancers added colour and decoration to the event with their exotic costumes (what little there was of their costumes). The dancers certainly got everyone into the party spirit!*



*Miss Sandwich and her Court*



*Miss Sheppey and her Court*



*Another eye-catching and imaginative entry in the long carnival*

# FOLLOW THE HERRING



*Coat For A Boat - this knitted boat was originally built by the North East Maritime Trust in 2008 for an exhibition and community project called Casting Off... A Coat For A Boat. Her coat was knitted by a number of enthusiastic knitters and she is regarded as being unique and very special. Beneath her coat, she is a traditional wooden coble - a flat-bottomed sailing vessel specific to the North East but typical of an inshore beach-launched fishing boat. Her colours reflect those of a traditional coble*

As part of Turner Contemporary's Summer of Colour, a super exhibition was put on in the Clore Learning Studio for six days in July with the title *Follow the Herring*. The centrepiece of the exhibition was a knitted boat titled *Coat For a Boat* - a full-scale fishing boat swathed in a knitted coat. It simply had to be seen to be believed. Knitters throughout the country had united to celebrate the fishing industry as part of a national tour of *Follow the Herring*. Local artist, Dan Chilcott, and local makers created an exhibition inspired by Margate's seaside heritage. The touring exhibition had started at Musselburgh and travelled down the East Coast. The last stop before it reached Margate was Great Yarmouth and, after Margate, it then continued on to Folkestone ending at Hastings. The exhibition at Turner Contemporary attracted large numbers of visitors to the gallery and was unquestionably a great success. These photographs give a flavour of this remarkable imaginative exhibition and the enormous artistic and creative talent which exists around us. It was also great fun! □

JB



*A large knitted crab and starfish*



*A large shoal of knitted herrings*

*A range of marine life*



*This shoal of fish was created by Margate knitters*



*This wavy creation, made from re-cycled materials, represented the sea*



*Ahoy there mates!*



*These imaginative collages represented the sunsets off Margate*

# RIBA South East Sandcastle Challenge 2014

## Main Sands - Saturday, 9th August

This was the second consecutive year that the RIBA South East Sandcastle Challenge was held in Margate. This year, it attracted 30 entries and an increased number of spectators who keenly supported those who entered the competition. Like last year, the entries were of an extremely high standard and attracted competitors from many aspiring architects which must have made the judging of the entries most difficult. There were five categories with prizes awarded to the winners and runners-up in each of those five categories. The five categories were:

- Abstract (Turner Contemporary Prize);
- Life's a Beach (Joss Bay Surf School Prize);
- Most Technically Daring (Hornby Visitor Centre Prize);
- Mayor's Prize; and
- Tallest Sculpture (Betteridge & Milsom Prize).

It was good to see support from Turner Contemporary and local businesses. The photographs below will convey the high standard of the many highly-imaginative and creative entries. Sadly - in my opinion - most of the entries were destroyed by youths immediately after the judging depriving others from admiring these creative constructions. Just why is there such a destructive element about nowadays spoiling it for everybody else?

JB



*The winner of the Mayor's Prize - The Jardines*



*Octopus*



*Save the Whales*



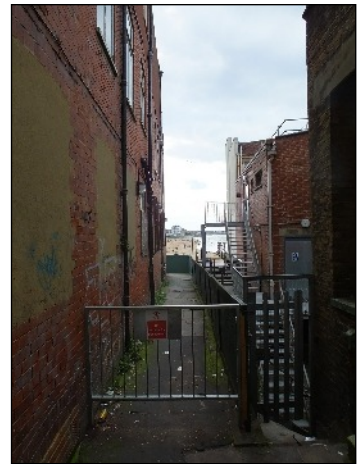
*The Mayor's Prize Runner Up winners - Super Sands - proudly display their certificate*



## Closure of Andrew's Passage (between the High Street and Albert Terrace)

Earlier this year, Kent County Council made the Andrew's Passage, Margate (Restrictions on Pedestrians) Order 2014 which came into force on 22nd April 2014. The Order prohibits use of Andrew's Passage by pedestrians. KCC state that it is not known how long Andrew's Passage will need to remain closed as it depends on the seriousness of the problem and what measure are needed to resolve them. The Order closing the passageway is valid for up to eighteen months.

The closure is causing much inconvenience to pedestrians as it entails an alternative route via High street, Marine Gardens and Albert Terrace. Until Marine Drive was built in 1880, Andrew's Passage was the main route for visitors to use from The Parade area to reach the golden sands of Marine Terrace. It has to be said that the state of the passageway up to the time of its closure was most unpleasant. Indeed, Keble's Gazette reported as far back as 1877 that "...its condition makes a very poor advertisement for visitors to Margate". Some 140 years later, this comment on the graffiti-strewn walls and the litter-strewn pathway still applies. Let's hope that KCC, as the local highways authority, can sort out the problem and re-open the passageway before too long. And when it is re-opened, let's hope that it can be kept free of both graffiti and litter! □



The closed Andrew's Passage from the High Street end



The closed Andrew's Passage from the Albert Terrace end



Showing the crumbling footway alongside The Sundowners' Bar



This old photograph c.1860 of Hazardous Row illustrates the importance of Andrew's Passage before Marine Drive was built in 1880

## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...

There was much going on in Margate this summer providing entertainment for all tastes. Our Editor was out and about with his camera and took these shots for the Newsletter. □

### BEACH VOLLEYBALL ON THE MAIN SANDS



### Margate Rocks in the Old Town

## Forthcoming exhibition of Christopher Alexander's artwork at Turner Contemporary

Margate Civic Society members much enjoyed the illustrated talk given last April when Dr Steven Alexander gave Part I of the his talk on his late father's artwork. Steven will be returning to us for our April meeting next year to give Part II of his talk. Also, it has now been confirmed that 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. □



Original painting of the original Royal School for Deaf Children by Christopher Alexander ARE, ARCA (1926 - 82)

[www.christopheralexander.co.uk](http://www.christopheralexander.co.uk)

# What's On

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

Date	Subject
<b>2014</b>	
2nd October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'The St Peter's Village Tour & "Send a Cow"' by Sue Elliott, Chairman, St Peter's Village Tour
6th November	'Richborough Port & World War I' by Dr Frank Andrews
4th December	Christmas Soiree - Tickets £12.50 per head, including buffet. Full details to be confirmed
<b>2015</b>	
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



Margate's mix of architectural styles seen in the photo taken from the Stone Pier in May 2014. It shows Royal York Mansions to Buenos Ayres



**Westgate Heritage Centre** (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Autumn/Winter Programme 2014**  
On the first Saturday of each month at **10.30am**, there will be a talk by Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator of Westgate Heritage Centre. This year, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, displays and talks will be related to Westgate in that war

Date	Subject
<b>2014</b>	
4th October	'Westgate's Children at War 1914-18' - based on the amazing Log Book kept by Mrs Emily Humphrey, Head Teacher of St Saviour's CoE School, Westgate
1st November	'70 years ago - Westgate in 1944' - a tribute to those who took part in the liberation of Europe
8th November	'War Comes to Westgate' - adapting to change and preparing for the worst based upon Parish Council Minutes and other original archives
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
<b>2015</b>	
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

**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](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk)



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

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

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

## Committee for 2013/14:

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

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

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Harry Scobie, 59 Gloucester Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3NP (Tel: 078 6227 6466)  
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**Secretary:** Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085)  
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**Treasurer:** Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF (Tel: 01843 844717)  
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**Membership Secretary-elect:** Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ  
(Tel: 01843 228858) (e-mail: [rogerhayes365@gmail.com](mailto:rogerhayes365@gmail.com))

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

**Planning and Conservation issues:** Mr Mike Thompson, 7 Seymour Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5HT  
(Tel: 01843 832834) (e-mail: [mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com))

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

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-elect, 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