

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Spring 2018  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 390



Margate Civic Society is a  
Founder Member  
of Civic Voice

Fifty years ago, Margate Civic Society was born. The town centre was under redevelopment and a number of Margate's old buildings had been demolished and more were under threat of demolition in the name of 'progress'. Georgian houses in Cecil Street were amongst those and a number of concerned individuals got together in an endeavour to stop this wanton destruction of much of the town's rich heritage.

One of those individuals was Roy Adsett who very kindly contributed an article for our Newsletter on the Society's fortieth anniversary. That same article is reproduced in this issue of the Newsletter. Sadly, Roy died in August 2015 but we are indebted to him and to his fellow founding members for giving birth to our Society in 1968.

Roy's article appears on page 4. To continue with a theme to mark our 50th anniversary, the whole of our Society's very first Newsletter is reproduced on page 5. In those days, it was printed on foolscap but, using modern-day desktop-publishing software, it has been possible to reproduce the one-and-a-half pages of foolscap to one A4 page.

Continuing further with the 50th anniversary theme, we have featured a page of old photographs showing the town centre redevelopment scheme in progress. These historic photos are courtesy of John Robinson and we are most grateful to John for sharing these images with us. These are shown on page 6. Finally, we feature on page 7 eight of Christopher Alexander's sketches of Margate town centre scenes drawn at around the same time. It is interesting to compare these sketches with the photographic images. We are grateful to Steven Alexander for giving us permission to reproduce these sketches drawn by his father. Many of our older members will remember some of these scenes.

Whilst expressing thanks to those who have contributed to this issue of our Newsletter, mention must also be made of the most interesting article on pages 8 & 9 by Chris Sandwell on the former landing-stage opposite Turner Contemporary. And finally, credit must also be given to two of our regular contributors Arnold Schwartzman and Richard Clements for supplying some of the images used in the article on Margate's bandstands on page 10.

As can be seen, the production of each issue of the Newsletter involves many individuals who give freely their time and their local knowledge for the benefit of the Society. The Society's Newsletter has developed by leaps and bounds since its early days reflecting the growth of the Society both in terms of its reputation and in its role in the local community. Let us drink a toast to the continued success of our Society and to Margate's many business and attractions over the next half century. □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

## Welcome to new members

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

Alan Harlow  
Leo Gair  
Mr and Mrs D Burgess

**Sally Whitworth**  
Membership Secretary

## Civic Day 2018

### Saturday, 16th June

Please make a note in your diaries that the Society is planning to, once again, participate in this year's Civic Day events which are being held throughout the country. Civic Voice are encouraging local civic societies to get involved in this national event and I encourage our members to go along to our local event on Saturday, 16th June 2018 and give their support to the Society in its endeavours. This year, we are planning to feature Conservation Areas in our area (see below for an outline of the event). Further details of our local event will be published in the Summer Newsletter and on the Society's website [www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk). □

**Pamela Pople**  
Chairman

## Conservation Areas in Thanet

Did you know that there are currently 27 Conservation Areas in Thanet District Council's area and that seventeen of them are within the area covered by Margate Civic Society?

Last year (2017) saw the 50th anniversary of the first-ever Conservation Area being designated in the country. In celebration of this important anniversary, Margate Civic Society is planning to feature at its Civic Day event (see above) a display of maps showing each of the seventeen Conservation Areas (CAs) in its area and the dates on which each of the CAs was designated. The first was Sarre in 1971 and the latest are six areas of Cliftonville designated in 2016. □

## DISCLAIMER

Please note that the Society is not responsible for the accuracy of material reproduced in the Newsletter. The content of the Newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter Editor, the Committee of our Society or of any individual contributors. □

# Nominations for Town Pride Awards 2018

This year, the Society received fifteen nominations for Town Pride Awards. Of the properties nominated for the 2018 Town Pride Awards, seven were selected by the judges for short-listing as illustrated below:

The fifteen nominations are:

12 Arthur Road, Cliftonville

40-46 Sweyn Road, Cliftonville

Banks Ale & Wine House,  
244 Northdown Road,  
Cliftonville

Costa Coffee,  
205 Northdown Road,  
Cliftonville

189 Northdown Road,  
Cliftonville

Belle Vue Tavern,  
159 Northdown Road,  
Cliftonville

25 Trinity Square, Margate

14 Hawley Square, Margate

Former Dreamland Cinema  
(exterior), Marine Terrace,  
Margate

Cinque Ports, Marine Terrace,  
Margate

Former Escape,  
49 Marine Terrace, Margate

Former Nurses' Home,  
Canterbury Road, Margate

3 The Grove, Westgate-on-Sea

35 Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea

The Cow Shed Bar & Grill,  
74 Canterbury Road, Birchington



*Former Dreamland Cinema (exterior),  
Marine Terrace*



*Cinque Ports PH, Marine Terrace*



*12 Arthur Road, Cliftonville*



*40-46 Sweyn Road, Cliftonville*



*35 Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea*



*Banks Ale & Wine House, 244 Northdown  
Road, Cliftonville*



*Former Nurses' Home, Canterbury Road, Margate*

*All of the photographs on this page are courtesy of Mike Wilton*

The results of the judging for the Society's 2018 Town Pride Awards will be announced at our meeting to be held on Thursday, 10th May 2018 when presentations of the Awards will be made to the winners. □

MARGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

# Our Autumn coach trip SHEFFIELD PARK AND THE BLUEBELL RAILWAY



All images: James Brazier



If you are a member of Margate Civic Society or will have a National Trust membership at the time of the journey, the ticket price is **£28**.

Otherwise the ticket price is **£38**.

The reason is that the higher price includes National Trust entry to Sheffield Park, which MCS and NT members do not have to pay.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Leaving Wheatsheaf 8.30am, pick-up in Margate, Westgate & Birchington

Arrive Sheffield Park National Trust gardens approx. 11am

Reserved seats on the 3.45pm Bluebell Railway to East Grinstead & return

Arrive back in Thanet approx. 7.30pm

Tickets on sale at meetings or contact Mike Wilton on 01843 844717 or email [treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

The following article is reproduced from Newsletter 350:

## Margate Civic Society was formed 40 years ago. To mark the Society's 40th anniversary,

### Roy Adsett, Vice-President, tells the fascinating story of how our Society was born

The comprehensive redevelopment of historic but run down town centres was all the rage amongst planning officials and local councillors in the 1960s. Throughout the country, townscapes and buildings of architectural and historic interest were falling to the bulldozer by the hundreds, if not thousands.

Predictably, there was a backlash. Civic societies, the broad objectives of which were to preserve and enhance these features and to encourage public interest in them, were springing up – usually under the auspices of the Civic Trust – throughout the length and breadth of the land. Margate was no exception. Margate Corporation's development plan for the Old Town included the demolition of Cobb's brewery – a listed building constructed in 1807-08 – and a large area from the south side of Cecil Square to St John's church. Two well-preserved and striking adjoined 18th century buildings – Nos. 54 Hawley Square and 7 Cecil Street – were to be amongst the casualties there. No. 7 Cecil Street (then the former offices of insurance brokers A. Shaddick Ltd) had an unusual canted bay-window and No. 54 Hawley Square had a handsome Doric doorcase. In front of both premises was the original red-brick pavement.



Photo: John Vilette

The attractive front doorways to 54 Hawley Square (on left) and 7 Cecil Street (on right) with the canted bay-window – both properties were demolished by the former Margate Corporation in the late 1960s to make way for the new Council Offices and Public Library

I had worked in Margate for a number of years and had been watching, with increasing concern, what was going on. It was the imminent demolition of No. 54 Hawley Square which stung me into action.

History having been my main interest since about the age of seven, I was a natural and immediate supporter of the conservation movement. From 1946 until 1956, I had lived in Faversham and was still visiting my parents and in-laws there. By chance, I got to know Arthur Percival of The Faversham Society, one of the first local amenity societies in the country. He didn't have to persuade me to become a member.

It was obvious that Margate was in dire need of a similar organization.

I wrote to the editor of *The Isle of Thanet Gazette* and, on 8th March 1968, they published the letter asking for interested people to join me in proposing conservation areas for the town and in putting forward constructive criticism of the local development plan.

Amongst the half-dozen or so who responded favourably was Dave Scurrall – a good catch. He was well known and respected by different generations as a woodwork teacher at the Margate School of Building in New Street (later to become part of Thanet Technical College), as a scout leader, a churchwarden at St John's and honorary secretary of the Isle of Thanet Archaeological & Historical Society. Others were Mike Thomas, a young Margatonian with a degree in town planning; his brother-in-law Richard Cornwall, a civil engineer; Henry Poupard, the proprietor of Henry's radio & TV dealers; and Mrs Winifred Pleuger, on behalf of her husband Dr Werner Pleuger, then on the brink of retirement but still working in Northern Ireland.

We immediately got down to business. Mike wrote a report, which we sent to Kent County Council, proposing a Hawley Square Conservation Area. It was about this time that John and Steve Vilette joined us.

We perambulated the town and put forward suggestions for updating the Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest.

By arrangement with the owner, Mr David Cobb, we organized the removal of the Cobb business, professional, public and family papers from scattered disorder in the brewery roof-spaces to the Archives Office in Maidstone. We had discovered the papers when he allowed several of us to make a close inspection of the site which, by then, had been sold to Whitbread.

Within a few months, we decided to go public as Margate's official civic society. On 28th November 1968, at a meeting attended by 30-40 people in Westgate Public Library, The Margate Society – as we then called ourselves – was formed.

The officers elected at that meeting were: President – Mr R. N. Towes, headmaster of Drapers School and chairman of Drapers Mill Trust; Chairman – Mr Alan Kay, geography master at Hartsdown School and secretary of Margate Football Club; Committee members – Mr David Scurrall, Mr Michael Thomas, Mrs Anne Hayter (Westgate), Mr J. Mann (Birchington), Mr Henry Poupard and Miss Marshall (Birchington).

I remained in close association with the Society, calling myself 'the secretary'.

There was no realistic chance of saving Nos. 54 Hawley Square and 7 Cecil Street which soon made way for the new council offices and library complex. Our intention in opposing the destruction of those two old buildings – certainly as far as I was concerned – was to expose the low priority given by Margate Corporation to the preservation of our scarce heritage and to prevent the destruction of other heritage buildings from being so easy for it to achieve in the future.

**Roy Adsett**

*Sadly, Roy Adsett passed away in August 2015 (see Newsletter 380)*

The Next Meeting ....

will be held at Westgate Public Library at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14th. 1969.

Two films, loaned to us free of charge by the Civic Trust, will be shown. The first (which we propose to discuss afterwards because it relates to a town which, like the borough of Margate, is situated along the coast) is a 20-minute black and white film entitled "YOU CAN CHOOSE".

Produced by the Hove Civic Society in 1967, this film stresses the need to curb the impact of traffic on environment, to dispel public apathy, and to convince the public that they have a choice where their environment is concerned. It makes brief reference to the Society's dispute with the Borough Council over a proposal to create a six-lane highway along the sea-front; and makes a plea for the construction of by-passes for all resorts on the South Coast (end in Sussex in particular) and for more emphasis on the segregation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

"TREES ON THE MOVE" (19 minutes in colour) is the second film. Industrialisation and urban development over the last hundred years have led to the destruction of many of England's trees. Yet trees properly placed can grace our daily lives. Encouraged by the success of the work of the Civic Trust, the Opencast Executive of the National Coal Board introduced into this country techniques for moving mature trees more easily than in the past. Instead of being destroyed, mature trees can now be re-positioned to improve industrial and urban landscapes. This film, made by the National Coal Board Film Unit in 1965, shows how this is done.

Each Month ....

we hope to include an article which should be of general interest to all members. This article - about Hawley Square - is contributed by Mr. D. G. Scurrell, one of our committee members.

David Scurrell has lived in Margate since 1931 and is assistant lecturer in the department of building and engineering at the Thanet School of Art. From 1931 to 1962 he was connected with scouting, firstly as scoutmaster and group scoutmaster at St. Paul's, Cliftonville, and latterly as warden of the camp site at Minster. He is at present secretary of the Isle of Thanet Archeological Society and also the Thanet local secretary of the Kent Archeological Society. He is a sidesman and parish church counsellor at St. John's Church, Margate, where he is regarded as the church historian.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF HAWLEY SQUARE

The earliest reference to the central part of Margate suggests two settlements, one by the pier and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile inland a village around St. John's Church, both within the ancient Parish of St. John the Baptist in the Isle of Thanet. The pier has probably been here since the 13th. Century. Leland wrote in his itinerary in Henry VIII's reign "Margate lyth in St. Johns Paroche yn Thanet V miles upward from Reculver and there is a village and a peere for shyppes, but now sore decayed". In the eighteenth century Pennant wrote "The passage from England to Holland was often made from this place". The Parish Church dates mainly from 12th. - 14th. century and includes much good work and many monuments of the Georgian period. However, none of the mediaeval village remains, but some 18th. century houses remain in Charlotte Square nearby.

- 2 -

The town of Margate became a fashionable resort soon after 1760. Its great deficiency at first was its lack of good houses. Development of Cecil Square took place soon after this date as a result of the initiative of Mr. Edward Cecil, Sir John Shaw and Sir Edward Hale and several other gentlemen. Soon afterwards Hawley Square was laid out on a piece of ground then belonging to Sir Henry Hawley.

In 1770 Robert Kidd bought land from Mary Smith for £49 on which 52 Hawley Square was built. In 1786 Bettisons Library was built at the north west corner, to be demolished in the 1930's to make way for the Thanet School of Art. At the north east corner stands the Theatre Royal. In 1784 Charles Mate petitioned Parliament to authorise its erection and in 1786 its foundation stone was laid in the presence of the Duke of Cumberland. The Towers, a slightly later house was built about 1810 and is still standing. It is said to have been an Inn and stopping place for coaches at first, but for most of the century was used by wine merchants, the building having a "large range of cellars". Sarah Thorne, the famous actress lived here for many years.

Hawley Square and its environs is the only piece of substantial Georgian development remaining in Margate. The gardens in the square are the only green public open space in the central area apart from the seafront area. Together the gardens and the surrounding houses are fine examples of the best period of English domestic architecture as well as being an object lesson in organic civic design. Within the accepted architectural language of the time the buildings as a group display a lively variety. They are not the work of one hand which results in an extremely interesting street facade. This is particularly true of the western and northern sides of the Square. The recognised architectural quality of the area can be judged by the number of "listed" buildings situated in it.

## Newsletter No. 1

Margate Civic Society was formed in 1968 and its first Newsletter was issued in January 1969. As the year 2018 is the Society's Golden Anniversary, it was though appropriate that the very first issue of its Newsletter should be reproduced in our latest Newsletter.

Originally, the Newsletter was printed on foolscap paper and the first issue was just one-and-a-half pages long. From 1969 to 2015, around ten issues of the Newsletter were published each year. In 2015, the format was changed to A4 and the frequency of issue of the Newsletter was changed to quarterly. This explains why the latest issue of the Newsletter is numbered 390.

The inaugural meeting of the Society was held in November at Westgate Library (see the most interesting article by the late Roy Adsett on page 4 of the Newsletter for further details). Although I joined the Society later on in 1969, it is doubtful whether any of our present members attended the January 1969 meeting. Certainly, I recall attending meetings in the upstairs room at Westgate Library which were well attended.

It was fitting that the leading article by David Scurrell in our very first newsletter should feature Hawley Square as it was largely because of the demolition of Georgian properties in Cecil Street and Hawley Square that Margate Civic Society was formed in order to protect adjoining Georgian from demolition by Margate Corporation as part of its Town Centre Redevelopment programme. **JB**



Courtesy of John Robinson

53 Hawley Sq before demolition in the late 1960s

## 50 Years Ago - Photos of Margate Town Centre from John Robinson



*Georgian houses in Cecil street shortly before demolition (Cecil Square in background) - September 1968*



*The southern side of Cecil Square was totally flattened March 1968*



This selection of photographs taken before and during the town centre redevelopment will bring back memories of how this part of Margate looked some 50 years ago

*Thornton Bobby's music shop in Queen Street before it was demolished*



*Shops at the junction of Queen Street and Wellclose Square before demolition - January 1968*



*Looking south east across Cecil Square showing the Hippodrome on the left of the picture. (Note the Citroën DS amongst the cars parked)*



*Looking south west across Cecil Square showing the Hippodrome on the left of the picture*



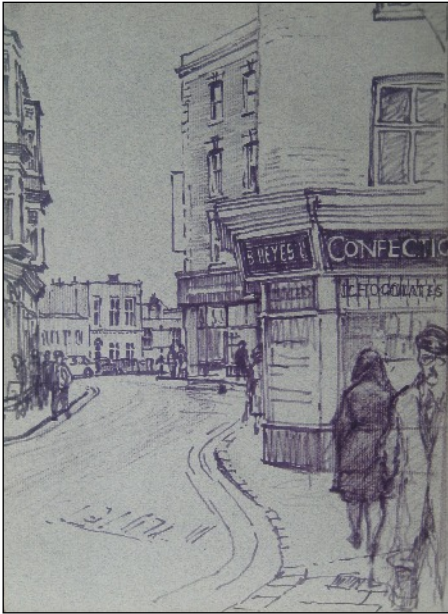
*Looking east from the junction of Queen Street and High Street (Note the large sign on the wall on the right of the picture)*



*Looking east towards Union Crescent (the former General Post Office is on the extreme left of the picture)*

## Margate Town Centre some 50 years ago - from Christopher Alexander's Sketchbook

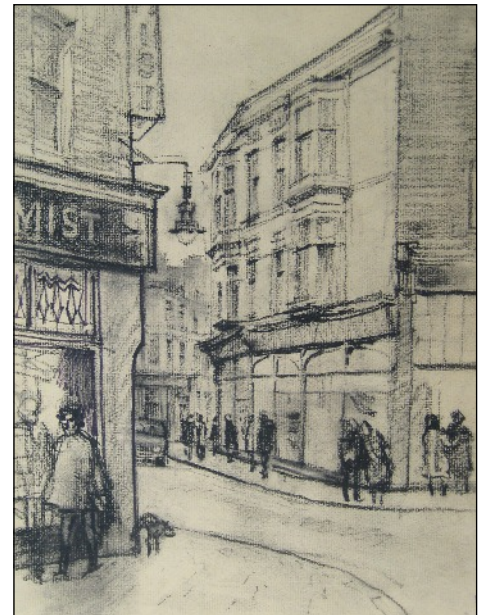
These three drawings of our town centre before its redevelopment are from one of Christopher Alexander's sketch-books and are reproduced in our Newsletter by kind permission of Steven Alexander. The middle sketch appears to show the tobacconists' shop in state of demolition. These images can be compared with some of the photographs on page 6.



*Cecil Square from High Street*



*Junction of Queen Street and Wellclose Square looking east into Cecil Square*



*Queen Street looking west. The building on the right is Bobby's*



*Outside Westminster Bank in Cecil Square looking south to Thornton Bobby's in Queen Street*



*Outside what was once Pelosi's Coffee Bar on Elephant Hill looking west*



*Top of Elephant Hill (Marine Gardens) looking west to Queen Street*



*From Queen Street looking west towards the Jubilee Clock Tower*

*The former First & Last Public House, Victoria Road*



## The Second Rock Landing-Stage

*Many readers of the Newsletter have enquired as to the original purpose of the concrete structure on which the Antony Gormley figure is located at its far end. I did not know what its purpose was but I knew a man who would know - Chris Sandwell, a former member of the RNLI lifeboat crew at Margate for 45 years. I invited Chris to write an article for our Newsletter and I was delighted when he accepted that offer. But not only did Chris supply the article, he also very kindly supplied a huge number of wonderful old photographs - a few of which have been selected to accompany his super article. Thank you, Chris. - Ed*

On the 8th October 2017, the *Islay Trader* neatly laid itself in a gully alongside the Gormley statue, just offshore from Turner Contemporary. Whilst this was unintentional, there was a time when somewhat smaller vessels regularly lay there.



*The Islay Trader stranded on Fulsam Rock only a few feet from the almost-submerged Gormley statue - 8th October 2017*

The area of rock to the east of this gully is formally known as Fulsam Rock, but I always referred to it as the Second Rock, this name was passed to me by the late Alf Manning, Coxswain of Margate Lifeboat 1966-82, and crew before that, and it was known as such by the boatmen of Margate. Unsurprisingly, the rock to the west is known as First Rock.



*Gormley statue*

In days gone by, at low water, the Margate boatmen made a good living hiring out their wherries to holiday-makers from this area of beach. The reader might wonder what wherries are. They are long narrow rowing-boats, peculiar to Margate. Sometimes the holiday-makers themselves would go for a row, at other times the boatmen would take them. Most of the boatmen owned one, including my grandfather, Harry. They went by such wonderful names as *Blue Jacket*, *Mignonette*, *Blossom* and *Haughty Belle*. These wherries were transported to the water's edge on what were known as pole trucks, a simple two-

wheeled contraption whereby a strop was passed under the wherry, pulling down on the pole lifted them from the ground.

There are photos in existence from as early as 1860 showing wherries operating from here. The gully at low water would have two to three feet of water in it depending



*Margate Jetty c1870 showing wherries for hire and a simple plank walkway on wheels (Note the shadow of the Jetty on the sands)*

on how far out one might go. The problem, of course, was how to get the holiday-makers into the wherries without getting their feet wet. A simple plank walkway was used at times and later a more substantial wheeled walkway, not an ideal solution. The edge of the rock adjacent to the gully was not uniform in its shape and although people did board from it a more permanent solution was required. The answer was relatively simple - build a landing stage with a uniform edge. Photographic evidence shows what appears to be a smaller wooden landing in use, constructed circa 1909, before the concrete one that is still there to this day, dating from circa 1910, this is adjacent to the old Town Drain. Larger motor-boats also used this landing. The heyday of this occupation was before World War One and after, up to World War Two. My late father, Ken, told me that the sons of the boatmen would often have to walk



*Margate Jetty c1880 - showing wherries with an enlarged walkway on wheels ready for use*





*Margate Jetty c1909 with what appears to be a wooden landing-stage alongside*



*Margate Jetty 1914 with motor-boats using the concrete landing-stage*

quite a distance to retrieve the wherries and row them back, if the hirers decided to abandon them (sometimes prearranged and often on a whim) at some other location. The construction of the landing-stage consists of three rows of placed concrete blocks each two feet wide, with a cap of concrete between the rows. The two rows on the west side are four feet apart, with the row to the east being 13½ feet from the inner west row. It is possible that originally the landing stage consisted only of the two west rows with the cap of concrete. I have only seen photos of the landing stage in its wider form. A search of local newspapers found no mention at all of the construction, therefore this speculation is neither proved nor disproved with photographic or written evidence. The overall width is 23½ feet.

With the need of small boats for the Dunkirk evacuation, in 1940, the Royal Navy commandeered many of the wherries, but the fashion in which they were lifted, to take them away on road transport, was to put a rope under the thwarts which, of course, pulled them out and the boats were wrecked.

The last vessel to use the gully regularly was the Margate Inshore Lifeboat of the RNLI, until 1985 when the old slipway down to the sands was lost in the reconfiguration of this area. The gully offered a very convenient launching site from the old slipway and the landing stage was very handy for crew changing. The present slipway points to the west making the most convenient launching site now to the west of First Rock. □

**Chris Sandwell**



*Cobb's Fishing Festival 1920. Note the large number of spectators on the Jetty and on the landing-stage*



*Droit House c1890 showing the former slipway used by the wherries alongside. The hotels on the left of the picture were demolished in the 1930s. Marine Terrace can be seen in the background. Oh, how different it all is nowadays!*



*Margate Jetty and Cold Harbour - prior to 1877. Note the large number of wherries*



*The remains of the concrete landing-stage as seen today with the Gormley statue at its far end*

# O' LISTEN TO THE BAND



*Bandstand, Westbrook*



*Margate Jetty Bandstand*



*Bandstand, The Fort  
Showing lights being fitted*



*Bandstand, The Oval*



*Replica Victorian Bandstand, The Oval  
(The only survival in our area)*

It is easy to forget how popular listening to the band once was for visitors and residents alike - and not only on a summer's Sunday afternoon. This selection of images indicates the popularity of bandstands in Edwardian times. Crested china models of bandstand bearing the Margate coat-of-arms were produced for visitors to buy as souvenirs of their seaside holidays at Margate. Oh, how times have changed since those days - and not necessarily for the better! Today, only a rather neglected replica Victorian bandstand at The Oval, Cliftonville, remains in our town. □

**JB**



*Bandstand, Dane Park*



*Coronation Bandstand, Westgate-on-Sea*



*Courtesy of Richard Clements*



*Queens Bandstand, Cliftonville*



Be wary of captions on postcards!



*According to the caption, this postcard view shows 'Bandstand, The Oval, Cliftonville'. In reality, it shows The Fort Bandstand...*



*...and this postcard, according to the caption, confusingly refers to it as showing 'The Fort Oval'*



*Courtesy of Arnold Schwartzman*

## More Bandstands - but further afield

### Brighton's magnificent Bandstand



This magnificent bandstand at Brighton is known locally as 'the birdcage'. It was built in 1884 and was restored to its original specification by Brighton & Hove City Council in 2009. It is a Grade II Listed building of architectural and historical importance and is considered to be one of the finest Victorian bandstands still surviving in England. It stands majestically on Brighton seafront and offers unrivalled views over the sea. During the summer months, it hosts a variety of bands every Sunday throughout June, July and August.



Mosaic floor of Brighton bandstand showing both the date of its construction in 1884 and of its renovation in 2009

### Ellington Park Bandstand, Ramsgate



### The Deal Memorial Bandstand



The bandstand at Deal is a memorial to the eleven Royal Marines Musicians who were killed at Deal Barracks in 1989. The bombing was an attack by the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) on the Royal Marines Depot, Deal, England. It took place at 8:22am on 22nd September 1989, when the IRA exploded a time bomb at the Royal Marines School of Music building. The building collapsed, killing eleven Royal Marines.

The Royal Marines put on concerts at the Memorial Bandstand. It is believed that the next concert will be held on Sunday 15th July 2018 commencing at 2.30pm. □

JB

*The plaque attached to the railings at Deal Memorial Bandstand*



# Remembering the Women's Suffrage Movement 1918-2018



Courtesy of Richard Clements

The 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918 was marked on 6th February 2018. It was legislation that enabled all men and some women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time and paved the way for universal suffrage ten years later. It was the suffragette movement that contributed largely to 'votes for women'. This superb postcard view shows suffragettes outside the Theatre Royal. In the background can be seen 26 Addington Street, the general stores owned by John and Stephen Peters. On the back of the postcard mention is made of the Pankhurst family. It is believed that the lady holding the bouquet of flowers is Christabel Pankhurst, the eldest daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst. Christabel Pankhurst is reported to have spoken at a meeting held at the Theatre Royal on Saturday, 2nd July 1910. No doubt this photograph was taken that same day. If any reader can identify any of the other suffragettes shown in the photo, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

## Blue Plaque for T.S. Eliot erected adjacent to the Nayland Rock Shelter



The Nayland Rock Shelter with the Toilets block (see below) at rear



Don't miss Turner Contemporary's exhibition *Journeys with 'The Waste Land'* (open until 7th May) which examines connections between T.S. Eliot's poem and historical and contemporary art. And don't miss taking a walk along the seafront from Turner Contemporary to the Nayland Rock Shelter, (Grade II listed) the location where it is believed that T.S. Eliot wrote some lines of the poem *The Waste Land*. Throughout Margate, there are numerous venues collaborating with Turner Contemporary with their own exhibitions, events and presentations. The Blue Plaque shown below was put up on the eve of the opening of the new exhibition at Turner Contemporary □

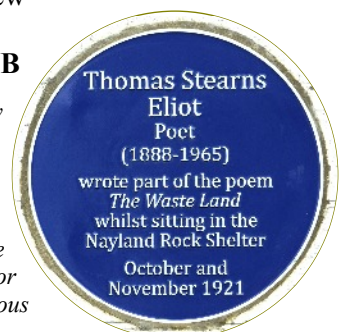
The Blue Plaque can be seen on the west-facing wall of the Toilets block next to the Nayland Rock Shelter



The English Heritage Blue Plaque erected on the front of Kensington Court Gardens, Kensington

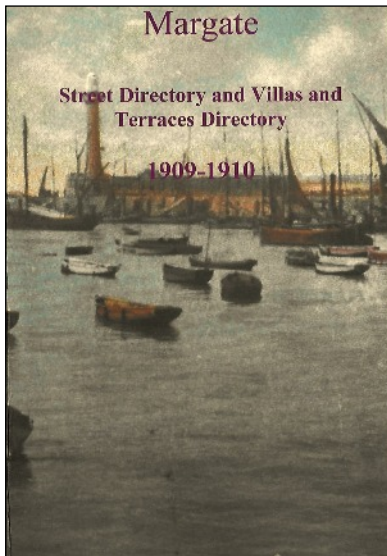
JB

The Blue Plaque was made by Croft Cast Signs of Whitby and put up on 2nd February 2018 by G.W. Gardner. It was commissioned by Nick Dermott, TDC's Heritage Advisor, on behalf of a donor who wished to remain anonymous



## Book Reviews

*Margate: Street Directory and Villas and Terraces Directory 1909-1910* published by Michael's Bookshop, 72 King Street, Ramsgate in A5 format, 64pp at £3.99



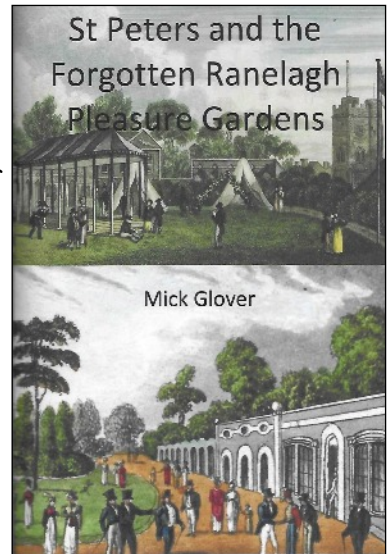
This recently published volume is a direct reprint of the pages in Kelly's Directory of the Isle Thanet for 1909-1910 containing the names of the head of the household for every property in the Borough of Margate in alphabetical order of street. In addition, it lists all the villas and terraces in Margate at the end of the Edwardian age. This book follows on from the reprint of the 1899-

1900 edition of Kelly's Directory for Margate which Michael's Bookshop published in 2005. Original copies of Kelly's Directories prior to the 1920s are extremely difficult to find (as well as being extremely fragile) and these reprints are a superb resource for local historians. Amazingly, the Margate 1909-1910 Directory is the 192nd publication of local history interest that has been published by Michael's Bookshop over the last 20 years or so. Thanet is indeed most fortunate to have a publisher producing books and booklets on a huge range of subjects at affordable prices. If you have not visited Michael's Bookshop, you are strongly recommended to pay it a visit but do remember that it is closed on Thursdays.



*St Peters and the Forgotten Ranelagh Pleasure Gardens* by Mick Glover published by Michael's Bookshop in A5 format, 130pp at £6.99

Although this book relates mainly to St Peters and the former Ranelagh Pleasure Gardens that were founded exactly 200 years ago in 1818, it will be of interest to our members as the book contains references to the former Tivoli Pleasure Gardens at Margate and to the former Dent-de-Lion Pleasure Gardens at Garlinge. In the early part of the nineteenth century, pleasure grounds were a major draw and attracted huge numbers of visitors. Today, little remains to be seen of the Ranelagh Pleasure Gardens but a walk around Ranelagh Grove and other parts of St Peters will reveal a good number of architectural gems and, if you have never found Ranelagh Grove, do walk around it on a fine summer's day. This extremely well illustrated book will make an excellent companion on such a walk and ensure that maximum enjoyment is derived from the visit. My only criticism of the book is that it does not contain even a simple map showing the main roads but I suppose that, with many visitors simply calling up maps on their iPhones and iPads, printed maps are now considered 'old hat' by the younger generation. But, having said that, this book is strongly recommended. The author, Mick Glover, lives in Ranelagh Grove and it clearly was a real pleasure for him to research the village and its very interesting history. □



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JB

## South Eastern Railway Company coach in Northdown Road - 1892



This rare photograph shows a South Eastern Railway coach passing 1 Northdown Road. The coach ran from the Cliftonville Hotel to Margate (South Eastern Railway) Station and back. The photograph was taken outside No 1 Northdown Road and is dated July 1892. The photograph shows how up-market Cliftonville used to be. □

Photo courtesy of Nick Dermott



## Margate Charter Trustees and Westgate-on-Sea Town Council

Readers of our Newsletter will be familiar with the payment that was made by Margate Charter Trustees to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council in 2015 of £50,643 when splitting the Charter Trustees' assets on the creation by TDC of the Town Council. Readers will also be aware that a local elector lodged a formal objection to the cash sum that was paid over to the Town Council. In 2017, the Charter Trustees' external auditor duly investigated that objection and reported that the Charter Trustees had, indeed, made an overpayment to the Town Council of £18,372.78. In addition to paying over £50,643 to the Town Council, the Charter Trustees agreed to hand over to the Town Council two silver presentation cups which had a Westgate connection. These two cups were formally handed over to the Town Council at a meeting held in June 2015 by the then Mayor of Margate, Cllr Robin Edwards, to the Chairman of the Town Council, Cllr Tom King. It later became apparent that at least one of the two silver cups was not owned by the Charter Trustees but were being merely held by the Charter Trustees for 'safekeeping'.

It was a legal requirement that the Charter Trustees consider what action to take regarding the Public Interest Report issued by the external auditors concerning the transfer of assets to the Town Council. At a meeting held on 25th September 2017, the Charter Trustees agreed to ask the Town Council to repay the overpayment of £18,372.78. The Clerk to the Charter Trustees then wrote to the Chairman of the Town Council requesting the return of the sum overpaid. It would appear that the letter was never reported to the Town Council although the Town Council has now returned the two silver cups to the Charter Trustees. Needless to say, the return of the cups was not carried out with high ceremony as was the case when the cups were given to the Town Council.

It would seem that the Town Council has simply refused to return the overpayment of £18,372.78 leaving the Charter Trustees with much depleted funds. Had the £18,372.78 been returned to the Charter Trustees, the Charter Trustees could have set a lower precept for 2018/19 thus benefiting all of Margate's council tax payers.

It is considered that this whole episode reflects badly on both the Charter Trustees and the Town Council over their handling of public money.

It seems that Thanet District Council has decided not to carry out the community governance review that the Charter Trustees has requested as a first step towards creating a Town Council for Margate to replace the existing Charter Trustees. There is no evidence of the townspeople of Margate wanting to have a Town Council. Had it been agreed that a 'super district council' be set up for east Kent, the case for a Town Council for Margate would have been stronger. It is interesting that Canterbury City Council have recently given consideration to the setting up of new Town Councils for Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay but concluded that there was inadequate support from each of the towns for Town Councils to be set up in the three areas.

When one considers how the Council Tax has risen in Westgate to meet the Town Council's precept since their Town Council was set up in 2015, the level of any support

for a Town Council for Margate is likely to further diminish. Westgate-on-Sea Town Council's increase in Council Tax for 2017/18 was 41.5% over its 2016/17 level. For 2018/19, the increase in Council Tax over 2017/18 is 32.1%. These inflation-busting increases are way in excess of the very limited increases which TDC and KCC are permitted to approve without the need for a referendum to be held to approve any proposed increase over the prescribed limits. But this legislation does not apply to either Town Council or Parish Councils which are allowed to increase their Council Tax requirements without limit. The possibility of a Margate Town Council setting its Council Tax requirement far in excess of what the Charter Trustees set has to be a distinct possibility with subsequent large increases each year.

It should be remembered that Charter Trustees are legally restricted as to what they can spend their money on. Charter Trustees are permitted to only spend their precept on administration and Mayoral activities. The Charter Trustees do not provide local government services to the public which, of course, a Town Council would be able to do. One can foresee a situation where, if a Town Council were to be set up for Margate, TDC could well decide to transfer a range of its services currently provided to the people of Margate to the Town Council - with significant increases in Council Tax to the people of Margate. One has only to look at the local increases in the Council Tax since Westgate-on-Sea Town Council was set up in 2015 to see what could also happen in Margate if a Town Council were to be set up for Margate. Is that what the people of Margate really want?

JB

### The two silver cups now returned to Margate Charter Trustees



*Left: The St Mildred's Cup was originally presented to Margate Bowling Club by the late Councillor F. A. A. Herbert who, for many years, managed 'Millies' and the Tudor Bar at the former St Mildred's Hotel remembered fondly by some of our older members. This cup is EPNS (electro-plated nickel silver)*



*Right: The Margate Festival Westgate-on-Sea Challenge Trophy. This solid-silver cup bears a silver hallmark for 1936*

# What's On

**Margate Civic Society** (talks all start at 7.30pm at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville)

Date	Subject
<b>2018</b>	
1st March	'Margate Caves and Thanet's Underground Heritage' by Rod LeGear MCIFA (Vice President, Kent Archaeological Society, Chairman, Kent Underground Research Group)
5th April	'Public Timekeeping on the Isle of Thanet' by Mike Bundock, Chairman of the Herne Bay Historical Records Society
10th May	Town Pride Awards followed by refreshments. Guests £3.50 each nominal fee
4th October	AGM followed by 'Thanet's Gift to the World' by Dr Andrew Brown BA, PhD, MCBA, Planning Director, South East Planning Group, Historic England
1st November	'Time to Thank Them' by John Drewy, Patron of The Nursing Memorial Appeal
13th December	Christmas 50th Anniversary Celebratory Event - a 1960s-theme evening with films, music, photo-quiz, raffle and refreshments - full details to be confirmed



**Westgate Heritage Centre** (in the back of St Saviour's Church)

Winter/Spring programme - Open on the first Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 12 noon.

**From Wednesday 2nd May 2018**, the Centre will open on **Wednesdays** 11.00 am to 1.00pm and on **Saturdays** 10.00am to 12 noon

On the first Saturday of each month there will be a talk at 10.30am

Date	Subject
<b>2018</b>	
3rd March	Annual General Meeting followed by a short talk by Dr Dawn Crouch on some of the Heritage Centre's interesting artefacts
7th April	'The Story of two (or three) Wills relating to Westgate-on-Sea - Part II' by Sally Whitworth and Dr Dawn Crouch
20th April (Note: This is a Friday event)	'The Victorian Soirée' - Come and join us at St Saviour's Church for a typical social evening of Victorian entertainment. Tickets £5 each which includes wine and refreshments. Note: Starts at 7.30pm
5th May	Illustrated talk by Dr Graham Field 'A Rolling Kentish Stone' – the story of one resident of Roxburgh Road
2nd June	Illustrated talk by Dr Dawn Crouch 'The Story of Three Wills' Part III The death of the childless Edward Taddy in 1835 made available much coveted land in Thanet, which would affect the development of the area, including the future Westgate-on-Sea.
7th July	Illustrated talk by Heritage Centre member Pat Orpwood on Freddie Lonsdale, playwright and London Theatre Manager, who had important links with Westgate-on-Sea
4th August	Illustrated talk by Heritage Centre member Colin Osborne '100 years of a Westgate Family'. Colin's family have been associated with Westgate since 1916 and its story is a fascinating vignette of the town's story
6th August to 18th August	<b>10.00am to 4.00pm</b> (not Sundays) Westgate Art Group Summer Exhibition. The Heritage Centre will be holding an exhibition throughout those two weeks

**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)

Supported by



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 digitally illustrated, are interesting and of local interest; they are also varied in their appeal. A Newsletter is published four times a year.

## Committee for 2017/18:

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

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

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

**Membership Secretary:** Ms Sally Whitworth, C/o 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 07949 835777)  
(e-mail: [whitworthandbird@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:whitworthandbird@hotmail.co.uk))

**Newsletter Editor:** Mr James Brazier, "The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ  
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**Planning and Conservation issues:** Mr Mike Thompson, 7 Seymour Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5HT  
(Tel: 01843 832834) (e-mail: [mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com))

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

✂.....

## Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £ .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Tel:** ..... **e-mail:** .....

## Subscription rates for 2017/18:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£12.00	£16.00	£4.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£10.00	£14.00	£2.00	£20.00

*Please note that Life Membership subscription is no longer available*

and send it to the Membership Secretary, Ms Sally Whitworth, C/o 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR

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