

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Spring 2011
Newsletter
Issue No. 362



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



The Turner Contemporary gallery beside Droit House

Much excitement is building up in our town as the opening date of the long-awaited Turner Contemporary gallery fast approaches. Saturday, 16th April is the date when it opens and we await with anticipation the many events that are being laid on to mark this important occasion. More significantly, we look forward to the long-term impact that the gallery will have on our town. As we all know, much public money has been invested in this project at a time when huge spending cuts are having to be made across the country. Kent County Council, in particular, has funded the major part of this investment and their belief in the success of this project to assist the re-generation of our town deserves due recognition and support by local residents. Together, we should each contribute towards the success of the project by encouraging friends and family to visit the gallery and promote its various exhibitions. By doing so, there will be a greater chance of the gallery becoming a much heralded attraction in the town drawing art-lovers from far afield. Margate Civic Society has played an important part in this project and members are reminded that it was John Crofts who first promoted the idea of a Turner gallery when he was Chairman of the Society back in 1995. Since then, the Society has consistently supported the concept of a purpose-built art gallery in the town recognising the important connection the town has with Joseph Mallord William Turner - the greatest British artist of all time! The architect for Turner Contemporary, Sir David Chipperfield, was recently awarded the Royal Gold Medal, for his lifetime's work for architecture, by the Royal Institute of British Architects. This award is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious architecture prizes and follows the award of the RIBA Stirling Prize to David Chipperfield Associates in 2008. Will his design of the Turner Contemporary earn him yet another award? We will just have to wait and see. But let's hope that it does □

James Brazier, Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new members

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

Anthony Lee
Mr & Mrs Nick Colyer
Diane Groombridge
Margaret Broadhurst
David Impett
Roger & Margaret Cheetham
Robert Varnham
Thomas Thompson
Harry & Anthea Preston
Angela Malone

Lynda Smith, Membership Secretary

Civic Day Initiative

Margate Civic Society's Executive Committee are currently planning - in conjunction with Civic Voice (the successor body to the Civic Trust) - a Civic Day to be held on Saturday, 25th June 2011.

This is a new initiative when civic societies across England will invite people to celebrate their area and discover more about where they live. A diverse programme of events and activities showcasing the civic society activity across the country is being planned, focussed on Saturday, 25th June 2011 as the first Civic Day. This will provide an opportunity for civic societies to demonstrate their strength in numbers, celebrating their achievements and showcasing their work on a national as well as a local level.

It will be an opportunity to raise funds and recruit members while celebrating all that is good about Margate and its environs. More information on what the Society is planning for Civic Day will be available in due course at our meetings and on our website www.margatecivicsociety.org □

Copies of our Newsletter available electronically

Copies of our Newsletter in colour are now available to be sent to members electronically. If you would like to help us keep down our printing costs and wish to receive your copy of the Newsletter in PDF format by e-mail, please contact our Membership Secretary, Mrs Lynda Smith, by e-mail at lyndylou_smith@talktalk.net giving your name and address. Such action will not only reduce our costs but will also help enormously with the distribution of the Newsletter. This applies particularly to those members to whom Newsletter are sent by post with ever-increasing postage costs. Members wishing to take up this option will also receive their Newsletter some two/three weeks earlier than those who receive printed Newsletters. Please do help us by taking advantage of this facility if you can. □



Margate painting to be on display again



*Margate 1869 by James Webb
(This large oil-painting was bought
by the former Margate Borough
Council in 1925)*

This oil painting by James Webb has featured a number of times in our Newsletter in recent years. It hung for a number of years just inside the main door to Margate Public Library (before the library metamorphosed into Gateway Plus)

since when it has been out of public view. Older members of the Society will recall that the painting once hung in the former Cottage Hospital in Victoria Road which was used to house Margate Library before the library was moved to Cecil Square in the early 1970s.

During a site visit to the Turner Contemporary gallery in October last, your Newsletter Editor suggested to Lauren Wright, their Curator, that it would be good to see the James Webb painting put on display at the Turner Contemporary. Well, the good news is that, as a consequence, it will now be on display at the new gallery when it opens on 16th April and will remain on display there for a year. This is another very good reason for visiting the Turner Contemporary! □

Margate Operatic Society

presents a special show to celebrate the century of entertainment at the Winter Gardens

THE PRODUCERS AT WINTER GARDENS MARGATE

From Tuesday 31st May to Saturday 4th June 2011

Performances Nightly Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30pm
Matinee Performance on Saturday

Tickets £12.00 or £11.00 for seniors and children

Please contact the Margate Operatic Society's
Box Office on 01843 297780 for tickets

Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI

As many of our members know, another of our members - who is also a regular contributor to our Newsletters - is Arnold Schwartzman. Arnold has lived in Hollywood since 1978 but, as a boy, lived in Cliftonville and attended Holy Trinity Primary School and King Ethelbert School before going on to the Thanet School of Arts and Crafts. Arnold maintains his interest in Margate and often makes visits to the town when he is back in our country. Indeed, he last visited Margate in October when he was given a private tour of the Turner Contemporary gallery by its Director, Victoria Pomery, shortly before the construction works at the gallery were completed.

Arnold was recently the Special Guest at a leading event organised by the Washington Next Generation Board that was recently held at the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC, USA, entitled: 'The Power of Film and the Holocaust: an evening with Sir Ben Kingsley'. The event took place on 1st March 2011.

Arnold was delighted to be asked by his friend Sir Ben Kingsley to offer a special introduction to the programme as Arnold's 1981 film, *Genocide*, was the first film on the subject of the Holocaust to be honoured at the Academy Awards.



*Arnold Schwartzman and Turner
Contemporary Director, Victoria Pomery,
on site - October 2010*

As an Academy Award-winning filmmaker, leading graphic designer, and a successful author, Arnold more than deserves all the credit he receives. As a 'local boy made good', we are delighted that he still has fond memories of our town and that he maintains such a positive interest in its development - particularly in the area of art. We are grateful that Arnold should devote much

of his time and energy to our town and we look forward to reading his next contribution to our Newsletter. □

Friends of Margate Museum

A meeting of the new Friends of Margate Museum, held on Monday, 21st February 2011 in the Old Town Hall, attracted over 50 persons. The Mayor of Margate, Cllr Mick Tomlinson, kindly hosted the meeting at which a committee was elected with a view to seeking the approval of Thanet District Council to the re-opening of Margate Museum manned by volunteers from the Friends of Margate Museum. This high level of public support for the re-opening of our Museum is most encouraging. □

Nominations for Town Pride Awards 2011

This year, the Society received eleven nominations for Town Pride Awards. All of the properties nominated for the 2011 Town Pride Awards are shown below:



*The Arcadian, Fort Hill
(Refurbishment)*



*Highgate Nursing Home
51 Alpha Road, Birchington
(Refurbishment)*



*The Seaview Hotel, Station Road Birchington
(Refurbishment)*



*71 Sea Road
Westgate-on-Sea
(Replacement of balconies, etc)*



*Westgate-on-Sea sign,
Canterbury Road
Westgate-on-Sea
(Erection of a new sign by
the Westgate & Westbrook
Residents' Association)*



*Turner Contemporary
(Construction of new art-gallery)*



*Corner of Crow Hill Road and Maynard Avenue
Margate
(New development of eight flats)*



*Burlington Place, Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville
(New development)*



*40 & 42 Bath Road, Cliftonville
(New development)*



*New Life Family Church
8 Church Street, Margate
(Extension to building - shown on left of picture)*



*5 & 6 Caroline Square, Cliftonville
(Refurbishment)*

The results of the judging for the Society's 2011 Town Pride Awards will be announced at our meeting on 5th May 2011 when presentations of the Awards will be made to the winners. □

India House - one of Margate's finest old houses



India House, Hawley Street (The Limes is shown on the right-hand side)

India House, an attractive brown- and red-brick house, is situated in Hawley Street, on the corner of New Street. It is Listed Grade II* as a building of “special historic interest” and an early example of “an eccentric seaside villa”. Pevsner refers to it as “the best house in Margate”. It was built in about 1770 by a Captain John Gould (1722-84), a wealthy man, who had spent much of his life as a tea-planter in India. Several high-up employees of the East India Company, such as John White Masters and William Smith, later retired to Kent, in particular to Faversham, but Captain Gould had no connection with the Company. He built himself a house in Calcutta, of which India House is reputedly a replica. This, however, has never been



The imposing hallway looking towards the front door

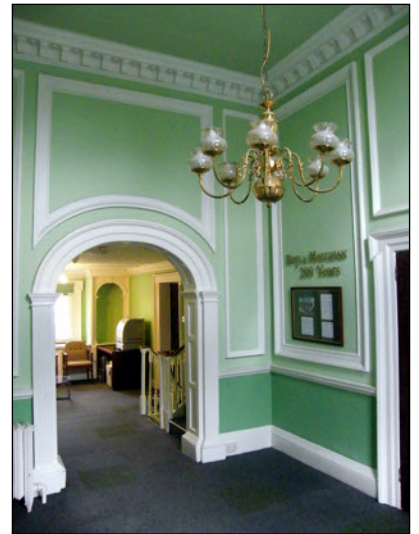
Indian wife, however, reputedly remained at their Calcutta house. He died in 1784 and is buried in St Leonard’s Church, Upper Deal. India House was inherited by his son, John, the result of Gould’s liaison with his Margate housekeeper.

After his death the house was used as offices by the East India Company. In the 19th century, it was occupied in turn by Mr Chippendale - a banker, Mrs French (1841) and Mr Walter Green (1881) - a wine merchant. In 1897, it became the home of Phyllis Broughton, the famous “Gaiety Girl”. In 1922, at the age of almost 70, she married a Margate doctor, Dr Thomson, of the same age. He sadly died after only two years of marriage. In 1905, Dr Harnett, Resident Surgeon at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, died here. In 1917, it was occupied by Dr W. C. Esse, ex-Chief Physician at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

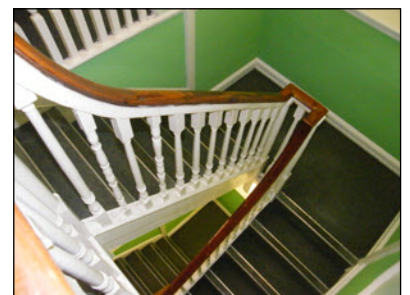
substantiated and the house has never been located.

By 1776, Margate had become a popular place for the rich to come as visitors and also as residents. Seaside air was becoming fashionable – the original Sea Bathing Hospital dated from about 1792, pre-dating the existing classical building of 1820. Cecil Square had recently been built (1769) and Hawley Square was soon to follow.

In 1759, John Gould was appointed a Commissioner for Restitution after the Siege of Calcutta. He was also an Alderman. He returned to England in 1766, eventually settling in Margate. This could well be the first recorded example of someone retiring to the seaside. His Portuguese-



The fine interior with the chandelier



The fine staircase inside India House

The legal firm of Boys & Maughan had its roots in 1803, when John Boys set up a practice. He was joined in 1837 by John Harvey Boys. The latter's son, Toke Harvey Boys, joined the firm, but later set up on his own. In 1902, he joined up with C. E. Maughan to form the firm of Boys & Maughan. Toke Harvey Boys died in 1916 and is interred in St John's Church, Margate, where there is an alabaster plaque in his memory. His signature may be seen on the back of a map of East Kent on the staircase in India House. In 1920, Boys & Maughan moved into India House, where they remain to this day.

The house is largely constructed of brown brick, in Flemish bonding. There is some additional red-brick dressing. The roof is made of clay tiles. The front of the house is approached by an elegant set of double stone "perron" steps leading up to the main entrance. Above is a crenellated parapet. Below the steps is a door leading into a basement. Neither this door nor the upper main door are in use today. Above the main doorway is a small oval, œil-de-bœuf ("bull's-eye") window. Inside, the house is unusual in having only one storey at the front, but two at the rear. The hallway has an archway dividing the front from the rear. There is attractive panelling, a small but elegant staircase and several beautiful Adam-style fireplaces.

The house is now linked internally to The Limes, next door – an attractive early 19th century building, which until around seven years ago housed a medical practice. Today, it is used as the main entrance, through which access is gained to India House. At the back some one-storey extensions were added in more recent times.

The New Street side of the house bears a blue plaque, erected by Thanet District Council. In front of the building is a Town Pride Award, given to Boys & Maughan in 1989 for the lamp-post and hanging sign outside the house.



The imposing front door with the bull's-eye window above



The blue plaque put up by Thanet District Council some years ago recording that Phyllis Broughton lived at India House at one time

Our thanks are due to Boys & Maughan for their kindness in allowing us access to the interior of the premises. In particular, to Robin Evans – their Marketing Manager - for showing us round and pointing us in the direction of his article on the Wikipedia website. □

Robin Fleet

Margate War Memorial WWI Roll of Honour

Amongst the names on Margate War Memorial is that of A. W. Maughan. The following particulars are extracted from the Roll of Honour to be found on Margate Civic Society's website www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk and clicking on War Memorials:

MAUGHAN A. W.

2/Lt Alfred William Maughan, 285th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

Killed in action on 24th June 1917, aged 37. He was born at Mickley, Northumberland and was educated at Durham School and at University College, Oxford, graduating in 1903. He was a schoolmaster at Hove, Sussex when he enlisted in November 1915 and joined the 28th Bn Royal Fusiliers. In November 1916, he was commissioned into the RFA. His widowed mother lived at Northdown Avenue, Cliftonville. He was unmarried. His brother, Cyril Collingwood Maughan, was a partner in Boys & Maughan, a firm of solicitors still practising today in Margate.

Interred at Kemmel Château Military Cemetery, Belgium

Correspondence

Members Janet & John Robinson recently tipped off your Editor about a new website created by Anthony Lee who has recently joined the Society. I immediately visited the website and was most impressed with what I found. I made contact with Anthony Lee and received the following letter which provides valuable information about the development of the website which will be of particular interest to members who are online:

Dear Mr Brazier

New Margate History Website www.margatelocalhistory.co.uk

Many thanks for the e-mail message about my website. I am pleased that you like the site and I would be delighted if you publicised it in the Newsletter. That would be an excellent way to let people know that the site existed. You asked about how I hope to develop the site. Apart from adding a few more maps, the main idea over the next months is to start adding pictures to the site (prints, photographs, stereoviews and postcards). The idea is that clicking on a particular location on the maps will open up a set of pictures of that location. Two of the maps (Edmunds Map and the 10 ft/mile OS Map) have drop-down menus from which you can go straight to a street or location of interest. These locations are marked by coloured spots, and the idea is that clicking on these spots will open a set of views of that location. As an example, if you click on the St John's Church button on either map, a Gallery Viewer will open showing views of the Church - hover above the menu buttons at the bottom of the Gallery Viewer to see a variety of options for controlling the Viewer.

Initially, I will use illustrations from my own collection, but, of course, that will be quite limiting, and I would very much like to add pictures from other people's collections, if that were possible (suitable acknowledgements could be included on the web pages). Also, I know that there is lots of important material in the old Margate Museum - a coloured version of the Edmunds Map and an early large scale Ordnance Survey map for example, together with various rare prints. Perhaps there would be some way to include material of this kind? But that is all for the future. The design of the site is quite flexible, and it would be possible to include much more text on the site than there is at present.

All best wishes
Tony Lee

Dear Sir

Faversham Open House Scheme - July 2011

As a similar society to our own, I thought your members may be interested in the following:

Faversham Society will be running its 42nd Open House scheme, the longest running event of its kind in Britain, starting on the 2nd July 2011. The pretty medieval market-

town boasts several listed buildings amongst the 25 or so fascinating properties which will be on view, many of them private residences not normally open to the public.

Open House runs on Saturday 2nd, 9th and 16th July. Admission to all the properties is by a handbook, £7.50, which includes historical and architectural notes on each property, and will be available from the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre from 1st June.

For information and handbook, contact The Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, 10-13 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NS Tel: 01795 534542

e-mail: ticfaversham@btconnect.com

website: www.faversham.org

I do hope we see you there.

Kind regards

Pam McLean

The Faversham Society

The following letter was recently received by our Chairman, Mrs Pamela Pople:

Dear Mrs Pople

Penny Ward Memorial Fund

I enclose a cheque for £27.51 payable to Margate Civic Society in memory of Penny Ward, who died tragically at the age of 53 in 1998.

When Penny died, many of her friends and colleagues from around the country sent money to Margate Library to commemorate her memory.

Her partner, David Nunn, and myself set up the Penny Ward Memorial Fund and for many years we tried to find something to purchase for the Local History collection at Margate Library. I am a former colleague of Penny Ward and I discovered that the collection was very comprehensive and, over the years, was unable to find any books, documents, or pamphlets to enhance the collection.

Eventually, after consulting Penny's former colleagues, David and I decided to commission a painting of Margate Harbour by local artist Peter White, which now hangs in Margate Library.

There is £27.51 remaining in the Fund and David and I know that Penny belonged to Margate Civic Society. Therefore, again after consulting Penny's former colleagues, I enclose a cheque for £27.51.

Yours sincerely

Iris Huckstep (Mrs)

Secretary, Penny Ward Memorial Fund

Note from our Chairman:

A suitable letter of thanks has been sent to Iris Huckstep on behalf of the Society thanking her, her colleagues and David Nunn for their kind generosity - Pamela Pople

Editor's Note:

A report on the unveiling of the painting of Margate Harbour by Peter White, commissioned in memory of the late Penny Ward, was included in our Winter 2009 Newsletter (Issue No. 357, page 2) - Ed

The Story in Pictures of Margate's last K6 Heritage Telephone Kiosk - so far



Norfolk Road 7th March 2006



Norfolk Road 16th March 2010



Stone Pier 2nd June 2010

These pictures tell the story to date of Margate's last surviving K6 telephone kiosk which 'adopted' by Margate Charter Trustees a year or so ago and relocated from its former site in Norfolk Road to the Stone Pier (now referred to by many as Margate Harbour Arm). The first of the pictures show the kiosk still in use five years ago shortly before the St George's Hotel was demolished. The second picture shows the kiosk after the hotel had been demolished and after the telephone kiosk had been decommissioned by British Telecom. The third and subsequent pictures show how the kiosk has been progressively vandalised since its removal to the Harbour Arm. The pictures speak for themselves. Note its nearness to the new Turner Contemporary gallery which will open to the public on 16th April 2011. □



29th August 2010



10th October 2010



10th October 2010



8th February 2011



12th March 2011

Soldiers leave their mark at Westwood Cross



Next time you are at Westwood Cross, give yourself a break from shopping and take a close look at the wall at the entrance gateway to the former Haine Hospital and see the names of military convalescents carved into the soft red bricks during the two world wars. The photographs below are a selection from the Second World War. According to the notice (see above), there are also a number of carvings dating from the First World War to be found. History is all around us. □



J. SMITH
1940



DOYLE. P.
R.A.M.C. 1941
(RAMC = Royal Army Medical Corps)



DVR. A.E. CHILVERS
T/190088 RASC
(DVR = Driver
RASC = Royal Army Service Corps)

ISLE OF THANET JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

THIS STONE WAS LAID BY
THE RT HON. JAMES LOWTHER. M.P.
FOR THE THANET DIVISION OF KENT.
OCTOBER 29th 1900.

GEORGE MORAY MACFARLANE.
MAYOR OF MARGATE.
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. J.P.

ALDERMAN JOHN BARNET HODGSON,
MAYOR OF RAMSGATE. J.P.

HENRY WILLIAM BRITTON,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADSTAIRS AND ST PETERS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL. J.P.

ARTHUR FLINT M.D. J.P.
CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLE OF THANET
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A. BROMLEY BURROWS CLERK TO THE BOARD.

HENRY BERTRAM LANGHAM } JOINT
WILLIAM GEORGE OSBORNE } ARCHITECT

WILLIAM WOODGATE MARTIN CONTRACTOR

The foundation stone built into the wall

ISLE OF THANET JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.
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WILLIAM GEORGE OSBORNE } ARCHITECT
WILLIAM WOODGATE MARTIN CONTRACTOR

A tale of three cliff-top public shelters - a photographic record showing how two of them have changed over the last five years

The former Borough of Margate district has seventeen public shelters remaining in situ. Some of them are replacements for earlier Victorian shelters but by far the majority are the original shelters put up to provide shelter for the many visitors that the Borough once attracted each year. Over the years, many of these shelters have suffered from vandalism and their ongoing maintenance is a matter of concern to Thanet District Council. In October 2005, yours truly decided to photograph all of the public shelters on the cliff-tops and the seafront as a record of their condition at that time. It has to be said that in the little-over-five years since that date, many of the shelters have suffered much damage. It seems that the shelters make ideal goalposts to many budding Wayne Rooneys in the area with the result that many panes of glass have been shattered and the frameworks damaged. Note the re-positioning of the metal posts at the Barnes Avenue shelter.

In this article, we look at how two of these shelters have changed dramatically in the last five years.



The first shelter - located between St Mildred's Bay and West Bay, Westgate-on-Sea - was designed by Charles Moxon for 20 persons. He was an architect who lived at *Beach Cliff* (now demolished) and was the father-in-law of Sir William Quiller Orchardson RA who lived at *Ivyside* (also demolished), next door to his in-laws. The shelter was built in 1888 by Lockwood & Co. The picture on the left was taken in October 2005 and the one on the right was taken in October 2010.



The second shelter above is approximately one mile due east of the one shown at Westgate and is located near the north end of Barnes Avenue, Westbrook. This shelter is one of a pair (see picture below) which, it is believed, were constructed in the late 1920s/early 1930s complete with electric lighting. The picture on the left was taken in October 2005 and the one on the right was taken in January 2011. Note the adverse visual effect of removing the windows from these shelters.

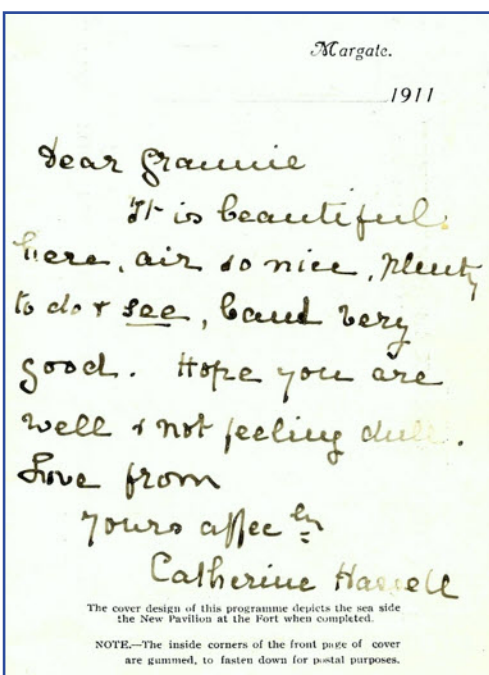
The picture on the right shows, in the foreground, the shelter on the cliff-top at the north end of Westonville Avenue. This shelter is to the same original design as the cliff-top shelter at the north end of Barnes Avenue which can be seen in the background. Note also the four-wheel drive vehicle parked alongside by a dog-walker. This photograph was taken at the end of January 2011. □



Winter Gardens 1911-2011



The above picture is taken from the cover of the programme for concerts by The Municipal Orchestra conducted by Mr Edmund Maney held at Westonville Pavilion (later to be known as Westbrook Pavilion), the Oval Bandstand and at the Margate Pavilion (later to be known as the Winter Gardens) in September 1911. The programme was produced in the form of a Postal Souvenir and was printed by Bobby & Co Ltd. According to a note printed in the programme, the cover design depicts 'the sea side of the New Pavilion at the Fort when completed'. The picture, which bears the signature of Reynolds Sykes, shows the artist's impression of the view from the balcony of what is now simply known as the Winter Gardens. What a glorious Edwardian idyllic image this presents. A paddle-steamer is seen leaving the Jetty on an excursion, rows of bathing-machines are in-shore and there are groups of beach-tents for changing into beach-wear on the sands. There are bowls of flowers along the length of the balustrade and everyone on the balcony is wearing a hat. One lady is carrying a parasol. Note also the ladies' hats: everyone is a milliners' delight. Who could resist coming to Margate and visiting what was then the new attraction? Of course, the above image may well have been quite different from reality a hundred years ago.



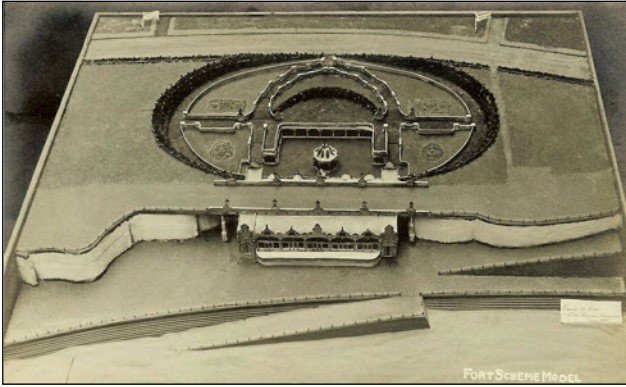
A 17-year-old visitor sums up Margate's attractions 100 years ago in a message sent to her grandmother in 1911 in the Margate Postal Souvenir (as illustrated at the top of this page)

Whilst we still have the Winter Gardens, the view from the above location has changed so much over the last hundred years with now only the promenade, the sands, the sea and the sky remaining. There was talk a few years ago when the Turner Contemporary gallery was given the 'green light' that not only would a new hotel be built on the Rendezvous site, but that money would be found to refurbish the Winter Gardens hopefully in time for its centenary in 2011. Sadly, neither of these aspirations will be achieved by the time of the opening to the public of the Turner Contemporary gallery on 16th April 2011. One wonders what will be the fate of the new gallery in one hundred years' time. But that will be for future generations to find out!

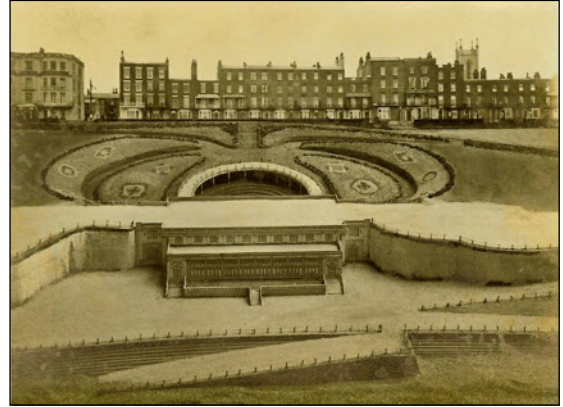
The Pavilion was opened on 3rd August 1911 after just nine month's construction. It is reported that the total cost was some £26,000. The building was used as a receiving station during the Dunkirk evacuation and, later, was extensively damaged by enemy bombing during the Second World War.

To mark the centenary of this fine building, the following views have been selected from Richard Clements' magnificent collection of old Margate postcards. We hope that you will find them interesting in this centenary year.

The proposal takes shape...



This is a model of the proposed development. Note the inclusion of a bandstand in the scheme

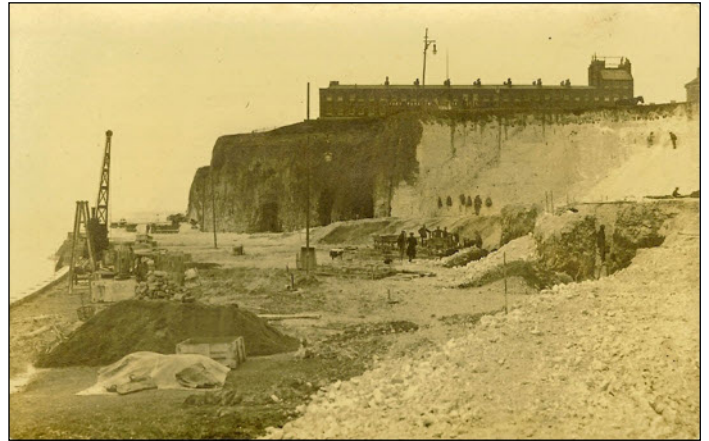


This shows an artist's impression of the proposed scheme

Work commences...



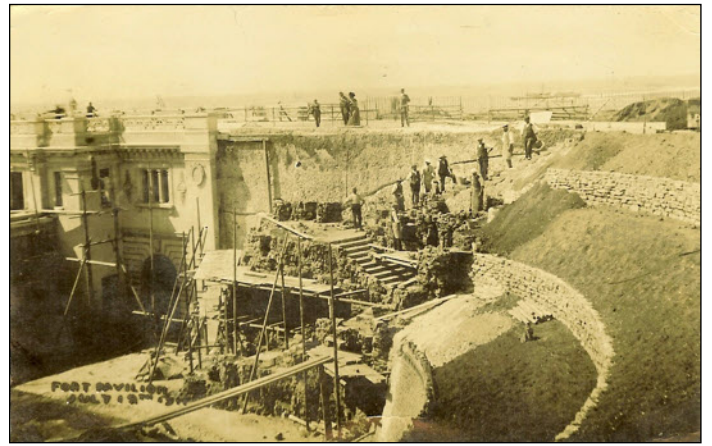
Work commences in removing the huge quantities tons of chalk from the site which were dug out by pick and shovel - no mechanical diggers were available in those days. The chalk material was used as infill for the building of the adjacent promenade. Note the continued presence of the bandstand in the above pictures. Perhaps it was originally intended to retain the bandstand in its original position?



Work nears completion...



The bandstand is no longer to be seen



Fort Pavilion, 12th July 1911 - the scene just three weeks before the official opening of the Pavilion



The carriageways begin to take shape - 8th July 1911



Some of the workman stop for the cameraman - 13th July 1911

Opening Ceremony on 3rd August 1911...



The Town Sergeant leads the Mayor, Alderman William Booth Reeve, and other civic dignitaries down the main steps



The Pavilion is finished...



This aerial photograph is believed to date from the early-1920s. Note the buildings on the promenade on the Rendezvous site and those on the cliff-top at The Fort. The latter were demolished in the late 1930s when the new road (Fort Hill) was built as a dual-carriageway. The Victorian public shelter at the top of Fort Hill has since been replaced with a more modern design shelter and most of the buildings in Zion Place have been demolished. The Clifton Baths were still in operation when this photograph was taken and they can just be seen behind The Paragon. Later, the site was to be developed as the Lido. □

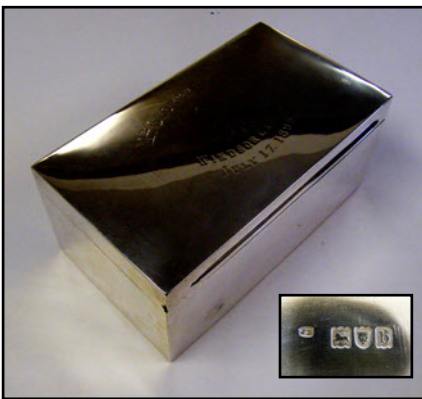


In Memory of 'Lord' George Sanger 1825-1911

'Lord' George Sanger, showman and circus proprietor, died an untimely death 100 years ago this year and his funeral took place in Margate on 5th December 1911. It is, therefore, fitting that Birchington Heritage Trust Museum should have these two most interesting prized personal mementoes of 'Lord' George Sanger on display until September.

The cigar-box was presented by Queen Victoria to 'Lord' George Sanger on 17th July 1899 at Windsor Castle. The Queen was a great admirer of 'Lord' George Sanger and his world-renowned circus and had invited him to take his Equestrian and Zoological Exhibition to Windsor Castle for a private show before Queen Victoria and her invited guests. One may presume that the cigar-box was full when it was presented to 'Lord' George Sanger. Note that the inscription on the lid of the cigar-box refers to Mr George Sanger rather than to Lord George Sanger: one can imagine how much Sanger would have preferred to have seen 'Lord' rather than 'Mr'. The assay mark on the silver box shows that it was assayed at London in 1887 - the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. 'Lord' George Sanger's granddaughter used to ride the ponies that were used in his circus and kept them on her husband's farm at Cleve Farm, Acol, over the winter months.

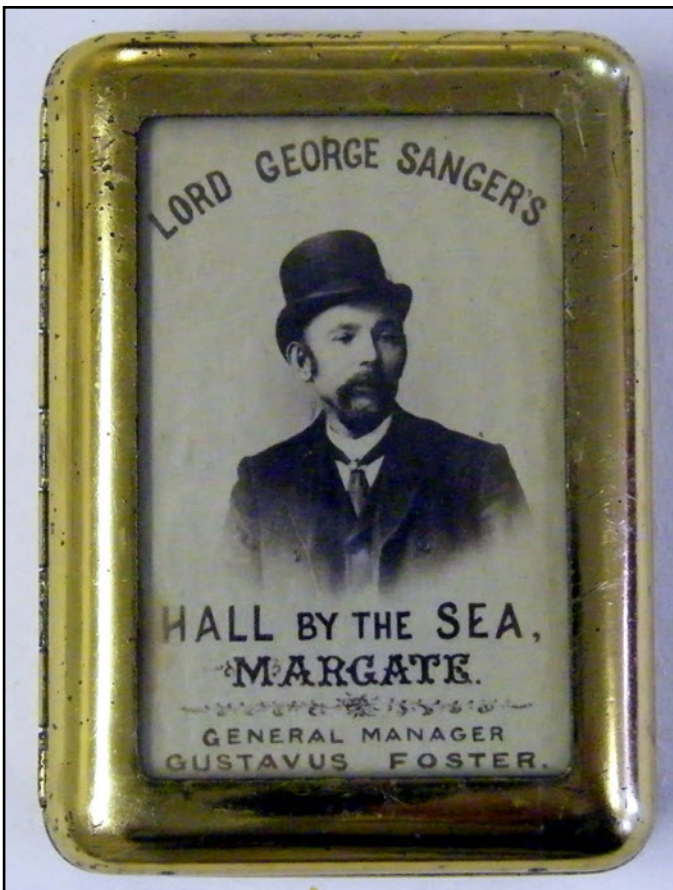
The brass business-card case would have been carried by 'Lord' George Sanger in his pocket. Although - like the cigar-box - it is now empty, it is believed that the design of his business card would be the same as shown on the front of the case. From his appearance, the case would probably date from around 1880. It is hoped that further research will identify the years when Gustavus Foster (if that was, indeed, his real name) was employed by Sanger as his General Manager at Margate.



The silver cigar-box that was presented by Queen Victoria to 'Lord' George Sanger when he was invited to take his circus troupe to Windsor Castle to give a private performance in front of the Queen and her invited guests. The hallmark bears the London assay mark for 1897



*The inscription on the cigar-box lid reads:
Mr George Sanger
VRI
Windsor Castle
July 17 1899*



'Lord' George Sanger's business-card case

Birchington Heritage Trust Museum is open on Monday mornings (except Bank Holiday Mondays) and Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 12noon on both days. The Museum is located in Room 4 of Birchington Village Centre behind the Public Library in Alpha Road. If you have not visited the Museum, do take the opportunity to go along and see these important Sanger mementoes which are now on temporary display there. □

What's On

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

Date	Subject	Speaker
7th April	"Thanet Churches - especially St John the Baptist, Margate"	Mary Berg
5th May	Town Pride Awards followed by "Dreamland"	Jan Leandro, Audience Development Manager, Dreamland



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

Westgate Heritage Centre News

As we enter our fifth year, I am pleased to report that the Centre has continued to expand and is now becoming a real community project. Thanks to the generosity and interest of many people, the collection of material has grown enormously, so that we now have a great many resources to offer those who visit the Centre in order to do some in depth research into family history or the history of their property.

Amongst the researchers was Steve Miles, the great, great grandson of William Weston, who founded the Westgate Funeral Director's firm which lasted over a century. Some of you, no doubt, will remember it. He kindly told me that he had learnt more in the past fortnight than in 20 years of research. However, I too have gathered fascinating information about the family – and I hope to research the firm's archives soon now that I know where they are.

I have also worked with Bill Cox, of the Fire and Rescue Museum at Maidstone, on the Westgate Fire Brigade and now need your help. There is gap in our knowledge of the Westgate Fire Brigade between the end of the Second World War and 1973. Is there anyone out there who can help us? Contact me on 832617 or via the website www.westgateheritagecentre.co.uk - I shall be delighted to hear from you.

Dr Dawn Crouch (Curator)

Wednesdays: 11.00am to 1.00pm; and on
Saturdays: 10.30am to 1.00pm

On the first Saturday of each month, a short talk will be given by Dawn Crouch at 11.00am. The programme of talks from May to July inclusive is as follows:

Date	Subject
7th May	"Westgate's Lost Houses Part 1 – The seafront from Rowena Road to Egbert Road".
4th June	"Festival of Britain Year 1951 in Westgate" (the recovery from the Second World War)
2nd July	"Holidaying in Westgate Part 1 In Victorian Times"

Book Review *Birchington Kaleidoscope - Volume 2* by Jennie Burgess.

Published by Birchington Heritage Trust 116pp softback £12.00 ISBN 978-0-9567404-0-3

The first volume was published a year ago and was very well received. Like the first volume, this book is another 'must have' for anyone interested in Birchington's rich history. The author has held the position of Parish Archivist for a good number of years and it is largely through her endeavours that the Birchington Heritage Trust was formed a few years ago. She is also the Churchwarden of the Parish Church, a position she has held for many years. Jennie Burgess has given numerous talks both to meetings of the Birchington Heritage Trust and to a range of other local organisations. In addition to those talks, Jennie has also put on numerous displays of old photographs in one of the village's newsagents' windows.

In *Birchington Kaleidoscope - Volume 2*, the author covers The Square and Fountain, Schools & Education, The First Bungalows, 17th Century Birchington, The Curate & The Queen, Smuggling in Birchington, Lost Buildings in Birchington, The Catholic Church, The Three Village Centres, Birchington in the First World War and - bringing us right up to date - Thanet Earth and the Thanet Earth Dig. The book is extremely well presented with illustrated around 200 images and is highly recommended. All profits from the sale of this book will go to the Birchington Heritage Trust Museum. Copies of the book are available from the Birchington Heritage Trust Museum. □



One of the many excellent photographs in the book. This one shows Sunny Lodge, an Annex in the Tower Bungalows development

Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk



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

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

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

Committee for 2010/11:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

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

Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople

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

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45 Cornwall Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JG (Tel: 291298) (e-mail: harryscobie@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Mrs Susie Hewins

4 The Courts, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5HP (Tel: 833540) (e-mail: susiehewins586@btinternet.com)

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Newsletter Editor: Mr James Brazier

"The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ (Tel: 298038) (e-mail: jasbrazier@talktalk.net)

Other Committee Members:

Mr Steve Villette, 29 The Ridgeway, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2TL (Tel: 221250) (e-mail: stevillette@tesco.net)

Mr Julian Smith, 1 Barn Crescent, Margate CT9 5HF (Tel: 298292)

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 2010/11:	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual	£6.00	£10.00	50p	£10.00
Life Membership	£50.00	£70.00	-	-

and send it to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN
