

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Summer 2014  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 375

## Welcome to new members

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

Sir Roger Gale MP (change to Life Membership)  
Alan & Wendy Richards

**Roger Hayes**  
Membership Secretary-elect

## Civic Day 2014

This year, we will be holding our Civic Day event on **Saturday, 21st June**. Plans are afoot for our Society to again participate in this national event which is overseen by Civic Voice. This year, we will be mounting a photographic display on our Time Ball Restoration Project and the Town Pride awards in the meeting room at the back of Droit House from **11.00am to 4.00pm**. We are most grateful to Thanet Visitor Information Service for making this space available to us. Do be certain to make a note of the date (**Saturday, 21st June**) and the venue in your diary.

Your Committee very much look forward to seeing you at our Civic Day event this year and to you giving it your full support. □

**Pamela Pople**  
Chairman

## Heritage Open Days 2014

This year's Heritage Open Days are **Thursday, 11th September to Sunday, 14th September**. Details of local organisations participating in this year's HODs will be listed in the Summer Newsletter. □



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

Margate Civic Society has every right to be proud of its recent achievements. Firstly, we held our annual Town Pride awards evening on 8th May at The Walpole Bay Hotel which, from comments received, proved to be a great success. The presentation of the awards was followed by an excellent talk by Rory McEvoy, Curator of Horology, Royal Observatory Greenwich which was most 'timely' having regard to to upcoming ceremony to witness the reinstatement of the Time Ball on the Jubilee Clock Tower on Saturday, 24th May. This issue of the Newsletter contains numerous photographs of those two occasions.

As we approach the centenary of the start of the Great War, it was felt that our members might find the content of the four-page leaflet, that was first published by *The Thanet Advertiser* in 1919, interesting. That leaflet, recording all of the raids on Thanet during the Great War, is reproduced in full in this Newsletter. Many churches throughout the country are commemorating the centenary of the start of that and details of the events being held at St John's Church are shown on page 14. □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor



*Admiral the Lord Boyce, Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports, officiating at the Clock Tower*

## Margate Rock sculpture

*Claudine Derksen and Fereshteh Masoomzadah, two of the foundation students from the University for the Creative Arts (UCA), who created this giant sculpture of Margate Rock. The sculpture was on display outside Turner Contemporary on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th May, to celebrate both the gallery's Summer of Colour exhibition and Margate Civic Society's restoration of the Time Ball. And very good the sculpture was too!*



*Victoria Pomery, Director of Turner Contemporary, with Arnold Schwartzman, UCA Governor and alumni, who worked with the students to create the sculpture*

# Presentation of the Society's 2014 Town Pride Awards

The results of the judging of this year's prestigious Town Pride awards were announced by our Chairman, Pamela Pople, at our meeting held on Thursday, 8th May at The Walpole Bay Hotel. Pamela reported on the high standard of the refurbishment works and of the attractive architecture of the new developments for all the properties nominated by members of the Society for this year's Town Pride awards and our President, Ralph Handscomb, presented the awards.

This year, the Panel decided to award three Town Pride Plaques & Certificates and six Town Pride Commendation Certificates.

## Town Pride Plaques & Certificates were awarded to:

- The Steps (Flood Prevention Works), Marine Drive, Margate
- The Sands Hotel, 15 Marine Drive/42 High Street, Margate
- 43 & 45 Ethelbert Square, Westgate-on-Sea (SAR Property Development)



The new design for the Society's Town Pride Plaque which features the Jubilee Clock Tower and shows the year that the award was made

Due to the impracticality of displaying a hand-painted Town Pride Plaque anywhere on The Steps, it was decided that a Town Pride Plaque would not be presented that evening but it is hoped that Thanet District Council will provide a stone or tablet that could be placed *in situ* at a later date. When asked by our Chairman whether that would be possible, the then Leader of Thanet District Council (Cllr Clive Hart) kindly indicated to our members that he felt sure that it could.



The Steps, Marine Drive

Our President, Ralph Handscomb, and our Chairman, Pamela Pople with the team responsible for The Steps: Mike Humber (Technical Services Manager, Thanet District Council and the Scheme Project Manager); Liam Woolorton (Senior Project Engineer, East Kent Engineering Partnership); Simon Herrington (Managing Director, Herrington Consulting); Tim Canham (Contracts Manager, J. Breheny Contractors Ltd); Luke Glover (Project Engineer, Thanet District Council); and Christopher Tipping (Artist)



The Sands Hotel, 42 High Street/ 15 Marine Drive, Margate

Our Chairman, Pamela Pople, with Nick Conington, Managing Director of The Sands Hotel proudly displaying the Town Pride Plaque & Certificate awarded to The Sands Hotel



43 & 45 Ethelbert Square, Westgate-on-Sea (New-build development)

Our Chairman, Pamela Pople, with Steven Renham of SAR Property Development proudly displaying the Town Pride Plaque & Certificate to 43 & 45 Ethelbert Square, Westgate-on-Sea



The undoubted success of this year's Town Pride evening was due to the hard work put in by our Chairman, Pamela Pople. Our thanks to Pamela for making all the arrangements for the evening and to Roger Hayes for projecting images during the evening of all the properties involved in this year's Town Pride awards

# Town Pride Commendation Certificates 2014



*Morgan's Vintage Dance Hall & Coffee Lounge, 46 High Street/ 18 Marine Drive, Margate*

*Allyson Jones, owner of Morgan's Vintage Dance Hall & Coffee Lounge proudly holds her Town Pride Commendation Certificate - with Ralph Handscomb and Pamela Pople*



*Anna Robson, owner of Forest House proudly holds her Town Pride Commendation Certificate - with Ralph Handscomb and Pamela Pople*



*Forest House, 26 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea*



*Andrius Rickus and Tatjana Cekanova, owners of Rickus Restaurant, with their Town Pride Commendation Certificate - with Ralph Handscomb and Pamela Pople*



*Rickus Restaurant, 44 High Street/ 16 Marine Drive, Margate*

# Town Pride Commendation Certificates 2014



50 & 50a Surrey Road, Cliftonville



Daniel Evans, Project Delivery Officer, TDC and Andrew Emmerson, Housing Improvement Officer, TDC with the Town Pride Commendation Certificate awarded to TDC in respect of 50 & 50a Surrey Road- with Ralph Handscomb and Pamela Pople



Arterworks Gallery, 80 Northdown Road, Cliftonville

Carol Arter, owner of Arterworks, proudly holds her Town Pride Commendation Certificate - with Ralph Handscomb and Pamela Pople



25 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook



Alan Richards, owner of 25 Royal Esplanade proudly holds his Town Pride Commendation Certificate - with Ralph Handscomb and Pamela Pople

**Well-deserved smiles all round!  
Congratulations to all of them**



*The group photo taken at the end of the presentation of the 2014 Town Pride Awards*



*Darren Beeching (Architect) with Steven Renham (Developer) with the Town Pride Plaque and Certificate awarded for 43 & 45 Ethelbert Square, Westgate-on-Sea*



*Nick Conington holding the Town Pride Plaque and Certificate awarded to The Sands Hotel, Cllr John Edwards (Town Mayor of Margate), Mick Humber holding the Certificate awarded for The Steps and Cllr Clive Hart (then Leader of the Council)*

## Historic occasion to witness the Time Ball restoration - Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014

These photographs capture some of the moments during the ceremony at Margate Jubilee Clock Tower and at the reception held afterwards at The Sands Hotel. The photographs record for posterity the undoubted success of Margate Civic Society's commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. The ceremony took place exactly 125 years after the Clock Tower was opened on Queen Victoria's 70th birthday - namely 24th May 1889.



*Admiral the Lord Boyce, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, officiated at the ceremony as the representative of HM The Queen*



*The arrival at the Clock Tower of the Lord Boyce's official party. Mike Wilton, the Society's Treasurer and a member of the Time Ball Restoration Project team, can be seen on the extreme left of the picture*



*Civic dignitaries from numerous towns around Kent arrive for the ceremony*



*Jonathan Betts at the Clock Tower doorway wearing his robes of office*



*The Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr John Edwards, with Jonathan Betts, Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and Senior Curator of Horology at the Royal Observatory Greenwich*



*A large number of the townsfolk, as well as civic dignitaries, came out to support the occasion as can be seen from the above photograph*



*At five minutes to one o'clock, the Time Ball is at the half-way point on the pole*



*Just before one o'clock, the Time Ball is raised to the top of the pole*



*At one o'clock precisely, Time Ball begins its descent on the pole*



*The Time Ball descends rapidly on the pole...*



*...to rest at the bottom of the pole until the same time tomorrow*

## Eyes up to see the Time Ball fall for the first time for over 90 years!



*Young students from the University for the Creative Arts watch the spectacle behind Ralph Handscomb, Geoff Orton (acting as Margate Town Mayor's mace-bearer for the occasion) and Jocelyn McCarthy, Chairman of The Ramsgate Society*



*Jonathan Betts takes the opportunity to check that his watch is correct!*



*Our Secretary, Geoff Orton (with mace), was also a member of the Time Ball Restoration Project team. Standing next to him is Jocelyn McCarthy, Chairman of The Ramsgate Society*



*Admiral the Lord Boyce proudly gives the salute at the commencement of the ceremony alongside Leading Cadet Rebecka Purser*



*Admiral the Lord Boyce KG, GCB, OBE, DL,  
Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports*



**Congratulatory speeches!**



*Ralph Handscomb, our Society's President, ably assisted by Harry Scobie, our Vice-Chairman, welcomes everyone to the historic event held at the Clock Tower*

*Cllr John Edwards, the Town Mayor of Margate,*



*Laura Sandys MP expresses her congratulations to the Society speaking in her capacity as President of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies. The Admiralty Sergeant, Patrick Cunningham, is bearing the Admiralty Oar*



*Jonathan Betts MBE, Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and Senior Curator of Horology at the Royal Observatory Greenwich*



*Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI whose idea it was to restore the Time Ball to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. Arnold was also Patron of the Time Ball Restoration Project*



*Cllr Iris Johnston, Leader of TDC, expresses her thanks on behalf of everyone present to Lynda Smith for her devotion and enthusiasm in seeing the Society's Time Ball restoration project through to its completion*



*A group photograph of the VIPs taken in front of the door to the Clock Tower*





Arnold Schwartzman with Tracy Hazelton and Pamela Pople

Some photos taken at the Civic Reception held afterwards at The Sands Hotel



Isolde Schwartzman with Julian & Sheila Poupard



Steven Alexander with his wife, Ann, and Pamela Pople, Chairman of Margate Civic Society



Shahla Joiner who created the cake



Jane Priston, with the plate she created



Suzannah Foad



Admiral the Lord Boyce shows off the Margate Clock Tower plate that was especially made for the occasion by Jane Priston. The plate was presented to the Lord Boyce by the Mayor on behalf of the Society. The Lord Boyce is flanked by Ralph Handscomb and the Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr John Edwards



John Tribe and Arnold Schwartzman with Steven & Ann Alexander reminiscing about Steven's father, Christopher

And, finally, the Jubilations Concert held at the Theatre Royal. This photo shows Arnold Schwartzman with his wife, Isolde, on the left and his daughter, Hannah, together with Arnold's sister, Diana Zeikenopasser, on the right moments before the concert commenced



# FULL RECORD OF RAIDS

IN DIARY FORM.

A CONCISE HISTORY OF THANET DURING THE WAR.

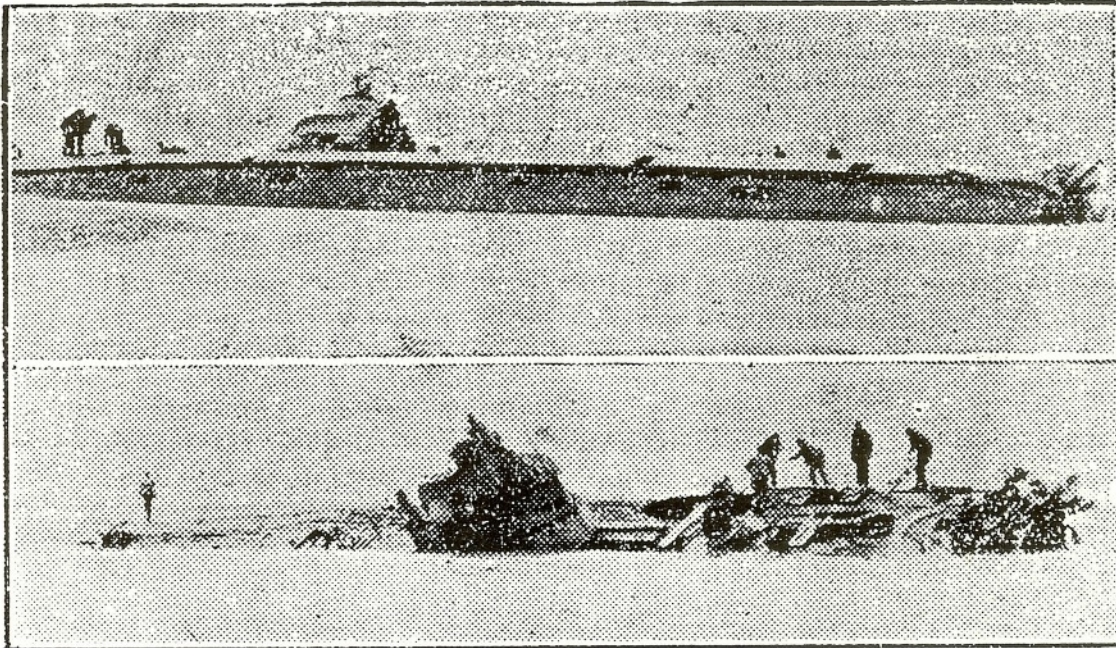
Printed and Published by "The Thanet Advertiser," Ramsgate—1919.

Estimated No. of Bombs Dropped, 396. Damage to Property, £107,680.

No. of Shells Fired by Enemy, 343. No. of Killed, 45 ; Injured, 93.

God's battles are for ever won,  
Though oft His warriors bite the dust;  
Triumphant in their death they lie,  
Who fall in warfare just.

The final issue standeth sure,  
When right and wrong in conflict  
meet;  
Who fight for right may be laid low,  
But right knows no defeat.



U.B. 48, a gigantic Mine-layer, rounded up and destroyed on the Goodwin Sands, 24th November, 1917.—Two unique snapshots.

## 1914.

Aug. 4—Mobilisation of Army and Territorials, 7 p.m.

Aug. 7—Territorial Artillery marched away 1.30 p.m.

Oct. 10—First Belgian wounded arrived, Sailors' Rest used as hospital.

Oct. 29—4th Buffs Territorials departed

from town for India, marched through town with band, 5.15 a.m.

Nov. 11—H.M.S. Niger torpedoed off Ramsgate, mid-day, explosion plainly heard.

Dec. 24—First raid, bomb dropped on Dover, 11 a.m. The enemy's Christmas Eve.

Dec. 25—Raid on Sheerness, mid-day.

## 1915.

Jan. 4—Great meeting of Special Constables at Theatre, 4 p.m. Evacuation scheme explained, town divided into sections and arrangements shown for marshalling people. Censor refuses to allow publication of any reference to the meeting.

Jan. 19—Bombs dropped at Yarmouth.

Feb. 21—Raid on Colchester, 9 p.m.

March 20—Bombs in sea off Deal.

April 16—Raid on Faversham and Sittingbourne, mid-day.

May 17—Raid on Ramsgate, bombs on Bull and George, 1.50 a.m.; two people killed, other bombs in other parts of town and streets. Great excitement. During afternoon crowds came to Ramsgate by train, carriage, motor and cycle.

May 31—Zeppelin seen in direction of St. Lawrence, guns fired, shrapnel and bullets flying about.

June 6—Zeppelin alarm, Broadstairs siren. 11.40 p.m.

June 18—Everybody buying respirators. Germans reported using gas bombs.

July 3—Very heavy guns in distance, 1.40—3.30 at night

July 5—Rumoured airships about, 11.30 p.m. All on the alert.

Aug. 9—Zeppelin at Dover, people all up, 12.30—3 a.m.

Aug. 12—Zeppelin alarm, 7 p.m. Bombs dropped on Harwich.

Aug. 17—Air-raid at Herne Bay, Canterbury, Ashford, Faversham and London.

Sept. 13—Air-raid Margate 5 p.m.; two women killed, two women and two children injured.

## 1916.

Jan. 23—Air-craft at Dover, 1.15 mid-night, also 12.30 mid-day.

Jan. 28—Zeppelin heard over Margate, 8.45 p.m.

Jan. 31—Air-raid on Midlands.

Feb. 9—Three bombs on East Cliff and twelve near Broadstairs, 3.30 p.m., from two Taubes; two women and one child injured.

Feb. 20—Bombs at Deal and Walmer.

March 1—Air-raid at Cliftonville and Kingsgate, 6 to 6.30 p.m.; Baby nine months old killed. "Carry On" concert party in the midst of it all.

March 19—Bombs on Ramsgate, 2.10 p.m. 10 Aeroplanes; 7 killed and 10 wounded, including 5 children, Ernest Robert Philpott, James Saxby, Gladys Saxby, Frank Hardwick and Herbert Gibbens, whilst going to Sunday School; Mr. H. H. Divers, a motorist, and Mrs. G. M. Bishop.

March 20—Public meeting to protest at want of protection against air-raids.

March 21—Anti-aircraft guns arrived.

March 31—Zeppelin raid—one destroyed.

April 1—Zeppelin raid—one destroyed over sea.

April 2—Very heavy explosions shook town, 1.30—2.30 p.m. Faversham powder mills—heavy casualties. Air-raid at night.

April 3—Air-raid, not on Thanet.

April 4—Air-raid, ditto.

April 5—Air-raid, ditto.

April 25—Air-raid, guns heard 10 p.m. bombs at Sarre and St. Nicholas, one tree damaged at Sarre.

April 26—Guns 10.40, siren 10.42. heavy firing, Zeppelin seen at Margate. Easter visitors stop out to see the sight.

May 2—Zeppelin raid on Yorkshire.

May 3—Siren 3.40. Air-raid, bombs on Deal.

May 19—2.25 a.m. heavy guns, heard aircraft engine, bombs on Dumpton and Broadstairs

May 31—Great battle in North Sea.

June 5—Lord Kitchener went down in H.M.S. Hampshire, 8 p.m., west of Orkneys.

July 3—Taube at North Foreland, 11 a.m. Dover bombed at midnight.

July 31—Zeppelin, 11.30 p.m., very heavy firing, Zeppelin seen with searchlight on it.

Aug. 3—Zeppelin heard over Broadstairs, 1.30 a.m.

Aug. 24—Zeppelin heard 11.30 p.m.

Sept. 8—Air-raid action, 11.55 p.m. nothing came of it.

Sept. 23—Air-raid on London, two Zeppelins brought down in Essex, crew of one captured; air-raid action 9.30.

Sept. 25—Air-raid action 9.20, heard guns in distance at 2.30 a.m.

Sept. 26—Air-raid action, 10.15.

Oct. 1—Air-raid warning, 10 p.m., all quiet here—Zeppelin brought down north London.

Oct. 23—Siren 10.10 a.m. air raid on Margate—two injured.

Oct. 26—Flashes from sea-fight between 11 and 12.30 p.m. discernible from Ramsgate cliffs.

Nov. 9—Schooner Virgin del Socorro with 20 German officers captured by drifter Paramount and brought to Ramsgate.

Nov. 23—Raid by destroyers off Dover and Ramsgate, 10.30 p.m., shells fell in Pegwell Bay.

Nov. 27—Air-raid action 8.45, two Zeppelins brought down in Durham and Norfolk—all quiet here.

Nov. 28—Air-raid by Taube on London, mid-day.

**1917.**

- Feb. 16—Firing at Taubes seen, 7.40 a.m. Air-raid over the sea—siren 11.30 a.m.
- Feb. 25—11 p.m. bombardment by destroyers, houses hit at Margate and Reading-street, two killed.
- March 1—Siren 10 a.m., nine bombs on Broadstairs.
- March 16—Siren 5.50 early morning, bombs on Westgate and Garlinge. 10.10 p.m. Zeppelin heard passing over town, bombs near Canterbury and Ashford.
- March 18—Bombardment by destroyers 12.45 midnight, two houses hit in Ramsgate, both empty, nobody hurt; drifters sunk.
- March 24—4 p.m. troops had special vigilance, all troops left the town. Air-raid action 7 p.m.—Inspectors ordered to report to Chief Constable 9 p.m., received confidential information to be ready for any emergency.
- March 26—Inspectors ordered to parade at Police Station 6 p.m.; situation very serious—town to be evacuated. 6.30 at Police Station—message received—all clear, there had been a mistake, wrong code word sent; instead of sending “all clear,” “evacuation” was sent.
- April 5—Moonlight raid, 10.30 p.m., bombs on cliff at Ramsgate and Broadstairs.
- April 19.—7.30 a.m., seaplane launches aerial torpedo against Ramsgate Harbour; stuck in mud, no damage
- April 27—Destroyers bombarded Thanet, 1.10 a.m.; many casualties and much damage to property: approximately 250 shells were fired. One man and one woman killed at Ramsgate.
- May 23—Air-raid in night—Norfolk.
- May 25—Air-raid on Folkestone, 6 p.m., 76 killed 174 wounded.
- May 26—8.20 a.m. torpedo exploded on H.M. T.B. No. 4 in Inner Harbour, 14 killed.
- June 5—Siren 6.25 p.m., all clear 7.45, nothing heard.
- June 7—Siren 4.10 p.m., all clear 4.30, nothing heard.
- June 13—10.54 a.m. siren, three bombs at Margate, all clear 12.50. Raid on London, 104 killed 423 injured.
- June 14—Siren 2.40 p.m., all clear 3.45 p.m., nothing here.
- June 15—Siren 6.35 p.m., all clear 7.30 all quiet here. Ditto 8, all clear 9 p.m.
- June 17—2.15 early morning Zeppelin raid, bombs on ammunition dump, terrific explosions, great damage, all specials on duty from 3 a.m. until 6.30 p.m. Two men and one woman killed, many injured.
- July 4—Siren 7.33 a.m., all clear 8.34; nothing heard here.
- July 7—Siren 9.30 a.m., saw two Taubes, shells bursting round, all clear 11.30 a.m. Three people killed at Margate. Raid on London by twenty Taubes, 37 killed 141 injured.
- July 19—German prisoners at work at Stonar.
- July 22—Siren 8.27 a.m., all clear 9.50, nothing heard—raid on Harwich and Felixstowe.
- Aug. 12—Siren 5.24 p.m., all clear 6.30; bombs dropped at Margate, nobody hurt.
- Aug. 22—Siren 10.25 a.m.; bombs at 10.50—28 bombs—eight killed, ten injured. Canadian Hospital (Chatham House) hit; *Thanet Advertiser* offices seriously damaged.
- Aug. 23—Three thousand Canadians, patients and staff prepare to leave Ramsgate and Broadstairs.
- Sept. 2—Air-raid on Dover. 11.10 p.m.
- Sept. 3—Air-raid action 10.30 p.m., heard bombs at 10.50; bombs at Reading-street, nobody hurt, all clear 1.15.
- Sept. 4—10.45 p.m., bombs at Margate, all clear 2.10 a.m. This started people going to dug-outs.
- Sept. 5—10.5 p.m. air-raid action, all clear 12.15; nothing heard, two Zeppelins reported over Dover.
- Sept. 9—Siren 3.30 p.m., all clear 4 p.m., nothing heard.
- Sept. 23—Air-raid action 12.50 midnight, all clear 1.50; nothing here.
- Sept. 24—Air-raid action 7.20 p.m., all clear 11 p.m., Buzzer 12 p.m.—heavy firing, Gothas heard several times, no bombs near here.
- Sept. 25—Air-raid action 7.10 p.m., all clear 10.20, very heavy firing for thirty minutes commencing immediately after air-raid action, bombs at Minster, Stonar and Westwood.
- Sept. 27—Air-raid action 7.10 p.m., all clear 10 p.m.; nothing heard.
- Sept. 28—Siren, first time in evening to blow (6 a.m. to 10 p.m. after great agitation)—siren 7.35 p.m., heavy guns, no bombs dropped, buzzer 10.30.
- Sept. 29—Air-raid action 6.10 p.m., all clear 7 p.m.—Air-raid action second time 8.15 p.m., all clear 1 p.m.; heavy firing; monitor fired heavy guns. One bomb at Minster.
- Sept. 30—Air-raid action 6.40 p.m., all clear 10.45 p.m., heavy firing. Eleven people killed by bombs at Margate.
- Oct. 1—Air-raid action 6.55 p.m., all clear 11.35, heavy firing. Bombs on Broadstairs.

Oct. 2—Air-raid action, siren 12.45 mid-day, all clear 1.50, nothing here; siren 6.55, all clear 9.45, nothing heard.

Oct. 19—Air-raid action 7.25, all clear 1.56, nothing here, guns heard in distance.

Oct. 20—Air-raid action 8.5 p.m., all clear 9.35, nothing here.

Oct. 21—Air-raid action 7.35, all clear 8.50; nothing heard.

Oct. 27—Air-raid action 7.15 p.m., all clear 7.45; nothing heard.

Oct. 29—Air-raid action 9.55 p.m., all clear 11.38; nothing heard.

Oct. 30—Air-raid action 4.30 a.m., all clear 5.30; nothing heard.

Oct. 31—Air-raid action 10.40 p.m., all clear 3.15 a.m.; bugles blew the "Retreat" first time—heavy firing several times; four bombs in Ramsgate, two on Gas Works, causing big blaze; no casualties.

Nov. 1—Explosion in Boundary-road 11.30 a.m. caused by air-raid damage.

Nov. 24—Submarine mine layer, U 48, destroyed by Drifters near North Sands Head, 7.30 a.m., heavy firing—gun from this vessel now on West Cliff, Ramsgate.

Dec. 5—Siren 2.15 night; all clear 7.5 morning; heaving firing 3 to 6 a.m.; no bombs in town, some outside Peg well; about 24 bombs, mostly incendiary. Thirty bombs at Margate; one woman killed.

Dec. 18—Siren 6.15; all clear 10.15; bombs at Margate; heavy firing 6 times—police in "tin hats" first time.

Dec. 19—Siren 6 p.m.; all clear 7.50 p.m.; guns heard in distance.

Dec. 22—Siren 6.20; all clear 7.20; no firing. Gotha came down at Margate in flames—3 prisoners; second siren 7.50, all clear 11.24; little firing, Gotha heard.

### 1918.

Jan. 3—Siren 5.57 p.m., all clear 7.20; nothing heard.

Jan. 14—Yarmouth bombarded—four killed and 8 injured.

Jan. 24—Threatened air-raid 3.30 p.m.

Jan. 25—Heavy firing at sea, 7.30 to 8.30 p.m., gun flashes seen. Air-raid action 11.25 p.m. nothing heard; all clear 11.40.

Jan. 28—Siren 7.43 p.m., all clear 1.26 midnight—seven bombs in Picton-road, Ramsgate, no casualties; specials on duty at once.

Jan. 29—Siren 9.12 p.m., all clear 1.32 midnight; heavy firing; no bombs here.

Feb. 15—Destroyer raid on patrol boats off Dover, several drifters sunk.

Feb. 16—Bombardment of Dover by submarine 12.10 a.m.; siren tested on Town Hall, also Grange-road; air-raid action 9.40 p.m., all clear 12.25; guns heard.

Feb.—17—Siren 9.45 p.m., all clear 12.56., guns in distance.

Feb. 18—Siren 7.48; all clear 12.15 p.m.; guns in distance.

March 7—Siren 11.5 p.m., all clear 2.33 a.m.; lots of firing heard, several Gothas with extra heavy engines; saw nothern lights like big fire, nothing happened here; first raid by starlight.

March 12—Siren 8.15 p.m., all clear 10 p.m.; nothing heard.

March 21—Great German offensive commenced, very heavy guns heard across the sea; false alarm air-raid 7.25 from Margate; air-raid action 8.30, all clear 9.20; no guns heard.

March 22—Very heavy guns in distance.

April 2—40 German prisoners arrived Harbour Station 5.40 p.m. and marched under escort to Chatham House; servants only.

April 4—German officer prisoners, about 120, arrived.

April 25—Siren 9.20 p.m., all clear 10.50, nothing heard.

May 19—Siren 10.50; very heavy firing, big raid on London.

June 16—Siren 3.10 a.m., all clear 3.40; guns heard in distance.

June 17—Siren 12.12 mid-day, all clear 12.40 p.m.; heard guns in distance.

June 23—Siren 12.40 a.m., all clear 1 a.m.; guns heard; one of our machines fired at.

June 30—Siren 12 midnight, all clear 1.15; guns in distance.

July 18—Siren 6.25 p.m., all clear 7 p.m.; shells bursting over town.

July 20—Siren 9.25 a.m. All clear 10.25; guns in distance.

Aug. 21—Siren 10.6 p.m., all clear 11.24, nothing heard.

Aug. 24—Siren 11.25 p.m., all clear 12.35 p.m.; nothing heard.

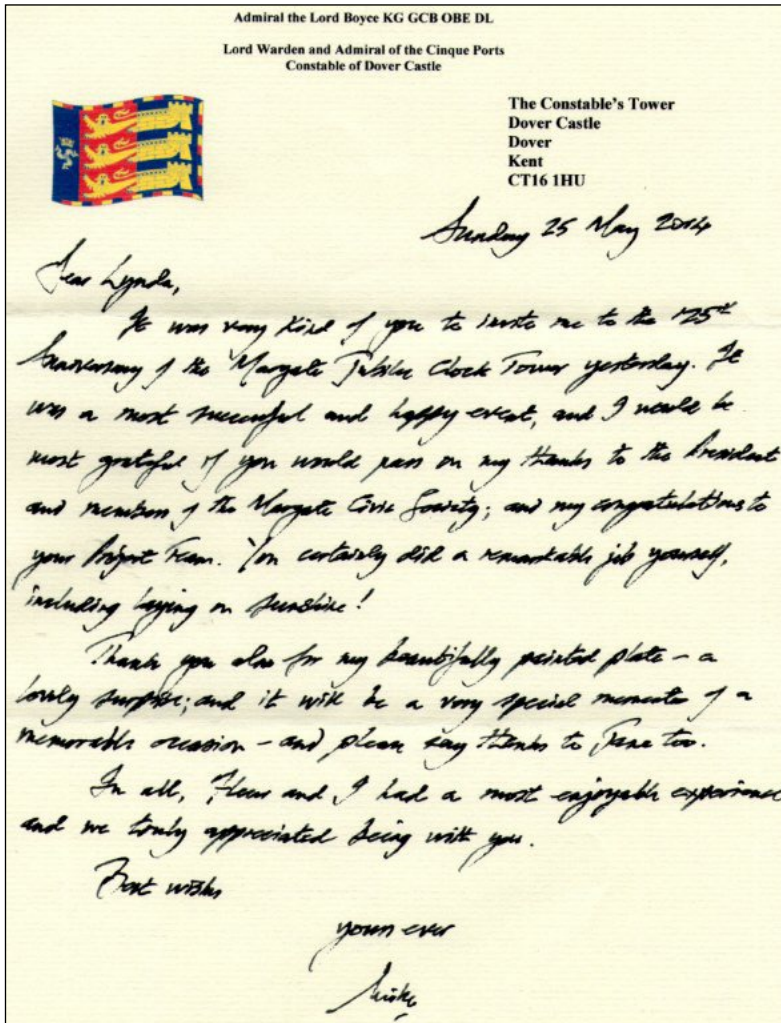
Sept. 15—Heavy firing at night; houses shaken—guns from other side.

Nov. 11—Armistice signed at 5 a.m.; all ships in Ramsgate Harbour decorated with flags and blew sirens and whistles at 9.35 a.m.; fired 21 gun salute at noon; 11 a.m., great procession to Park; 3 p.m. Thanksgiving services in all churches; great rejoicings, dancing and singing in streets and Market Place until midnight; lights on in streets.

Nov. 12—Still keeping it up.

Nov. 13—All quiet.

The following letter was received by Lynda Smith conveying Lord Boyce's thanks to Margate Civic Society:



Admiral the Lord Boyce KG, GCB, OBE, DL  
Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports  
Constable of Dover Castle

The Constable's Tower  
Dover Castle  
Dover  
Kent  
CT16 1HU

Sunday, 25 May 2014

Dear Lynda,

It was very kind of you to invite me to the 125th Anniversary of the Margate Jubilee Clock Tower yesterday. It was a most successful and happy event, and I would be most grateful if you would pass on my thanks to the President and members of the Margate Civic Society; and my congratulations to your Project Team. You certainly did a remarkable job yourself, including laying on sunshine!

Thank you also for my beautifully painted plate - a lovely surprise; and it will be a very special memento of a memorable occasion - and please say thanks to Jane too.

In all, Fleur and I had a most enjoyable experience and we truly appreciated being with you.

Best wishes  
yours ever  
Mike

## Commemoration of the start of World War I at St John's Church, Margate

As you will know by now, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014 is the centenary of the start of World War I - the Great War. Churches in Canterbury Diocese are being encouraged to open their doors on that day and invite the local community to come together, with the opportunity to reflect on that conflict and pray. St John's Church has a particular link with that war as its vicar, between 1920-25, was the Revd David Railton who is credited with the idea of the Unknown Warrior to be buried in Westminster Abbey. We also have strong links with the local branch of the Royal British Legion and have the beautiful stained-glass window on the north side of the church dedicated to the British Expeditionary Force - the 'Contemptible little army'.

With the help and expertise of two members of Margate Civic Society, Robin Colyer and James Brazier, we are putting together an exhibition of photos and information about that time in history in our place. There will also be details of the development of the Revd Railton's idea of the tomb of the Unknown Warrior. The exhibition will be located in the Lady Chapel, which it is thought may have been set up as a War Shrine in 1917 until the town war memorial was unveiled in 1922. The events will be as follows:

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August** - Robin Colyer will lead a tour setting off at 2.00pm from the Droit House at the Harbour which will take in areas of the town with relevance to the war and then make its way up to St John's Church to see the exhibition and hear something of the life and ministry of Revd Railton. Robin can be contacted on 07878537448 for further details.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August** - The Church will be open between 10.00am and 8.00pm for members of the community to come in and see the exhibition and spend some time in quiet reflection if they wish. Light refreshments will be available. At some stage during the day, the church bells will be rung with muffles on. At 2.30pm there will be a short and informal act of worship led by Mr Peter Rowden, the Parochial Reader. For further information or clarification please ring the Church Office on 01843 223144.

**Sue Waller  
on behalf of St John's Outreach Group**

# What's On

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

Date	Subject
<b>2014</b>	
2nd October	'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

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## Westgate Heritage Centre (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - Summer Programme 2014

Open May to end of September - Wednesdays and Saturdays 10.00am to 12 noon. 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>	
5th July	'The Role of the Parish Church' - was to provide comfort and support to families and to servicemen billeted in the town. Many weddings of servicemen were carried out during the war and soldiers paraded at church on Sundays. This talk will be based on the extensive archives of St Saviour's Church
30th July	<b>Note: This is an evening walk.</b> A guided, illustrated walk relating to the former seaplane base led by Marcus Russell starting at St Mildred's Bay at 7.30pm and finishing at the West Bay Cafe
2nd August	'War Comes to Westgate' - Adapting to change and preparing for the worst based upon Parish Council Minutes and other original archives
20th August	<b>Note: This is an evening event held in the Function Room (above the Carlton Cinema) at the Town Hall Buildings, Westgate-on-Sea</b> 'Westgate's Call to Arms' - A re-enactment of the meeting held there on 28 <sup>th</sup> August 1914 - researched by Douglas & Ruth Neve. Admission by ticket only at £10 (Tel 01843 832617 for details)
6th September	'The Role of the Civilian Services in World War I - the work of the St John Ambulance Brigade and the Voluntary Aid Detachments caring for the wounded and for Belgian refugees' a talk by Dr Graham Field
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

**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)  
(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-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:** .....

<b>Subscription rates for 2013/14:</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Joint</b>	<b>Junior (under 18)</b>	<b>Corporate</b>
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£9.00	£13.00	£2.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£8.00	£12.00	£1.00	£15.00
Life Membership	£75.00	£100.00	—	—

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