

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Spring 2010
Newsletter
Issue No. 358

It seems increasingly unlikely that Margate Museum will re-open its doors in the foreseeable future. The desperate need to cut public spending in order to reduce the national debt will inevitably result in significant cuts in staffing levels across council services. It had been hoped that the opening of the new Turner Contemporary gallery next year might have prompted Thanet District Council to seek to re-open Margate Museum at the same time for the benefit of those visitors to Margate - which we are assured the new gallery will attract - to learn something of the rich history of our town. When one considers the revenue costs of running the new gallery, the costs of running the museum would be insignificant by comparison.

Our Newsletter continues to attract interesting contributions. In this issue, Barrie Smith - a former successful international racing driver who grew up in Westgate-on-Sea - follows up his article in the last issue on Pav's Cafe with an article on Jackson's Stables/Cheshire's Garage. Also, Robin Fleet follows up his article on Margate's Victorian letter-boxes with an article on the town's Edwardian letter-boxes.

Readers might notice some presentational changes in this issue of the Newsletter. After struggling to produce the Newsletter in Microsoft Word using Vista on my computer, I decided - after finishing the last issue - to purchase a desk-top publishing package. This issue of the Newsletter therefore is, in many ways, something of a guinea-pig. Certainly, the software package provides the flexibility in laying out the text and pictures that I was seeking but I am a long way off mastering most of its features. Consequently, I ask your forbearance should there be technical glitches in its presentation which have manifested without my knowledge. The placing of back-issues of the Newsletter as PDF files on the Society's website is attracting interest both in the Society's activities and in the town itself. Indeed, only recently has an enquiry been received from an associate professor at the School of Architecture at Lund University in Sweden who wrote regarding nominations for this year's Town Pride Awards and who was looking to visit our town at the end of March. It is good to know that the Newsletter is attracting readers from so far afield. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new members

Joanna Brown
Robin Fleet
Mark & Julie Glanfield
David & Evelyn Smith
Derek Wilson

Garry Cowans
Membership Secretary

Launch of Civic Voice

A new national body for the civic movement is due to be launched in London on Saturday, 17th April: the name of the new body is **Civic Voice**. Civic Societies throughout the country have been asked to join this new movement. Your Committee supports the aims of **Civic Voice** but has yet to decide whether to join this new body as there is concern about the cost to the our Society of joining which is £1.50 a member. With around 300 members, it would cost our Society around £450 in the first year with the likelihood of higher costs in future years. If the Society were to join **Civic Voice** for more than one year, it would be necessary to increase our subscription rates by at least £1.50 simply to meet the annual cost of this membership alone. Such an increase would result in a rise in subscription rates from £6.00 to £7.50 (25% increase) for individual membership and from £10.00 to £13.00 (30% increase) for joint membership. □

Tracey Emin art work on display in Margate

Do look out for Tracey Emin's latest art work which will be on display at Droit House from April and will remain in place until the new Turner Contemporary gallery is opened next year. The art work is a neon installation with the words: "I never stopped loving you" written in pink lights. It is understood that Tracey Emin will stage a one-woman exhibition of her work at the gallery in the autumn of its opening year. Tracey Emin's love of Margate is well known and the exhibition of her work in the town should attract visitors and contribute greatly to the success of the new Turner Contemporary gallery. □

Heritage Open Days 2010

This year's Heritage Open House Days will take place on Thursday, 9th September; Friday, 10th September; Saturday, 11th September; and Sunday, 12th September. Do make a note in your diary of these dates. It is hoped that full details of the local places participating this year, and the hours of opening, will be contained in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The year 2010 marks the centenary of *Shottendane*, the former home of Dr Arthur Rowe and now Shottendane Nursing Home. *Shottendane* was designed by the celebrated Arts & Crafts architect Hugh Thackeray Turner and the house has been featured in the Newsletter on a number of occasions. The grounds of *Shottendane* will again be open to the public on at least one of Heritage Open Days but, regrettably, because the building is a nursing home there will be no public access to the inside of the building. □

Nominations for Town Pride Awards 2010

This year, the Society received eight nominations for Town Pride Awards. All of the properties nominated for the 2010 Town Pride Awards are shown below:



*Bridge Court,
St Mildred's Road,
Westgate-on-Sea
(Conversion of former Bridge Hotel
to apartments)*



*Westgate Pavilion,
Westgate-on-Sea
(Refurbishment)*



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



*Town Hall Buildings,
St Mildred's Road,
Westgate-on-Sea
(Refurbishment)*



*St Augustine's Park,
Westgate-on-Sea
(New development)*



*West Gate,
Sea Road/St Mildred's Road,
Westgate-on-Sea
(New development)*



*Flats 1-14, 52 Northdown Road,
Cliftonville
(Conversion of former commercial
premises to apartments)*



*2 Fort Crescent,
Cliftonville
(Repainting of exterior)*

The results of the judging for the Society's 2010 Town Pride Awards will be announced at our meeting on Thursday, 6th May 2010 when presentations of the Awards will be made to the winners. □

Margate's Edwardian Letter-Boxes



King Edward VII reigned from 1901 to 1910. During this period the network of postal collection boxes, which had been started in the time of Queen Victoria, continued to expand. Nationwide, about 2,500 pillar boxes exist from this period. The boxes usually have a scrolled royal cypher EVIIR (see illustration). These are easy to distinguish from the very rare boxes dating from the brief reign of his grandson Edward VIII. These have the cypher EVIIR in a very simple form. (The only two examples of these in Thanet are in Callis Court Road, Broadstairs and in Harbour Parade, Ramsgate.)



EVIIR pillar box at junction of Surrey Road and Eastern Esplanade

The oldest Edwardian pillar box in Margate stands at the junction of Surrey Road and Eastern Esplanade, in Cliftonville. It was manufactured by the firm of Andrew Handyside & Co of Derby some time before 1905. In that year, it was decided to enlarge the size of the door to prevent mail from becoming trapped at the top of the box. Prior to 1905, the top of the door was below the posting aperture. The new boxes extended the door upwards to include the aperture. At the same time the posting aperture was widened horizontally, but soon narrowed vertically to keep out "thieving little hands"! The words "Post Office" were moved from either side of the aperture to the area below the royal cypher. The contract was at this time transferred to a new firm – McDowall, Steven & Co of London & Glasgow, who continued to make boxes up to 1957. The maker's name can usually be seen in the black-painted area at the base of a box.

Boxes of this new type can be seen at the following places:

- Minnis Bay (ex-sub post office, now Village Stores)
- Adrian Square, Westgate
- Foreland Avenue junction with Holly Lane, Cliftonville
- Cecil Square
- Marine Terrace, outside Dreamland

These last two boxes, known as Type A, are of a larger type than the others. The easiest way to tell them apart is by measuring their circumference. Type A are 57" and Type B 48". However, a word of warning – it can be embarrassing when one is caught by a policeman apparently making love to a pillar box! It happened to me once when I was measuring the circumference of a Type A box!



EVIIR pillar box at junction of Foreland Avenue and Holly Lane

EVIIR wall boxes are to be seen at the following locations in Margate:

- Byron Avenue: Type B (33" x 13")
- Tivoli Road: Type C (28" x 10")
- Canterbury Road junction with George Park, Westbrook: Type B
- Wilderness Hill junction with Dane Road: Type B
- Cowley Rise (outside Domingo's Stores), Dane Valley: Type C

All of these were manufactured by the firm of W T Allen & Co of London. The earlier examples of Type B, pre-1904, had a plain EVIIR cypher in Roman Capitals under a crown. One of these can be seen at Byron Avenue. The Canterbury Road and Wilderness Hill boxes have a scrolled cypher. The smaller Type C boxes did not have enough room for a scrolled cypher, so retained the plain cypher. The Cowley Rise box is even later and has a plain cypher, but with added serifs; the crown has also changed to an Imperial Crown.



EVIIR wall box near junction of Canterbury Road and George Park, near north end of Waverley Road



EVIIR lamp box at Downbarton Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade

The only Edwardian lamp box in our area, manufactured by Handyside, is to be seen at Downbarton Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade. This is an attractive little box with a scrolled cypher. Although designed to be fixed onto a lamp-post, this one is built into a brick wall. It can easily be distinguished from a wall box by its rounded top. Most of the old lamp boxes



Design for EVIIR lamp box

have sadly been replaced by rather uninteresting modern ones. The only other remaining Edwardian one in Thanet is at Stonelees, visible from the Ramsgate to Sandwich road. □

Robin Fleet

This article is a sequel to Robin Fleet's article published in the previous issue of the Newsletter (No. 357 - Winter 2009) on the subject of Margate's Victorian post boxes. He is a member of our Society and the Letter Box Study Group. In 2004, he completed a survey of all the post boxes throughout Thanet and the neighbouring area. - Editor

Margate Railway Station

Margate Railway Station is one of the town's most attractive buildings. It is Grade II listed and was built in 1926 in a monumental classic style. The architect is thought to have been Edwin Maxwell Fry who also designed Ramsgate Railway Station before he embraced the international modern style for which, as an architect, he is today best remembered. The 1926 station replaced the former Margate West Railway Station which had been built on approximately the same site in 1863. All that remains of the original 1863 building is the water tower which is also Grade II listed.

The railway was rationalised in 1926. Prior to that, the Railways Act 1921 grouped together the many railway companies in the country forming four companies known as 'the big four' - the Great Western Railway (GWR), the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), the London Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS) and the Southern Railway (SR). The South Eastern and Chatham Railway became part of the new Southern Railway. After the Second World War, the railway companies were nationalised to form British Railways and Southern Railway became Southern Region.



An engraving of the former Margate West Railway Station which was opened on 5th October 1863. Note the water tower on the left which remains today



View inside Margate West with a London-bound train on Platform 2. This photograph dates from c.1900



The 1863 water tower built of brown brick with red brick dressings. Note the elaborate modillion cornice and round-headed windows. This building is an excellent example of the high standard of bricklaying in the Victorian age. Note the bricked-in former doorcase below the bull's-eye window



Close-up of the brick single ring bull's-eye window in the water tower. Note that the glazing bars are in the pattern of the Star of David



Horse-drawn carriages plying for hire in front of Margate West Railway Station c.1905



Margate Railway Station shortly after its opening in 1926. Note the lettering SOUTHERN RAILWAY above the main archway. This lettering has been removed. Note also the stone roundels, between the smaller arches, which adorn the front of the building





The front of Margate Railway station is adorned with these stone roundels. There are twelve roundels in total comprising four copies of each design. The three designs are (left to right) a Viking ship with the letter 'S' (presumably denoting Southern Railway) on its sail; a winged wheel (representing speed of travel); and 'Invicta' being the steam engine of the Canterbury and Whitstable Railway (known locally as the 'Crab and Winkle Line'). The Canterbury and Whitstable Railway was opened on 3rd May 1830 and was the first regular passenger steam railway in the world. The Stockton and Darlington Railway, which was opened five years earlier, in 1825, was the first railway in the world but it was built primarily to carry coal rather than passengers.



The entrance to Margate Railway Station today. Note the holders for flagpoles on either side of the entrance and the small lettering 'MARGATE' alongside the even smaller letters 'southeastern' on the front of the protruding shelter. Then compare that lettering with the former large lettering shown in the accompanying sepia photograph proudly announcing that the station was originally part of the Southern Railway



Inside the grand elliptically vaulted booking hall with pendant lamp and clock

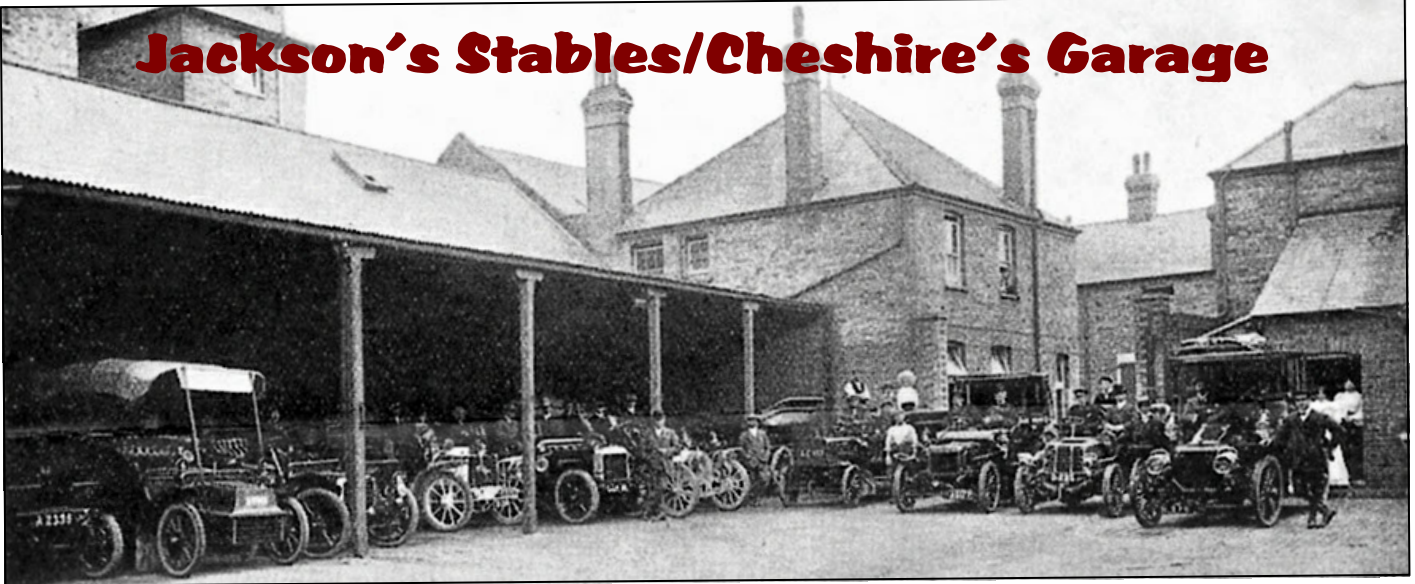


Margate Railway Station today



Close-up of the all-important clock in the booking hall

Jackson's Stables/Cheshire's Garage



Jackson's Stables in Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea, were owned by Joseph Jackson who started the business in 1879. They used to run the coach [stage coach that is] from Margate to Canterbury and it was in Westgate that the horses were stabled.



This photograph was taken by Westgate photographer G. D. Harris in 1895 and shows Jackson's workforce in front of the first horse-drawn Westgate-to-Margate coach service named "Enterprise". It is believed that it is Joseph wearing the top-hat standing in the centre of the row

Jackson's was once one of the most enterprising firms in the Isle of Thanet, according to the winter 1937 issue of *Austin News*. There was garaging at the Stables for 120 vehicles and a further 25 private lock-up garages. Their engineering skills included being able to make and repair springs and to undertake welding jobs. They also had high-pressure lubrication facilities and facilities for battery maintenance. All of which would be nearly impossible to find in the average garage today.

The building was updated to "modern standards" in 1937 when a striking new façade was applied which included a new showroom and

the provision of the then ultra modern facility of a petrol pump island which allowed filling to be done on either side of the cars and more than one at a time under cover. Nowadays, one does not think of this as being anything except normal but in 1937 - it was "the latest".

My earliest memories of Jackson's in Westgate were from 1961 when I started driving. The owner, Cyril Jackson - son of Joseph, was very much an Arthur Lowe/Captain Mainwaring-type of character. He had a small moustache, was slightly ginger, wore round glasses, was a little tubby and gave the appearance of being grumpy but this was very much a false impression. He was a great car enthusiast. The garage had been in his family since the days of horse-drawn carriages and was known as Jackson's Stables. I had got to



Cyril Jackson 1947

know Cyril by buying petrol for my little Austin Healey Sprite and Jackson was an Austin dealer at the time - 1962. We hit it off from the start. In 1963, I had decided to build a kit-car bought from Lotus. It was a Super Seven and I asked Cyril if I could build it in his workshop as I had no room to do this. He kindly agreed and took much interest in the job of assembly which Lotus said could be done in a week-end. However, it took me three weeks for I had very limited knowledge of car assembly. I bought



The new facade installed in 1937

some spanners and was guided by the foreman, Jeff, who was very helpful. The whole workshop took an interest in the project. Kit-cars were tax free, the tax rules at the time dictated that there must be no assembly instructions included so Colin Chapman included disassembly instructions which just had to be reversed! This got over the tax problem.

The day the assembly was completed, the battery was charged up, some fuel poured in and the ignition-key turned. Once the carburettors were full, hey presto, it started much to my amazement and a general applause from the gathered garage staff! The only problem was that there were loads of parts left over! I called Lotus and they said do



The Lotus Super Seven that I built at Jackson's Garage in 1963

not worry, bring it to the Cheshunt factory and they would check it over. Everything was fine.

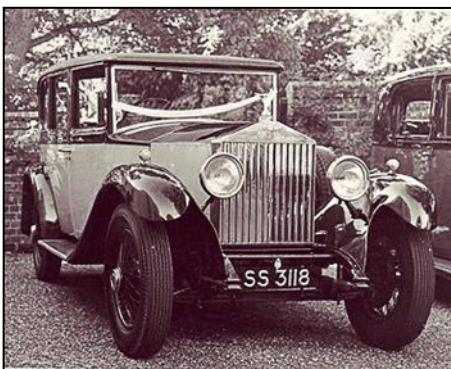
Cyril Jackson sold the garage to the Cheshire family, car dealers from Twickenham, West London, in 1965. Cyril Jackson went to work on the sales team of the Martin Walter Garage in Canterbury.

Robert Cheshire's garage was very dynamic. Their son, Ken, became a



Car auction held inside Jackson's Garage c.1947

good friend of mine. The garage had a Triumph agency and Ken was soon dealing new Triumph cars all over the country. With the Triumph Herald to the Triumph Stag, Triumph made cars for everyone: it was a great range in those days. The Triumph Spitfire was also a very popular alternative to the Austin Healey range of small sports-cars. I remember the drive-in/drive-out for petrol. There were three pumps in those days; National Benzole was the brand on offer. The



1930 Rolls Royce restored by Cheshire's Garage

showroom was really quite small with room for two or three cars at the most. The workshops were very spacious with wonderful old flat black cobbles throughout. I remember the mechanic (John Kemp), the foreman (Jeff) and the secretary (Mary Cousins).

There were many local customers with lovely cars who used Jackson's /Cheshire's Garage - none more



Ivor Read's 1925 Vauxhall Velox 30/98 parked outside Lockwood's Yard in The Grove, Westgate-on-Sea

impressive than local land-owner Ivor Read who owned the Westgate & Birchington Golf Course and Lockwood's builders. His cars included an early Vauxhall open tourer, a racing Napier and a Napier saloon. The Vauxhall was often seen in Westgate and I had seen it getting fuel in the above mentioned modern fuelling facilities at Cheshire's.

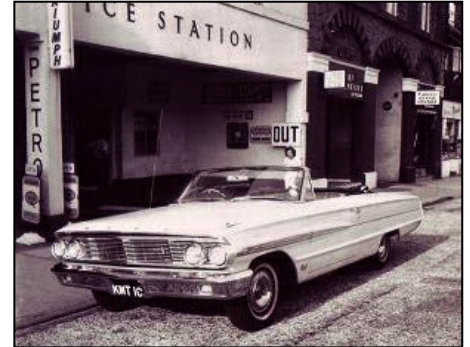
I remember that Mr John Bateman of Cuthbert Road (father of "Nasty" Nick Bateman of Channel 4 *Celebrity Big Brother* fame) had some lovely cars: a Jaguar XK150, an Aston Martin DB4 GT, a Broadspeed Mini Cooper S (this was the ex-motor show car which was 'mega-expensive' when new). I subsequently bought this car through Cheshire's. I think I paid the tidy sum of about £900 for it in 1969.

Ken Cheshire used to keep the workshops busy in the quiet winter months restoring old cars. I



Austin Heavy 12/4 with Ken Cheshire

remember that he restored an old 1929 big Austin 12/4 and a lovely 1930 Rolls Royce which was painted yellow and black. Bob Cheshire had a 1969 powder-blue Ford Galaxie convertible, a seven-litre car with power everything. Its registration number was KNT 1C. The big Ford was always used in the Margate



Bob Cheshire's Ford Galaxie

Carnival to carry a "Miss" up and down the carnival procession route. It was an impressive vehicle. The Cheshires sold the garage to Coastal Electrics when Robert

Cheshire decided to retire and emigrate to New Zealand. Ken stayed in Kent and opened a garage in Canterbury. I

consider it a shame that the facade of Jackson's was changed to accommodate the new electrical dealers as this changed the look of the garage. However, the old "Jackson's Stables" wrought-iron sign still decorates the building today. □



The original "Jackson's Stables" wrought-iron sign can still be seen between the chimney stacks

Story by Barrie Smith © 2010 with thanks to Ken Cheshire without whose help with photographs and information this article would not have been possible

Louis Wain - The Man who drew Cats

Westgate was once the home of a number of artists including Sir William Quiller Orchardson and Henry Weigall but perhaps the best known of all was Louis Wain - known as 'the man who drew cats.' Louis Wain's mother was a church-window designer and there can be little doubt that Louis inherited his artistic bent from her. He was born in



This beautifully drawn and charming design by Louis Wain appeared on a Christmas card c.1905. Note the fashions and the rather clever text. It also illustrates the change in humour over the past 100 years or so

Clerkenwell on 5th August 1860 and was educated in London where he attended the West London School of Art. Upon completion of his studies, he took up a post at the West London School of Art as tutor but he found that it was not to his liking. Throughout his life, Louis Wain suffered an amazing series of misfortunes. He was born with a hare lip and his wife died of cancer after only three years of marriage. They had no children themselves but his wife, Emily, had a black-and-white cat for company named Peter which Louis Wain used to sketch for amusement whilst sitting at his wife's sickbed. Those sketches were to become the genesis of his career as 'the man who drew cats'. Emily died in 1887 and Louis moved to Westgate together with his widowed mother and four sisters in 1894. It is thought that the move to Westgate was at the suggestion of Sir William Ingram who lived at The Bungalow (now demolished) on Sea Road. Sir William was the owner of *The Illustrated London News* (which his father had founded in 1842) and *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* in which Louis Wain had

his first drawing published in 1881. The following year, Louis Wain was offered a staff position with *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* which is when his career as an artist and illustrator took off.

Louis Wain was a most prolific artist and produced many thousands of designs, mainly featuring cats in human situations but also many other designs, which were published as book illustrations and as postcards when the fashion for sending and collecting postcards was at its height in 1907. He also painted in oils as well as watercolours. Today, original examples of his artwork fetch thousands of pounds. Printed copies of his postcards are eagerly sought after by postcard collectors today and often change hands for sums exceeding £100 each. He also designed a bizarre range of ceramic cats which now sell for four-figure sums. Indeed, there has been a cult following of his work by collectors for the past 40 years or so and there are no signs of that demand diminishing despite the downturn in the economy since 2008.

After moving back to London in 1917, Louis Wain's health deteriorated and, in 1924, he was certified insane and removed to a pauper ward at Springfield Hospital, Tooting, the Middlesex County Mental Asylum. As the result of an appeal, he was transferred to the Bethlem Hospital (now Imperial War Museum London) where he spent five years before finally being transferred to Napsbury Hospital where he spent the remainder of his life. He died on 4th June 1939, aged 78. He is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

Just a few weeks after Louis Wain's death, the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* carried a report of a suggestion that a Louis Wain picture should be bought for the town of Westgate as a permanent memorial to the artist. Sadly, that suggestion did not come to fruition.

It is coincidental that Louis Wain was hospitalised for a time at Bethlem Hospital for the land on which both his Westgate homes in Collingwood Terrace were built was formerly owned by the Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals - as indeed was much of the land north of the railway line and west of the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital to St Mildred's Bay.

Louis Wain's years at Westgate were his most celebrated and productive: they were also the years of the Louis Wain Annuals which today are prized by collectors of his work. Today, many feel that he deserves more recognition locally for his artistic achievements. □

Further reading:

Louis Wain: The Man who drew Cats - book by Rodney Dale

Louis Wain's Cats - book by Michael Parker

Louis Wain (1860-1939) The Westgate Years by Carol Twinch

- article published in *Bygone Kent* (March 2004)



This is a 'write-away' postcard designed to help the sender with his/her message c.1905



Another typical Louis Wain postcard design c.1910

Louis Wain's homes in Westgate-on-Sea



Louis Wain's first home at Westgate was at 16 Adrian Square. He moved there with his widowed mother and his five sisters from London in 1894 and lived there for around a year before moving to 7 Collingwood Terrace



Bendigo, 7 Collingwood Terrace (now 23 Westgate Bay Avenue) where the Wains lived from 1895 to 1906 before moving to 10 Collingwood Terrace



Bendigo, 10 Collingwood Terrace (now 29 Westgate Bay Avenue) where the Wains lived until returning to London in 1916/17. It is believed that all these homes were owned by Sir William Ingram

Louis Wain named each of his houses in Collingwood Terrace after the 19th century English bare-buckle prize-fighter William Abednego Thompson whose nickname 'Bendigo' is believed to have been a corruption of his Old Testament name of Abednego.



Close-up of the inscription which reads:

In Loving Memory
of
FELECIE WAIN
WHO DIED JAN 26TH 1910
AGED 77 YEARS
R.I.P.

Note: Her name was Felicie - not Felecie as incorrectly shown on her headstone



The grave of Louis Wain's mother in Margate Cemetery. This year is the centenary of her death



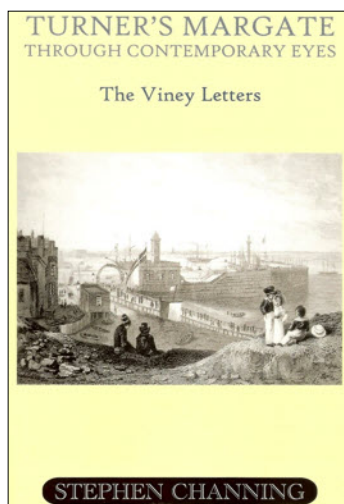
Caption in pencil written directly beneath the pen-and-ink drawing -

Art Appreciation: Verger of the church: "When you have finished painting the church, I can get you the job of painting the pews!"

The 5th August 2010 will be the 150th anniversary of the birth of Louis Wain. It has been suggested that a Blue Plaque should be put up on either one of the two houses in Collingwood Terrace in which Louis Wain lived. Such a plaque could mark the 150th anniversary of his birth. Louis Wain lived in Westgate for nearly a quarter of a century and we should be proud of his connection with the town. □

Book Reviews

Turner's Margate Through Contemporary Eyes: The Viney Letters compiled by Stephen Channing. Published by Ōzaru Books 80pp softback £7.99 ISBN 978-0-9559219-2-6

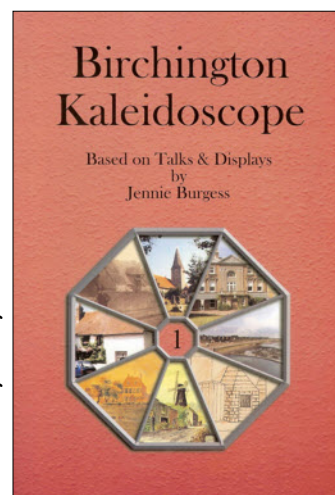


This book was published just a few weeks before Christmas 2009 and your reviewer obtained his copy from Michael's Bookshop at Ramsgate when it was 'hot off the press'. The book is a compilation of articles and letters written by Stewart Viney that were published in *Keble's Gazette* (the forerunner of the *Isle of Thanet Gazette*) between 1882 and 1886. Viney was born in 1820 and lived at Bankside, Margate before emigrating. He arrived in Australia in 1852 where he spent the remainder of his life after having joined the Bendigo Gold Rush. It is very evident from the book that he was well educated and that he derived much pleasure in writing his recollections of life in Margate in the 1820s and 1830s - the time when Turner was living with Mrs Booth at Bankside. The book is profusely illustrated with engravings of scenes of Margate which were kindly made available to the author by Margate Library. These engravings add considerably to Viney's text often illustrating long-forgotten buildings referred to in his articles. It is apparent that a number of Margate men left the town for Australia in the first half of the nineteenth century, many settling in and around Bendigo and some making very large fortunes from mining activities. This book draws together a series of interesting articles and letters sent from the other side of the globe at a time when long-distance communication was in its

infancy. *Turner's Margate* will appeal to those readers who are desirous of learning more about life in our town in the early part of the nineteenth century and comes recommended.

Birchington Kaleidoscope - Volume 1 by Jennie Burgess. Published by Birchington Heritage Trust 140pp softback £10.00 ISBN 978-0-9559997-2-7

This book is a '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. Every one of those talks and displays related to an aspect of Birchington's long history and this book has been produced in response to numerous requests for her to put down on paper the content of those talks and displays for posterity. In this book, Jennie has selected ten of those topics and has allocated roughly twelve pages to each topic. The title of her book conveys the sense of melody which a kaleidoscope provides with a wonderful variety of patterns as the tube is rotated. In Jennie's own words: "The village of Birchington never ceases to amaze its residents in the way it is constantly changing and adapting and yet still retaining its warmth, beauty and caring heart. The topics chosen for the first volume are – The Church, The Churchyard, Farms & Barns, Quex Park, Windmills in Birchington, Birchington Hall, Law & Order, The Fire Brigade, Medieval & Tudor Birchington and The Railway & Seaside. 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 and Museum.



Postscript: *Jennie Burgess, the author of Birchington Kaleidoscope, slipped and fell badly on the icy road outside her house on 5th January fracturing six ribs which resulted in a five-day stay in hospital before returning home to recuperate. I am pleased to report that Jennie is recovering well from her accident and that, at the time this is being written (17th March), she is working on her next talk. She tells me that Volume 2 of Birchington Kaleidoscope is already taking form and that it will probably cover The Square and Fountain, Schools & Education, The First Bungalows, 17th (and possibly 18th) Century Birchington, The Curate & The Queen, Lost Buildings in Birchington, The Catholic Church, The Three Village Centres and Birchington in the First World War. □*

Memories of Dreamland Wanted for Dreamland Archive

Mandy Wilkins, who kindly contributed the article in the last issue of the Newsletter on her research into TS Eliot's connection with the Nayland Shelter, is a Director of the Dreamland Trust and has volunteered her services to collect and record oral histories for the proposed archive. She is beginning with the inter-war years and invites anyone with memories of Dreamland during those years to contact her at Port Cottage, Upper Strand Street, Sandwich CT13 9EL, by e-mail at mandywilkins@f2s.com or by phone on 01304 612860. Such memories are invaluable to this project. Please do get in touch with Mandy Wilkins if you feel you can help her in any way with her research.

Margate's sole remaining K6 Telephone Kiosk

It is understood that Margate Charter Trustees have now 'adopted' the disused K6 telephone kiosk in Norfolk Road, Cliftonville and that planning permission is currently being sought by the Charter Trustees to relocate the kiosk to a site near the harbour (possibly on the Harbour Arm). An article on the proposed adoption by the Charter Trustees of this telephone kiosk appeared in the Winter 2008 issue of the Newsletter. Since then, the kiosk has suffered badly from vandalism and when photographed in March of this year, most of the windows in the door were found to have been smashed and broken glass was lying on the floor along with accumulated litter and other unmentionables.

The accompanying photographs show the kiosk outside the former Norfolk Hotel before that building was demolished and how the kiosk looks today. The kiosk is not

a listed building (all of the other nine K6 kiosks in Thanet are Grade II listed) but it was hoped that the adoption of it by the Charter Trustees would ensure that it would be kept in good order (even though it would not contain a working telephone). Sadly, the delay by the Charter Trustees in progressing the removal of the kiosk has resulted in much damage to the kiosk by vandals which will, almost certainly, prove expensive to repair. At this time of the year when consideration is being given to nominating properties for Town Pride and Town Shame, the condition of the kiosk is such that it gives the impression of being unloved and uncared for. But perhaps next year it might - when it has been restored and moved to its new location - even receive a nomination for a Town Pride Award. Now, that would be it something of which the Charter Trustees could be proud. □



Photographed
7th March 2006



Photographed
16th March 2010

What's On

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

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Thursday, 1st April | 'Birds, Beasts and Bacchanalia' by Chris McCooley |
| Thursday, 6th May | 2010 Town Pride Awards followed by
'Romney Marsh and its Churches' by Lt-Col Dick Bolton |



Westgate Heritage Centre - Spring/Summer Programme 2010 - Exhibition of historic material together with a short talk given at 11.00am by Dr Dawn Crouch (Curator) on the first Saturday of each month at St Saviour's Church, Westgate-on-Sea:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Saturday, 3rd April | 'The development of the Westgate area south of the A28' |
| Saturday, 1st May | 'Westgate-on-Sea - Town or Village?' |
| Saturday, 5th June | '70 years ago - 2nd June 1940 - Thanet children evacuated to Staffordshire' |
| Saturday, 3rd July | 'The development of shops in Westgate from 1890' |

Picture from the Past

Older members of our Society may remember how the Kent Hotel looked before it became The Flamingo. This photograph is believed to date from around 1920 but the Victorian ornamental iron canopy and supporting iron posts remained in place until, at least, the 1960s. At the time of their removal, there was an outcry from residents who were assured that the ornamental ironwork would, in due course, be reinstated. But, of course, it wasn't.

For those who cannot place this building, it is on the corner of Eaton Road and Marine Terrace. □



Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity. It is also 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 2009/10:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 293169)

Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople

Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 221689)

Vice-Chairman: Mr Harry Scobie

45 Cornwall Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JG (Tel: 291298)

Secretary: Ms Elaine Phillips (Tel: 296598)

Flat 1, 9-11 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DW

Treasurer: Mrs Pat Snow

34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG (Tel: 221838)

Membership Secretary: Mr Garry Cowans

32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN (Tel: 221938)

Newsletter Editor: Mr James Brazier

"The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ (Tel: 298038)

Other Committee Members:

Mr Steve Vilette, 29 The Ridgeway, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2TL (Tel: 221250)

Mrs Daphne Rowley, 23 Darwin Court, Harold Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JX

Mr Peter Blore, 29 Yoakley Square, Margate CT9 4BA (Tel: 291778)

Mr David Kinnear, 26 Linden Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8BY (Tel: 833394)

Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN (Tel: 228174)

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 2009/10:

	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 (Mr Garry Cowans) 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN