

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Summer 2020
Newsletter
Issue No. 399



Margate Civic Society is a
Founder Member
of Civic Voice

At the Society's meeting on 5th March, Chris McCooey gave his talk *Rogues, Rascals and Rebels*. Little did we know then that our country - and, indeed, most of the rest of the world - would shortly go into lockdown due to concern over the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. We had seen on our television screens the actions taken by the Chinese at Wuhan but I doubt whether any of us expected that our Government would be following suit a few months later and that we would all be told to stay at home and only go outside for essential shopping, unless we were NHS or care-home workers.

Our lives were changed overnight and nothing seemed to be the same. From our Society's point of view, we had to cancel our April and May meetings and cancel our day-trip to Ostend that had been planned to take place at the end of May. The cancellation of our May meeting meant that our prestigious Town Pride Awards event did not take place. Hopefully, it will be possible to re-schedule that important event in our calendar so that it takes place later in the year (October?). The cancellation of our trip to Ostend was particularly disappointing as Mike Wilton had put so much effort into organising the trip. Mike had already overcome the difficulty caused by the coach operator (Carol Peters) going out of business earlier this year and finding another coach operator (Loyalty Connections) to take us to Ostend. Going into lockdown meant that Mike then had to refund all the money paid to him for the trip. Mike deserves many thanks from all of us for his endeavours regarding this aborted trip. Let's hope that we will be able to travel overseas again in the not too far distant future although it might have to wait until a vaccine to protect everyone from infection by the virus is discovered and everyone is duly vaccinated against it.

As novelist Ian McEwan wisely said on the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme (19th May): "*Now that the beginning of our lockdown days may be in sight... things might never be the same again*". He also said: "*that our society is undergoing a profound shift, as yet hard to predict... the country faces massive economic problems and perhaps opportunities*". Indeed, never were truer words spoken.

Inevitably, lockdown has had a major impact on this Newsletter. It was planned to include a full report on our Town Pride Awards evening; a report on our day-trip to Ostend; and an article by Julian Poupard telling the story of Henrys. Julian's most interesting article fortuitously fills the space that had been allotted for the other reports. Julian and his wife Sheila have asked that their thanks for my assistance with the article be expressed in this Newsletter.

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to a new member

We extend a warm welcome to the following new member who has recently joined the Society:

Frank Skinner

Sally Whitworth
Membership Secretary

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now...

(A. E. Housman)



*The flowering-cherry trees in Westbrook Avenue during lockdown
Photo - 14th April 2020*

The flowering-cherry trees in Westbrook Avenue this year were really something special to see. Sadly, confinement to our homes during lockdown meant that very few people were able to witness this really beautiful sight. Living only a few hundred yards from the trees, I was able to 'escape' from my house for a few moments for some exercise which enabled me to take the above photograph. It was quite uncanny as there was simply no moving traffic all the time I was there although, as can be seen in the above photo, there were a small number of cars parked along the road. I had hoped that there would not be a car in sight to spoil the view but that hope was in vain. I was subsequently told that the recently-planted flowering-cherry trees in Dane Park were also a delight to behold this year. Note for next year!

Lockdown and restricted movements meant that this issue of the Newsletter does not contain any reports and/or photographs of local events, etc. However, your Editor has been out and about within Westbrook taking photos of spring flowers and a selection of those photos is shown on page 14 which, it is hoped, will brighten up everyone during these unprecedented and very difficult times. □

JB

The History of Henrys - as told by Julian Poupard

Henrys in Margate High Street has traded for over 80 years. It was started by my father, Denis ('Henry') Poupard, in 1932 initially specialising in radios. When television came in, the shop then specialised in radios and television sets. The shop was closed 'for the duration' during the Second World War which accounts for the business not having been in operation for the full 88 years since 1932. In more recent years, the business specialised in cameras and related matters. Today, the business continues to trade, managed by me (born 1936) and my wife, Sheila.

My father was born in 1911 and his family moved to Margate in 1918 when he was seven years of age. He was educated at St Dunstan's College (an educational establishment which stood approximately where the new Margate Caves Visitor Centre now stands) before going on to Simon Langton Grammar School at Canterbury. Whilst at Simon Langton School, he not only built himself a radio receiver but found himself in business making radio sets for neighbours and friends. He left Simon Langton School when he was 14 and started work with an electrical firm and, at the age of eighteen he secured a job at Walker's which was a radio engineers retail outlet at No. 2 Marine Gardens (sometimes known as Elephant Hill), Margate. It was then that he designed and built the first public-address system van in the area. This van was used by the

Conservative Party in its election campaign in 1931 when the candidate was Captain Harold Balfour MC, MP. Not only was the van used by Capt Balfour but my father, at the age of 20, was sufficiently proficient as a radio engineer to be engaged to provide technical support to Capt Balfour as can be seen from the three photographs accompanying this article. These photographs were taken on the day of the election - 25th October 1931 - during the General Election that year when Capt Balfour was returned to Parliament with a large majority. After a long and distinguished parliamentary career, Capt Balfour became the Rt Hon Baron Inchrye. He died in 1988, aged 90.

It was around that election time that my father designed and built the first Baird-type TV receiver constructed at Margate. It was a 32-line model and gave the first public demonstration of TV in the area. Never satisfied to sit back, he was continually experimenting and tried to receive the original high-definition signals for the old Alexander Palace television broadcasting studio when it opened in 1937.

At this stage, I should mention that my father, throughout his working life, was known as Henry. He was named after a henry (with a lower-case h) which is a unit of capacity in a radio condenser. Not a lot of people know that!

In 1932, my father - with his hard-earned knowledge behind him - decided to set up a business on his own as a wireless engineer taking over an old sweet-shop at 54 High Street, Margate. He was just 21 years old. My father was quite rightly regarded as a radio pioneer - a title which he undoubtedly deserved. He died in 1983, aged 72.



This group of three historic photographs show my father (at the rear of the public-address system van designed and built by him) with Captain Harold Balfour MC, MP on General Election day in 1931. Capt Balfour was standing for re-election as the National Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Isle of Thanet constituency. It is believed that the photos were taken in Park Road with the railings of Dane Park behind



Hallo Everybody!

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

"HENRY"

(LATE OF WALKER'S)

Is Opening a New UP TO THE MINUTE

RADIO ONLY STORE

ON SATURDAY, MAY 7th.

Six years wireless experience Designing, Constructing and Repairing all types of Receivers, Radiograms, Amplifiers, and Public Address Equipments.

STOCKIST OF EVERYTHING RADIO.
TECHNICAL ADVICE GRATIS TO CONSTRUCTORS.

ACCUMULATORS CHARGED 4d.

Collection, Delivery, Cleaning and Greasing
FREE.

CALL IN FOR FREE STATION CHART.

HENRY'S

(D. H. POUPARD)

54, HIGH STREET, MARGATE.

(OPPOSITE BURTONS)

For SERVICE WITH COURTESY that makes SATISFACTION A CERTAINTY.
PHONE: MARGATE 1686.

Henrys advertisement in the Isle of Thanet Gazette in May 1932 announcing the opening of Henrys first shop. Walker's was a wireless engineers' business at 2 Marine Gardens, Margate



No. 54 High Street circa 1932

These are the premises where the business started. Note the sign above the windows: 'HENRYS for all the latest RECEIVERS & COMPONENTS'

In 1938, a the first branch of Henrys was opened in Birchington and the following advertisement was placed in the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* proudly announcing that Henrys had been successful in getting satisfactory TV reception at both Margate and Birchington despite Birchington being well outside of the service area.

==HENRYS==
THE · RADIO · SPECIALISTS
 54, HIGH ST., MARGATE
 Are OPENING their NEW BRANCH at
40, STATION RD.
BIRCHINGTON
 'Phone : Birchington 490
TO-DAY (FRIDAY), SEPTEMBER 16th

PYE TELEVISION!

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT WE ARE WELL OUT OF THE SERVICE AREA (Twenty-five miles), WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING SATISFACTORY RECEPTION AT BIRCHINGTON

DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS
 11 a.m. — 12 noon :: 3 p.m. — 4 p.m.



Henrys shop at 40 Station Road, Birchington. This shop opened in 1938 and this photo dates from around 1946. The shop closed in 1980. The two members of staff in this photo are Chas Gates and Don Horne

My father served as a radio instructor in REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) during the Second World War and his shop at 54 High Street was closed from 1940 to 1946 throughout that time. Because he was stationed in Egypt, Palestine and Italy in the Eighth Army and he was away from the town for six years until he was demobbed in 1946. We then set about re-opening the shop as all the pre-war stock had been stored in the New Street charging-station garage. I was ten years old at the time and was the odd-job boy. I built myself a three-valve radio as we were very involved in radio construction. On Thursday afternoons, we used to go to London in my father's Jaguar car to buy radios from the Commercial Road area. The Second World War led to the closing of his two shops, My father joined the radio branch of the Army and was in at the initial use of radar which, at that time, was a secret device. His television knowledge proved an asset to him. Whilst serving in the Middle East, he was commissioned and he was appointed an instructor in charge of a radar repair section. He left the Army early in 1946 and reopened his business in the High Street, followed soon afterwards by the reopening of the Birchington branch.

My father's younger brother, Aubrey Poupard (born 1920), was also a wireless engineer and was employed by Henrys at the outbreak of the Second World War. He had privately qualified as a pilot in 1939 and had wanted to go into the RAF but was placed with the Fleet Air Arm. However, he was transferred to the RAF in which he served as a Sergeant Pilot. Sadly, he was killed in air operations over Holland with all five crew in September 1941. Aubrey Poupard was 21 years old and is remembered on the Poupard family-gravestone in Margate Cemetery.



Our business was mainly repairing radios as they were in very short supply after the war. I remember my father getting a pre-war television working in 1947 when Alexander Palace started transmitting again. I also remember building a television with government-surplus parts; it had a 5-inch green screen tube. In those days, a radio engineer always worked with a boy to enable him to learn the trade. I used to go out with my father repairing TV sets and with Henrys' engineers; we had a large workshop at the time. I left school and worked for my father in his workshop and also attending night school at the Technical College at Ramsgate for radio exams. In 1955, I did my National Service in the RAF as an Air Wireless-Fitter training at RAF Yatesbury, Wiltshire and then repairing aircraft radios at Swanton Morley Air Signal School, Norfolk. Around that time, VHF radios and transmitters had just been introduced. Upon completion of my National Service in 1957, I worked with my father as a TV service-engineer mainly working at Birchington and outlying areas. Later that year, I decided to join an RAF friend and emigrated to Canada in 1958 where I worked as a TV engineer in Edmonton for Simpson Sears Roebuck. I left Edmonton to travel to the USA, California, etc. and then on to Vancouver in Canada where I had another job repairing television sets. I used to service TVs on the Capilano Indian Reservation. I then had a change of occupation. I was persuaded, as a keen photographer, to work with a large photographic business called Photolec, which was on Granville Street in Vancouver. I was eventually promoted to Assistant Retail Manager. It was the start of all the Japanese imports and I attended many courses.

As a side-line, I used to do the film-shows for Lever Bros advertising. At the end of 1960 my father was unwell and I was persuaded to return home with my wife to run the business. This is how I became interested in the photographic boom in the 1960s with all the new camera models and, in addition to our radio and TV shops, we added three new photographic shops at Margate, Cliftonville and Broadstairs. Before the introduction of digital cameras, the photographic business boomed with camera-film sales and the processing of film for visitors.

Also in the early-1960s, we purchased the Domestic Machine Stores in Margate's Upper High Street and this business consisted of prams, toys, models and nursery

goods. This was transferred to our new business at 56 & 58 High Street in 1962. We had dozens of carriage-prams, in those days good business with Triang, Hornby and Meccano train-sets etc. We also had a book-shop in New Street for five years as the previous owner had died in a car accident.

As you can see, Sheila and I have had a very varied retail experience when the High Street was at its best. How times have changed! It was a very interesting time, not forgetting the advance of radio, TV, video cameras, digital cameras and electronics generally. At its peak, Henrys had 45 employees but is now down to just two - Sheila and myself!



Reeves shop at Nos. 50 & 52 High Street in the 1920s. Note the entrance to Andrews Passage between No. 50 and No. 52 and also the gas-lamps hanging outside the shop. Henrys currently occupy No. 52 High Street. Henrys first shop at No. 54 High Street is just off the photo on the left-hand side



Browns Stores (hosier and outfitter) at Nos. 56 & 58 High Street Margate before the two premises were taken over by Henrys in 1962. The photos dates from around 1960. The two premises are now occupied by the Halifax Building Society. The photo dates from 1952

A Leeway pram is always good news

GAZELLE
A striking new Leeway design. Detachable 40" body.
£18.19.6

CLAUDINE
With stylish cut-away panel and distinctive lines.
£18.19.6

NEW PRAM AND TOY CENTRE

Henrys, having recently taken over the Domestic Machine Stores, 119 High Street, Margate, (Late Mr. E. G. Clay) have now moved this very old-established business to a separate department in their new walk-round store.

BABY CARRIAGES and DOLLS' PRAMS. All the world-famous makes are here. • Leeway (As advertised on TV and illustrated on left) • Silver Cross • Royale • Pedigree • Tansad • Marmet • Swan, etc.

PUSH-CHAIRS and FOLDERS by • Silver Cross • Leeway • Cumifolda • Marmet • Swan • Enna.

COTS, HIGH-CHAIRS, etc. by • Baveystock • Pedigree • Atkins.

CARRY-COTS, PRAM BAGS and COVERS, CANOPIES, STRAPS.

TOYS. Pedal cars, push-alongs, pull-alongs, trykes, scooters, soft toys, Dean's toys, vinyl toys, dolls.

MODELS. • Spot-on • Merit • Rovex • Tri-ang • Corgi.

SPECIAL OPENING OFFER BARGAINS AWAIT YOU

Mrs. RENE SADLER (with Domestic Machine Stores for 12 years) and Mrs. NANCY SPYER (14 years in children's department, Brown's Stores) WILL BE HERE TO ADVISE and SERVE YOU WELL.

Advertisement announcing Henrys new pram and toy centre at Nos. 56 & 58 High Street, Margate which was taken over from the Domestic Machine Stores which was at No. 119 High Street



Henrys four shops at Nos. 52-58 High Street in the 1960s. The mini-van (1828 KO) parked outside was Henrys original shop at 54 High Street



Henrys shop at No. 12 Northdown Arcade, Northdown Road, Cliftonville. The shop opened in 1963 and closed in 2004. This photo was taken in 1982 (Note 'HENRYS 50th BIRTHDAY - Golden Jubilee Celebration' in the window display)



Nos. 54 & 56 High Street after Henrys took over the premises from Browns Stores. This photo dates from 1962



Henrys shop at No. 145 Northdown Road (now Wards estate agents on the corner of Sweyn Road) circa 1952. Henrys had this shop for 30 years from 1950 to 1980



Nos. 52 & 54 High Street circa 1980s. Note the 'Established 1932' proudly sign-written above HENRYS at their 52 High Street premises

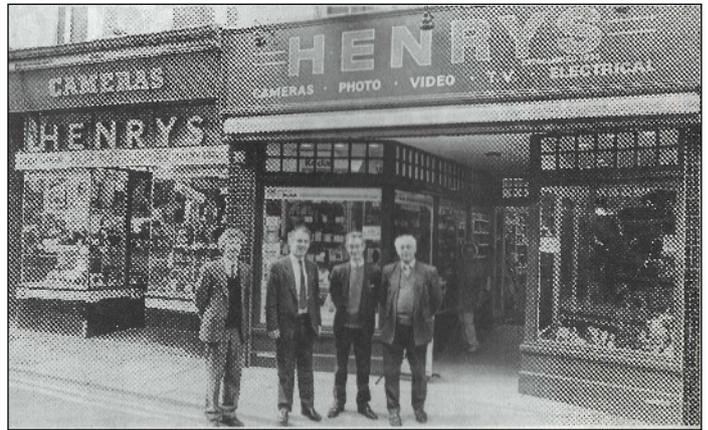


Henrys shop at No. 12 High Street, Broadstairs.. This shop was open from 1970 to 2004



The former sign above the doorway of No. 54 High Street. It is believed that the Henrys sign dates from the 1930s

In 1992, arsonists were believed to have caused a fire when a wine bar above Henrys shop at No. 52 High Street was wrecked and thousands of pounds worth of damage was suffered by Henrys. Flats in the High Street and Albert Terrace were evacuated as 50 firefighters fought the blaze. The lower part of the High Street was closed for six months as builders reconstructed the building as evidenced by the following photos. Henrys opened a temporary shop at No. 62 High Street which operated for two years.



Henrys 'back in business' following the disastrous fire in 1992 when the store was wrecked. Standing outside the newly re-opened Henrys are (from left) David Nunn (Photographic Manager), Julian Poupard (Proprietor), Terry Sussex (Electrical manager) and Ted Barnes (Sales) - May 1994



Fire damage to 52 High Street in 1992. The High Street was closed for six months whilst the rebuilding work took place

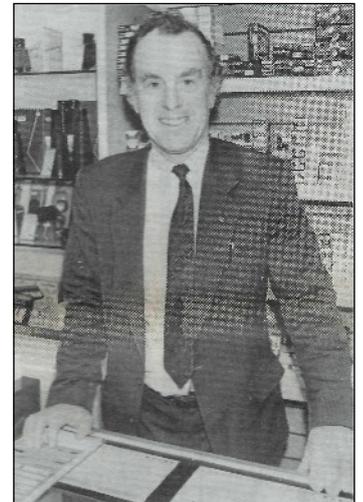


Showing the extent of the fire damage to 52 High Street in 1992. The High Street was closed for six months whilst the rebuilding work took place



Henrys temporary shop at 62 High Street following the fire at 52 High Street. The above premises were occupied by Henrys for two years. The photo dates from around 1992

Julian Poupard behind the counter in Henrys - May 1994



These two monochrome photographs are reproduced with acknowledgements to the former Thanet Times newspaper

TELEVISION !
HENRYS BRING IT HOME TO YOU
WITH FREE TRIAL OFFER ! !
 FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY WE WILL INSTALL A TELEVISION RECEIVER WITH AERIAL AT YOUR ADDRESS FOR YOU TO TRY WITHOUT OBLIGATION

PHONE WRITE or CALL TO-DAY

DISTANCE NO OBJECT
 •
OUR SERVICE COVERS EAST KENT

PYE B18T AC/DC - 38 Gns. Plus P.T. £8 19 3
PYE D18T Console - 47 Gns. Plus P.T. £11 1 8
 HIRE PURCHASE TERMS ARRANGED

== HENRYS ==

TELEVISION SERVICE AGENTS FOR COSSOR, EKCO
FERRANTI, PHILIPS, PYE & ULTRA

54 HIGH STREET, MARGATE Phone 1686
40 STATION RD., BIRCHINGTON ,, 490

A fine example of a Henrys advertisement promoting the sale the then very popular Pye 9-inch TV set - March 1949
 Note: The price of 38 Guineas (approximately £40) would have been the equivalent of more than a month's pay for the average person at that time



1939 Cossor 1210 (incorporates radio), 48½in high. 20½in wide, 15in screen. Mahogany. Price: 48guineas (the equivalent amount today would buy a fitted kitchen).

Twenty thousand TV sets in London homes by this time. Typical viewing: 11am, demonstration films; 9.05pm, The Circle by W Somerset Maugham.

When Germany invaded Poland on September 1, transmissions ended in the middle of a Mickey Mouse cartoon amid fears that enemy aircraft would home in on the signals.

Also in 1939: Glasgow bans darts in pubs for being too dangerous.

An example of what Henrys were selling in 1939 - a Cossor Model 1210 15-inch television set (incorporating a radio) - price 48 guineas (a TV aerial would be an additional cost)

SEE **HENRYS** NOW
FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS
RADIO AND TELEVISION

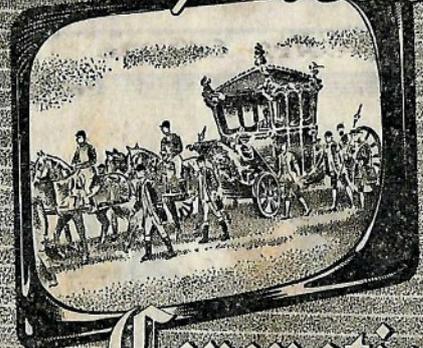
 ULTRA TROUBADOUR AC/DC mains Portable. £14-1-6 Tax Paid Mains/Battery model. £15-16-6 Tax Paid	 EKO UI22 AC/DC mains Portable. 3-wave AC/DC Portable. 14 Gns. Tax Paid	 PHILIPS 290U. All dry battery Portable. £17-16-11 Tax Paid	 McMICHAEL 493 All dry battery Portable. 14 Gns. Tax Paid
 K.B. FR15 AC/DC 5-valve Superhet. £19-15-0 Tax Paid	 EKO UI109, AC/DC A144, A/C 5-valve Superhet. 22 Gns. Tax Paid		
 ULTRA W7106 Table T/V. £61-14-6 Tax Paid Console Model W7206 £71-14-6 Tax Paid DEMONSTRATIONS WITHOUT OBLIGATION	 PYE Big black screen AC/DC Fringe T/V. LV51 F. Table. 52 Gns. Tax Paid 9 in. black screen models. LV30F. Table. 40 Gns. Tax Paid LV300 F. Console. 46 Gns. Tax Paid	 PHILIPS PROJECTION T/V The largest screen yet. £88-14-6 Tax Paid With Stand or £91-9-8 Tax Paid H.P. TERMS ARRANGED	

HENRYS
The Radio and Television Pioneers and Specialists
54 HIGH STREET, MARGATE Phone 1686
40 STATION ROAD, BIRCHINGTON Phone 490

This advertisement from the Isle of Thanet Gazette dates from the early-1950s when Henrys was promoting the sale of radios and TV sets for Christmas

**TAX CUT ON T/V /
RADIO AND RADIOGRAMS**
HENRYS REDUCE PRICES AT ONCE
GIVING YOU A DISCOUNT OF UP TO 10 Gns.

Book your seat



for the Coronation
NOW! AT LOWER PRICES
HENRYS CAN INSTALL
A NEW T/V COMPLETE WITH AERIAL

From only **66** Gns. Cash or **11** Gns. deposit

BALANCE BY CONVENIENT MONTHLY PAYMENTS

● Phone, write or call for free leaflets ●

HENRYS 54 HIGH STREET, MARGATE
40 STATION RD. BIRCHINGTON
THANET 21686 & 41768



A colour photo of our Northdown Arcade shop in Northdown Road. This was our specialist photographic shop with 24-hour developing and printing of films

← The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2nd June 1953 provided a huge stimulus to the sale or rent of TV sets. This advertisement from the Isle of Thanet Gazette at that time shows that this surge in the sale of TV sets was boosted by a reduction in purchase tax on TV sets by the Government allowing Henrys to offer a 'discount' of 'up to 10 guineas' on a TV set. Nevertheless, the price of 66 guineas, as shown in the advertisement, equates to around £4,000 today



William (Bill) Crawford's super detailed pen-and-ink drawing of Henrys in the High Street. Henrys first shop was No. 54 (the one with the CAMERAS sign above the shop-front). Nos 56 & 58 were added in 1962 and No 52 was added in 1964. This fine drawing is dated 1969. Today, Henrys occupies No. 52 High Street and Nos 56 & 58 are occupied by the Halifax Building Society

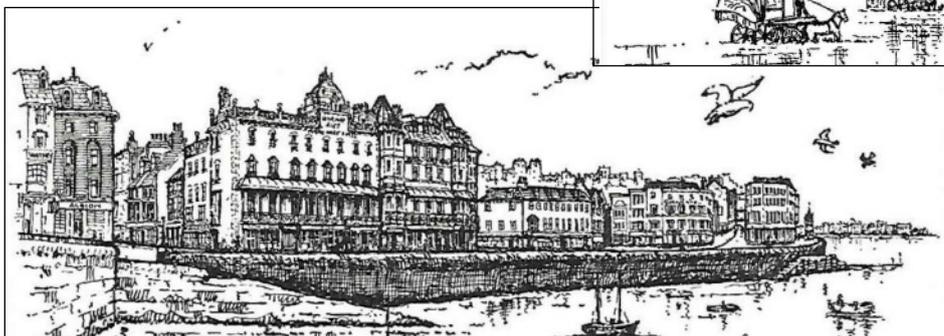
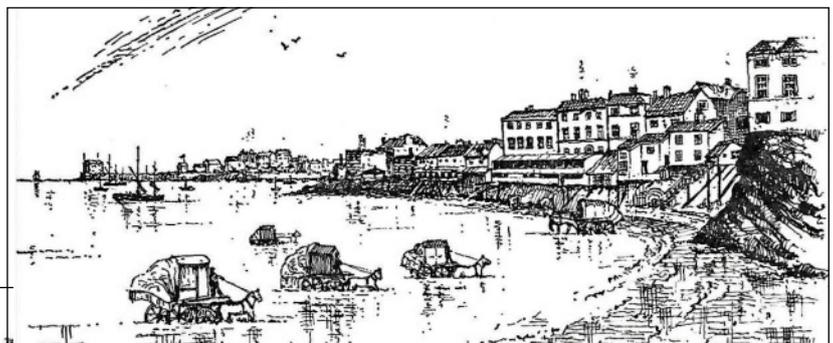
More artwork by William ('Bill') Crawford

Julian Poupard writes:

I was particularly interested in the article in the last issue of the Society's Newsletter (No. 398 - Spring 2020) on the artist William (Bill) Crawford as he was a great friend of my father. Indeed, Bill Crawford presented my father with the above superb pen-and-ink drawing of Henrys shops in Margate High Street in 1969 when Henrys occupied the four consecutive properties south of Andrew's Passage (which can just be seen on the extreme right of the drawing).

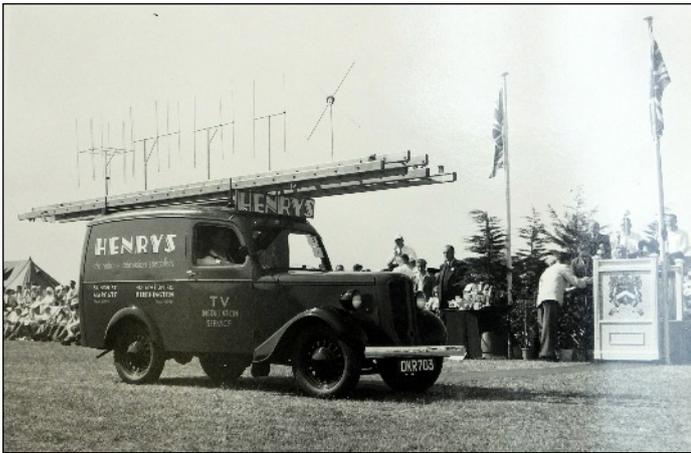
Bill Crawford's drawing captures much more detail of the shop window displays than a camera would and it must have taken him hours to draw. It is a large drawing some two-feet wide and it now hangs on the wall in our cottage.

This drawing by Bill Crawford is believed to be based on a much earlier nineteenth-century engraving showing the bathing-rooms in the High Street (before Marine Drive was built in the 1880s) and a number of horse-drawn bathing-machines in the sea with their Benjamin Beale modesty hoods. The drawing by Bill Crawford is believed to date from the 1960s →



← This charming drawing by Bill Crawford shows the The White Hart Hotel (now demolished) and Royal York Mansions on The Parade. The artist has used a little 'artists licence' in this drawing - which is believed to date from the 1960s - to even include the Jubilee Clock Tower in the scene

On this page are shown some of the vans that Henrys have used over their many years in business



Henrys' Bradford van (DKR 703) in the Concours d'Elegance held on the cliff-top at Palm Bay. The van is advertising a TV installation service including the fitting of aerials (note the selection of television aerials mounted on the roof of the van). This photo dates from the mid-1950s when Julian Poupard drove the van repairing TV sets



Henrys' floats in Westgate Carnival circa 1962. 'Henry' Poupard (in sports jacket) is holding a collecting-tin and Julian Poupard is standing at the rear of the van. The hand-cart in front of the van is promoting its PYE's 'pocketable' camera with the advertising slogan



Henrys' Austin A40 van (MKL 898) in Birchington Carnival. This photo dates from around 1956



Henrys' Austin Seven van (JG 9999) which was used to deliver accumulators around east Kent. Accumulators were required to heat the valves in battery-operated radios. Henrys provided an accumulator service with a charging station in new Street. A charge would last a week with normal usage. The cost of a charge was 4d. At that time, Henrys also had a second Austin Seven (AJG 716). The above photo, taken outside 54 High Street, dates from 1935. Julian Poupard learnt to drive in this van



Austin A40 van (MKL 898) in Margate Carnival - circa 1956. Note the model roof complete with TV aerial on top of the van



Julian's father driving his two-tone 1938 Railton Straight-Eight Sandown (EXN 767) in the 1975 Margate Carnival. On the roof of his car is mounted a 1951 Pye 12-inch television set. This car now resides in Holland



Julian Poupard's Studebaker Commander Starlight (9879 CR) on display at Dreamland Amusement Park in the 1970s. This photo was taken by Mick Walsh of Classic & Sports Car Magazine who wrote an article on Julian's two Studebakers. The Big Wheel in the background was later dismantled and transported to a funfair in Mexico

I purchased the Studebaker Commander (illustrated above) in Canada in 1959. When my wife, Sheila, and I returned to England, we first drove this car across North America from Vancouver to New York, heavily loaded with roof-rack and two trunks. At New York, we embarked on the liner *Queen Mary* for England. There was a ticker-tape reception at the departure quay, it was all very exciting. We used the car for forty years as daily transport. At present it is being slowly restored to its former glory. An identical model of this car is in the Museum of Fine Arts in New York as it was very advanced for its year at the time.



← *Another photo of Julian's 1954 Studebaker Commander Starlight Coupe (9879 CR). This photo shows the car at Pegwell Bay with the since-demolished Richborough cooling-towers in the background*



This photo dates from 1957 when Margate celebrated the centenary of it being granted a Charter of Incorporation. The photo was taken aboard the Tongue Lightship. It is thought likely that the party was taken to the Tongue Lightship by Margate Lifeboat. Henrys serviced the radios on Thanet Motor Boats which ferried pilots to ships off Margate. The Mayor that year was John Read. Henry Poupard, is on the extreme right of this photo. Can anyone identify any of the others in this photo?



Margate High Street as seen from the first-floor window of Henrys at No. 54 High Street, circa 1960. Note the large number of shoppers in the High Street at that time and the policeman wearing white sleeves on point-duty at the cross-roads. Traffic in the High Street was two-way and parking was kerbside permitted, switching on alternate days. The High Street has changed so much over the last 60 years. On the left-hand side of the road can be seen Burton's (men's tailoring), Timothy White's (chemists), Marks & Spencer's and Bobby's - now all gone! The opening of Westwood Cross in 2005 had a most dramatic effect on every one of Thanet's High Streets. However, in recent years there are signs of renewed life in Margate High Street with the opening of The Sands Hotel, the use of the old Woolworth's store by The Margate School and the expected re-opening of The Cottage to name just three premises. What the future holds is, of course, unknown - particularly as to how the human and economic effects of this terrible coronavirus now sweeping the world will end

HENRYS

Henrys were lucky over the years to employ some excellent staff. I would like to mention five people who each worked for us over 50 years until their retirement.

- **George Watson** our radio and TV engineer. He taught me to drive in the Austin Seven van in the 1950s and also Sheila in the 1960s. He also serviced the Thanet Motor Boats in Margate Harbour and both started and ran the hospital broadcasting service at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital. He retired in the late-1990s.

- **Edwin ('Ted') Barnes** was our outside TV engineer and delivery driver. In his younger days he used to do the TV aerials. with John Shersby. In the later years he assisted in our branches at Margate and Broadstairs

- **John Shersby** came to us in the 1950s and used to install the TV aerials and also electrical installations, and TV servicing. In later years, he became a full-time Manager at our Broadstairs shop until his retirement.

- **John Bade** came to us when we took over the business at Northdown Arcade from Roy Capel, who was well known locally as a wedding photographer. We made the Northdown Arcade premises a specialist photographic shop with 24-hour developing and printing of films. John was very popular with customers and holiday-makers (particularly from Butlins) who used to queue up for their films every morning. John also gave his customers plenty of time due to his photographic knowledge and managed this shop until his retirement.

- **David Nunn**, our Photographic Manager, was very experienced with cameras, projectors and other photographic equipment. David was a clever photographer in his own right and was much in demand with our customers who enjoyed his knowledge and experience.

In addition, I would also like to mention **Ruth Tipton**, whose mother was a Poupard, distantly related. Ruth worked for my father as a secretary and myself for many years at Nos. 52 and 54 High Street. Ruth was also Secretary of Margate Civic Society for many years and typed the Society's Newsletter which was then printed by hand on our shop Gestetner duplicating-machine in our workshop.

My father was a founder member of Margate Civic Society for many years. Sheila and I have also been members of the Society for many years and still continue to be members frequently attending meetings at the Walpole Bay Hotel. □

Julian Poupard



Julian Poupard working at his desk - circa 1976



Sheila and Julian Poupard at our Society's 50th Anniversary celebration evening - December 2018

== HENRYS ==

1932 - 2020

POSTSCRIPT

The above article was written at the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to e-mail and the ability to send photographs and other images by e-mail, it was possible for Julian to complete the article before lockdown resulted in everyone being confined to their homes. In Julian's case, his age and his medical circumstances necessitated that both Sheila and himself went into self-isolation. Fortunately, their daughter, Deborah, lives relatively nearby and has been able to do shopping for them. These difficult circumstances effectively have compelled Julian and Sheila Poupard to decide to cease retail trading at Henrys at some date later on this year. It was, undoubtedly, a difficult decision for them to make after providing such a long and protracted highly-valued service to their customers over so many years. But it was fortuitous that Julian should have written such an interesting and exhaustive article especially for our Newsletter before the business finally closed. I know that I will speak for all our members in thanking Julian for writing the article and in wishing both Julian and Sheila a long and happy retirement once the business is finally closed later this year.

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Chairman's Report

I hope this finds you all well at this surreal, overwhelming and emotional time, which has been challenging for so many individuals in various ways.

On a personal level, I have continued to assist caring for my mother, maintaining her wellbeing and my husband Ray and I have also remained active, working at home and in our large garden. Being separated from one's family has been very difficult for many, especially those living on their own. The downside for me has been not seeing my children: my son for five months and my daughter and grandchildren for over fifteen weeks, although I do 'see' my daughter and three young grandchildren via our weekly Skype calls, when I am shown pictures and updated of Harry's lost tooth, Daniella's latest cake recipe and little George cooks me pretend spaghetti! My daughter, Lorna shares the ordeal of home schooling, which with three young children aged between five and eight is very difficult and time-consuming as you can imagine. My son and I have been exchanging messages via WhatsApp which suits him, as he is now working from home along with his partner, so his lifestyle is very busy, albeit less hectic.

How emotional to hear the sound of applause in the darkness on the first Thursday that individuals were asked to stand outside their homes in order to show joint appreciation for the NHS workers and carers, something which has now become a weekly tradition. Those images of rainbows created by children that are displayed in front windows are so touching and have encouraged many to pull together and raise funds in diverse ways. Raising a glass to mark the **75th anniversary of VE-Day** in the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War Two, was another simple gesture that encouraged communities to get together, albeit in a safe way.

I am pleased to report that the Committee members are in good health, although Geoff Orton recently had a fall and was admitted to hospital but following tests and treatment, he is now back home safe and sound. Our President, Ralph Handscomb, also had a fall a while ago but is now safely at home enjoying his garden. I was informed that not a drop of liquor was involved in either instance!

As you know, the April meeting with a talk by our Membership Secretary, Sally Whitworth, entitled '**The Early Days of Westgate-on-Sea**' was sadly cancelled but hopefully this can be included in next year's programme, as I am sure this will be of great interest to everyone.

Town Pride Awards: the Judging Team consisting of fellow Committee Members Mike Wilton, Geoff Orton, Mike Thompson, Sally Whitworth and myself actually managed to go out together and hold a subsequent meeting in the nick of time, prior to the country coming to a standstill. Although we have not progressed this further, due to its significance and popularity, we are hopeful that this event can be held later in the year when the need of celebration will be immense.

Continental Coach Trip: Ostend at Anchor Maritime Festival: Sadly our trip (which was organised by Mike Wilton) had to be cancelled but hopefully this can be rescheduled next year.

National Civic Day: Venue: 12 Arthur Road, Cliftonville. As we are unable to hold this event on 20th June (which was to incorporate the Official Launch of the publication **12 Arthur Road - an Architectural and Social History**), I have contacted the co-owner, Christopher Walker, who sent a reply thanking us for our support. He looks forward to meeting up again when we are able and stated that he and his brother, Mark, would also like to make a donation to the Margate Civic Society as a token of their appreciation for everything we do for them.

Programme of Guided Walks with Vice-President Robin Colyer: These have, of course, been put on hold, but should these be able to resume later in the year, details will be promoted.

Obviously, following the outbreak of the devastating Covid-19 virus, lockdown has caused the closure of many activities in the UK and, at this time, as I am sure you will appreciate that we are unsure as to when we will be able to resume our scheduled programme. Rest assured, as soon as we are able to confirm, you will be notified.

My thanks to James for managing to produce another excellent Newsletter at this exceptionally difficult time. This is his penultimate issue, as he will be resigning as Newsletter Editor at the end of September. Sally Whitworth, who is the Newsletter Editor for the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre, has kindly agreed to become James' successor, for which we are grateful - more of which I will explain in the Autumn Newsletter.

The Committee and I should like to extend our thanks to all members of our Society and to the Walpole Bay Hotel for their ongoing support.

In the interim, take care of each other and I look forward to meeting up when it is safe to do so.



My very best wishes to you all. □

**Pamela Pople
Chairman**



One of the dolphin/sturgeon lamps along Margate's seafront. Let's hope that, when it is safe to do so and coronavirus has been consigned to history, Margate Sands will once again be full of visitors enjoying the many attractions of our beautiful town

The Evacuation of Schoolchildren from Thanet 80 years ago

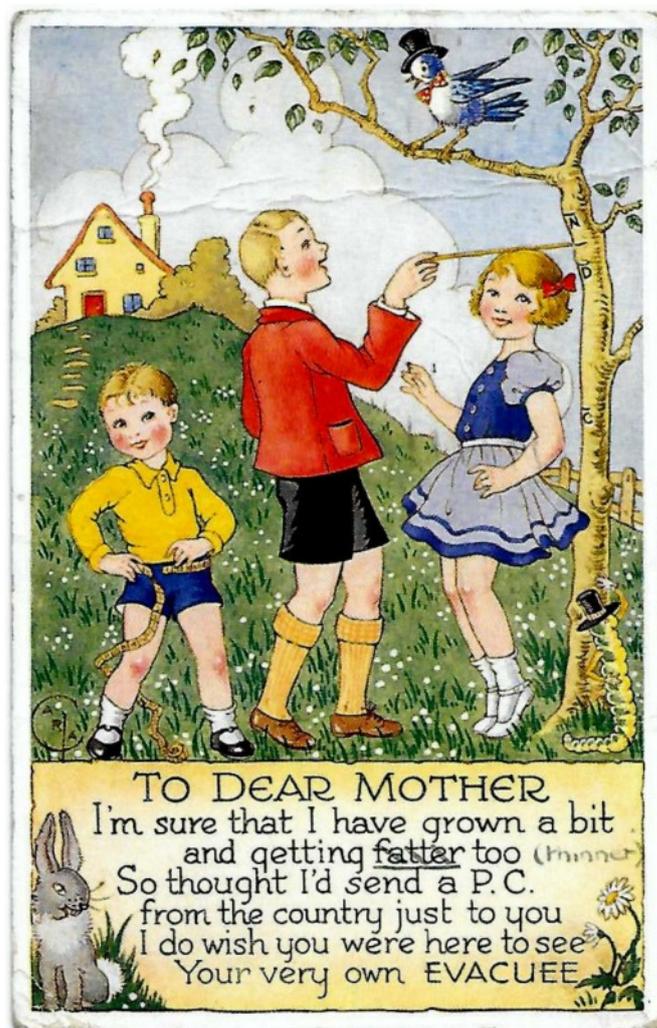
It was 80 years ago that, on Sunday, 2nd June 1940 during the Dunkirk crisis, the schoolchildren of Thanet were evacuated to Stafford until such time as the threat of enemy invasion had passed. For many children, this meant that they were away from their home and their families for the first time in their lives.

One of our long-time members, Vera Jenkins, wrote of her experiences as an evacuee in the Spring 2019 issue of our Newsletter (No.394). She had been at Clarendon House School, Ramsgate in 1940 and was evacuated to Stafford as all the schoolchildren in Thanet were at that time. A couple of years ago, at a meeting of the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre at which evacuees' stories were being recounted, a member of the Heritage Centre recited the following poem *Evacuation*. Undoubtedly, the experience of being sent away from home for an uncertain time must have been most traumatic for so many schoolchildren. The poem was read from memory at the Heritage Centre meeting and was delivered with much emotion. It was a moving experience just to hear the poem read by a member of the school Form who had written it in those dark days of 1940.

The poem was read by Mrs Eileen Ikoku (*née* Sandwell) who had been a member of Form Upper 3B, which had been made up of evacuees from Clarendon House sent to Stafford on 2nd June 1940 and is reproduced in our Newsletter courtesy of Eileen Ikoku. As is evident from the poem, she and her class deeply loved Margate and were missing its many attractions during the war. After the war, Eileen returned home to Margate where her mother kept a guest-house in Trinity Square. Eileen also had her wish to end her life at Margate for, sadly, she died recently (1st May 2020) at her Margate home - but she never forgot her years as an evacuee 80 years ago. Eileen will be fondly remembered by many former pupils of Dane Court School where she taught biology for some 30 years.

The number of people living today who were evacuated as schoolchildren from Thanet in June 1940 reduces each year and, sadly, it will not be many years before their experiences pass from living memory and there will be no former evacuees left to tell their stories. □

JB



The above charming postcard was sent home by Coline Perry, a young evacuee, to her mother living in Broadstairs during the Second World War. Postcards like these are extremely rare. Note that the sender altered the wording on the front of the postcards from 'I'm sure that I have grown a bit and getting fatter too' to 'I'm sure that I have grown a bit and getting thinner too'. No doubt Coline's mother was very pleased to hear again from her daughter after nearly four years as an evacuee but, perhaps, concerned to learn that her daughter might be losing weight! The postcard was posted from Stafford on 17th March 1944. The message on the back of the postcard reads: 'It is Mothering Sunday on March 19th so I am sending you this because I can't get a real card. All my love, Coline'

Poem: *Evacuation*

Stafford is a pleasant place
For those to whom it's home.
But give me Margate's seaside,
Whose shores I love to roam.

I long to hear the roaring wind
And the seagulls' wild cry
And in that dear old seaside town
I long to live and die.

I long to see the promenade
Where we used to skate
And have such fun with all our friends
How could we think of hate?

But now we know the bitter terms
Of war and hate and fear
And here we are, but left behind
Are the things we hold so dear.

The golden sands, the bathing pool,
The things we know so well.
Shall we see them once again?
Perhaps, so who can tell?

And there'll be glad rejoicing
When we return home
And then once more upon the shore,
To our hearts' content we'll roam.

Composed by Form Upper 3B, evacuees from Clarendon House to Stafford, 2nd June 1940



**A selection of spring
flowers photographed
during lockdown**



What's On

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

Guests: £3.00 nominal fee (unless otherwise specified). **Note:** At the time this Newsletter was compiled, it was not known whether any of our remaining 2020 meetings will take place due to the coronavirus outbreak. The next issue of our Newsletter is due to be published at the end of September 2020 by which time the position might have become clearer.

Date	Subject
1st October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'The History of Local Newspapers in Thanet, by Jodie Nesling, Journalist and Co-owner of <i>The Isle of Thanet News</i> (followed by raffle and refreshments) Guests: £4.50 nominal fee
5th November	'Bits That Don't Fit!' (Stand-up History! Weird and wonderful historical square pegs) by Steve Hookins (After-Dinner Speaker, historical presentations)
10th December	'The Goose is Getting Fat! The History of Christmas Traditions' by Imogen Corrigan (Lecturer on Anglo-Saxon & Medieval History of Art) followed by raffle and refreshments Guests: £6.50 nominal fee



Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre

Until such time as it is known when St Saviour's Church will be re-opening and what the social-distancing requirements will be, no Heritage Centre meetings have been arranged. Details of future meetings will be put on the Heritage Centre's website when known

Correspondence

The following letter was received from Dr John Whyman who now lives in Almería, Spain. The letter was dated 25th March 2020:

Dear Mr Brazier

I much enjoyed reading the Society's Winter 2019/20 Newsletter leaving me saddened that you are giving up the editorship, but from an almost 81 year old I do understand why.

As a Life Member, I am conscious of the cost of postage to Spain so I enclose a cheque for £20 as a contribution to the Society's coffers.

Please remember me to to Felicity Stafford when you next see her and I hope that her presentation of "Victorian Holidaymaking" was an enjoyable occasion.

Here we are in complete lockdown far ahead of the UK, including no cycling, the closure of all parks and beaches and I cannot be a passenger in my brother's car!

I hope that you are keeping well.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

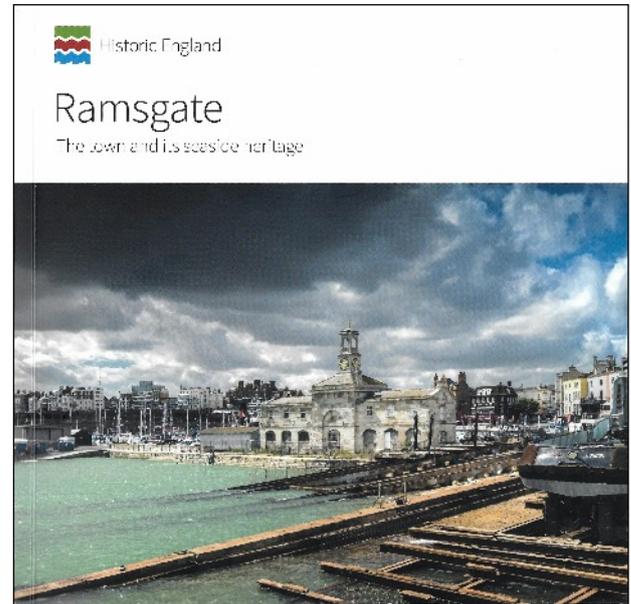
John Whyman

Editor's note:

Dr John Whyman was the Lecturer in Economic and Social History at the University of Kent for many years before he retired and went to Spain to live. John was also President of the sadly now defunct Kent History Federation for a time. He was also the author of a number of books including *The Early Kentish Seaside*. Felicity Stafford MA, Mphil, who is one of our Vice-Presidents, co-wrote with Nigel Yates the accompanying volume *The Later Kentish Seaside* (both books were published in 1985). - Ed

Book Review

Ramsgate: The town and its seaside heritage 166 pp fully illustrated softback published by Historic England (2020) at £14.99 (ISBN: 978-1-78962-189-1)



This recently-published book written by Geraint Franklin, with Nick Dermott and Allan Brodie is superb. It tells the story of Ramsgate's transformation from a fishing village to a 'harbour of refuge' and seaside resort. The book is supported by Thanet District Council and The Ramsgate Society. Ramsgate was deservedly created a Heritage Action Zone in 2017 and, when one reads this book, it is evident why that was so. Throughout the book, a number of comparisons are made with Margate. This book is highly recommended to anyone with an interest in Ramsgate's rich heritage and its many architectural gems. The illustrations in it are absolutely superb!

Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Supported by



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity and a founder member of Civic Voice. It was also both an affiliated member of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and a member of the Kent History Federation but, sadly, both those organisations have recently been wound up.

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

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

Committee for 2019/20:

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

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

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

Secretary: Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085) (e-mail: ortong14@gmail.com)

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

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

Newsletter Editor: Mr James Brazier, "The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ (Tel: 01843 298038) (e-mail: 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)

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 2019/20:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
	£	£	£	£
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and send it to the Membership Secretary, Ms Sally Whitworth, C/o 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR

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