

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)
Registered Charity No. 257884



Summer 2009
Newsletter
Issue No. 355

"The love of our town leads us"

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

Chairman: Mrs Margaret Main

Margate Museum remains closed despite noises from the Leader of Thanet District Council that the Council is seeking ways of re-opening the museum. It really is a disgrace that this important attraction should have been closed for so long. Yes, the East Kent Maritime Trust has a lot to answer for as does TDC which withdrew its funding last year but the town deserves to have its museum acting as a magnet again for visitors to the Old Town. The Ramsgate Maritime Museum, if one believes the recent press reports, is about to re-open its doors shortly – albeit under a different trust – but there is little likelihood of Margate Museum being open before next year's season. It is understood that the East Kent Maritime Trust has still to be formally wound up but no comment whatsoever on the closure of Margate Museum has been made by the Chairman of the Trust, Mr Dennis Payne, who is also an Honorary Burgess of Margate and a one-time Mayor of Margate. It is a little ironic that the route of the recently-launched Turner & Dickens Flagship Walking Route should take walkers immediately into the Old Town and past the now-closed Margate Museum. What must visitors to the town on that walk think about the museum being closed? If the town is, once again, to attract visitors to it and to the Turner Gallery when it opens, surely our museum should be open to tell the history of our town as one of the country's leading resorts.

On a happier note, members will be pleased to learn that there are a number of properties in Margate that will be open to the public during Heritage Days in September. The late Dr Arthur Rowe's superb Arts & Crafts house *Shottendane* (now Shottendane Nursing Home) is included in the list of attractions open this year after being open last year for the first time. The gardens will be open to the public as well as limited access to part of the ground floor of the house (subject to the needs of the home's residents on the day). Do especially take this opportunity to visit *Shottendane* which will be 100 years old next year. It will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday, 12th September. Another property that will be open will be what used to be known as the Slipper Baths at 99 Victoria Road which will be open on the afternoons of both Thursday, 10th September and Friday, 11th September with conducted tours at 2.00pm on both days. The contact phone number for guided visits to the baths is 01843 233433. Other properties taking part in the event are the Baptist Church in Cecil Square (open from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on both Friday, 11th September and Saturday, 12th September) and St John's Parish Church where a guided tour will start at 10.30am on Saturday, 12th September. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Do you know... ?

Who was the 'King of Margate'?
Who went up the hill and down again?
Who was never an unwelcome visitor?
Who was known for her bloomers?
How was a very silly tax avoided?
Where did three dwellings become one?
What is the connection between Margate and fine pottery?
Why are there steps down towards the sea in Primark?
Why do we start our Guided Walk on The Parade?

The answers to all these questions can be found by joining us FREE of CHARGE on our Heritage Open Day Guided Walk on Saturday, 12th September 2009 at 2.30pm. Meet outside The Visitor Information Centre, The Parade, Margate. Just turn up on the day or, to be sure of a place, why not book on 01843 221838. □

Tony Snow
Secretary



Margate 1869

Thanet District Council still has this magnificent oil-painting by James Webb (c. 1825-1895) in storage. It hung for more than 30 years in the public library in Cecil Square and was removed when conversion works were carried out to that building nearly two years ago for *Gateway Plus*. This important picture deserves to be back on public view. One hopes that a suitable wall will be found for it to be hung in the Turner Gallery when it is completed. □

The Shell Grotto seeks further funds

It was reported in *The Isle of Thanet Gazette* dated 19th June 2009 that English Heritage has awarded a grant of £75,000 to the Grade I-listed Shell Grotto. This is extremely good news and will allow the first phase of a clean-up of the oil-lamp deposits which, over many years, turned the shells a grimy black. The Friends of the Shell Grotto need to raise a further £10,000 for phase two of the work. If you would like to help meet this target, please call 01843 220008 or see www.shellgrottofriends.org. □

Presentation of Town Pride Awards 2009

The results of the judging of the nominations for this year's Town Pride Awards were announced by our Secretary, Tony Snow, at the Society's meeting held at The Walpole Bay Hotel on 7th May.

This year, nominations had been received from Society members for nine properties in Margate as having enhanced the built environment. The number of nominations received indicates a growing awareness amongst the Society's members of the major contribution that both renovation of often run-down properties and the erection of well-designed new properties make to the overall attractiveness of our town. Photographs of all nine properties were published in the last newsletter. The number of nominations together with the high standard of the works had made the judging for the Society's prestigious annual awards particularly difficult. However, three properties were selected by the panel of judges to receive Town Pride Plaques and Certificates (listed in no particular order):

- Athol Lodge, Fort Promenade, Cliftonville – an attractive building having a unique design with attention to detail and full of character with a 'quirky' personality in an important location on the promenade cliff-top;
- 97 & 97a King Street, Margate – a very attractive new development which has used the space to the best advantage, well designed and finished to a high standard; and
- The Harbour Arm, Margate – an important project in a very visible part of the town and which aims to restore a livelier, vibrant Margate (the wonderful lighting having been part-funded by the Stronger Safer Community Fund).

In addition to the three properties for which Town Pride Plaques and Certificates were awarded, the following property was selected for a Town Pride Commendation Certificate:

- 14 & 15 Cliff Terrace, Cliftonville – a lovely building in a very prominent location now beautifully restored.

Presentations were made by the Society's President, Ralph Handscomb to those associated with these properties. Photographs of all of this year's winners and of the properties for which Town Pride Plaques and Certificates were awarded are published in this Newsletter.

Tony Snow congratulated all our winners and expressed thanks on behalf of the Civic Society to all the other nominations. Whilst not everyone can be a winner, the owners of the other properties nominated should take heart that their efforts are much appreciated and recognized by the fact that they were considered worthy of a Town Pride nomination.

The organization of this year's Town Pride awards was co-ordinated by Margaret Main with assistance from Pamela Pople and Garry Cowans. Our thanks are extended to them for all the hard work they put into the task. Thanks are also extended to everyone in the Society who helped in putting this year's awards including Garry Cowans for the calligraphy, James Brazier for photography and Mike Wilton for assisting with the judging and operating the Society's website.

Nominations will be sought early next year from members for the 2010 Town Pride awards. Please do look out for any new buildings or buildings which have been recently restored and which are considered to enhance our built environment with a view to nominating them for consideration for these prestigious awards next year. □



Carol Cox being presented by Ralph Handscomb with a Town Pride Plaque and Certificate on behalf of Melvyn Newman for renovation works to Athol Lodge, Fort Promenade, Cliftonville



Athol Lodge, Fort Promenade (built 1882)



Barry Smith being presented by Ralph Handscomb with a Town Pride Plaque and Certificate on behalf of A. E. Smith Builders for the erection of new dwellings at 97 & 97a King Street



Fiona Sherriff being presented by Ralph Handscomb with a Town Pride Plaque and Certificate on behalf of Margate Harbour Arm Ltd



Alan Stokes being presented by Ralph Handscomb with a Town Pride Commendation Certificate on behalf of Ward Renovation & Construction for the renovation works to 14 & 15 Cliff Terrace, Cliftonville

Conservation Areas in our patch

Existing Conservation Areas	Date designated
Margate (Old Town area)	7 th February 1978, extended 7 th July 1994
Margate Seafront	29 th January 1997
Northdown	20 th October 1985
Westgate-on-Sea	11 th March 1998, extended 2007
Birchington	2 nd February 1970
Acol	21 st October 1988
St Nicholas-at-Wade	28 th January 1972
Sarre	26 th November 1971

A number of parts of our area have been designated as Conservation Areas for many years. The first of these Conservation Areas was in Birchington which, as can be seen from the above table, was designated nearly 40 years ago. The latest area to be designated was the large extension two years ago to the original Westgate-on-Sea Conservation Area which itself was designated only eleven years ago. (It will be seen from the above table that Acol, St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre have been included as they are within our patch. This is for historic reasons as, when Margate Civic Society was founded, it was decided to include these villages as they were not covered by other civic amenity groups.)

There are now important proposals emanating from English Heritage that the following locations in Cliftonville be designated as separate Conservation Areas:

1. Ethelbert Crescent
2. Athelstan Road/Ethelbert Road
3. Northdown Road West
4. Dalby Square
5. Gordon Road
6. St Paul's
7. Godwin Road
8. Norfolk Road/Surrey Road
9. Cornwall Gardens/Devonshire Gardens
10. Eastern Esplanade
11. Clarendon Road
12. Northdown Road East

It is understood that, initially, English Heritage will do character appraisals for each of the locations identified. It is also understood that these appraisals will consider the social and economic aspects of the areas becoming Conservation Areas. Among the advantages of these locations becoming Conservation Areas are that such designation will encourage community cohesion and that it will create Heritage grant-funding opportunities which would otherwise not be available.

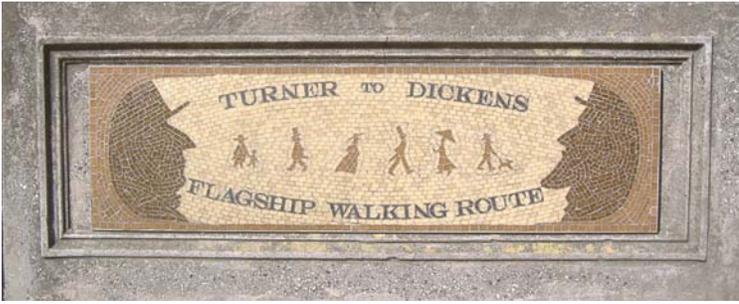
It is considered that much of the historic housing stock in Cliftonville is attractive and that, with regular maintenance, it could survive almost indefinitely.

It is understood that full consultation with the residents in each of the twelve areas will take place and that Thanet District Council will, in due course, be giving consideration to whether the Council wishes to approve the programme being proposed by English Heritage for the Cliftonville area.

Undoubtedly, Cliftonville is not what it was. Fifty years ago it proudly boasted a range of large hotels and a large proportion of the houses in the roads between Northdown Road and the seafront were run as successful boarding houses. Northdown Road was the town's premier shopping area with Bobby's being the main attraction. Today, little of that former activity remains. Even Woolworths has closed! Yes, the Walpole Bay Hotel and Smith's Court Hotel are offering good hotel accommodation but there are very few – if any – houses being run as boarding houses for visitors to Margate. It would be good to think that this could all change for the better with the granting of Conservation Area status to a good part of Cliftonville. Much of the housing stock certainly deserves to be recognised for what it essentially is and many of Cliftonville's streets could, once again, become attractive residential areas.

Margate Civic Society will be monitoring these proposals and it is hoped that progress reports will be published in future issues of our Newsletter. □

The Turner & Dickens Flagship Walking Route



Although one of the ten mosaics outside the entrance to Holy Trinity & St John's Primary School shows this walk as the Turner to Dickens Flagship Walking Route, the walk is now known as the Turner & Dickens Flagship Walking Route. This walk, which links Margate and Broadstairs, was launched simultaneously at 2.00pm on 28th June 2009 at both Margate Piazza and outside the Dickens House Museum in Broadstairs. The colourful mosaics are all Turner related and can be seen by anyone walking the route. The school pupils worked with the designer of the mosaics and it is understood that the mosaics were put in place around a year ago. The monochrome images really do not do justice to the mosaics which brighten up an otherwise uncolourful corner of Margate. Do go along and have a look at them. Close-ups of the four mosaics in the photograph on the right above are shown below. An excellent free leaflet detailing the walk is available from the Visitor Information Centre in The Parade.



This mosaic is entitled *Turner on a Train*



This mosaic is based on one of Turner's best-known paintings *Ulysses deriding Polyphemus*



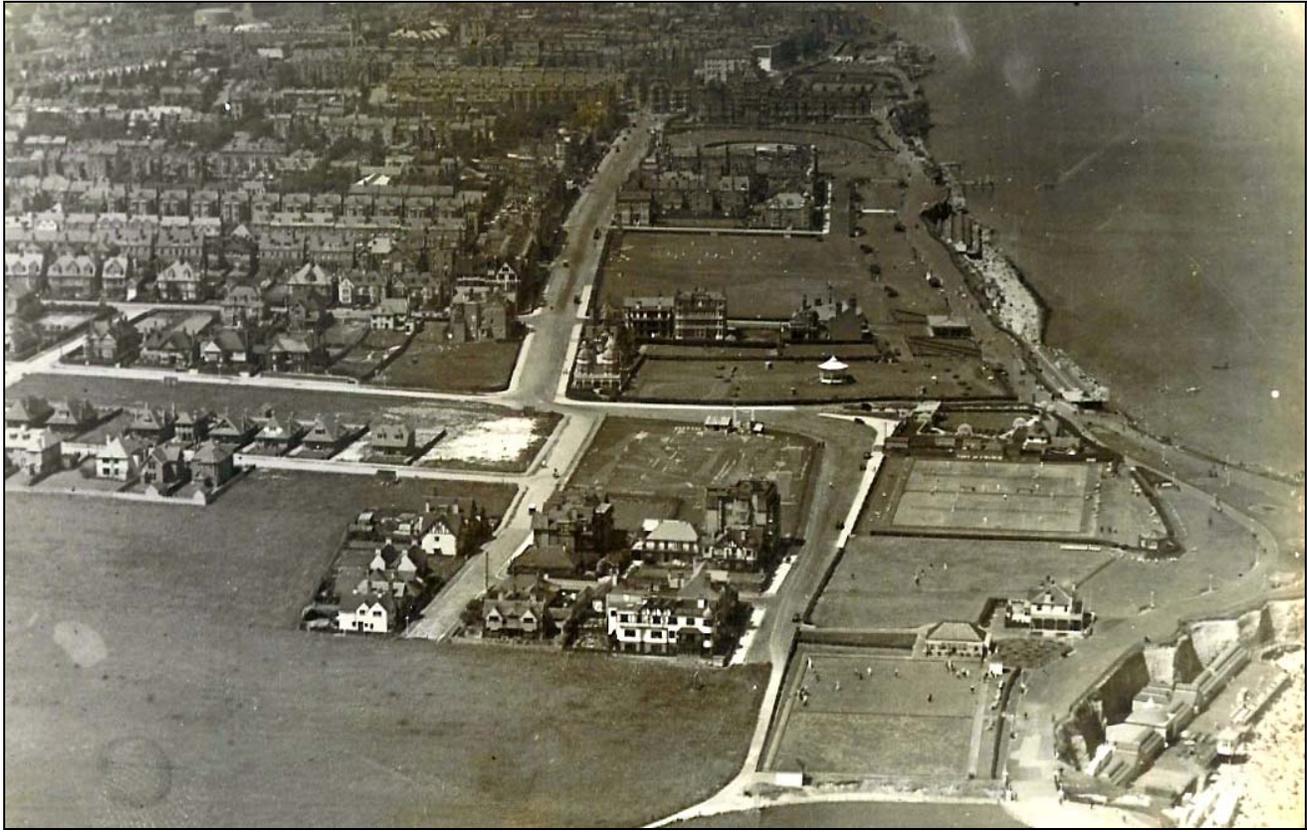
The image shows a paddle-steamer off Margate (the lighthouse, the Droit Office and the former Holy Trinity Church can be seen in the background) and the mosaic design is entitled *Turner in Margate*



This mosaic is based on Turner's famous painting *The Fighting Téméraire*

Aerial photograph of Cliftonville (c. 1920)

Top Hollywood designer, Arnold Schwartzman, made a visit to his former school, King Ethelbert School, on 9th July when he addressed their senior art class on his long career as a designer. Whilst in Margate, Arnold Schwartzman very kindly brought with him this super photograph that he had recently acquired and allowed your Editor to scan it for our Newsletter. Note the bandstand on the lawn at the rear of the partially-built Walpole Bay Hotel and the cricket match on St George's Lawns.



Mrs Booth: The Shell Lady of Margate by Ann Carrington





Already, we are looking towards the autumn! This has been a year of anniversaries which we have observed at the Heritage Centre – the 125th anniversary of the opening of Christ Church Congregational Church (now the United

Reformed Church) in May; the centenary of the Town Hall Buildings – now so beautifully restored – in June; and the 125th anniversary of the consecration of St Saviour’s Church in July. Consider what Westgate would be like without these three buildings, two of which are Grade II listed.

We still have two more anniversaries to come. The last for the summer season is in September when we shall be remembering the 70th anniversary of the beginning of World War II. For many, it will be a time of personal memory, for others it will be something from the history books. On Saturday 5th September, the Heritage Centre will have a display about Westgate in 1939 and amongst the “exhibits” will be as many personal memories as I can collect. I already have quite a few but there must be more. If you have a memory of Sunday, 3rd September 1939 and would be willing to share it, please contact me. You can drop into the Heritage Centre in the back of St Saviour’s Church any Wednesday or Saturday morning between 10.00am and 12.30pm and I will write down your memory and see that it is recorded for the future – it doesn’t have to have anything to do with Westgate or even Thanet. Some of the most elderly of you may have already been in one of the Armed Forces. Others may be amongst the children who were evacuated at the very start of the war, others may have been in a family which was about to receive evacuees. It was a Sunday and it was school holidays, so it is most likely to be a family memory. I really want this information! Then please come along to St Saviour’s on Saturday, 5th September for a “get together” to reminisce and at 11.00am I shall give a short talk about Westgate in September 1939 based on records.

The last anniversary is a very important one for Westgate – the ending of the Westgate Estate with a huge Auction Sale of land and property that was held over two days in August 1919. There will be a display about the “Estate” throughout October and a talk about the sale, and its effect on the town, at 11.00am on Saturday, 3rd October.

Opening times to the end of September 2009:

- Wednesdays: 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Fridays: 12noon to 2.00pm
- Saturdays: 10.00am to 12.30pm with a talk at 11.00am on the first Saturday of each month including October

Do come along and support us!

Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator



Information has been received from the Friends of St John’s Church, Margate that they will be holding their annual Art & Craft Exhibition from Saturday, 5th September to Wednesday, 9th September. Unfortunately, the hours of opening were not supplied nor was the venue stated but, presumably, the exhibition will be held in the church hall adjacent to St John’s Church.

CAAG

A Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG) has recently been established for the Margate area which, for the purposes of the CAAG, is deemed to cover the three existing Conservation Areas in Margate, namely Margate Old Town, Margate Seafront and Northdown. Representatives – who are all volunteers – meet on a regular basis as representatives of local organisations. Thanet District Council officers also attend the meetings. Margate Civic Society is represented on the CAAG by Steve Villette. The CAAG express their views on planning applications for development in the three Conservation Areas as well as other issues. Some years ago, it was proposed that separate CAAGs be established for each of the Conservation Areas including Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington but only the one CAAG has so far been set up. (A contribution on Conservation Areas appears on page 4 of this newsletter.)

Demise of the Civic Trust

Our members will have read in the national press earlier this year that the Civic Trust has been placed in Administration. For many years, Margate Civic Society was a member of the Civic Trust but, like a number of other amenity societies around the country, decided to discontinue its membership a few years ago. Indeed, the Civic Trust once had a membership of some 3,000 societies but this had reduced to little more than 700 in recent times.

On 1st June 2009, the Civic Society Initiative was launched in London’s Covent Garden by Griff Rhys Jones, the last President of the Civic Trust.

It cannot be denied that there is a need to draw the countries amenity societies together and to provide a co-ordinated response to Government proposals. Let us hope that the new Civic Society Initiative will learn from the Civic Trust’s experiences and that we can look forward to a greater role for amenity societies in influencing decisions both of a national and local level. □

Margate gets triple billing at the Theatre Royal

Local residents filled the Theatre Royal on Sunday, 24th May when three short plays, each about Margate, were performed by the London-based Net Curtains Theatre Company completely free of charge.

At the end of the evening's performances, each member of the audience was asked to complete a form showing which of the three plays they considered to be the most suitable to be developed into a full-length play for a return visit to our town

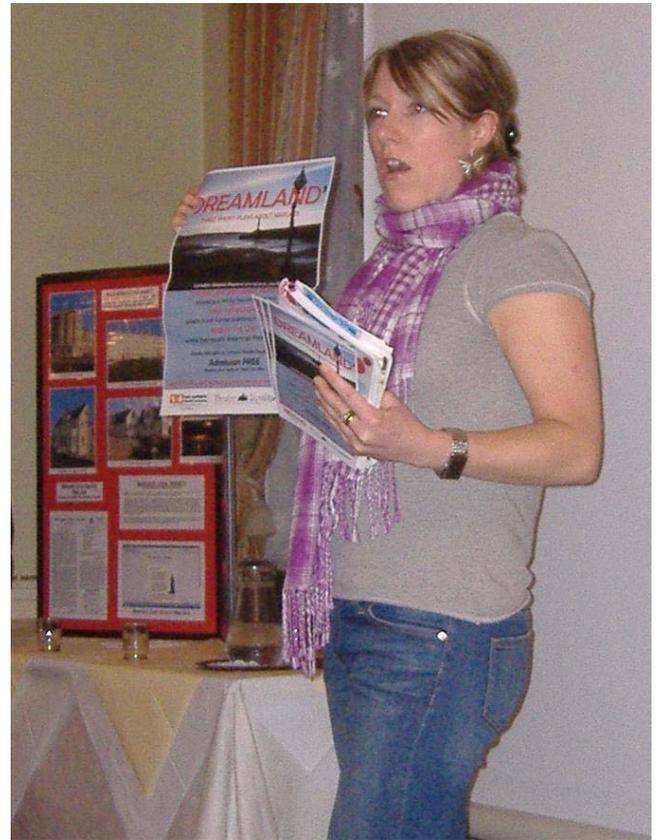
The quality of the acting throughout the evening was quite exceptional and reflected very well on the high standards of the theatre company. As could be expected, a number of the actors played different roles in each of the plays displaying their acting skills.

At the end of three plays, Claire Farrington – who is Artistic Director of Net Curtains Theatre Company and who played roles in all three plays – introduced the writers of each of the three plays to the audience and led a discussion with the audience regarding each of the plays.

The first play was *End of the Line* and was based on the former Dreamland Amusement Park. It has to be said that many in the audience found this play to be most depressing. The strong language used throughout the play was excessive and was deeply offensive to many in the audience. However, this sort of language can be heard most days in Margate High Street and, depressingly, the play did reflect much of the blacker side of our town. To that extent, it was the most realistic of the three plays. Interestingly, the play's writer – James Woolf – during the discussion season apologised to the audience for the excessive offensive language used in the play and said that the actors had chosen to ad-lib their lines.

The second play was *First Impressions* which greatly appealed to the audience. The play revolved around a local councillor who bets everything on a lost Turner masterpiece featuring Margate – and who loses. This play really was a joy. For many in the audience, this play had all the ingredients for an enjoyable evening at a theatre where the audience is entertained with a mixture of humour and a story-line to which everyone can all relate. The play was uplifting and the acting quite superb. The writer of *First Impressions* is Tim Stimpson who has written other plays for Net Curtains and who also writes for *The Archers* on BBC Radio 4 and *Doctors* on BBC 1.

The third play *The Bed and Breakfast Burglar* was shorter than each of the others and, whilst the most entertaining, seemed not to relate directly to Margate. However, during the audience discussion session afterwards, the writer – Sue Lenier – explained the conflict throughout the play between those who seek to retain the town's historic features and those who want to modernise the town. Whilst Sue Lenier agreed that such a conflict is evident in most seaside towns and, therefore, is not just peculiar to Margate, many in the audience were appreciative of how the play could be developed into a full-length one with specific reference to Margate.



Claire Farrington, Artistic Director of the London-based Net Curtains Theatre Company, speaking at our meeting at the Walpole Bay Hotel in May 2009

It is understood that Net Curtains will commission the writing of the most popular play into a full-length play. There can be little doubt that either *First Impressions* or *The Bed and Breakfast Burglar* has the potential to appeal to theatre-goers. The mood of the audience seemed to favour *First Impressions* rather than *The Bed and Breakfast Burglar*. There can, however, be little doubt that the audience certainly did not want *The End of the Line* to be chosen for development into a full-length play!

Claire Farrington deserves full praise for her marvellous endeavours in commissioning these three plays and in bringing them to Margate. Despite being turned down by the Arts Council for funding, it is understood that Claire managed to secure partial sponsorship from LP Construction in Margate.

Thank you, Claire, for a most memorable evening and for coming along to our May meeting to promote the event. It was good to see a number of Civic Society members in the audience at the Theatre Royal and to see the theatre full once again. Our town is blessed with this wonderful historic theatre which deserves to be supported by all who love live theatre.

Let us hope that it will not be too long before Claire Farrington and her talented Net Curtains Theatre Company once more tread the boards at our lovely Theatre Royal. But next time, be prepared to pay for the pleasure of their company – it promises to be well worth it! □

More Arts & Crafts Houses in Westgate

This charming view was found amongst a postcard-dealer's stock recently. Although it is helpfully captioned 'IVOR TERRACE, WESTGATE-ON-SEA', it gives no clue as to which road the houses are in. However, reference to old copies of *Kelly's Directory of the Isle of Thanet* revealed that Ivor Terrace was in Waterworks Road – now Linksfield Road. The postcard probably dates from around 1920 judging by the lorry that can be seen in the background. One of our members, Mrs Queenie Johnson, confirmed that the houses were named after Ivor Read (who was born in 1903) and that the houses were built by Lockwoods from 1906. At that time, Lockwoods was owned by Arthur Read – Ivor's father. The houses were built in the distinctive Arts & Crafts style and were designed by the Margate architect Charles Reeve. According to Queenie Johnson, the omission of front gates was deliberate – to avoid the need for Arthur Read to replace any gates in the future (originally, the houses were let by Arthur Read).

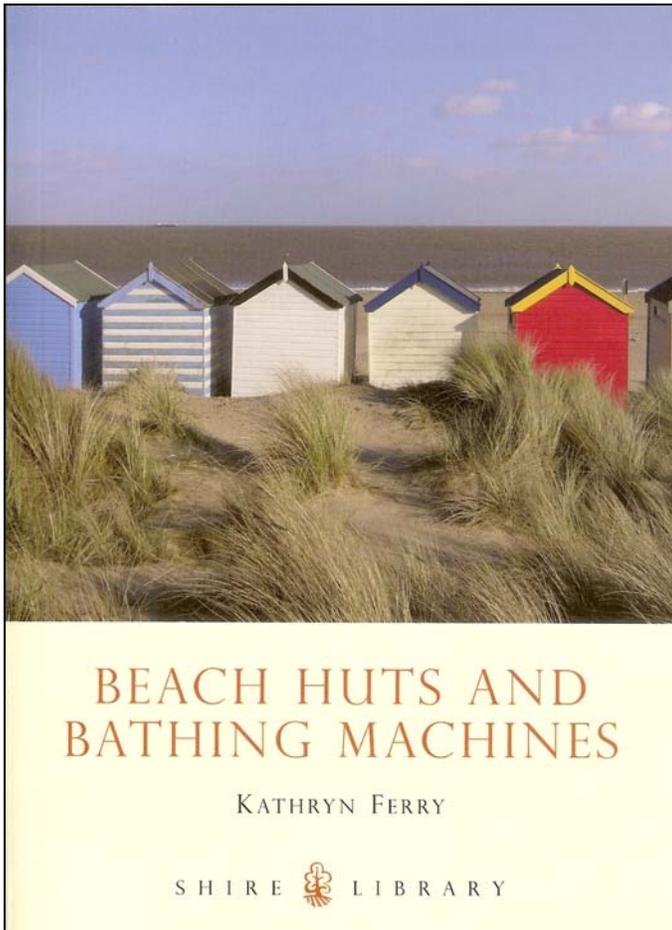


Today, as can be seen in the photograph below, the terrace of houses is immediately identifiable but the replacement of nearly all the windows and the front doors has affected the architectural cohesiveness of the terrace. Furthermore, the ubiquitous parked cars together with the multitude of wheelie-bins in each of the front gardens is considered to further detract from the appeal of this once most delightful terrace. The change of ownership from a single landlord to multiple owner-occupiers has also resulted in the installation of front gates – of varying styles – and the construction of a number of front porches. If these houses were in Letchworth Garden City or in Hampstead Garden Suburb, they would have been listed as being of architectural interest. Nevertheless, they are still charming and form part of Westgate's fine architectural heritage. □





Book Reviews

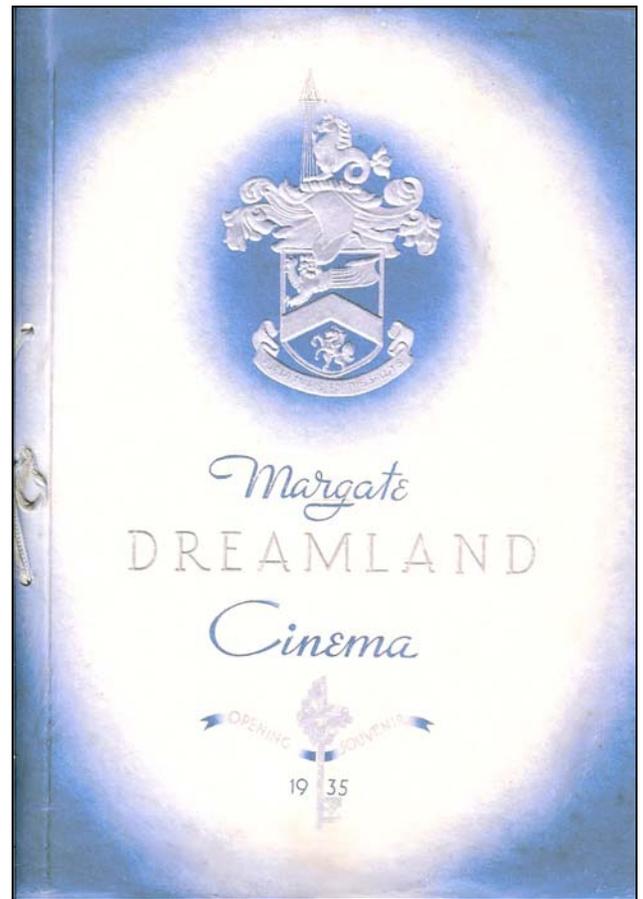


Beach Huts and Bathing Machines by Kathryn Ferry
64pp softback published by Shire Publications Ltd at
£5.99 (ISBN 987-0-7478-0700-1) – available from
Waterstone's and all good bookshops

This is a super little book, extremely well illustrated with many of the photographs in colour. Those of us who used to attend the now sorely-missed Turner Contemporary 'Designed for You' talks held at the Media Centre in King Street will recall that one of those exceedingly good talks was given (in June 2007) by Kathryn Ferry on her extensive research over a number of years into the development of beach huts from bathing machines. This Shire book is one of two books written by Kathryn Ferry as a result of that research. (It is understood that the other book entitled *Sheds on the Seashore* is due for publication shortly at £12.99.)

Kathryn Ferry has a PhD in Victorian Architectural History and has contributed to television and radio programmes on the subject of beach hut history.

At only £5.99, the Shire book is highly recommended and will appeal to anyone interested in beach huts in particular and in the seaside generally. As could be expected, Benjamin Beale features in the book as do a number of early photographs of beach scenes at Margate, Westbrook and Westgate. Do get yourself a copy: you will certainly not be disappointed.



Souvenir of the Opening of the new Dreamland Cinema, Margate on Friday, 22nd March 1935 – June 2009 reprint by Michael's Bookshop of the original souvenir brochure – available from Michael's Bookshop, 72 King Street, Ramsgate at £5.99

This is the latest of Michael's Bookshops reprints of publications of local interest and will appeal to anyone with an interest in one of Margate's finest buildings – the former Dreamland Cinema which closed in 2007. Now a Grade II listed building and recognised as one of the best surviving Art Deco cinemas in the country, this iconic building remains a landmark on our town's famous seafront. This A4 40-page souvenir brochure provides detailed information on the building's architects as well as much technical information on the equipment that was installed in this leading cinema building. The brochure contains numerous photographs of the personalities involved – including a fine one of Lewis Gerard who served as the cinema's Compton organist for many years before departing our shores for the USA. The many trade advertisements throughout the brochure will be of interest both to those who have a technical knowledge of cinema equipment and to those who remember many of the local tradesmen and businesses which were operating in the town during the mid-1930s. Michael's Bookshop publications are available at a fraction of what it would cost to buy the original publications that is assuming that original copies could be obtained. With the closure of Margate Museum, these reprints have become a valuable source of information which would otherwise not be available to local residents and researchers. □

What's on

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

Thursday, 1 st October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'The Margate Renewal Partnership' by Derek Harding (Programme Director, Margate Renewal Partnership)
Thursday, 5 th November	'Romney Marsh and its Churches' by Lt-Col Dick Bolton
Thursday, 3 rd December	'Preventative Smuggling' by John Graham
2010	
Thursday, 4 th February	'The Shell Grotto' by Sarah Vickery
Thursday, 4 th March	'The Theatre Royal, Margate' by Will Wollen (Artistic Director, Theatre Royal)
Thursday, 1 st April	'Birds, Beasts and Bacchanalia' by Chris McCooley
Thursday, 6 th May	Town Pride Awards followed by a talk and speaker yet to be announced

Turner Contemporary Project Space (former M&S store in High Street)

to Sunday 6 th September	<i>The Turner Contemporary Open 2009</i> – a selected, open competition that celebrates the creativity of artists based or trained in Kent
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Note: Turner Contemporary will be moving out of the Project Space on 6th September. The new gallery currently under construction is due to be opened in 2011. Droit House will continue to be open showing plans for the new building and for the display of temporary exhibitions but with new opening days which are Wednesday to Sunday each week.

Friends of Quex at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Quex:

Thursday, 15 th October	Quex Quiz Night
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Kent Family History Society (Thanet Branch) at 7.30pm for 8.00pm at Birchington Village Centre:

Wednesday, 16 th Sept	'Below Stairs – Servants in the Country House' by Peter Gillman
Wednesday, 21 st October	'Why Didn't We Remember Them?' by David Wood

Useful telephone numbers:

Organisation	Phone No.	Contact name/Notes
Thanet District Council – Press Office	577034	
Margate Public Library – Local Studies Collection	223626	
Westgate Heritage Centre	832617	Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator
Birchington Heritage Trust Museum, Village Hall	846502	
Birchington Parish Archivist	842988	Jennie Burgess
Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society	07906 360725	Val Robbins, Secretary
Isle of Thanet Geographical Association	863110	-
Kent Family History Society (Thanet Branch)	842933	Cliff Cole
Draper's Windmill Trust	226227	David Keep, Chairman
Margate Lifeboat Fund-Raising Committee	832846	Laurie Walton, Treasurer
Friends of Margate Cemetery Trust	230274	Vera Jenkins
Friends of Quex	221838	Pat Snow, Membership Secretary
Friends of Westgate Pavilion	226542	Mike Emery, Secretary
Turner Contemporary	280261	Victoria Pomery, Director
The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House, Birchington	842168	-
The Shell Grotto, Grotto Hill, Margate	220008	Sarah Vickery
Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Museum	821940	-
RAF Manston History Museum	825224	-
Cliftonville Residents' Association	226033	Keith Chadband, Chairman
Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association	831474	Norman Smith, Treasurer
Birchington Residents' Association	843594	Roger D. Walford

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 2008/09:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

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

Chairman: Mrs Margaret Main

32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN (Tel: 229678)

Vice-Chairman: Mr Harry Scobie

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

Secretary: Mr Tony Snow

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

Treasurer: Mrs Pat Snow

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

Membership Secretary: Mr Garry Cowans

C/o 34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG 32

Newsletter Editor: Mr James Brazier

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

Other Committee Members:

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

Mrs Daphne Rowley, "Spring Cottage", 11 Pembroke Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EA

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

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

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

Mrs Pamela Pople, Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX

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



Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £

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and send it to the Membership Secretary (Mr Garry Cowans) c/o 34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG