

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



**Autumn 2020**  
**Newsletter**  
**Issue No. 400**



Margate Civic Society is a  
Founder Member  
of Civic Voice

The UK left the European Union on 31st January 2020. Transitional arrangements were agreed which will expire on 31st December this year - a date less than four months away. Unless a deal is agreed between the UK and the European Union by that date, the UK will be leaving Europe with a 'no-deal'. What that will mean for the UK remains to be seen. It would appear that the 'Brexiters' have no fear of such an outcome but many of the 'Remainers' have grave concerns. On top of the coronavirus pandemic and the very serious financial costs to the UK of coping with that crisis, it does appear that the country is in for a difficult time for the foreseeable future.

It is well over four years since the then newly-elected Prime Minister, Theresa May, announced that 'Brexit means Brexit'. Shortly afterwards, she announced that it would be a 'red, white and blue Brexit' seemingly oblivious to the fact that the French tricolour is also red, white and blue. Since those 'revealing' statements, there has been a distinct paucity as to what Brexit will actually mean for the UK. Well, unless the UK seeks and obtains an extension the the transition period, we are relatively shortly to find out.

The Government has recently announced major changes to the planning legislation which will have far-reaching implications for local authorities. In addition, the Government has also launched its plan to build more than 300,000 homes a year across England giving local housing authorities compulsory targets and creating local zones in which development will be automatically approved. It is further proposed that an algorithm will be used to determine the number of new homes to be provided in each local housing authority's area. Let's hope that the algorithm used will prove to be more successful than the algorithm originally used by the Government to determine recent A-level and other examination results!

Finally, I regret to report the death of Julian Poupard on 15th June 2020 - just a few days after publication of our Summer 2020 Newsletter which contained an extensive article written by Julian telling the remarkable story of Henrys. I am pleased to inform Members that Julian was absolutely delighted with how his article appeared in our Newsletter - which pleased me enormously. Julian was aged 83 and died just six days short of his 60th wedding anniversary. He had been very ill for many months from cancer. Julian's widow, Sheila, had made arrangements for members of their family to attend a celebratory tea-party in their garden (social-distancing of course) but it was not to be. Julian will be sadly missed. He was truly a most remarkable man. (See also photo of Julian on page 13.) □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

## Welcome to new members

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

Andrew Chard  
Stephen and Stella Matsubara

**Sally Whitworth**  
Membership Secretary

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

Due to the continuing restrictions regarding coronavirus, the Society's AGM that had been arranged to take place at the Walpole Bay Hotel on Thursday, 3rd October 2020, will now not take place. Enquiries are being made to make alternative arrangements at some other venue and on a different date which will also meet the Government's coronavirus restrictions. Members will be kept informed of such arrangements as soon as possible.

Proposals for nominations to the Committee should be submitted as soon as possible before the meeting, to our Secretary at:

25 Norman Road  
Westgate-on-Sea  
Margate CT8 8RR

**Geoff Orton**  
Secretary

## Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2020 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. Please note that the subscription rates for 2020/21 remain the same as for 2019/20 and are shown on the back page of this Newsletter. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. Members are asked to renew their subscriptions by post sent to:

Mike Wilton  
Treasurer  
Margate Civic Society  
30 Barrington Crescent  
Birchington CT7 9DF

We also offer the facility of membership payment by electronic transfer. For details of this facility, please see our website: [www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

**Sally Whitworth**  
Membership Secretary

# Chairman's Report

Dear Members

I hope this finds you all well following what has been the most challenging and surreal few months for so many.

Time during 'lockdown' surprisingly seemed to pass so quickly and it is hard to believe that it is now nearly autumn. How fortunate we were to have such wonderful warm weather over those months, which helped our wellbeing considerably and enabled us to use our gardens and open spaces. By now, I expect most of you will have been able to meet up with your loved ones who have been missed so much.

This new programme commenced well last October, with our AGM, followed by a fascinating talk by Amber Butchart (fashion historian and author working across cultural heritage, broadcasting and academia) entitled: **'Nautical Chic: High Style on the High Seas.'** Steve Hookins followed in November with his amusing talk: **"Bits That Don't Fit!" (Stand-up History! Weird and wonderful historical square pegs).** A collection for Cancer Research UK was very well supported by the Members at the end of the evening. The year ended with our enjoyable **Christmas Soirée** - with a wonderful poetry reading by Society Members: Anthea and Harry Preston, a quiz on Christmas Traditions, music, raffle and refreshments. This popular informal evening enabled Members to mingle, whilst having a drink or two!

The year 2020 started well with a fascinating talk entitled: **"Victorian Holidaymaking"** by one of our Vice-Presidents, Felicity Stafford in February; followed by Chris McCooey's **"Rogues, Rascals and Rebels"** talk in March. We were looking forward to the other planned events and activities but sadly everything changed rapidly in March and these had to be cancelled. Fortunately, I have been able to re-book the scheduled talks for next year, which I am sure everyone will enjoy.

Mike Wilton also 'twice' organised the Continental coach trip for us all to attend this year's "Ostend at Anchor" Maritime Festival to no avail, which involved considerable time and tenacity on his part. My grateful thanks to him once again and I am sure he will look at possibilities for future trips when it is safe to do so.

**Town Pride Awards:** In July: the Judging Team consisting of fellow Committee Members: Mike Wilton, Geoff Orton, Mike Thompson, Sally Whitworth had a socially-distanced meeting in my garden and after deliberation over lunch and a few drinks, decided that we were unable to hold our event in its usual format in view of the guidelines in place. As a compromise, we have decided to present two plaques this year with no Commendations as this would be too complicated to organise (although some nominations may be carried over to next year). The winners (who have yet to be notified) will be invited to meet with the Committee to enable them to be presented with their plaques and have their photographs taken. This will then be promoted in the local media in the usual way.

**National Civic Day:** Venue: 12 Arthur Road, Cliftonville. As we were unable to hold this event on 20 June (which

was to incorporate the Official Launch of the publication **'12 Arthur Road - an Architectural and Social History'**) it was hoped that this could be moved to the Heritage Open Day weekend in September. However, this has also been cancelled, as it was far too difficult to oversee, adhering to the social-distancing rules.

**The Walpole Bay Hotel:** At the beginning of August, I received a telephone call from Jane Bishop, Proprietor of The Walpole Bay Hotel, advising me that the hotel was open for business (excluding the restaurant) until the 31st October when they were closing for the next few months - reopening on 1st April. She confirmed that they were definitely not closing down, which is fantastic news, both for us personally and for the area and will enable us to hold meetings there again, including our Town Pride Awards event in May. Should we be able to resume meetings in February and March, we will look for an alternative venue, possibly The Margate School as an interim solution.

**Annual General Meeting:** The decision was made for our October meeting, including the AGM, to be cancelled, putting the health, safety and wellbeing of Members to the forefront, which is the most important. I have contacted Jodie Nesling, who was to be our speaker for that evening, requesting that she gives her talk **"The History of Local Newspapers in Thanet"** at next year's AGM, which she has agreed.

**November and December meetings:** we have decided to cancel these meetings. Although it is not yet clear just what we will be able to do by November, we need to give reasonable notice to our booked guest speakers. Additionally, the Walpole Bay Hotel will not be available for those meetings, so we have decided - reluctantly - to cancel. So, as things stand, our next meeting will be in February 2021.

**Programme of Guided Walks with Vice-President Robin Colyer:** These, of course, remain on hold, but should these be able to resume later in the year, Robin will notify us and details will be promoted. We are grateful to Robin for giving his time organising his schedule and look forward to participating in a 'walk' next year.

**Foy House Heritage Sign:** At long last, I am pleased to report that the image shown at the top of the next page is the final version of the heritage signage which will be installed outside Foy House in Margate's High Street.

Considerable time has been spent on this project initially by Geoff last August, with long-term work undertaken by Mike Wilton (Treasurer, MCS), Paula Harbidge (Tourism Manager, Thanet District Council), Alan Brown (Treasurer and Director, Margate Town Team), Uwe Derksen (Director, The Margate School), Iris Johnston (MTT) and myself (Secretary and Director MTT and Chairman of Margate Civic Society) plus support from the Committee. You will see that this project has been funded by the Arts Council England (using some of the Wayfaring/Wayfinding monies acquired by Margate Town Team that TDC have been holding), working in partnership with Margate Civic Society and design and map undertaken by Lydia Bevan on behalf of The Margate School. Tony Lee, owner of

## LOWER HIGH STREET



Lower High Street, Margate, 1906

**T**he High Street was originally a muddy lane connecting the harbour to the farming hamlet and the medieval Church of St John the Baptist. It was the main highway into the town until Marine Terrace was built in 1809. During this period a popular short cut from the High Street to the seafront was "Andrew's Passage" which still survives.



Margate Sea Front, 1812

In 1763 there were three bathing rooms and eleven machines. By 1799 the number of bathing rooms had more than doubled to seven, while machine numbers had increased to forty. The bathing rooms were also social centres with entertainment, newspapers and drinks of seawater or sherbet.

Benjamin Beale, a local Quaker, invented a canvas modesty hood, which was fitted to the back of the wooden bathing machines. Mixed bathing was not allowed until the early years of the twentieth century.



YOU ARE HERE

MARGATE SANDS

MARGATE TRAIN STATION

With the rise in popularity of sea bathing in the eighteenth century new residential and shopping developments took place in this street, but the Great Storm of 1808 destroyed most of the seaward side of the Lower High Street.

The single-storey buildings to the right of the Sands Hotel mark the site of several "bathing rooms" which can be seen in the above engravings. For over a hundred years during the 18th and 19th centuries, these "bathing rooms" acted as changing-rooms prior to bathing in the sea. The "bathing rooms" had direct access to bathing-machines which were drawn into the sea by horses. The "bathing rooms" were single-storey so as not to interfere with views of the sea from the gentlemen's residences on the opposite side of the High Street.



Margate High Street showing the "bathing rooms" in 1819

In recent years Margate's High Street has been busy reinventing itself with a variety of independent enterprises, including the use of the old Woolworth building of 1925 becoming The Margate School, a liberal arts centre for the creative industries and community.



Images courtesy of margatelocalhistory.co.uk  
Design and map © 2019 by Lydia Bevan on behalf of The Margate School

*The new heritage sign to be erected in front of Foy House, High Street, Margate replacing an earlier one that was put up many years ago*

[margatelocalhistory.co.uk](http://margatelocalhistory.co.uk) kindly gave permission that the selected images could be used and The Town Mayor of Margate: Cllr Mick Tomlinson also gave permission for MCS to use the Borough of Margate Coat-of-Arms.

### The end of an Era!

I should like to congratulate James on yet another fantastic Newsletter, which is sadly his final issue. As I am sure you will all agree, James's professionalism, enthusiasm and attention to detail has been exemplary and we are extremely grateful to him for holding this role for the past **fifteen** years, the first edition being produced in **Autumn 2005, Issue No 340**. During this time, he has produced an amazing total of sixty-one newsletters: each of which was of a very high standard focussing on the Society's news/events, historical articles, amazing photographs, local issues and other features of interest and he is a very hard act to follow. **James** was **The Western Front Association Bulletin** Editor from 1993-2000 which set the tone and standard for producing Margate Civic Society Newsletters.

As James is approaching his eightieth birthday, it is understandable that he would like to reclaim some of his life (without the worry and frustration that is often involved with deadlines and computers!) and we hope he enjoys his additional leisure time with his wife, Sue. I also hope that James will still occasionally find time to contribute to future Newsletters, as we value his input and historical knowledge.

However, we do have to plan ahead and I am delighted to confirm that James' successor will be our Membership Secretary, Sally Whitworth (who is also the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre's Newsletter Editor) and has agreed to take on this new role. The 'New Era' of our Newsletter will be different from before with a more cooperative approach with Members being encouraged to contribute with, articles, postcards, photos, etc. This will also include: Westgate-on-Sea, Planning News, The Margate School, Margate Town Deal Board, Members' News/Stories, Notice of Meetings and events, etc. I would appreciate

Members giving their support to enable this to be successful, as taking on a new role is daunting initially.

**Acknowledgements:** As always, I should like to express my appreciation to the past year's Committee Members who have once again worked extremely diligently, demonstrating their professionalism, diversity, experience to best effect and also for their friendship. As you are aware, unlike many other Committees, we are a small group of seven individuals who frequently have to multi-task, which makes a fantastic team. I should also like to thank our President, Vice-Presidents, Anny Squire, one of our Members, who kindly looks after our social media, Heather Wilton (our Raffle Co-ordinator), Mike Thompson's partner: Diane Addison, Glenys and Richard Clements, Anthea and Harry Preston and, of course, my husband, Ray, all of whom play a supporting role in many ways, for which we are very grateful.

As we work so well together, I am exceedingly grateful that, with the exception of James, everyone has agreed to continue for the foreseeable future but there will obviously come a time when some Officers may decide to step aside, requiring others to take projects forward.

We would, therefore, welcome Members who would like to play a proactive part in some way, however small - that would not necessarily involve attending meetings: for instance, assisting in delivering Newsletters in your area (which was undertaken a few years ago), supporting next year's Town Pride, Civic Day and our other activities.

Finally, the Committee and I should like to extend our thanks to all the Members 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.

With very best wishes.

**Pamela Pople**  
**Chairman**

# The sad story linking two graves in Margate Cemetery

To the casual visitor to Margate Cemetery, the graves of teenagers 'Elgy' Betts and Marjorie Walk - less than 100 yards apart - are unrelated. The grave of 'Elgy' Betts is noticeable because the headstone is surmounted by a model aeroplane. The inscription on his grave reads:

INTO THE SUNSHINE OF GOD'S LOVE

"ELGY"

EDMUND BETTS  
OF ROCHESTER, Kent  
AGED 19 YEARS

WHO LOST HIS LIFE WHEN HIS AEROPLANE  
CRASHED INTO THE SEA ON JULY 17th 1938

The inscription on Marjorie Walk's grave reads:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

OUR DAUGHTER

MARJORIE CYNTHIA WALK

AGED 16½ YEARS

WHOSE HAPPY LIFE ENDED BY  
AN AIR-CRASH JULY 17th 1938

Although I had known the 'Elgy' Betts headstone for many years, I was not aware of Marjorie Walk's headstone until an elderly family friend offered to take me to her grave some 15 years ago. My friend was then in her mid-eighties and had been living in Margate when the tragic accident occurred. She remembered it well as she would have been of similar age to Marjorie Walk when the accident occurred.

According to my friend, 'Elgy' had driven down from Rochester and taken Marjorie and a friend of hers who knew 'Elgy' over to Ramsgate Airport where 'Elgy' had hired a plane. I was told that 'Elgy' Betts had wanted to take his girl-friend up in the aeroplane but that she declined and that 'Elgy' had offered to take Marjorie up instead. The story I was told was that 'Elgy' was showing off by 'looping the loop'. Sadly, Marjorie Walk was not wearing a seat-harness and she fell out of the aeroplane into the sea somewhere off Cliftonville. 'Elgy', apparently realising what had happened and that he would be blamed for the incident, chose to end his life by crashing into the sea. Of course, this story cannot be proven but the fact that Marjorie Walk's body was found in the sea off Deal two weeks later certainly supports the story that Marjorie Walk had not been wearing a seat-harness. And so ended the life of two young persons so tragically. A new book by local author David Phillips which tells the sad story of Marjorie Walk in short poems was published earlier this year. For a review of the book and details of where copies can be obtained, see page 5 of this Newsletter.

JB



The grave of Edmund Leonard George ('Elgy') Betts who died aged 19 years



The grave of Marjorie Cynthia Walk who died aged 16½ years



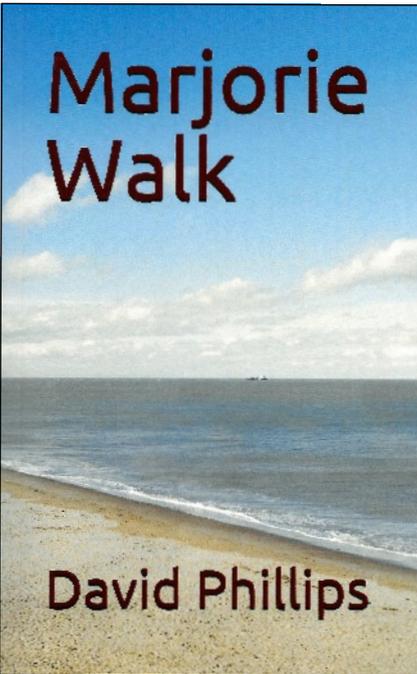
Today, nothing remains of the former Ramsgate Airport which was in Pysons Road. However, occasionally items relating to Ramsgate Airport and to Thanet Aero Club, which was based at the airport, do come on to the second-hand market such as this what-would-have-been-at-the-time futuristic chromium-and-enamel car badge. 'Elgy' Betts was a member of Thanet Aero Club



Close-up photos of the marble model of the twin open-cockpit Miles Hawk Trainer III Serial number G-AFEU. The photo on the left was taken in 1980 and the other two taken in 2012. Although much of the aeroplane's starboard wing and its starboard distinctive 'trousered' undercarriage have now been lost, the aeroplane's serial number can still - just about - be seen and read on the fuselage shown in the photo on the right

## Book Review

*Marjorie Walk* by David Phillips 82pp softback published 2020, ISBN 9798636173595. Copies available from Amazon at £5.99 and as a Kindle download for £2.99.



This recently-published book by local author, David Phillips, tells in 66 short poems the true story of a gifted Margate teenager who died in a tragic air accident in the sea off Cliftonville in 1938. She was young and pretty and her death became big news at the time making the front pages of *The Daily Mirror*, *Daily Express* and *The Times*.

Many of the poems are extremely moving and publication of the book should generate

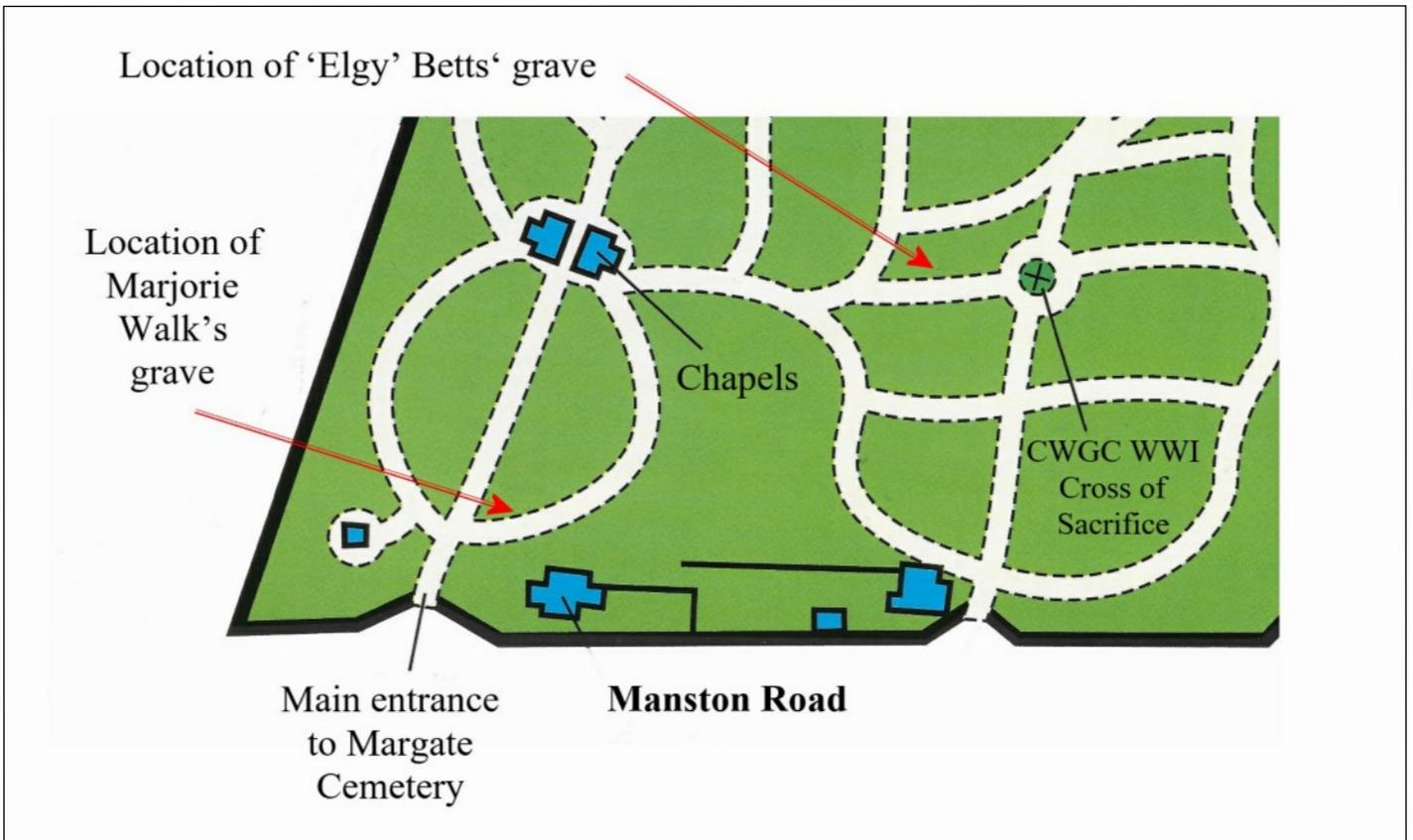
interest in the sad story of her death along with that of 'Elgy' Betts. The outbreak of the Second World War the following year would have overshadowed the memory of these two young persons for most people. However, the poems in this book should awaken interest in their short lives and in their graves in Margate Cemetery. Marjorie Walk was the only child of Victor and Florence Walk who are now re-united with their daughter, Marjorie, in Margate Cemetery.

Both parents died before reaching the age of 60 and one can only imagine the heartache and pain that they suffered since that fateful day in July 1938. Victor Walk's brother, Ernest, had been killed in action during the Great War during the Battle of the Somme some six years before Marjorie was born. Ernest Walk was three years older than Victor and his name is listed on the Westgate-on-Sea War Memorial. That one family should suffer so much grief is beyond belief. Victor Walk's father, Frederick, was a plasterer and is reputed to have done the magnificent decorative plasterwork on Westgate's Town Hall Buildings.

This new book is recommended to those who wish to know more about this young girl whose life was so tragically ended by a young man who was simply trying to entertain, and thus impress, two beautiful young girls.

JB

### Plan of part of the northern end of Margate Cemetery showing the location of Marjorie Walk's grave and the grave of 'Elgy' Betts



To locate Marjorie Walk's grave from the main entrance to the cemetery, take the first pathway on the right and Marjorie Walk's grave is the first grave on the left (next to a water tank), To locate 'Elgy' Betts' grave, take the pathway leading from the Chapels towards the Cross of Sacrifice. His grave, with the model aeroplane mounted on his headstone, will be seen on the left of that pathway

## 'Local List' of Heritage Assets throughout Thanet to be compiled

The Thanet Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 30th October 2018. The Secretary of State duly appointed two Planning Inspectors to conduct the Examination of the Local Plan: those Examination hearings were held between April and July 2019. The Planning Inspectors submitted their Report on the Examination of the Local Plan towards the end of March this year - shortly after the coronavirus lockdown commenced.

Thanet District Council subsequently gave consideration to the Planning Inspectors' Report and the Local Plan documents incorporating the Planning Inspectors' Main Modifications at the meeting of the full Council held on 9th July 2020. At that meeting, TDC adopted the Thanet Local Plan (to 2031) with the modifications recommended in the Planning Inspectors' Report. Both documents came into force with immediate effect and are now used to assess planning applications.

One feature of the Local Plan which is of particular interest to Margate Civic Society is the Planning Inspectors' main modification (MM143) which relates to heritage assets within the historic environment. The modification clarifies that planning proposals affecting heritage assets will apply to both designated (e.g. statutorily listed) heritage assets and non-designated heritage assets. This change necessitates the production of 'local lists' of all non-designated heritage assets throughout Thanet. Whilst work by a number of volunteers in certain parts of Thanet in compiling draft 'local lists' has been ongoing for a number of years, it is considered that it will take many more years before the whole of Thanet is covered by 'local lists' of non-designated heritage assets.

Your Editor has been engaged - on and off - for more than eight years in compiling a draft 'local list' for Westgate-on-Sea on behalf of the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre. That draft 'local list' (containing more than 170 entries) is shortly to be submitted to Thanet District Council. However, it would appear that no work has been done, to date, by anyone in compiling draft 'local lists' for Margate or Birchington or, indeed, any of the outlying villages in our area.

Thanet District Council appointed Josie Sinden last year as their Senior Conservation Officer to replace Jacob Amuli. It is expected that Thanet District Council will shortly be working with stakeholders to assist in compiling 'local lists' for those areas in Thanet for which 'local lists' have not yet been prepared or are not currently under compilation.

The size of the task should not be underestimated but, from my own experience, it can prove to be a most rewarding exercise. It might be that members of the Margate Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG) will organise the compilation of a 'local list' for Margate and that CAAG might seek assistance from members of Margate Civic Society. It would be good if some of our members involve themselves in this task. Watch this space!

JB

## Simon Moores' Memorial Bench installed at St Mildred's Bay

On 9th January 2019, 62-year-old Westgate-resident Simon Moores sadly lost his life in a flying accident in Spain. He was flying with fellow British pilot David Hockings who also died in the accident. They had been flying from Cascais in Portugal to Hondarribia in Spain when their light aircraft crashed on Mount Hernioir in dense fog. At the inquest, held at Canterbury Magistrates' Court into Simon Moores' death, the Coroner returned a conclusion of 'unascertained' death. He was the father of two.



Former Cllr Simon Moores  
- courtesy of TDC

Simon was a member of Margate Civic Society and had served as a Westgate-on-Sea Ward Councillor on Thanet District Council for a number of years up to 2015. Indeed, Simon was regarded for many years as a senior member of the Conservative Party on TDC. Simon chose not to stand for re-election to TDC or for election to the new Westgate Parish Council in 2015.



The fitting inscription on the Simon Moores' Memorial Bench at St Mildred's Bay - just a few hundred yards from his home

However, Simon continued to play an active role in matters affecting Westgate-on-Sea. He was a well respected Thanet 'blogger' for a number of years with his own website Thanet Life.

Simon's home for many years was *Old Coastguards* located on the corner of Old Boundary Road and Westgate Bay Avenue. Simon had been a keen tennis player and it was thanks to him that the public tennis-courts opposite his house were renovated a few years ago. He is sadly missed by all who knew him.

JB



The Simon Moores' Memorial Bench at the eastern end of St Mildred's Bay providing passers-by with a spectacular sea view

# The Nayland Rock Hotel



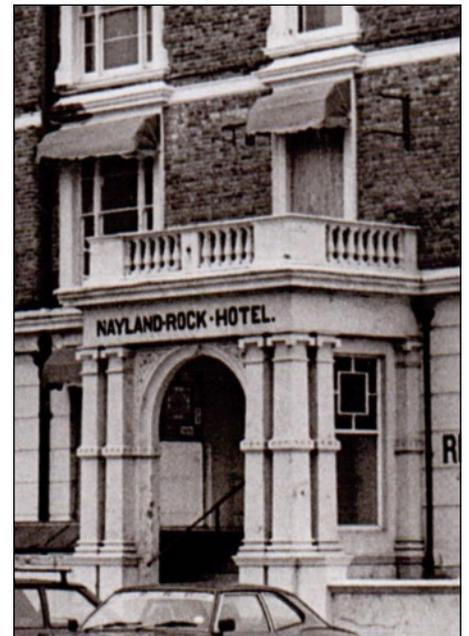
*The early photograph shows how the Nayland Rock Hotel looked in the 1880s*



*Close-up of the conservatory featuring leaded-light windows above the porch*



*This wonderful photograph (c. 1890) shows a four-horse brake with passengers probably about to leave the Nayland Rock Hotel for a ride to, perhaps, Canterbury. The carriage has a sign on its side reading 'MARGATE - RAMSGATE - BROADSTAIRS'. Behind one of the horses can be seen 'KINGSTON' and, at the rear, '(P)ETERSHAM'. The party are clearly 'well heeled' but it would seem unlikely that the carriage had been driven by the horses all the way from Kingston-upon-Thames in Surrey*

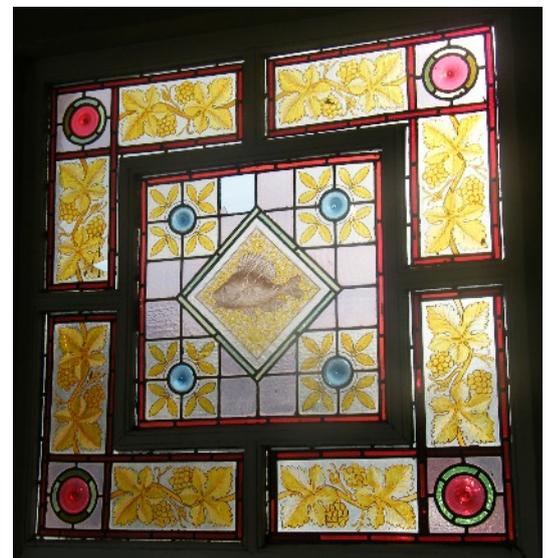


*A more recent photo of the porch showing the leaded-light windows illustrated below*



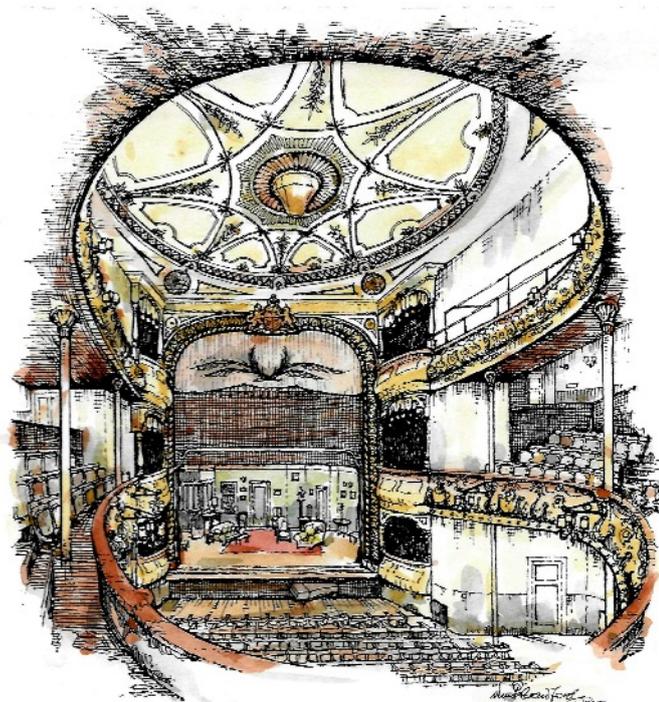
*These magnificent Victorian leaded-light windows are located either side of the entrance porch at the front of the Nayland Rock Hotel and can be seen in the above photograph of the carriage and horses outside the hotel. The foliage around the edge of the windows probably represent grape vines. The fish might be sturgeons*

*Note: All of the monochrome images on this page are from the Mick Twyman Collection*



## More artwork by the late William 'Bill' Crawford

Over the year or so, a number of 'Bill' Crawford's drawings of Margate scenes have been reproduced in our Newsletter. We are indebted to our Society life-member Miss Mary Russell for providing another two images of 'Bill's drawing in this Newsletter. Both drawings feature Margate's Georgian Theatre Royal and the first is unusual in that it is coloured.



The Theatre Royal - Margate.  
(circa 1760)

"The Theatre Royal, Margate circa 1760" by 'Bill' Crawford

According to the caption written by 'Bill' Crawford, it shows the interior of the Theatre Royal circa 1760. However, in the book *Historic Margate* written by George Clarke and published in 1957 (to mark the centenary of Margate becoming a Borough), the earliest reference to any playhouse in Margate is in 1762 when a former stable in The Dane was adapted for theatrical shows. That playhouse was subsequently relocated on at least two occasions until a plot of land to the north-east corner of Hawley Square was purchased for £80 "in order to erect a more respectable edifice" for what was to become the Theatre Royal. The foundation stone was laid on 21st September 1786 and the original Theatre Royal was opened on 27th June 1787. Importantly, the Theatre Royal was remodelled in 1874. To what extent 'Bill' Crawford employed *artist's licence* in his drawing is a matter of conjecture. But, nevertheless, his drawing gives an impression of how the theatre probably looked in its heyday. 'Bill' Crawford wrote the date 1965 on this fine coloured drawing.

The second 'Bill' Crawford drawing provided by Mary Russell shows the exterior of the Theatre Royal much as it is today. This drawing is dated 1964. During the 1840s, the building was used as a chapel and as a cinema during the inter-war years. It is a most remarkable building and well worth a visit if you have not seen inside it. It is listed at Grade II\*.



"The Theatre Royal, Margate" by 'Bill' Crawford

### The William Crawford Memorial Exhibition 1986

In 1986, Margate Civic Society, as part of Margate's celebration of the town's 250th anniversary of Happy Holidays in the town 1736-1986, mounted a William Crawford Memorial Exhibition in Margate Library. A Gestetner-duplicated catalogue was produced for the exhibition which listed all the drawings (all original - not prints) that were on display and who had lent them for the exhibition.

The cover of the catalogue and a re-typed copy of the exhibition text is reproduced in this issue of the Newsletter on page 9.

### 54 Hawley Square, Margate



This super photo of 54 Hawley Square is courtesy of Society life-member Mary Russell. It shows the former fine Georgian property in 1968 shortly before its demolition. It was the then-imminent demolition of this property which directly led to the creation of Margate Civic Society

## The William Crawford Memorial Exhibition 1986 - extracts from the exhibition catalogue

### MARGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

Presents

### THE WILLIAM CRAWFORD MEMORIAL EXHIBITION

In the Gallery of  
MARGATE CENTRAL LIBRARY

### WILLIAM PEMBERTON CRAWFORD

June 12<sup>th</sup> 1903 - December 28<sup>th</sup> 1985

This is an Exhibition in memory of an artist whose keen eye and skilful hand captured, with great sensitivity, the character of historical old Margate.

Deeply treasured by those who have the good fortune to own them, his drawings and pictures evoke the old enchantments, the long-cherished pleasures, the home-grown treats, which enrich the memory of youthful experience.

It was the destiny of Bill Crawford of Newcastle to bring into charming focus so much of old Margate which is harmonious and appropriate. Yet in his early days that destiny was elusive and unpredictable. For him there was not to be the usual delicate cultivation of perception, sensibility and artistic intelligence through school and art college.

Yes, he was the son of an artist and wood-carver, and would have had at least a yearning to follow his father's craft. But at school he was bottom of the art class, and at 14 he went to work as a clerk for Newcastle Corporation.

He must have persisted with his drawing, though, because later he was employed by the Corporation as a draughtsman, but of what quality we don't know. There are some North Country drawings of his in this exhibition, but they seem to have the surer touch of his later years.

With plucky assurance - or perhaps being apocalypse minder - at the age of 42, and after 28 years of humdrum office life, he drew out his superannuation money and took to the road. Sleeping rough, odd-jobbing by day, he wandered the country, drawing, drawing, drawing.

"I hungered then" he wrote, and relates being in London's Lincoln Inn's Fields with 2½d, which he spent on a loaf of bread. That was the period when, stubbornly and wilfully, Bill Crawford's art flowered.

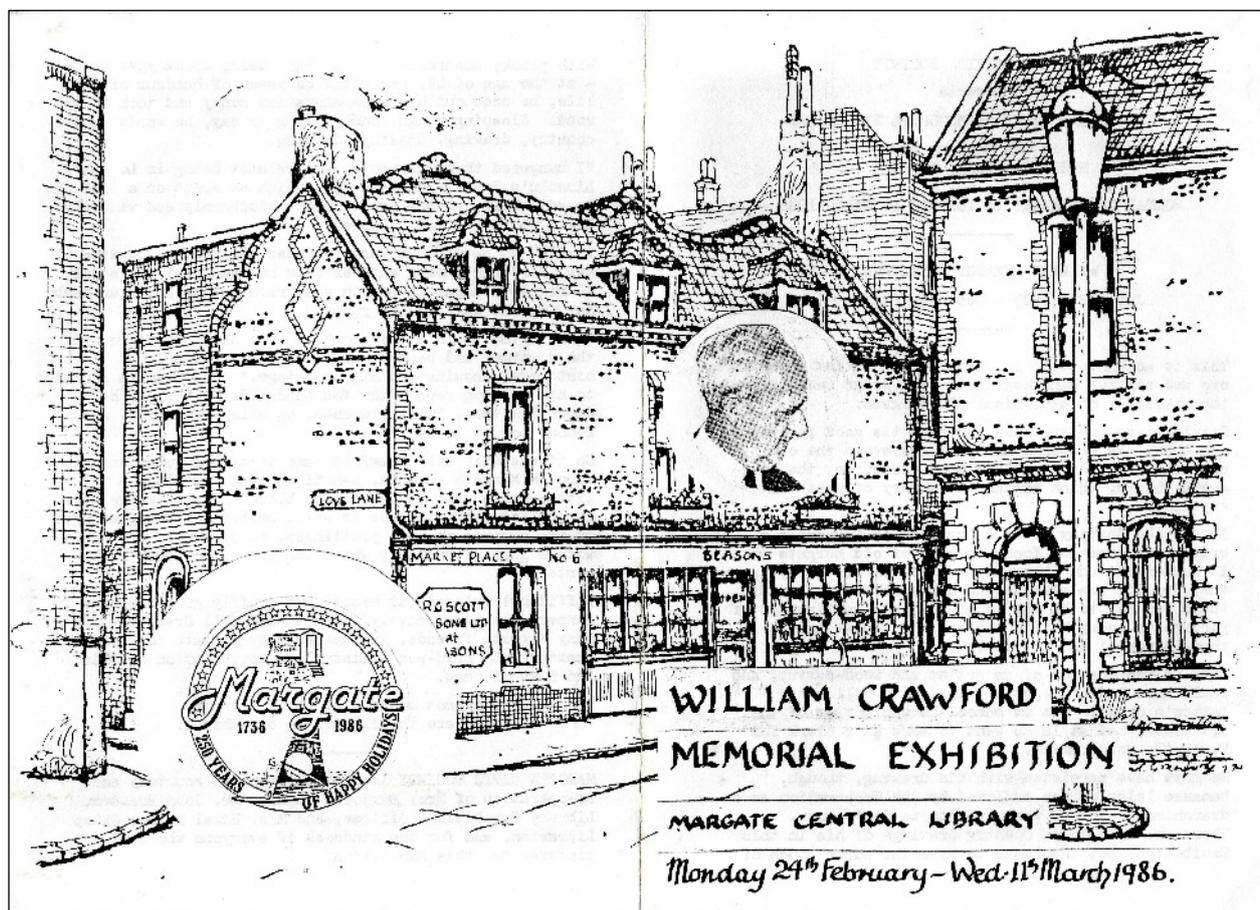
In 1947 he settled in Margate under the cherishing wing of Mrs Marjorie Maples and her late husband, but got a job as night-watchman in London and travelled up and down each day for the next twelve years.

"I made the train my bedroom" he once said, "and drew in the daytime, and became well-known in Margate for historical drawing and old buildings." That was in addition to his growing reputation for London drawings; as he describes the, "City churches, up alleyways, etc., and famous London Scenes."

So it was that Bill Crawford came to make regular safari through Margate streets, pencil in hand, spilling a little magic onto his sketching block. His drawings show his belief that simplest is still best. Not being engaged in the pursuit of mere prettiness, he presented his scenery with a gust of sympathy which was yet hardly ever sentimental.

Diffidently sincere at heart, and gruffly good-humoured in manner, the persuasively accomplished Bill Crawford made many Margate friends, influenced many Margate people, and whetted with hard-won artistry our appreciation of this old town of ours.

*We cannot mourn him. Look around!  
These are the flowers he brought us.*



## From *Time Magazine* to the Margate Civic Society Newsletter

Having failed my 11+ examination in 1951, I attended St Georges's Boys' Secondary Modern School, Ramsgate and, whilst in the Sixth Form, was one of those boys who was fortunate to be selected as suitable to sit a range of GCE 'O' level examinations. I duly sat six subjects passing in Mathematics, Physics, Economics (for which I was awarded the school's Economics prize), History and Geography. Sadly, I failed the English Language examination. When I left school, I wanted to go into banking as a career but soon found that GCE 'O' level was essential. I then tried to go into the insurance business but found that they were also requiring 'O' level English Language as a subject. On leaving school, I decided to attend evening classes with a view to re-siting the 'O' level English Language examination and to seek local employment. I was offered an appointment as General Assistant in the Borough Treasurer's Department at Margate (in those days in Grosvenor Place). I decided to take up the appointment with a view to again seeking employment in banking once I had passed the 'O' level English Language examination. On passing that examination a few months later, I was summoned to the Borough Treasurer's office where Stanley Sykes (the then Borough Treasurer) told me that, now I had the requisite 'O' level examination, I should consider a career in local government and study for the examinations of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (now the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) through a correspondence course, the cost of which that would be generously sponsored by Margate Corporation. So, I decided to study for and sit the IMTA's Intermediate Examination. Eighteen months or so later, I passed that exam and was immediately promoted and found my self earning a salary which would exceed that which I would be able to earn in banking. In a sense, that sealed my fate to a lifelong career in local government finance for which I am eternally grateful to Stanley Sykes for setting me off almost by accident.

My career took me from Margate Corporation to Thanet Water Board, to Ramsgate Corporation and to the London Borough of Bromley where I passed my final examination of the IMTA aged 25: I had become a Chartered Municipal Treasurer. Three years later, a vacancy came up in the Borough Treasurer's Department at Margate which I applied for and was duly appointed. In 1972-73, I was promoted to the position of Chief Accountant, a position I held until the re-organisation of local government in 1974 when Thanet District Council was created. The following year, I transferred to Dover District Council where I held the position of Chief Accountant until I transferred to Waverley Council (now Waverley Borough Council) in 1982 and took up the appointment of Deputy Treasurer, a position I held for a number of years before being appointed as Borough Treasurer. I retired from Waverley Borough Council in 2001 aged 60.

I have recounted how important my 'O' level English Language examination was to my career and readers might be wondering how this leads to me taking on the editorship of Margate Civic Society's Newsletter for fifteen years in my retirement.

I left school not knowing what the difference was between an adverb and an adjective. I decided that I had to teach myself English Language and that the way to do it was by reading. I visited the public library in Victoria Road every week to borrow books which took my interest. I was also interested in world affairs and discovered in W H Smith & Son's shop in Northdown Road the American weekly magazine *Time*. I bought my first copy of the magazine there and was quickly 'hooked' on it. Not only did I find the contents so interesting, I liked the magazine's writing style and its presentation of reports and articles. It was so unlike other periodicals that I continued to purchase the magazine each week for at least a decade.

In those early days, I wrote various articles that were published in various magazines and periodicals and I acquired a taste for writing. Indeed, my writing skills became recognised by my bosses in whichever office I worked in. I seemed to be the one who was always asked, by the Chief Executive down, to write a report on one subject or another.

For many years, the Great War had attracted my interest and it was during the mid-1970s that I met the Great War historian and author, John Giles, who lived at Ash, just outside Sandwich. Together, we visited the Western Front on a number of occasions and, in 1980, after much thought and consultation, John decided to found The Western Front Association (WFA). He asked me if I would serve as its honorary secretary but I declined that invitation telling him that I would rather serve as its honorary treasurer - which I did from the inauguration of the WFA in 1980 and continued to do so for more than ten years. In 1990, the Government abolished Domestic Rates and replaced them with the Community Charge. I was responsible for the implementation and operation of the Community Charge system at my local authority in Surrey and, such were the demands of that task that I simply had to give up being honorary treasurer of the WFA. The replacement of the Community Charge by the Council Tax in 1993 immediately eased the pressure on me and allowed me to take up the post of WFA Bulletin Editor. For the first time in my life, I became responsible for producing a periodical - and I loved it.

The WFA's Bulletin was (and still is) an A4 size publication produced three times a year. It would vary in size from 40 pages to 56 pages. Initially, it was typeset by professional printers but, after producing a few issues, I took the decision to typeset everything myself. Being self-taught as a typesetter, it took up a lot of my time but I felt that it gave me more control over how it was presented. I produced nearly 30 issues of the Bulletin before I took retirement from my 'day job' in 2001. My wife, Sue, and I decided to move from Guildford and eventually moved house to Margate in 2004. On my return to Margate, I re-joined Margate Civic Society and was almost immediately elected to its Executive Committee. At the time, Phil Johnson was Editor of the Society's Newsletter but was looking for someone else to take it over. The Newsletter was then published monthly and printed on a Gestetner. The Newsletter at that time usually contained

two or three pages of text. I offered to take over as Editor but on the basis that the Newsletter would be produced quarterly rather than monthly. I was duly elected and my first Newsletter was produced in 2005 (No. 340 - Summer 2005). It was decided that the numbering of each issue of the Newsletter would run on consecutively hence the high number (340) of the first issue under my editorship.

Having now produced 61 issues of our Newsletter over fifteen years, I have decided that it is time for me to step down from the position of Newsletter Editor. I have much enjoyed producing the Newsletter over those fifteen years which also saw an increase in the number of pages from eight to twelve pages and then to sixteen pages. Filling those pages has, at times, been a challenge but with a little thought and imagination I did manage to fill all the pages largely thanks to contributions from our members for which I shall be eternally grateful.

Very early on during my editorship, it was decided by the Executive Committee to put back-issues (from 2005) of our Newsletter on the Society's website as PDFs. Not only are back-issues readily available but anyone searching on the web for Margate-related articles is frequently referred to an article which has appeared in the Newsletter. Indeed, I will often search the web for a Margate-related subject only to find that I am referred to a back-issue of the Newsletter containing an article of mine on that same subject!

I do hope that I managed to produce a Newsletter every three months which members found interesting. I have enjoyed producing a publication which, I think, is worthy of our Society and I wish my successor, Sally Whitworth, every success in the future.

**James Brazier**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**2005-2020**

## Remembering Julian Poupard 1936-2020



*The late Julian Poupard proudly displaying his 1933 Raitlon Terraplane at Ramsgate in June 2014*

*(See also the final paragraph of the Editorial on page 1)*

## Some of the highlights during my 15 years as Newsletter Editor

Looking back over the last fifteen years, the highlights of my period as Newsletter Editor include:

- Queenie Johnson's article on Lockwood's of Westgate
  - The opening of Turner Contemporary by Tracey Emin and Jules Holland on 16th April 2011 and the hanging of James Webb's oil-painting *Margate 1869* in the gallery
  - The visit to Turner Contemporary by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on 11th November 2011
  - The restoration of the operation of the Time Ball on Margate Clock Tower in 2014 by Margate Civic Society (sadly, the Time Ball once again no longer operates) and the appointment of Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI to the position of Patron of the Society's successful appeal for funds to repair the Time Ball
  - Arnold Schwartzman's many contributions including his article on the Queen's Promenade
  - The wrapping of Margate Charter Trustees' knuckles by the District Auditor for acting *ultra vires* as a result of an intervention by me as I was concerned that the Charter Trustees were behaving unlawfully. Within a few years, it was necessary for me to draw the Charter Trustees' attention to the District Auditor's letter as they had, once again, fallen back to acting *ultra vires*
  - The sad story of the K6 telephone kiosk that was relocated from Norfolk Road to the Stone Pier in 2010 before it was removed and disposed of by TDC some ten years later
  - Thanet District Council's community governance review in 2014 culminating in TDC deciding, despite minimal support from Westgate residents, to create a parish council for Westgate-on-Sea in 2015 but not a town council for Margate as there was simply no appetite for one
  - The overpayment of some £19,000 to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council by Margate Charter Trustees and their failure to seek a refund despite the public notice by the District Auditor reporting the overpayment by the Charter Trustees
  - Reporting on the shenanigans at Westgate Parish Council (later Westgate-on-Sea Town Council) during its five-year existence to date
  - Putting my WWI, WWII and subsequent conflicts Rolls of Honour containing basic information on the names listed on the Margate, Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington civic war memorials on the Society's website thus making my research available to all
  - Vera Jenkins' article on her time as a young girl living at Garlinge and her time as an evacuee during WWII
  - Julian Poupard's outstanding article on Henrys
- Finally, I could not have produced the Newsletter without the support of Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI, Nick Dermott, Richard Clements, Anthony Lee, the late Mick Twyman, Chris Sandwell, Mary Russell and Michael Child of Michael's Bookshop, King Street, Ramsgate.

Thank you all - and goodbye.

**JB**

## Another of Margate's former Georgian properties - Grove House, Garlinge - lost for ever!



*The impressive 18th century former Georgian mansion 'Grove House' that once stood at Garlinge near Dent-de-Lion*

Staines, a naval hero who had served with Admiral Nelson. The property had been used as a private residence for most of its life before becoming a girls' school. In the 1960s, it was a nursing home for the elderly until it was demolished in the early 1970s and the land developed for housing. Today, Noble Gardens, Noble Court, Leybourne Drive and Oak Tree Grove now occupy the former grounds of this once desirable property. It is believed that Oak Tree Grove was named after Grove House.

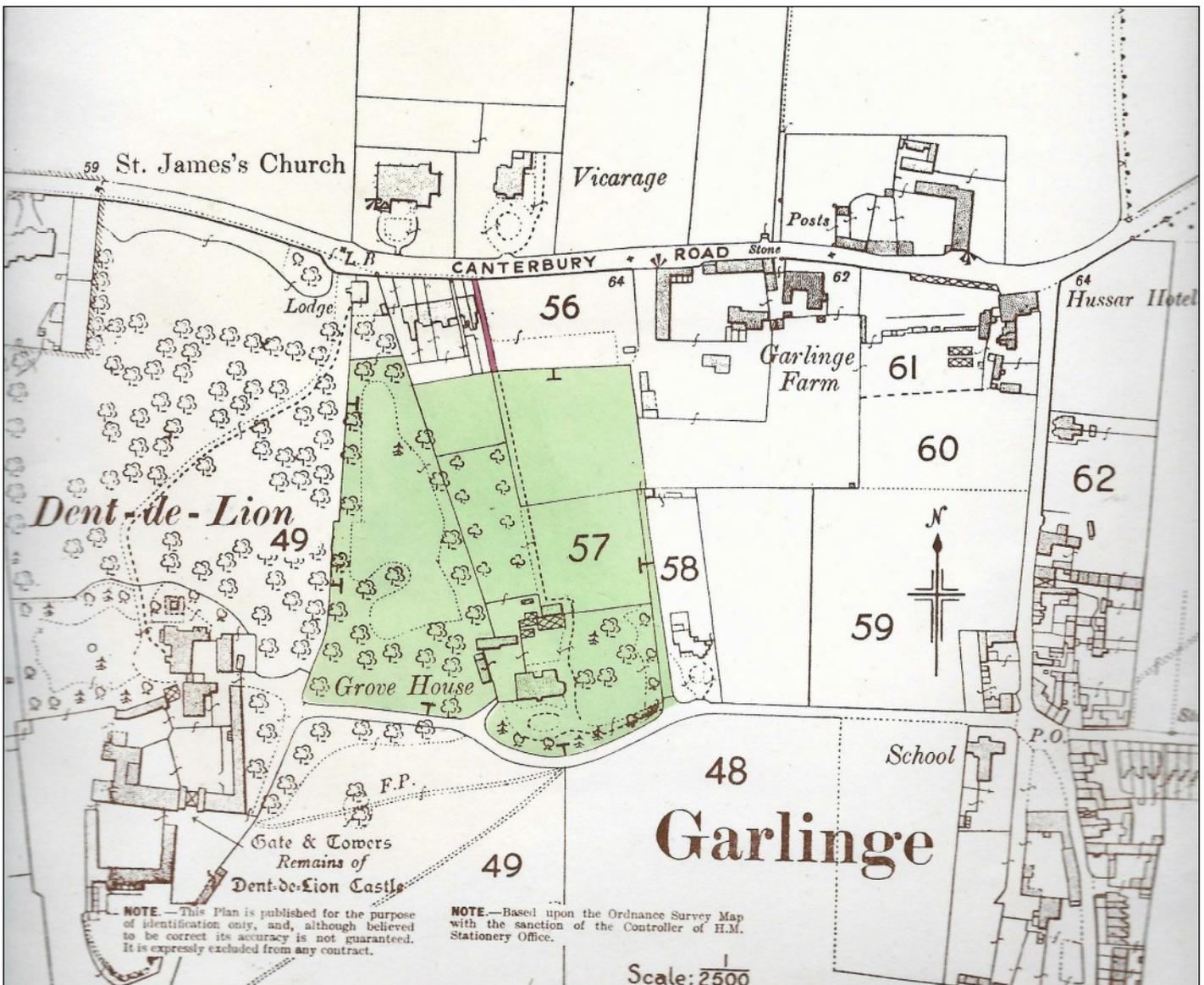
Interestingly, two of the mansion's former outbuildings remain, namely Grove House and The Cottage. The former is now two residences and, rather confusingly, has the same name as the former mansion. It is thought that today's Grove House was the stable block for the old Grove House.

The map below shows the precise location of where Grove House stood. It is interesting to compare the plan with today's map of Garlinge to see how much development has taken place in that part of Garlinge over the last century.

The existing outbuildings are shown on the map below, a short distance to the west of the original Grove House.

**JB**

The images on this page are from Hampton & Sons' illustrated brochure for the sale by auction in 1951 of Grove House. The property was once lived in by Sir Thomas



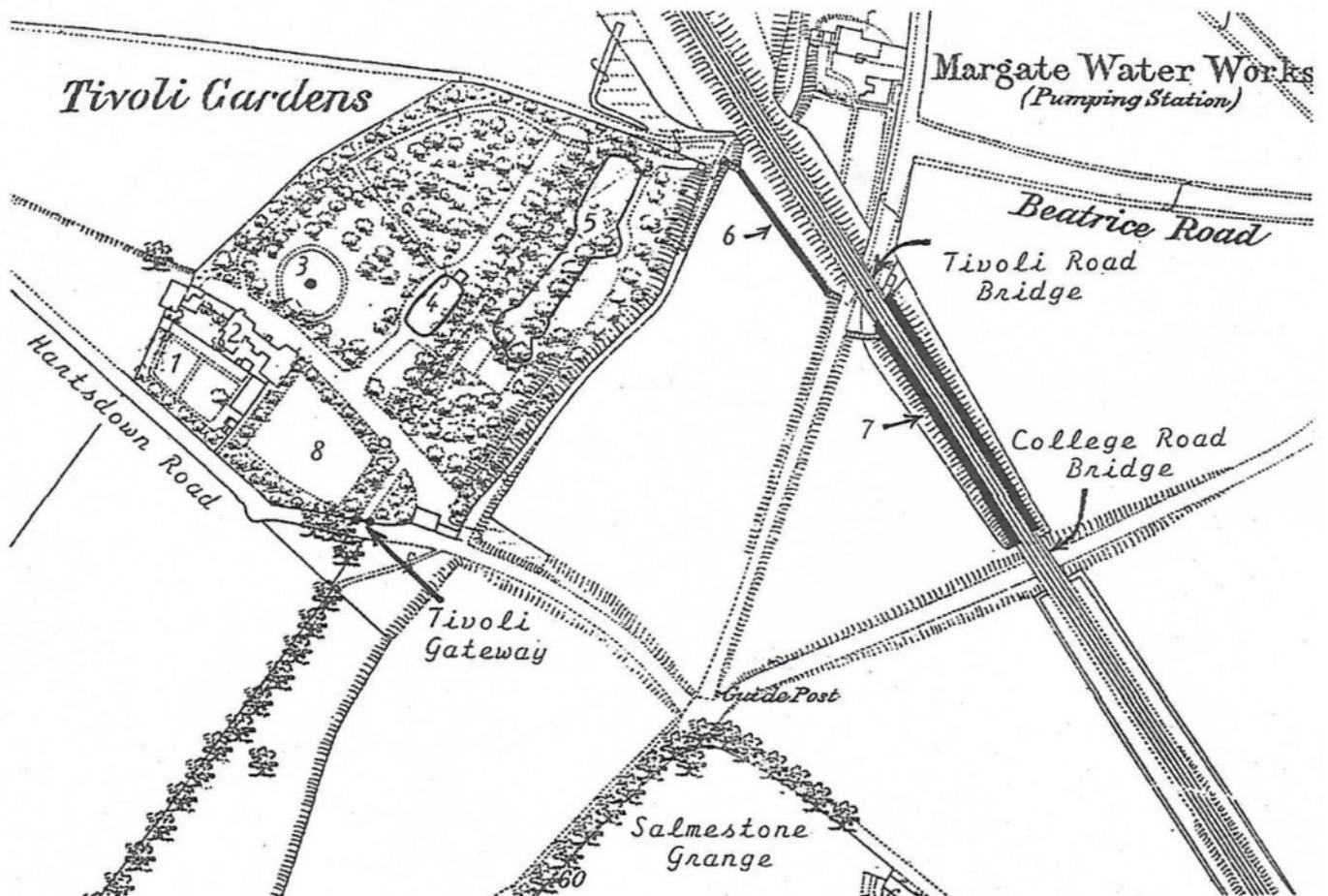
*This map showing Grove House, Garlinge, Kent is from Messrs Hampton & Sons' 1951 sale particulars. It is believed that this map probably dates from around 1920. The two outbuildings to the west of Grove House remain: the larger is now known as Grove House*

# Plan showing the location of the Tivoli Gardens - by the late Mick Twyman

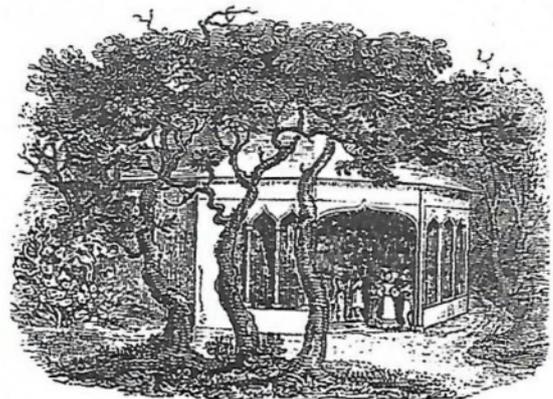
## PLAN SHOWING TIVOLI GARDENS AND RAILWAY HALT, 1860.

### KEY TO PLAN.

1. The Tea Gardens.
2. The Kings Arms Inn and Refreshment Rooms.
3. Summerhouse with circular promenade.
4. The Grand Ballroom.
5. The Ornamental Lake.
6. Pathway to the Gardens from the Halt.
7. The Tivoli Railway Halt.
8. The Bowling Green.



The Tivoli Railway Halt was sited on the embankment between the Tivoli Road and College Road Railway Bridges. Access to the platforms was gained by steps at the Tivoli Road Bridge. Leading from this bridge to the Gardens was a pathway at the bottom of the embankment, access to this was gained by steps at either end. The platforms of the Halt were of timber construction and the remains of a few of the supports could still be seen in situ in the early 1960s, these have now gone.



Following on from the Dane Park tree-planting which received such strong community support at the beginning of the year, Margate Civic Society with The Margate School has put together an environmental conference (details as shown below) and it is expected that our natural heritage which will feature as one of the promised Town Deal sub-committees.

# ECO EXPO

AN ECOLOGICAL AFTERNOON @ THE MARGATE SCHOOL

31 - 33 High Street, Margate, CT9 1DX

## SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER 2020

at 2 o'clock **ADMISSION FREE**



### GUEST SPEAKERS

- Prof Karen Jones (University of Kent) - 'The Urban Green Idea'
- Dr Clive Nuttman - 'Biodiversity – Global to Local'
- Tony Child - 'The Thanet Coast'
- Sam Causer RIBA - 'A Coastal Park'
- Dr Hannah Scott - 'Verges – nothing to be wasted'
- David Carey - 'Kent's Trees & Ponds – All in a Year's Work'
- Anthony Heywood - 'Life & enthusiasms as an Environmental Sculptor'

### ENQUIRIES + BOOKING

info@  
themargateschool.com



# What's On

**Margate Civic Society.** Due to the coronavirus pandemic, our scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2020 have been cancelled. It is hoped that we will be able to resume our monthly meetings from February 2021 (we do not hold meetings in January each year). Further information regarding our meetings to be held in 2021 will be provided to Members in our Winter Newsletter by which time, it is hoped, the restrictions on meetings will have been eased sufficiently to allow our meetings to take place.



## 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 [www.westgateheritagecentre.org.uk](http://www.westgateheritagecentre.org.uk) when known. Westgate Heritage Centre's Consultant Historian, Dr Dawn Crouch, may be contacted via post, e-mail or telephone as shown below:

By post: Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre, C/o Town Hall Buildings, 31 St Mildred's Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RE

By e-mail: [curator@westgateheritagecentre.org.uk](mailto:curator@westgateheritagecentre.org.uk)

By phone: 01843 832617

Sincere congratulations to the Heritage Centre's Consultant Historian, Dr Dawn Crouch, on celebrating her 90th Birthday on 4th September 2020. Dawn was made an Honorary Freeman of Westgate-on-Sea in 2016

**It is hoped that Members will find the following images of parts of Old Margate interesting during the continuing period of isolation and social-distancing necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic**

### Another view of Hawley Street



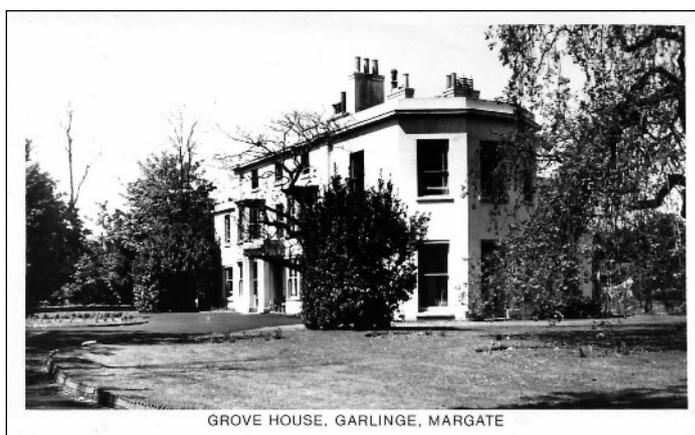
*Another super photo courtesy of Society life-member Mary Russell. It shows No. 54 Hawley Square and the west side of Cecil Street with the Hippodrome at the rear - all gone now. This photo dates from the mid-1960s. The Hippodrome was demolished in October 1967. This photo should be compared with the one shown on page 8*

### Longhi's Restaurant, Marine Drive



*This photo shows Longhi's Restaurant on Marine Drive c. 1927. It stood where the former Primark building now stands*

### Another view of the original Grove House



*This postcard view of the original Grove House is thought to have been produced in the 1960s when the property was a residential home for the elderly. This photo should be compared with the one shown on page 12. The property was demolished in the 1970s*

### Metropole Hotel and Ship Hotel



*This super postcard circa 1914 shows the Metropole Hotel and the Ship Hotel which stood opposite the entrance to the Jetty. Note the barrels of beer recently delivered by Shepherd Neame Ltd of Faversham*

# Margate Civic Society

[www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk)



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](mailto:handscomb@talktalk.net))

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

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Harry Scobie, 59 Gloucester Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3NP (Tel: 078 6227 6466)  
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**Secretary:** Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085)  
(e-mail: [ortong14@gmail.com](mailto:ortong14@gmail.com))

**Treasurer:** Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF (Tel: 01843 844717)  
(e-mail: [wilton@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jasbrazier@talktalk.net))

**Planning and Conservation issues:** Mr Mike Thompson, 7 Seymour Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5HT  
(Tel: 01843 832834) (e-mail: [mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com))

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

✂ .....

## Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £ ..... (Cheques should be made payable to **Margate Civic Society**)

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Tel:** ..... **e-mail:** .....

## Subscription rates for 2020/21:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
	£	£	£	£
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	13	17	5	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	10	14	2	20

*Please note that Life Membership subscription is no longer available*

and send it to the Treasurer, Margate Civic Society, Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF

\* A Paper Newsletter means that a black-and-white printed copy of the Newsletter will be delivered to you

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