

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Autumn 2013
Newsletter
Issue No. 372



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

Just as this issue of the Newsletter was being finalised, disappointing news came in from the Heritage Lottery Fund to inform us that we had not been successful in our bid for funding from the HLF towards the cost of our project to reinstate the Time Ball mechanism at Margate Clock Tower. We were hopeful that the HLF would wish to give financial support to our worthy project but the HLF had received so many requests from organisations that it was inevitable that some of those organisations would be unlucky. It was our bad luck that our Society fell into that category.

However, we are already well on our way towards meeting our fund-raising target as will be seen from Lynda Smith's positive report on pages 6 and 7 of this Newsletter. Indeed, we have passed the half-way mark and have already attracted the support of a number of local businesses. In the last Newsletter, we reported on the generosity of Gore Brothers (Funeral Directors) in meeting the cost of printing our Clock Tower book and in the current Newsletter, we report on the generosity of Boys & Maughan (Solicitors), JD Wetherspoon (The Mechanical Elephant Public House), Standfast (Security Specialists & Locksmiths) and Mansfield Property Maintenance. Each of these businesses has wanted to contribute to our project in support of the town. It is most gratifying that, in these economically difficult times, such generous support is being given to our project. Let us hope that other businesses and, indeed, individuals will want to give their support to our very worthy project. Please do give the Society your support. Donations can now be made through our website by PayPal.

We will continue to seek ways of raising funds to meet our target. Indeed, the Society has arranged for Christmas cards to be made available with the proceeds going to the Time Ball appeal. Details of our attractive Christmas card are shown on page 3 of the Newsletter. Another means of raising funds is the sale of Clock Tower mugs. In addition to these mugs being on sale at our meetings held at the Walpole Bay Hotel, these mugs can also be purchased from the Cupcake Cafe in the Market Place. The Cupcake Cafe is making no charge for the selling of our mugs so all the sale proceeds (at £8.50 each) go direct to our appeal. This is yet another example of local businesses giving their support to our project by selling our mugs at no cost.

If you feel that you can help the Society in any way to meet the financial target, please do get in touch with any of the Committee members whose contact details are shown on the back page of this Newsletter. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new members

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

Clive & Beverley Whitehead
Sandra Bromley
Peter & Claire Cordery
Tracey Glet
Douglas & Iris Taylor
Angela Sutton
Cllr Mo Elenor
Ann Hazelton

... and we are sorry to report the recent passing of Mrs Phil Johnson MBE who was a member of the Society for many years and who served on the Committee as Treasurer. Our condolences go to her family and friends. □

Lynda Smith
Membership Secretary

Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2013 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. Please note that the subscription rates for 2013/14 remain the same as for 2012/13 and are as shown on the back page of this Newsletter. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. Members can renew at our AGM on 3rd October (or at subsequent meetings) or by post to me at:

5 Addington Square
Margate CT9 1NN

We also offer the facility of membership payment by electronic transfer. For details, please see our website www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Lynda Smith
Membership Secretary

The Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

will take place at the Walpole Bay Hotel on Thursday,
3rd October 2013

Any proposals or nominations should be submitted as soon as possible before the meeting to the President at:
14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville
Margate CT9 3AB

Geoff Orton
Secretary

President's Report for 2012/13

Where has this year gone? The older I get, the faster time seems to pass! So to the important matters.

This has been a particularly busy year mainly because of our project: the Time Ball on Margate Clock Tower. I am not going into great detail on this as our sub-committee chairman, Lynda Smith, will be reporting on this in full elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. I was laid low with a hip replacement from last October to the New Year and, therefore, could not continue to chair the sub-committee. I selected Lynda to take my place and what a clever move that has turned out to have been. Lynda has moved mountains and has achieved far more than I would ever have believed possible or would have attempted. Harry, her long-suffering husband, has been a continual help and support. Thanks to both of you. But, they have not been alone! Geoff Orton and Mike Wilton have also worked endlessly on assisting Lynda in fund-raising, letter-writing, meetings and many other dealings, helped again by the other committee members Mike Thompson, and Steve Villette. Then there is of course Mike Bundock, who was co-opted onto the sub-committee, and has travelled many times from his home in Herne Bay to our meetings and given his expert advice on horology and written his amazing book *Margate Clock Tower*; many of you have bought a copy. There has also been a lot of help from the main committee coming in many guises from Pamela Pople, James Brazier and Harry Scobie. Also, we have had considerable help from a number of TDC councillors and officers.

Thanks to all the hard work, the project is going to be a resounding success but we still need your support with raising funds by buying our merchandise and telling your friends of our project and inviting them to join our Society. Our thanks go to those who have already generously subscribed.

The full committee continue to do their work. Pamela Pople once again organised the Town Pride Awards which were a great success. She also played a major part in organising the Civic Day celebrations. This event was mainly about our project and most members of the committee gave their time to make it a success.

James Brazier writes an excellent Newsletter and takes some stunning photos which he shares with us. I do not know of a better Newsletter in Thanet - in fact, Kent - it is full of interesting subjects and information.

Mike Wilton keeps a watch on the finances and the books and also the very

presentable website. I suggest that you have a look at this if you have not done so.

Lynda Smith somehow manages to keep the membership up to date and deals with the distribution of the Newsletter. This on top of her work already mentioned. However, she tells me she wishes to hand over the Membership Secretary job at the end of the coming year (September 2014). Therefore, we need to find someone to take on this task and preferably ASAP so that he/she can work with Lynda to learn the system, up to the time she hands over. (Please think about it.)

Geoff Orton keeps up with the correspondence, queries, applying for grants and permits and a myriad of tasks.

Mike Thompson handles the planning issues and Harry Scobie, our vice-chairman, helps whenever he can.

Steve Villette resigned from the committee owing to difficult working hours, but has returned to help with the Time Ball project.

The wives and husbands must be thanked for the support and help they give; especially Heather Wilton for her help with the raffle and our Civic Day event. Thanks also to Ray Pople and Harry Smith, both of whom have been a continual help in all aspects of our work. And thanks go to all our members for your continued support.

That ends my report. I feel privileged to be president of such a great committee. This will be a memorable year in the annals of Margate Civic Society.

Ralph Handscomb
President

Civic heads at our Civic Day event 23rd June 2013



Left to right: Cllr Iris Johnston (TDC Cabinet member for Communities); Cllr Kay Dark (Chairman of TDC) with her escort Cllr Pat Moore; Margate Town Mayoress, Mrs Pat Edwards; Margate Town Mayor, Cllr John Edwards; Cllr Clive Hart (Leader of TDC); Cllr Sandra Hart; Ralph Handscomb (President, Margate Civic Society); Pamela Pople (Chairman, Margate Civic Society); and Mike Bundock (author of Margate Civic Society's book Margate Clock Tower)

Christmas card launched to raise funds for the Time Ball Restoration Project



Showing both the back and front of the Christmas card

Arnold Schwartzman has sent us a very nice image of the Margate Jubilee Clock Tower's Time Ball in operation, taken from the edition of *Keble's Gazette* dated 25th May 1889. The Time Ball Sub-Committee decided to produce Christmas cards featuring the image, to raise funds for the

Time Ball restoration project and to give members an opportunity to have this very attractive image on their Christmas cards. A copy of the card is shown here. It can be seen that the image has been printed across the front and back of the card so that the whole picture can be seen when the card is opened. The inside gives a brief description of the picture, with plenty of room for personal messages. We hope that members will like the cards. It is intended to have them on sale at the

*Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and
best wishes for the New Year*

Showing the message printed in red inside the card on the right-hand side

All proceeds from the sale of this card will go to Margate Civic Society's Time Ball Restoration Project.
The image, on the front and rear of this card, was published in *Keble's Gazette* of 25th May 1889 and has been kindly provided by Mr Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI. It shows Margate Jubilee Clock Tower's Time Ball in operation, with many admiring onlookers.
Published by Margate Civic Society, Registered Charity No.257884

*Showing the information printed on the inside of the front of the card
(This is printed in small typeface on the card)*

The size of the card (folded) is 105mm x 148mm (4¹/₈" x 11⁵/₈") which is international size A6. The envelope size is also size C6. Please do support this worthy cause by purchasing some of your Society's Christmas cards this year to send to your friends and relatives.

AGM meeting in October at

around £4.50 for a pack of 10 cards with envelopes. Individual cards can be purchased at 50p each. The net proceeds from the sale of these cards will go towards the Time Ball restoration fund. Cards can also be purchased from Lynda Smith - see back page for her address, etc.

Clock Tower door opened on Civic Day - Sunday 23rd June 2013



Pamela Pople (Chairman, Margate Civic Society); Lynda Smith (Chairman of Time Ball Sub-Group) with her husband, Harry; and Ralph Handscomb (President, Margate Civic Society)

Our Civic Day event this year was a display, held at the Droit House, of photographs of Town Pride winners over the last eight years together the opening of the Clock Tower. Both venues were well attended by members of our Society and many members of the public. Indeed, very few had ever previously seen inside the door of the Clock Tower so the opportunity to have a peep inside our magnificent Clock Tower proved irresistible to many. Our thanks go to Lynda Smith and her husband, Harry, for making all the arrangements for the Clock Tower to be open that day.

There is a photograph on page 2 of the Newsletter showing the civic dignitaries who very kindly came along to give their support to our Civic Day event. We are most grateful that they should give up their time so freely to support us. Also shown in that photograph is Mike Bundock who very kindly wrote our Clock Tower book for us and who came along to our Civic Day event for the whole day to give us his support. It is worth mentioning that Mike - who lives at Herne Bay - made no charge whatsoever for writing the book and neither does he receive any royalties from the sale of the book.

We really are very lucky to have such huge support from so many willing volunteers. □

JB

A SPONSORED ART COMPETITION BY MARGATE CIVIC SOCIETY FOR HOLY TRINITY & ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

In February 2013, contact was made between Susie Godfrey, the school's art teacher, and Lynda Smith with a view to organising an art competition with the Margate School, and to be judged and displayed at the Tudor House in Margate. At the time the Tudor House had not been open for many months and the intention was for the MCS to help bring a closer link between Margate Civic Society, Margate Museum and the Tudor House.

The Margate Clock Tower Time Ball project's aims were to give more awareness of Margate's Heritage to our younger community. It would also show National Heritage Lottery that the project was all inclusive to help our application for funding.

It was established that the best time to hold the competition would be during the run-up to Civic Day. Three categories were decided upon: Margate Clock Tower, the Tudor House and Turner Contemporary. Three artists accepted Lynda's request to judge the pictures: Ralph Handscomb, (the Society's President), Pat Wilson-Smith and Sally Childs, local artist and also member of MCS. From a meeting between Pat Wilson-Smith, Susie Godfrey and Lynda Smith at the School in May it was established that Key Stage 1 (KS1), the 5 – 7 year olds and Key Stage 2 (KS2), the 7 – 11 year old children, would be separate prize winners.

Pat Wilson-Smith, who on previous years has kindly allowed the Society to use her facilities on the Stone Pier for Civic Day exhibitions, accepted a request to produce the front of a flier which was to be distributed giving information about Civic Day celebrations. It was established that Margate Clock Tower, Droit House (where Margate Civic Society was to hold their exhibition on Town Pride awards), Margate Museum and the Tudor House were to be featured on the flier and shown as a map with the four venues shown clearly and on what street. Details of what

was happening in each location were to be detailed on the back.

A request to Adam Wilton, of English in Margate, to sponsor the prizes was gratefully agreed and the Society would like to give special thanks to Adam Wilton for this kind gesture. Ralph Handscomb and Lynda Smith chose the prizes from Lovely's which cost approximately £100. When the time came to collect the art work on Friday 14th June, the need for far more display boards became very apparent. Offers of help came from various quarters and finally there were enough space, display boards and people to put everything together in time.

The judges were so impressed by the calibre of the art that it was decided that commendations were also to be given. When the winners had been chosen the school was notified to inform the children and parents. At four o'clock on Monday afternoon Harry Scobie, Vice-Chairman of the Margate Civic Society presented the prizes. A photographer was on hand from the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* to take a photo of the children who had won and this took place in the garden of the Tudor House.

The fliers were purchased from part of an event's grant from TDC with the cost being shared with Margate Museum and the Tudor House. Approximately half of the fliers were given to the school for the pupils and their parents with the rest distributed to the public and local businesses.

The winning entries for KS1, (5 – 7 year old children) were:

Margate Clock Tower:

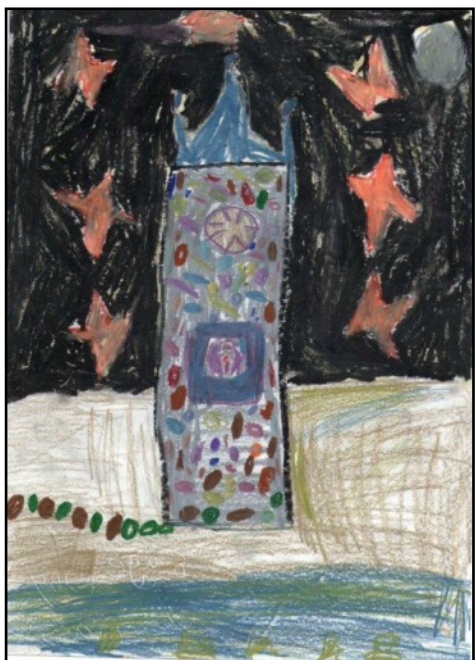
Ruby Wickens-Duke

Minnette Vickery

Martyna Witiw

(No entries were submitted for either Turner Contemporary or the Tudor House from KS1 group)

The winning entries of Margate Clock Tower by Key Stage 1 pupils:



Ruby Wickens-Duke (Aged 6)



Minnette Vickery (aged 6)



Martyna Witiw (5-7 years)

The winning entries for KS2, (7 – 11 year old children) were:

Margate Clock Tower: Kelly Bridger

Turner Contemporary: Harry Barham

The Tudor House: Sonny Brown

The Tudor House was open to the public every day of the week from Monday 17th May through to Sunday 23rd May, Civic Day, (there was no charge to view the Tudor House on the Sunday).

The winning art work and the judge's commendations will be on display at the Margate Civic Society's AGM on Thursday 3rd October at the Walpole Bay Hotel.

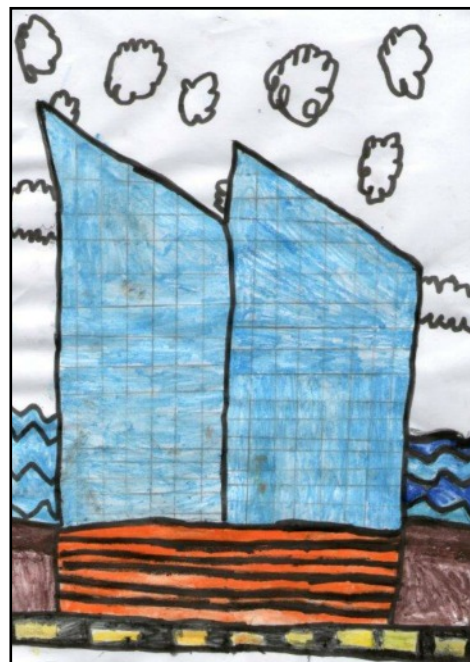
If Margate Clock Tower Time Ball project has money to spare after Time Ball restoration costs have been acquired a lectern will be purchased to be placed near the Margate Clock Tower which could incorporate some of the winning entries within the graphics.

The winning entries of Margate Clock Tower, Turner Contemporary and the Tudor House by Key Stage 2 pupils:



*Margate Clock Tower by Kelly Bridger
(Aged 10)*

*Turner Contemporary by Harry Barham
(Aged 11)*



The Tudor House by Sonny Brown (aged 10)

**Lynda Smith
Chairman, Time Ball Sub-Group**

Left: Ralph Handscomb's painting of Margate Clock Tower which has been reproduced on some of the Society's fund-raising efforts in aid of the Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project

THE TIME BALL RESTORATION PROJECT - UPDATE

The Dedication ceremony for the Margate Clock Tower Time Ball is now just nine months away. The committee is very grateful to Cllr John Edwards, Town Mayor of Margate, who has agreed that his office will organise this event.

Invitations to dignitaries and road closure applications, along with procession and route details are all to be dealt with from the Mayor's office.

The Society will not know whether an invitation to HRH The Prince of Wales to attend the Time Ball Dedication ceremony is to be accepted until after November when his diary is opened for 2014. However, a suitable venue to hold a reception has been considered and with this in mind the newly-opened boutique Sands Hotel in Margate has been approached. This splendidly restored building is a beautiful asset to our town.

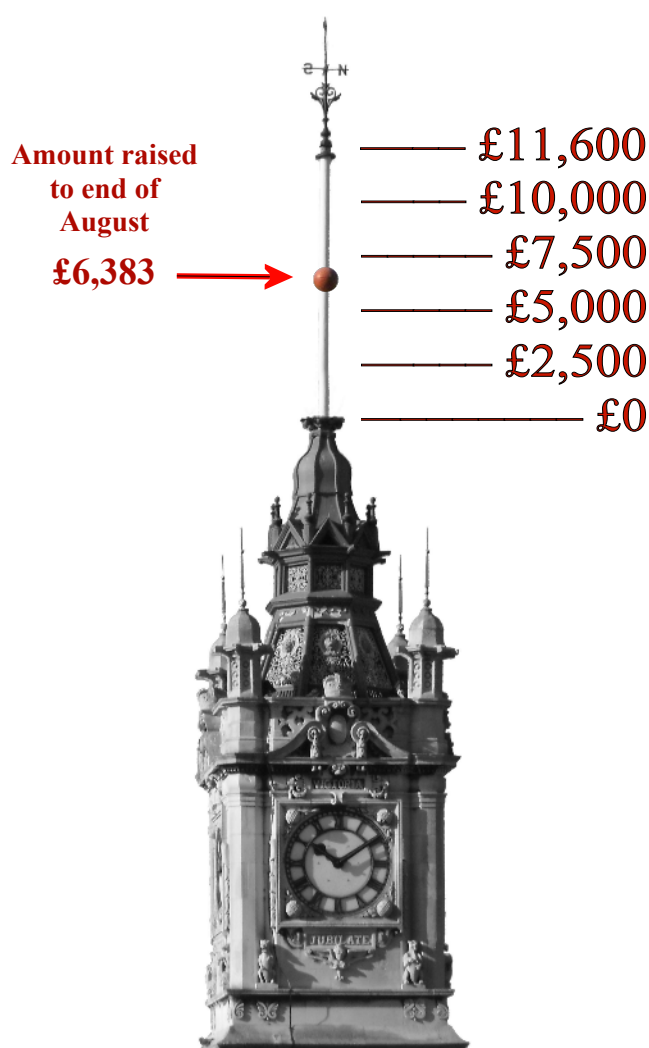
None of the donations collected for the Margate Clock Tower Time Ball restoration project are to be used for the planned reception; instead a Thanet District Council event funding application will be submitted to help cover this along with a small charge for the invited guests.

We are in negotiation with Pam Hardiman of the Theatre Royal Margate and Clifford Lister MD of the Thanet Festival Choir to explore the possibility of a belated concert which would take place at the Theatre Royal on 24th May 2014 in celebration of HRH Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

A local firm of solicitors, Boys & Maughan, have generously sponsored the production costs of the last 50 certificated Margate Clock Tower commemoration mugs and I was very pleased to receive a cheque for £250 from their senior partner, Mr Peter Rodd, which more than covered the cost. The committee are also very grateful to Boys & Maughan who have offered the Society free legal advice, which may come in very useful when we enter into a partnership agreement with Thanet District Council over the restoration of the Margate Clock Tower Time Ball. Mr Rodd has invited me to talk at the Margate 41 Club (ex-Round Tablers) meeting in January about the restoration project and has offered payment, which I shall be happy to donate to the project. I am pleased that the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* covered the presentation with a splendid article by Mr Ian Preston, Manager of Boys & Maughan.

A few weeks ago, I sent an open invitation to those members who receive their newsletters electronically inviting them, (for a small donation to the Time Ball project), to our house in Addington Square for tea/coffee and biscuits. My husband, Harry, and I were very pleased to receive those who did come; it was all very sociable and very nice to meet some members that I had not met before.

Margate Civic Society will have Christmas cards for sale as a fund raiser for the Time Ball project. The card has been designed and produced by Mike Wilton, our Treasurer, based on an image kindly supplied by our Patron, Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI. It is hoped that the Christmas card will prove to be very popular, not only to our members but also for anyone who holds Margate dear. Details of the Christmas card are shown elsewhere in this Newsletter.



The developer of the Arcadian Hotel in Margate, Mr Geoffrey Berger, has kindly helped to sponsor the production costs. Mr Berger is also a member of Margate Civic Society.

On a very hot August evening, I walked down to Margate sea-front to find some cooler air. I witnessed a sunset as beautiful as could be seen anywhere in the world. I sat on the new steps and gradually the lights came on from the stone pier to the sea-front arcades. I looked to my left and saw Margate Clock Tower with not one light to illuminate any part of it; I could have wept to see this depressing sight.

To overcome this, we are giving consideration to funding solar panels fitted on top of the balustrade of the Clock Tower to enable it to be illuminated without cost. An application for EDF energy green fund is to be submitted to pay for this. It is hoped that when scaffolding is erected for the Time Ball repair, it will serve to be used for both purposes.

We are pleased to announce that the Margate Clock Tower Time Ball project account now stands at £6,383.25, which is more than half way towards the amount needed to pay for the Time Ball restoration work to begin. The Kent County Councillors for Margate and Cliftonville, Will Scobie and Mo Elenor, have each agreed for £1,000 of their grant money to go towards the project. These two grants will be earmarked specifically for scaffolding

required at the Clock Tower and towards the cost of providing an information 'lectern' to be placed in the vicinity of the Clock Tower detailing its history, restoration, etc.

The Mechanical Elephant, the J D Wetherspoon's public house opposite Margate Clock Tower, had agreed to pay to have the door of the Clock Tower stripped and repainted. However, at a site meeting, Mansfield Property Maintenance, who are the contractors for the pub chain in

Kent, said they would carry out this work at no charge. Standfast Security Specialists, Margate, have examined the possibility of reinstating an old lock to the door and have also agreed to do the work for no charge. Detailed work reports are to be submitted for scrutiny and will be presented to TDC for their approval. Wetherspoon's have also generously donated £500 towards the cost of providing an information 'lectern' at the Clock Tower.

Lynda Smith
Chairman, Time Ball Sub-Group

COACH TRIPS

Following the success of our coach trip to Greenwich in May (despite the awful weather), your committee is giving consideration to making coach trips a regular feature. To help us decide, we would like very much to hear your views.

Suggested venues include Chatham Historic Dockyard, Leeds Castle and the Operation Dynamo Museum in Dunkirk (France). Do you have any other suggestions? Because we were invited to Greenwich by Jonathan Betts, the Senior Curator, we did not have to pay the entrance fee to the Observatory, but this will not be the case in the future and it is likely that the cost to most places will be in the region of £25 per ticket. This will cover the coach hire and entrance fee. Is this amount acceptable to you? Lynda Smith very ably arranged the Greenwich trip but because of her Time Ball and membership commitments will not be able to organise future trips. Your treasurer, Mike Wilton, has offered to arrange the next one – wherever and whenever it might be – and would be very grateful to hear your comments. In particular – should the Society arrange regular coach trips, perhaps twice-yearly in spring and autumn? If so, do you have any suggested venues? What ticket price is acceptable to you? Any other comments?

Mike's email is treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk and his postal address is 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF or you can pass your comments to any member of the committee in writing or verbally. All views will be taken into account by the committee before a decision is made.

Thank you.

Mike Wilton
Treasurer

Local solicitors Boys & Maughan give their support to the Time Ball Restoration Project



Ian J. Priston of Boys & Maughan kindly submitted the above photograph for inclusion in our Newsletter. It shows Lynda Smith receiving a cheque for £250 from Boys & Maughan's Senior Partner, Peter Rodd. The donation will be used to buy another 50 commemorative mugs to be sold in aid of the Time Ball Restoration Project.

Boys & Maughan also very kindly provided the text shown in the box below. Boys & Maughan are very positive and supportive about the Time Ball Restoration Project appeal and how the town should get behind it.

Boys & Maughan turn back the clock

Established over 200 years ago, local solicitors Boys & Maughan played an active role on the Clock Tower Committee when Margate Clock Tower was first completed in 1889.

Firmly re-establishing its links with the past, the firm made a £250 donation to the Civic Society for a new set of commemorative mugs to sell to the public after the first 50 sold out in July.

Peter Rodd, Senior Partner at Boys & Maughan Solicitors, explained: "As a firm we are intensely proud of our long association with the town, so we are delighted to have come full circle and be part of the Clock Tower project once again. It's a great cause that certainly merits widespread support and we will be doing all we can to encourage more people to get involved.

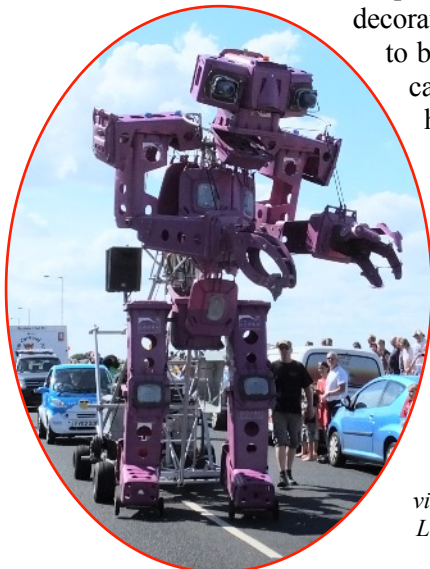
"Our main contribution is likely to be when we assist the current committee in its dealings with Thanet District Council when it reaches its fundraising target," added Peter. "We will also be helping out with various money raising initiatives."

Boys & Maughan occupy India House in Hawley Street, which has a Grade II listing. The highly unusual 18th century house regularly attracts tourists and recently featured in ITV's *Britain Secret Homes*.

Margate Carnival 2013

On Sunday, 4th August 2013 the Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr John Edwards, led the carnival procession riding as pillion - wearing his mayoral chain of office - on a motorcycle. It was a glorious day for the carnival and these photographs taken in

Royal Esplanade near the start of the procession give a flavour of the hugely decorative floats and amazing exotic costumes that were to be seen in the entry of the Great British Carnival. The whole carnival was certainly Cllr Mick Tomlinson's swansong after having been involved in organising the carnival for 57 years. Well done Mick! But just how does anyone follow this year's undoubted success?



The simply amazing robotic Bin Bot



This vintage Leyland coach, Morgan's Vintage dance hall & coffee lounge's float, was awarded First Prize



Tower Bridge costume



Big Ben costume



Miss Invicta Kent with her Princesses on the cliff top at Westbrook before the procession



Thanet Air Training Corps (438 Squadron) Band

It's Carnival Time!

More photographs of the Great British Carnival

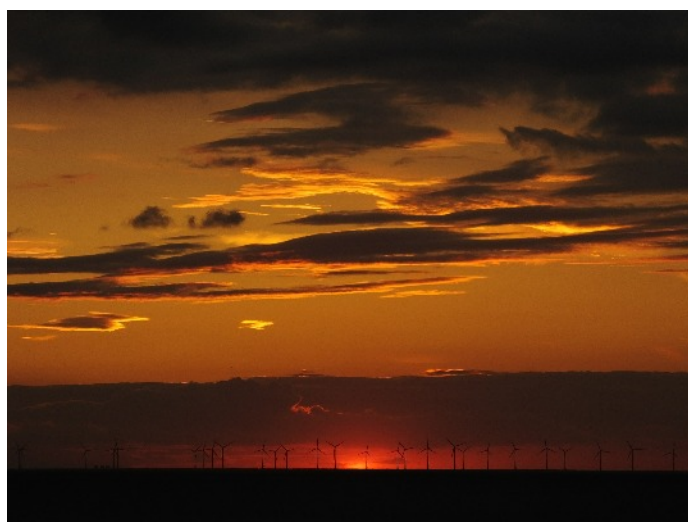


The end of the carnival...

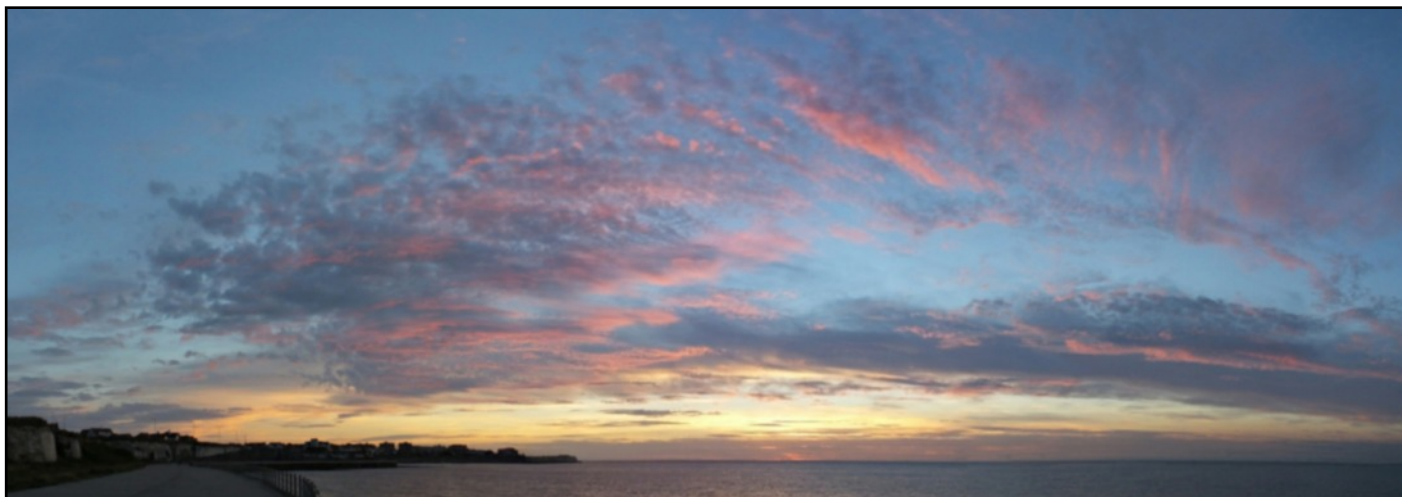
What super sunsets!



This photograph was taken from near the Sunken Gardens, Westbrook with a 40x zoom hand-held camera. The sunset can be seen reflected in the windows of The Sands Hotel, Rickus Cocktail Bar & Restaurant, Morgan's and Primark - all in Marine Drive. The church in the background is St Michael & St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church (formerly St Stephen's Methodist Church), Northdown Road, Cliftonville



This photograph was also taken at Westbrook in early August 2013 and shows the wind turbines off Herne Bay silhouetted against the setting sun



The painter Samuel Palmer gave the name 'Margate-Mottle' to this particular form of sunset when the low fleecy reefs of vaporous ripples are lit up by the last rays of the sun with such dramatic effect. This panoramic image has been created by 'stitching' three photographs using computer photographic software. The photographs were taken at the end of August from the promenade between Westbrook Bay and St Mildred's Bay

Magical Margate

The Royal Geographical Society with IBS (Institute of British Geographers) has recently produced a Margate walk as part of its Discovering Britain series. The walk is appropriately entitled *Magical Margate*.

This new walk, to discover the reinvention of the Great British Seaside, can be accessed directly on <http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/south-east-england/margate.html>. The walk can be downloaded free either as a 36-page written guide or as an audio guide. Both guides are in PDF format.

Thanks to our webmaster, Mike Wilton, you can also access *Magical Margate* via our own Society's website www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk.

The written guide features a number of lovely images of Margate - both old and new. Do take a look at it and tell your friends about it. It incorporates a 3½-mile walk starting at Margate Railway Station, along the seafront to Newgate Gap and then returns, via the upper promenade, to the Railway Station.

Margate Civic Society has assisted in the production of this really super guide. The Royal Geographical Society with IBS is to be congratulated on producing such an informative and attractive guide to our town.

Magical Margate is designed for the visitor arriving at Margate Railway Station but, of course, its appeal will be to all visitors to the town as well as to many residents who, perhaps, are not fully conversant with much of the fascinating history of our town.

The *Magical Margate* guide, together with many other self-guided walks, are all available for free on the Royal Geographical Society's website www.rgs.org. □

JB

Taking a closer look at Westgate's Town Hall Buildings

Westgate's Grade II listed Town Hall Buildings deserve close study. Sometimes described as being built in the Swiss Gothic style, the whole building has to be one of the most interesting and ornate in our area. It was built in 1909 and opened in 1910.



All of the above photographs were taken in the entrance to the Carlton Cinema



This photograph shows the attractive window at Frederick's Tearooms

Do look up when you are passing the Town Hall Buildings and admire the ornate decorative leaded windows above the ground-floor windows. It can be seen from the above photograph that the pattern used in the entrance to the Carlton Cinemas is slightly different from that used along the frontage of the building. It can also be seen, in those photographs above taken using flash, that some of the glass is coloured. The flash photographs above also allow the fine quality of the woodwork to be fully appreciated.

The Wonders of Westgate Sussex Mansions, Sussex Gardens



Loudwater, at the northern end of Sussex Court, was the Westgate home of Sir William Ingram before he moved to The Bungalow (which was formerly the home of Sir Erasmus Wilson and which later became Rowena Court Hotel). For many years, Loudwater was a Gentlemen's School for Young Men



Sussex Mansions (nearest camera) with Sussex Court nearest the sea



The striking entrance to Sussex Mansions. The building was completed by 1881



The ornate Victorian art nouveau wrought-iron gate to the basement apartments of Sussex Mansions



Lewis Gerard, the celebrated organist who played the Compton Organ at Dreamland Cinema for many years before moving to California, lived at Flat 2 Sussex Mansions in the 1950s



The low level wrought-iron railings along the front of Sussex Mansions



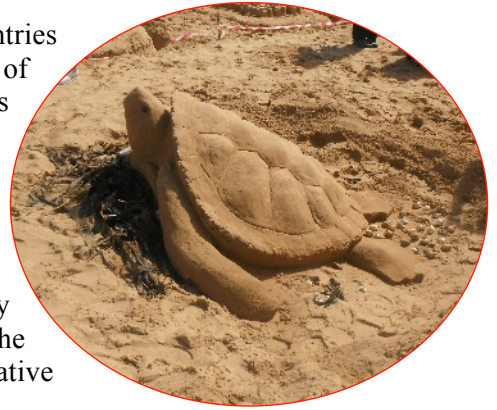
A close-up of the decorative design featured along the length of the railings

RIBA Sandcastle Challenge

Main Sands, 29th June 2013



The judging of the entries attracted a good number of spectators. The entries were of an extremely high standard and attracted competitors from many aspiring architects. These photographs will convey the high standard of the many highly-imaginative and creative entries.



*'Curiosity' prize
awarded by
Turner
Contemporary*



*'Curiosity' runner-up prize -
awarded by Turner
Contemporary*



*'Most technically daring' prize -
awarded by Hornby*



*Dreamland's Scenic Railway
even featured in the
competition*



Westgate-on-Sea's Three Coats of Arms



The Westgate silver cup

The Westgate-on-Sea coat of arms on the Town Hall Buildings



The above photograph shows the impressive town crest displayed at first-floor level on the south side of the Town Hall Buildings. The Latin motto reads: AD PORTAM OCCIDENTALEM CURRO which translates to: I RUN TO THE GATE OF THE WEST.

In 1909, A Westgate Arts & Crafts Exhibition was held and was reported on in the *The Isle of Thanet Gazette and East Kent Advertiser*, dated Saturday, 27th March 1909. According to that report: *Sir William Ingram offered a prize for the best design suitable for a coat of arms for Westgate and this was won by Mère Ste Pierre of the Ursuline Convent, and, it is understood, the design has been approved by the Parochial Council and Parish Council. The design includes a portrait of St Mildred, a deer, the Kentish horse and a galley [sic]. It has Dent-de-Lion Castle as a crest and bears a motto which, translated, means "Driven by the wind to Westgate and there it will remain".*

Puzzlingly, the Westgate coat of arms seen on the Town Hall Buildings is clearly different from the Mother Superior's design. So what happened to the Mother Superior's design? Nobody seems to know.

The silver cup, illustrated, bears a similar design of the crest shown on the Town Hall Buildings with same Latin motto. It was made by G. W. Saxby who were jewellers in Margate High Street for many years during the early part of the twentieth century. It is possible that the cup was a presentation cup awarded at a sporting event such as the annual five-mile run around Westgate inaugurated by Sir William Ingram. This cup was discovered recently at a local collectors' fair.

The third of Westgate's coat of arms is the one that is used today and can be seen on the 'Welcome to Westgate' sign on Canterbury Road and was much used on crested-china souvenirs of Westgate a hundred years ago.

Indeed, there was a huge market from around 1900 to the late-1920s for crested-china souvenirs. The accompanying photograph is of a pin-tray dating from around 1910. Other examples of crested-china bearing the same Westgate crest, can often be found at antique fairs, etc.

Why Sir William Ingram should have decided to feature a design of a coat of arms for Westgate on his Town Hall Buildings other than the one that won the prize for the best design remains a mystery. □



A close-up of the coat of arms on the silver cup shown above



A crested china pin-tray bearing the Westgate-on-Sea coat of arms



The backstamp on the underside of the above pin-tray showing that it was manufactured specifically for sale by Godfrey Knight, a china dealer whose shop was at 4 Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea

What's On

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

Date 2013	Subject
3rd October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'War Girls 1914-18: An illustrated talk based on picture-postcards from that time' by James Brazier
7th November	Ian Dickie, Chairman of the Friends of Margate Museum will give a talk 'Margate Museum - Where are we now?'
5th December	Christmas Social Evening



Westgate Heritage Centre (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - Autumn Programme 2013

On the first Saturday of each month at **10.30am**, there will be a talk on some aspect of Westgate's history by Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator of Westgate Heritage Centre

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME FOR TALKS (previously started at 11.00am)

Date 2013	Subject
7th September	150 years ago an historic event took place, which was to lead to the creation of a new and fashionable watering-place – the Westgate Estate. On 28th August 1863, the first train of the new London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company arrived in Margate carrying the Directors of the Company – the Heritage Centre celebrates this red-letter day.
5th October	PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THIS MEETING TO BE HELD AT CHRIST CHURCH URC CHURCH HALL IN WESTGATE BAY AVENUE <i>'Grand Hotels...had to stand out from surrounding buildings, not only in size, but often in different materials. By 1890, every resort of consequence had at least one or two. - Sarah Howell, The Seaside (London 1974). 130 years ago, in 1883, Westgate's two 'grand hotels', St Mildred's and the Westcliff, were opened. This is their story.</i>
2nd November	'70 years ago – 1943' - How the nation continued to face danger and privation and the story of the people of Thanet from that year. We shall hear from some of those who have special reason to remember it. Also, the Heritage Centre pays its annual tribute to the men of Westgate who fought and died in two World Wars.
7th December	'Hons and Royals – a look at some of Westgate's blue-blooded visitors'

Come and browse through our collection of material and photographs of Westgate, which is growing all the time. We have large-scale maps and plans which reveal great detail about your street or area

ST. MILDRED'S HOTEL

On Sea Front Patrons by Royalty
LARGEST AND MOST UP TO DATE

Special attractions: Swimming Bath 70 ft. long, containing 65,000 gallons of Heated Sea Water, three En-Tout-Cas Tennis Courts, 18-hole Putting Course, open to Non-Residents, and free to Hotel Guests.

INCLUSIVE TERMS:
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The Hotel is situated within easy distance of the following Golf Courses:— Westgate—Hengrove—North Foreland—St. Augustine's—Royal St. George's and Prince's, Sandwich—Clintock's, Deal.

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ST. MILDRED'S GARAGE
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GARAGE FOR 30 CARS. 20 PRIVATE LOCK-UPS.
Special Carriage rooms for long periods.
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Telephone: 1967 WESTGATE-ON-SEA. E. B. ALEXANDER, Proprietor.

Westgate-on-Sea's former 'Grand Hotels'

This mid-1930s advertisement shows the former St Mildred's Hotel (now apartments) complete its indoor heated sea-water swimming-bath, 18-hole putting course and three en-tout-cas tennis courts

This mid-1930s advertisement shows the former Westcliff Hotel (previously known as the Westcliffe Hotel) before it was destroyed by fire in 1938 following which the present-day Westcliff House (now empty) was built

WESTGATE-ON-SEA

WESTCLIFF HOTEL

(WESTGATE HOTELS LTD.)
FULLY LICENSED

The Leading Hotel, occupying the Premier Position on Sea Front

Magnificent Views. Easy access to Beach. Safe Bathing. Close to Tennis Courts and Golf Courses. Hot and Cold Water in every Bedroom. Delightful Lounges. Up-to-date Cocktail Bar. Cuisine and Service a Speciality. Orchestra and Dancing during Season. Children's Playground and Children's Hotel adjoining.

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Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity. It is a founder member of Civic Voice and is affiliated to both the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and the Kent History Federation.

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

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

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

✂.....

Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £

Name:

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and send it to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN

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