

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Winter 2010  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 361



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

As we approach the end of this century's first decade, hopes for Margate's future are beginning to rise with the opening of the Turner Contemporary art gallery scheduled to take place next April. The gallery itself will not, of course, regenerate the town but few would disagree that it has the potential to make a very welcome and major contribution to the much-needed regeneration of our once-lovely town.

Construction work on the gallery was completed on schedule in November and the handover date on 8th December will have passed by the time that this Newsletter is published. Fitting out and final preparation for the opening will take place over the next few months. Do make a note of the public opening date (Saturday, 16th April) in your diary. If everyone in the town gave their support to the gallery, the chances of its long-term success are more likely. Yes, it is disappointing that the plans for a new hotel on the Rendezvous site came to nothing. Also, the much-promised renovation of the Winter Gardens in time for its centenary in 2011 now seems most unlikely to happen. No doubt the downturn in the world economy will be put forward as the excuse but one cannot help think that during the many years that the Turner Contemporary has taken to reach this stage, more progress could have been made by both Kent County Council and Thanet District Council with these very important associated developments.

Indeed, just a few months before the opening of the Turner Contemporary, work finally commenced on renovating the former Arcadian Hotel building on Fort Hill. It will be interesting to see how much progress will have been made on that scheme when the Turner Contemporary is opened in April. Is it too much to hope that something will have been done by then to remove the other eyesore on Fort Hill/Road - the former Fort Road Hotel?

On a more positive note, it is pleasing to report that a number of very important buildings in our town have recently been designated as Grade II listed buildings. An article on each of these buildings is contained in this Newsletter. Also, it is pleasing to report that the most impressive Surf Boat Memorial in Margate Cemetery has recently been upgraded from Grade II to Grade II\*.

The recent launch on the Society's website of much of my research on the former Borough of Margate's three civic war memorials has attracted much interest. Indeed, during the first three weeks after its launch on 5th November, the War Memorials webpages attracted over 400 'hits'. That, for the Society, is most rewarding in itself. □

**James Brazier  
Newsletter Editor**

## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st October 2010. If you have not renewed your subscription, please note that this issue of the Newsletter will be the last one that you will receive. To ensure that you do receive future issues of the Newsletter without interruption, please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN. The subscription rates for the current year are shown on the back of this Newsletter. □

**Lynda Smith  
Membership Secretary**

## Copies of our Newsletter available electronically

Copies of our Newsletter are now available to be sent to members electronically. If you would like to help us keep down our printing costs and wish to receive your copy of the Newsletter by e-mail, please contact our Membership Secretary, Mrs Lynda Smith, by e-mail at [lyndylou.smith@talktalk.net](mailto:lyndylou.smith@talktalk.net) giving your name and address. Such action will not only reduce our costs but will also help enormously with the distribution of the Newsletter. This applies particularly to those members to whom Newsletter are sent by post with ever-increasing postage costs. Members wishing to take up this option will also receive their Newsletter some two/three weeks earlier than those who receive printed Newsletters. Please do help us by taking advantage of this facility if you can. □

## Tony Snow elected Vice-President

Tony Snow was elected a Vice-President of the Society at our AGM in October 2010. He joins Felicity Stafford, Roy Adsett and Robin Colyer who are also Vice-Presidents. Tony held the position of Chairman for many years and also served as Secretary. He also served as a guide by taking many groups around Old Margate. His election to Vice-President is truly well deserved. □



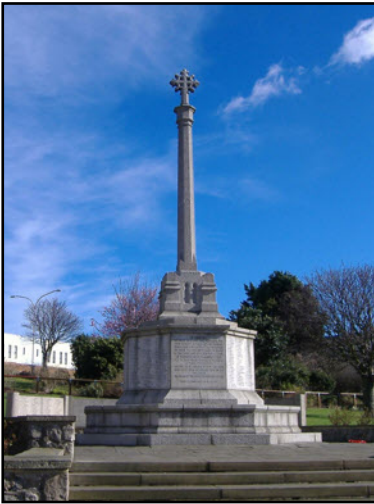
**We wish all our members a very  
Happy Christmas  
and a peaceful New Year**



# Former Borough of Margate War Memorials Project

## Publication of Rolls of Honour with details of all casualties on Margate Civic Society Website

*In his introduction to the project, James Brazier tells the story of the publication on the Society's website on 5th November 2010 - exactly 80 years after the unveiling of Margate War Memorial - of the fruits of his many years of research into the names on Margate War Memorial, on Westgate-on-Sea War Memorial and on Birchington War Memorial. The Rolls of Honour are accessible on the Society's website [www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk) and clicking on **War Memorials**. A well deserved thank you goes to Mike Wilton for very kindly putting this work on our website.*



*Margate War Memorial*

announce in 1919 that they 'hope to issue shortly a Memorial List of the Margate men who fell in the Great War'. Despite many enquiries over many years, no copy of such a Memorial List has been located by the compiler and it would seem probable that Messrs Lane, Gentry & Co abandoned their plans. The Margate War Shrine had been in existence at Margate Town Hall from April 1917 listing the names of the war dead as the news came through. That War Shrine would have provided a basis for a Memorial List but, unfortunately, there were – and still are – a number of errors on it which would have made the task of producing a Memorial List most difficult.

It was over twenty years ago that I started my quest to find out more about each of the men listed on Margate War Memorial. Over the years, prior to that, I had attended a number of the ceremonies held on Remembrance Sunday at Margate War Memorial. Each time, during the service, the mantra "We will remember them" was repeated yet the reality was that, over the years, the names had become – for many people - nothing more than names on the war memorial. Whilst collectively they were remembered each year, as individuals their deeds and sacrifice had become largely forgotten. In



*Westgate-on-Sea War Memorial*

Margate War Memorial was unveiled on Sunday, 5th November 1922. The memorial has over 400 WWI names inscribed on it in alphabetical order showing only their surname and initials. It seems that a detailed listing of the men who lost their lives in the Great War (as it was originally known) was never produced although local printers and publishers Messrs Lane, Gentry & Co did

those days, it was possible to identify a number of local family names (such as Hatfeild and Friend) on the war memorial without any difficulty. However, the vast majority of the names were more of a challenge to research. Of course, local newspapers published during the war were helpful but, so huge in number were the losses, it proved simply too much for the newspapers of the day to keep up with the never-ending list of those killed and of those wounded in action. Today, of course, each death would be reported by the local press in detail but that simply did not happen during, in particular, the Great War (later to become known as the First World War or WWI).

After the Second World War, Frank Sidnell – the Town Clerk of the Borough of Margate – compiled the list of names eligible to be included on the Second World War panels that were to be added to the respective three civic war memorials. The next-of-kin of each serviceman's name was asked to decide on which of the three memorials they wanted their loved one's name to be inscribed. However, it was decreed that the names of all civilians who lost their lives in the Second World War would be inscribed on Margate War Memorial.

It is hoped that the Rolls of Honour on these webpages will ensure that the names of those who lost their lives in conflict during the 20<sup>th</sup> century are remembered as fellow human beings: that each one had a family and that each one was part of the local community. Many of them answered the call for volunteers at the hour of need. Each man named on the memorials made the supreme sacrifice and the community should remember with pride what each of them gave up for their country. When one looks through these Rolls of Honour, it is the young ages of the casualties that strikes home. How local communities were able to carry on at the end of both world wars is a testimony to the human spirit. Let us hope that, never again, are such losses borne by the people of our area - or any other area. □

***We will remember them***

**James Brazier**



## Turner Contemporary gallery to open to the public on Saturday, 16th April 2011



Many townspeople hope that this much-admired large oil-painting of Margate 1869 by James Webb, which used to hang in the Public Library, will be found a place in the Turner Contemporary when it opens next year. It is understood that the picture is currently hung in the East Room at the Winter Gardens. Since its removal from public view at the Library, many of our members have expressed the hope that the painting will, once again, be put on public view where it belongs. The opening of the Turner Contemporary would seem to present an ideal opportunity for that hope to be realised



## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Mr Brazier

I recently made contact with Margate Civic Society, via the Internet, seeking advice on sources of archived records which might be of some relevance to my personal family history research.

I received a very prompt reply from Mike Wilton telling me that there was a very good local historian, Suzannah Foad, who would probably be able to help.

I duly contacted Suzannah and my purpose in writing this letter is to ask if you, in your capacity as Editor of the Civic Society Newsletter, would be kind enough to pass on my sincere thanks to the organisers of the Society and to Mike Wilton, in particular, for helping me and enabling me to make contact with Suzannah Foad.

She really has been extremely helpful and very rapidly unearthed information of direct relevance to the particular question that triggered my original enquiry. Not merely content with that, however, she has put a good deal of further effort into identifying a number of other interesting snippets of information and pointers concerning my forebears and their associations with Margate.

Clearly, Suzannah has a real passion for local history and must have a considerable knowledge about the great variety of resources available to the researcher, as well as skill in their use. I really cannot sing her praises too highly, so thank you once again for facilitating the contact.

Yours sincerely

**Ian G. Liddell**

Weymouth, Dorset

28th September 2010

**Living Museum  
at Walpole Bay Hotel**

Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville  
Kent CT9 2JJ  
Telephone: 01843 221703

Jane, Peter, Justin and Domini Bishop  
welcome you to the ambience of a Bygone Era  
Open Everyday, All Year Round  
10am - 5pm  
Come and Browse

**A D M I S S I O N F R E E**

*For those members who have yet to attend one of our regular meetings, the above flyer for the Living Museum at Walpole Bay Hotel provides a flavour of our venue for our meetings. It is a most delightful place to hold our meetings: full of charm and atmosphere*

## Welcome to new members

Anthony Greenwood  
Sally Blem  
Malcolm & Laura Hayman  
Peter Davis  
Alan Lee  
Mr & Mrs Cheetham  
Bob Varnham  
Thomas Thompson  
Margaret Broadhurst  
Diane Groombridge

Lynda Smith  
Membership Secretary



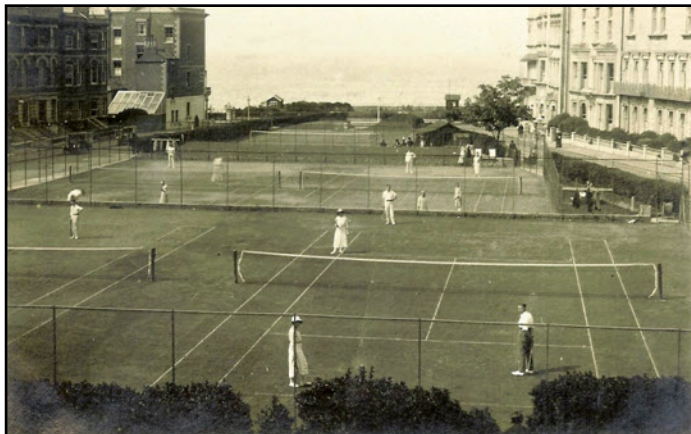
## Dalby Square, Cliftonville

Dalby Square in Cliftonville was laid out in 1865 on what were previously cornfields. These three-sided squares were considered to protect the eminent Victorians from the North Sea winds. Properties were built on the west, south and east sides of Dalby Square with the properties numbered consecutively in that order.



*The east side of Dalby Square showing the green area currently occupying the south side*

Firstly, there was much confusion regarding the name of this square. Montpelier Square, Warrior Square, Ethelbert Square and Dalby Square were all suggested names for this piece of land and, in the end, the Borough Council decided on the last one which was named after the entrepreneur Thomas Dalby Reeve (1814-1875) who pioneered the development and built a high-class residential area. Mr Reeve, once Mayor of Margate (1873-75), was a prominent local businessman who founded Reeves Mineral Water Manufacturers and, using products from his own brickfield, built much of what is now Cliftonville.



*Postcard showing tennis courts in Dalby Square as seen from Warrior House (No. 21 Dalby Square) circa 1923*

In 1885, tennis courts and lawns were added to the centre of the square and many of the buildings became ladies' schools and colleges. In 1907, the estate of the late Thomas Dalby Reeve was sold and the garden enclosure let out again as tennis courts and croquet lawns. Later, in 1914, the residents of Dalby Square suggested the gardens be purchased and laid out by the Margate Corporation. The Corporation rejected this suggestion saying: "If the



*Numbers 11-15 Dalby Square with DALBY TERRACE and the date 1870 at the top of numbers 13 and 14. This terrace is on the west side*

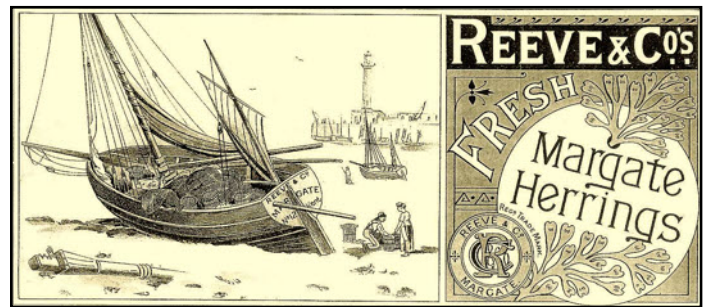
occupiers wanted the land improved, they should do it themselves".

If you look above numbers 11-15 on the west side of Dalby Square, you will note the words DALBY TERRACE 1870 on the fascia of these buildings.

Also built in 1870 was number 33 Dalby Square, on the east side of Dalby Square. This property was built for the renowned London gunsmith, James Purdy. By 1894, this building had become Skelsmergh House School. The author Dennis Wheatley attended this school from 1905 to 1909. The school was sold in 1919.

On the 1891 Census, William Knight Treves, surgeon, was living at 31 Dalby Square. He was the brother of Frederick Treves, also a surgeon, who is known for treating Joseph Carey Merrick, better known as the 'Elephant Man'. Frederick Treves was also appointed Sergeant Surgeon to King Edward VII.

One of Alfred Lord Tennyson's sisters, Mary, lived in Cliftonville and lays at rest in Margate Cemetery. She died on 4th April 1884 aged 71 at 1 Dalby Road, Cliftonville. She was married to the Honourable Justice Ker, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Jamaica.



*An early advertisement for another of Thomas Dalby Reeve's business operations in Margate*

New College at 16 Dalby Square was built in 1871 and started its school life under the name Palmer House School. By 1886, it had become New College when the Jones family took over. The headmaster was the Rev George Hugh Jones of Trinity College who made a reputation in tutorial work in his university, and whose pupils rose to the highest positions in the Church and at the Bar. The Rev George Hugh Jones had a daughter, Ethel Ann Walton née Jones, who, after teaching at New College set up her own school at 9-10 Dalby Square in 1899, called the Queen's School. In the 1913-14 edition of *Kelly's Directory to the Isle of*



*Thanet*, number 16 Dalby Square is shown as Northcliffe House Preparatory School.

A local would note that the two roads which lead from Dalby Square to Northdown Road are named Dalby Road, which is self explanatory, and Arthur Road. Arthur Road was named after Robert Dalby Reeve's son Arthur Reeve (1855-1933), who married Harriet Sanger (1855-1929), daughter of the great showman 'Lord' George Sanger (1827-1911) of the Hall-by-the-Sea in Margate.



*This 1950s postcard shows Dalby Road looking north*



*This 1950s postcard shows Arthur Road looking north*

Arthur Road has had its fair share of interesting properties and well-known residents. The first buildings to appear on the road are now numbered 21-23, The Warren Court Hotel. This once grand building is sadly beyond redevelopment after many arson attacks. In December 2007, fire crews from as far as Herne Bay, Canterbury and Wingham fought a blaze which raged for nine hours.

The Warren Court Hotel was previously Cliftonville College for Boys. The first mention of Cliftonville College that I can find is on the 1891 Census when Thomas Everard Healey was schoolmaster and, later, an advertisement dated 1897 when Oscar Skey was headmaster. Cliftonville College was still running in 1927. By 1936, it had become Cliftonville School of Domestic Science before it was a boarding house. Later on, it was a typical seaside hotel.

It may be hard to imagine but on the area to the north of the Warren Court Hotel, and which is now an open green space, were seven properties, numbered 17-23 Dalby Square. On 1st June 1943, enemy bombs fell on Margate destroying shops at the bottom part of Margate High Street and also Holy Trinity Church. Numbers 20 and 21 Dalby



*The fire-damaged structure of the Warren Court Hotel. The controversial proposed redevelopment of the south side of Dalby Square would see a reinstatement of a terrace and the retention of the façade of the Warren Court Hotel*

Square were also bombed and never rebuilt. After the war, most properties in Dalby Square became seaside hotels and lodgings. By the 1980s, the former Hotel Mediterranean numbered 17-19 Dalby Square had fallen into disrepair and, in 1989, was used for filming a Christmas special of the TV series *Only Fools and Horses* when it was named Mrs Creswell's Villa Bella. Number 32 was also used in the filming of *Only Fools and Horses* as Mrs Baker's Sunny Sea Guest House.



*This scene taken from an old postcard circa 1920 shows the former terrace on the south side of Dalby Square. These seven properties were numbered (right to left) 17 to 23 Dalby Square. Dalby Terrace can also be seen in this picture which shows the lawn-tennis courts in the foreground*

In 1997, it was reported that Thanet District Council were to purchase this area of land in the centre of Dalby Square for £50,000. The site, which was repossessed by a bank, was on the market for £250,000 in 1995. At the height of the property boom in 1989, planning consent was given to build a seven-storey block of 85 sheltered flats, but the development never went ahead. Today, community groups are working hard to keep this area clean, tidy and accessible to all. □

**Suzannah Foad**

**Editor's Note:**

A number of soldiers, billeted at 21 Dalby Square (Warrior House), lost their lives when it was hit by a 500-kg bomb on 1st June 1943. The actual number of fatalities has never been released but records would suggest that seven soldiers lost their lives there.



## St Paul's Church, Vicarage and boundary walls in Northdown Road receive designation as Grade II Listed

St Paul's Church, vicarage and boundary walls located on the north side of Northdown Road between Arthur Road and Edgar Road was designated a listed building at Grade II on 14th September 2010. The reasons given by English Heritage for this well-deserved listing are:

- Architectural quality: it is a largely unaltered, mid-Victorian Gothic Revival Church built in a studied late 13th century style with good quality materials and with a contemporary Gothic style vicarage;
- Interior fittings: most of the fittings of good quality and original to the 19th century church. Of notable quality are the reredos and the 1920s war memorial and panelling in the porch;
- Historic: a prominent architectural landmark in this genteel Victorian suburb of Margate, amongst the country's earliest seaside resorts, built to provide the middle-class seaside visitors and residents with a respectable place to worship.

The church is constructed on Kentish ragstone with Bath stone dressings: the roof is of Bangor slates.

The history of the church is recorded in the listing document as follows:

*During the 19th century Margate, one of the first English seaside resorts, flourished as a destination favoured by middle-class Londoners, particularly after the establishment of a regular steamer service from London in 1815 and to a lesser extent after the opening of Margate Sands railway station in 1846. Cliftonville developed from the 1860s to provide additional respectable accommodation starting with the Cliftonville Hotel and Ethelbert Crescent and expanding inland during the 1870s. Cliftonville also provided its own attractions such as the Clifton Baths dating from 1831. Therefore, by the 1870s a new church was felt to be necessary to serve the growing suburb. The memorial stone of the church was laid on 16th September 1872 and it was dedicated on 13th November 1873 by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The church was built as an offshoot of Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Square (demolished following bomb damage in World War II) and was built for a capacity of*



*The Margate coat-of-arms carved in oak forming part of the panelling surrounding the war memorial in St Paul's Church. The quality of this wood carving is typical of the high quality workmanship found in this church. The war memorial is located inside the entrance porch to the church*

*800 worshippers, on land on the north of what was then Alexandra Road provided by a Mr T. D. Reeve and a Mr J. Andrews. The architect was R. K. Blessey of Eastbourne and it was built by Messrs Cooke and Green of London at a cost of £8,500 including boundary walls and vicarage. The tower was apparently built later, possibly at the same time as the west window which has a dedication plate with a date of 1885. An engraving dated 1874 shows the church with an identical tower so it was presumably completed to Blessey's original design although the Buildings of Kent: North East and east Kent volume refers to the church being completed by Robert Wheeler of Tunbridge Wells. The tower was certainly built by 1897 when a church bell and clocks were provided by subscription. The tower was extensively repaired in 1971.*

However, as can be seen from the carte-de-visite showing St Paul's Church accompanying this article, it would seem that the tower was built at the same time as the church - if the date attributed to the carte-de-visite is accurate.

The section of the original ragstone boundary walls with gable capped gate pillars that has been included in the Grade II listing is that length east of the church and to the vicarage. The gable-capped pillars can be seen on the left-hand side of the accompanying photograph of the vicarage. The length of the original boundary-wall south of the church has been removed (see accompanying Edwardian postcard). The replacement wall that can be seen in the 2010 photograph is not included in the Grade II listing. □



*The former vicarage on the corner of Arthur Road and Northdown Road*

The carte-de-visite accompanying this article is reproduced courtesy of Richard Clements





The reverse of the carte-de-visite bearing the photograph of St Paul's Church taken by the photographer Henry Goodman, 1 & 6 Fort Hill, Margate whose business was established in 1858



This carte-de-visite probably dates from the mid-1870s and shows the church tower in situ. The handcart nearest the camera has the name FREEBODY on it and the one behind has the name FAIRMAN on it. A third handcart can be seen to the right of the gentleman wearing a top hat. Such street-traders were probably selling bread and milk



This Edwardian postcard shows the clock on St Paul's Church tower. The clock and a church bell were added in 1897 and the cost thereof met by subscription. The original iron railings in the boundary walls can be seen clearly in this postcard



The bronze World War I memorial plaque inside the entrance porch at St Paul's Church. The plaque is set in an elaborate wooden frame with a Gothic tracery hood containing carvings of the Royal Standard. The war memorial was dedicated by the Bishop of Croydon on Saturday, 23rd September 1922. Beneath the bronze WWI plaque is a bronze WWII plaque



This recent photograph shows St Paul's Church virtually unchanged except for changes to the boundary walls, the removal of two roof finials, and the addition of numerous items of street furniture which detract from the architectural beauty of this fine building. The church in the background is now St Michael & St Bishop Church (Koptic Church), formerly St Stephen's Church



## Former Congregational Church (now Mosque) in Union Crescent receives designation as a Grade II Listed Building

This well known landmark church located in Union Crescent immediately behind Margate Post Office was designated a listed building at Grade II on 18th October 2010. The reasons given by English Heritage for this well-deserved listing are:

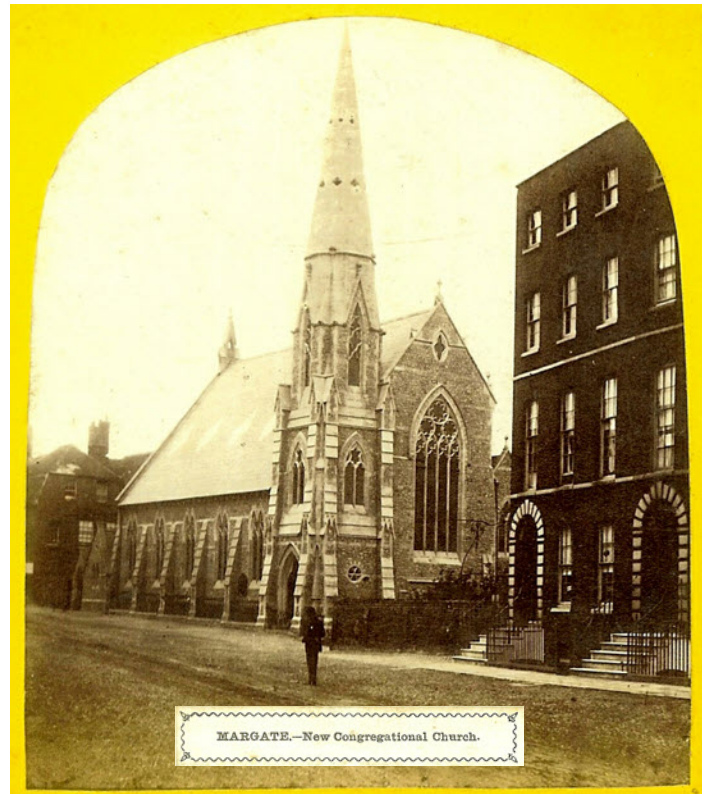
- Architectural quality: the design is an imaginative expression of the Gothic Revival, in the 'Rogue' Gothic style associated with E. B. Lamb and S. S. Teulon, with an impressive off-centre spire and good-quality detailing, designed by a nationally-recognised practice who specialised in nonconformist churches;
- Historic interest: as an assertive expression of Nonconformism in Margate, one of the earliest and most famous seaside resorts in England;
- Townscape value: the building has an imposing presence on this street of largely Victorian buildings.

The former Sunday School building on the other side of Pump Lane is not included in the listing as it is not deemed to be of sufficient architectural interest.

The most interesting history of the former church is recorded in the listing document as follows:

*Margate, one of the first English seaside resorts, flourished in the 19th century as a destination favoured by middle-class Londoners, particularly after the establishment of a regular steamer service from London in 1815 and to a lesser extent after the opening of Margate Sands railway station in 1846. The Kent Congregational Association visited Margate in 1843-4 and felt there was a need for a Congregational church in the town but deferred aspirations to build one at that time to avoid friction with the other denominations present. In 1845, a number of members of the Zion Chapel of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connection, located in Victoria Road, left and decided to form a Congregational church which they originally set up in a house in Cecil Street. From here the congregation fitted up the former Bettison's Library on the same street as a chapel but by the late 1850s this was too small and plans were drawn up for a new church on Union Crescent. A drawing of the proposed church was published in The Builder in December 1858. Building started on 23rd January 1860 and was completed on 7th September the same year at a cost of £3,400.*

*The church was originally designed without a gallery but it was decided that one was necessary for the increased attendance during the summer season in this seaside town. It had also originally been planned to include a Sunday school beneath the church but this plan was dropped when the local council withheld consent unless the floor of the church was raised, which would have proved too costly. A Sunday school (now a Union Church) on the east side of Pump Lane was eventually built in 1872 probably also designed by Poulton and Woodman (this is not included in the designation). After the church closed, it was converted to a gymnastic club and the interior altered. In 2003, it was converted for use as a mosque.*



Photograph taken from stereoscopic card circa 1870  
- before the Sunday school next door was built (see picture below)



The former Congregational Church in Union Crescent . The church was built in 1860. A corner of the former Sunday school building can be seen on the right of the picture





The full stereoscopic card of 'MARGATE - New Congregational Church' published by Poulton's in their 'English Scenery and Buildings' series - circa 1870



The former Sunday school built in 1872 (now used by the Union Church) which is not included in the Grade II designation

The stereoscopic card accompanying this article is reproduced courtesy of Richard Clements

The Countess of Huntingdon's Zion Chapel burial ground in Addington Square contains the graves of many well-known names associated with Margate's history including members of the Cobb family and F. J. Bobby. A 'friends group' of this burial ground has recently been formed and it is hoped that an article on the work of this 'friends group' will feature in a future issue of this Newsletter. □

## Surf Boat Memorial in Margate Cemetery upgraded from Grade II to Grade II\*

This memorial in Margate Cemetery was only designated as a Grade II listed building in July 2005. A little over five years later, its listing was upgraded to Grade II\* on 5th November 2010.

The principal reasons given for its upgrading are:

- Historic: the loss of lifeboat men at sea was a tragedy experienced by many coastal towns, and memorials to such events are poignant reminders of England's historic maritime economy, and the toll this could take on coastal communities. The Margate disaster attracted funds from over the world and touched the nation.
- Artistic interest: the memorial is of considerable artistic quality, composed and executed in a manner typical of the period's exuberance and visual vitality.

The history of the memorial is recorded in the listing document as follows:

*After the disaster, a fund was raised by local dignitaries and councillors to support the five widows and seventeen children left destitute. Funds came from all over the world: the Daily Telegraph newspaper raised over £12,000 and a donation of £35 was received from Queen Victoria. The final total was almost £10,000. The first proposal was that the money could be used to build almshouses for the families but in the end it was decided to commission two memorials. The second memorial (listed Grade II), which is in the form of a bronze figure of a lifeboatman looking out to sea, was erected on Margate seafront by the Nayland Rock, and was cast by Messrs Elkington & Co of London. The majority of the fund was spent on the two memorials and the funeral possession, and the residual capital used to provide a meagre widow's pension of 15 shillings a week. The funeral was attended by almost 2,000 people and along the route of the procession local shops were closed, blinds were drawn and bells tolled from all the churches. Because of the monument's size, the road to the cemetery required strengthening and a specially-designed carriage was fabricated to transport it to its site.*



Photo May 2005

The memorial - made from white Carrara marble - was unveiled in April 1900. It was manufactured by J. Whitehead & Sons Ltd of Westminster. The memorial marks the graves of nine men who lost their lives when the surfboat *Friend to all Nations* capsized whilst answering a distress call from the ship *Persian Empire* on 2nd December 1897. The memorial is in the form of a large rock surmounted by an anchor, a rope and a lifebelt inscribed 'MARGATE SURF BOAT'. To the right of the rock is a representation of Hope in the form of a life-sized weeping female figure in late-19th century dress kneeling and holding a laurel wreath. □



## Former 'Man of Kent' Temperance Hotel at 186-188 High Street now designated a Grade II listed Building



*The Man of Kent Temperance Hotel in Margate High Street. Was built as a coffee tavern and it first appeared in a Margate directory in 1883. The following year, it appeared under the slightly grander name of Man of Kent Temperance Hotel. However, by 1895 the building was no longer in a temperance-related use*

This remarkable seven-storey building (five storeys plus two attic storeys) mimics the flamboyance of the late-Victorian 'gin palaces' using coloured glass, terracotta and tile-work to elaborate effect. Today, it is largely a forgotten building in the Upper High Street but one that truly deserves to be listed - which, indeed, it was on 5th November 2010.

The reasons given by English Heritage for listing this building at Grade II are:

- Historic interest: as a purpose-built coffee [sic] tavern, it is part of a limited architectural legacy left by the Temperance Movement, a significant cultural force in the mid-to-late 19th century.
- Architectural interest: the grand scale of the building, the profusion of terracotta decoration, coloured glass, and decorative tile-work, create an eye-catching

building of considerable architectural ambition, which would have sought to compete with the elaborate 'gin-palaces' of the later 19th century.

- Materials: the tile-work, notably the colourful, figurative tile-work, attributed to Owen Gibbons, is of particular interest for its high artistic quality and unusual subject matter.

The former Man of Kent building is nearly double the height of its neighbouring buildings. The main attic storey is lit by roof-dormers and a central two-storey Dutch-gabled dormer, which rises from the wall-head cornice. The words TEMPERANCE HOTEL have been painted on to the south flank elevation: however, these are now barely legible. □



*The words TEMPERANCE HOTEL are now barely legible on the south flank elevation*



*The massive chimney stack to the north side with fifteen chimney pots. The purpose of the metal erection on top of the building is unknown but it has been suggested that it might have been placed there to mark a higher point than the top of St John's Church steeple that was built at around the same time as the Man of Kent*





*Close-up photographs of the elaborate wrought-iron decoration, tiling, terracotta and coloured glass above each of the two doorways*



*A close-up of the Chinese man, who is an exact mirror-image over the two doors, is perhaps a vendor as he carries tea-chests on a bamboo yoke*



*Close-up photographs of the Japanese lady depicted on the tiles. Over the left-hand door (shown on the right above), she is holding a saucer with one hand and a cup of tea with the other hand; and over the right-hand door (shown on left above), she is holding a tray with a jug of tea on it*

*This picture shows the coloured glass in the semi-circular fanlight above the left-hand door as seen from inside the building*



*Part of the tiles on either side of the left-hand doorway showing an elongated rose-bush growing from a jardinière*



*The decorative coloured glass between the two sets of decorative tiles above the doorways as seen from outside the building. One can only imagine how attractive this must when seen from inside the building!*



## CWGC accept for commemoration the names of two WWI casualties shown on Margate War Memorial - John Devereux and John Pulleng

It was in January 2004, when I was living in Guildford, that I wrote to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding my research into the names on Margate War Memorial. I drew the Commission's attention to a number of irregularities regarding the commemoration of a few of the names on that memorial. I had discovered a number of names inscribed on the memorials which did not appear on the CWGC *Debt of Honour Register*. Nearly nine years later, I am pleased to report that I was successful in persuading the CWGC to add two such names to their records and, in addition, to recognise the alias (C. H. G. Davison) that was used by a sailor (C. H. G. Pettman) who lost his life in the First World War.

The first of the two names that have been added to the CWGC's records was John Devereux who lost his life on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1914, aged 30, when he was washed overboard during rough weather in the Dover Strait whilst serving as a Warrant Officer on HM *Torpedo Boat 117*. It was reported in the *East Kent Times* that the sea was very rough when he was washed overboard and he was a good swimmer, but his heavy boots and clothing weighed him down considerably and lessened his chances of being saved in such a heavy swell. A Court of Inquiry into his death was held the week after he was drowned. It would seem that his death was treated by the Royal Navy as an accident and not as a war casualty. I am pleased to report that arrangements are in hand for his name to be added by the CWGC to Chatham Naval Memorial. The Devereux family plot in the Catholic Section of Margate Cemetery has a plaque which records that John William Devereux was "drowned on duty in the North Sea" aged 30 but, perhaps surprisingly, does not show the date of his death.

John William Devereux was the fourth son of Thomas William Devereux (1846–1904) and Marie Eliza Devereux (1855-1911). Thomas William Devereux was born at Hastings and was Margate's head of Coastguard Service having previously served as an officer in the Royal Navy. The parents lived at Victoria Road, Margate; they had six sons and two daughters. All six sons served in the Royal Navy. The fifth son, Joseph Michael Devereux (born 1887 at Deal) died in 1911 whilst serving on HMS *Dominion* and his name too is recorded on the family headstone in Margate Cemetery. He was aged 23.

John William Devereux was born at Deal in 1885. He had five brothers and two sisters. His brothers were:

- Thomas Daniel Devereux - Signalling Station at Chatham (born 1877 at Worth);
- Daniel Devereux - HM *Torpedo Boat 18* (born 1880 at Worth);
- Edward Howard Devereux - HMS *Terrible* (born 1882 at Worth);
- Joseph Michael Devereux - HMS *Dominion* (born 1887 at Deal and died in 1911); and
- Charles Henry Devereux HMS *Sentinel* (born 1890 at Dover).

His sisters were Ellen Frances Devereux (born 1892 at Foulness, Essex) and Elizabeth Mary Devereux (born 1896



*John Pulleng's grave in Margate Cemetery with the new CWGC plaque*



*Close-up of the CWGC plaque recently placed on John Pulleng's grave by the CWGC*

at Margate). In 1881, Thomas William Devereux was at No. 2 Battery, Worth and in 1891 was living at the Coastguard Station, Westcliff, Dover. In 1901, he was living at Victoria Road and working as the head coastguard officer at Margate.

The CWGC show on their website that they have accepted John Devereux's name for commemoration by the Commission but that it will not be possible to add his name to Chatham Naval Memorial immediately.

The second of the names added to the CWGC records was John Pulleng who died in August 1920 aged 45 having served as a Pioneer with the Army Postal Office Corps in the First World War. Before the war, he had been a player in the Margate Postmen football team and it would appear that he worked as a postman before joining the Army. After having obtained a copy of his death certificate, I was successful in securing the agreement of the Ministry of Defence that his death ought to be regarded as a consequence of his service during WWI. I am pleased to report that the CWGC have recently erected a small stone plaque tablet in memory of Pioneer John Pulleng at the foot his grave in Margate Cemetery. John Pulleng died on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1920. No other WWI serviceman whose name is listed on Margate War Memorial died at a later date. □

**James Brazier**



# Margate Remembers

Some of these photographs are included on the War Memorials webpages on the Society's website. They are reproduced here for those of our members who do not have access to our website



*This charming photograph shows an official poppy seller at Margate War Memorial on Saturday, 11th November 1922 - just six days after the unveiling of the memorial. Note that the poppy seller is wearing both a poppy and her official badge. She appears to have laurel leaves in her basket and there are laurel leaves on the table. Note the children's faces and their clothing*



*Another delightful photograph of poppy sellers at Margate War Memorial on 11th November 1922. Note the Poppy Day collecting tin marked 'Remembrance Day' on the table*



*Another charming photograph of poppy sellers at Margate War Memorial on 11th November 1922*

## Picture found of the former War Shrine inside St John's Church, Margate



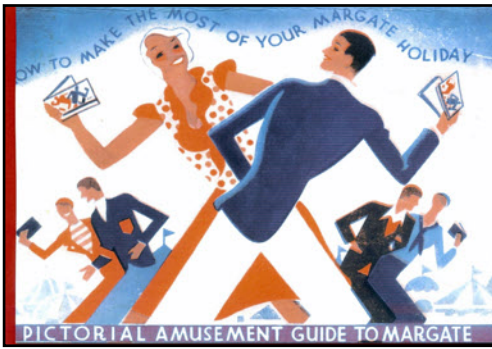
*According to the hand-written caption on the back of this postcard, this picture shows the altar set up as a war memorial in St John the Baptist Church, Margate for the 1914-18 war. It is believed that this was effectively a war shrine that was probably set up in 1917 and which lasted until the town war memorial was unveiled in November 1922. Are any of our members (or readers) able to add any further information regarding this photograph?*



*This historic picture shows the scene at the first Armistice Day service held at Margate War Memorial. The service was held on Saturday, 11th November 1922 - just six days after the war memorial had been unveiled. The minister officiating at the service was the Reverend David Railton MC, who had taken up the position of Vicar of Margate in June 1920. Today, David Railton is best remembered as the person credited with the idea of an Unknown Warrior whilst he was serving with the 47th (London) Division on the Western Front during WWI. That idea has since been adopted by many countries around the world*



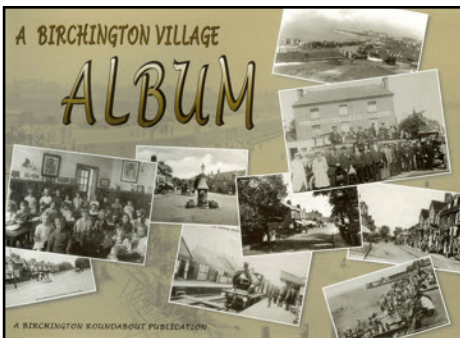
# Book Reviews



*Pictorial Amusement Guide to Margate* is a 36-page booklet which was originally published around 1930 probably by Margate Estates

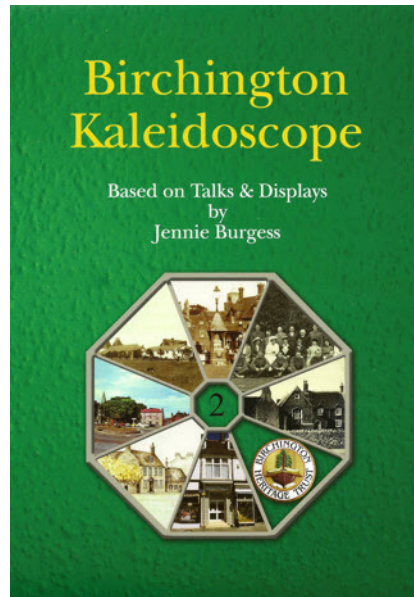
Ltd as it covers Dreamland Amusement Park, the Clifton Baths Estate (today known as the Lido) and Dumpton Greyhound Racing Track. This reproduction of the booklet has been published as a facsimile by Michaels Bookshop, 72 King Street, Ramsgate at £2.99. The reprint in A5 format is approximately double the size of the original publication which, it is thought, might have been distributed as free promotional material. Also, the original publication was not printed on high-quality paper. Nevertheless, Michaels Bookshop has published a booklet which provides most interesting insight into the amusements that were available in our area around 80 years ago. Looking at the photographs in the book, one can only scarcely believe that such a wealth of amusements was available on our doorstep. Your reviewer found the photographs of the many facilities provided at the Clifton Baths Estate most interesting (the booklet even includes a photograph of the tennis courts in Dalby Square). This booklet is a real gem and extremely good value at only £2.99.

If you haven't yet visited Michaels Bookshop, you should do so if only to see the vast array of books and pamphlets relating to Thanet which he has reprinted over the last few years. But do remember that the bookshop is closed on Thursdays.



*A Birchington Village Album* by Stuart and Sarah Horner is the third and final publication of their trilogy looking at the wonderful history of Birchington in pictures. The

book was published by The Birchington Roundabout in 2008 at £13.99. It is A4 size containing hundreds of photographs in its 96 pages. The book contains eight pages packed with old advertisements of Birchington traders which your reviewer found particularly. Both the nostalgic photographs and the advertisements are superbly presented. Copies of this book are still available. The address of the publishers is 25 Alpha Road, Birchington CT7 9EG. This book will appeal to anyone with an interest in Birchington and comes highly recommended.



The second volume of *Birchington Kaleidoscope* is due out shortly before Christmas. It will be similar in format to the first volume that came out about a year ago and which was warmly received as a 'must have'. Like the first volume, this volume is also written by Jennie Burgess, Birchington's Parish Archivist and it tells many of the fascinating stories

about Birchington's rich heritage. The book is based on Jennie Burgess's very popular talks and displays. Copies of the book at £12.00 will be available from the Birchington Heritage Trust Museum or direct from Jennie Burgess at her home. In addition, copies of the book will also be on sale at 'Best Wishes' at Birchington. If you require a copy to be sent to you at £14.00, please contact Jennie Burgess on 01843 842988. All profits from the sale of this book will go to the Birchington Heritage Trust Museum. □

## Margate Historical Society stalwart dies

Without question, Margate lost one of its most endearing characters when Mick Twyman sadly passed away on 14th September 2010. He was a champion of Margate's history and was highly regarded as an authority on both the Shell Grotto and the Tudor House. At the close of his funeral on 30th September held at Margate Crematorium, it was announced that: "The real 'Mr Margate' had left the



*Mick Twyman welcoming visitors to his beloved Tudor House during Heritage Open Days in September 2005*

building" and no-one present demurred for even a moment. The chapel was packed with family and friends from all walks of life - reflecting his popularity among so many people of the town that he dearly loved. We will miss you Mick; your wide knowledge of the town's history and your determination - R.I.P. □



# What's On

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

Date	Subject	Speaker
<b>2011</b>		
January	<b>Note:</b> No meeting this month	-
3rd February	'The Rosherville Pleasure Gardens'	Michael Thompson
3rd March	'The Rage' or 'The Caged Lady'	Lee Ault
7th April	'Thanet Churches - especially St John the Baptist, Margate'	Mary Berg
5th May	Town Pride Awards followed by 'Dreamland'	Jan Leandro, Audience Development Manager, Dreamland



**Westgate Heritage Centre** (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Autumn/Winter Programme 2010/11**  
 Open on the first Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 12.30pm with a short talk given at 11.00am by Dr Dawn Crouch (Curator)

Date	Subject	Content
<b>2011</b>		
8th January (Note date!)	The Lockwood Family	Their contribution to the Westgate story
5th February	The Census returns for 1851 to 1881	} The year 2011 will be a census year - in these talks, we examine what can be learnt from the earlier census returns for Westgate
5th March	The Census returns for 1891 and 1901	
2nd April	Have a good read!	To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Westgate's Library in Minster Road

CECIL Square. 1769.

## More Pictures from the Past

- when Cecil Square provided an arena for special events

CECIL Square. 1769.




*The last issue of the Newsletter (No. 330) contained a photograph showing school children on parade in Cecil Square to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI on 12th May 1937. These two photographs were also taken on that day in Cecil Square. The one on the left was taken in the morning and shows girls most probably from Lausanne Central School for Girls in Addington Street as they have entered Cecil Square from Union Crescent. They would be amongst 4,000 children who attended the parade held in Cecil Square that morning*

*This picture shows part of the 'Parade of Youth' that was held in the afternoon that same day. The Mayoral party with distinguished guests can be seen standing on a temporary dais in Cecil Square as a horse-drawn tableau is led past his party. A young girl (representing Britannia?) stands on the tableau holding a flag with the legend 'MARGATE DISTRICT RANGERS - No. 1 COMPANY'. The vintage motor-vehicle behind appears to have a sign 'GIRL GUIDES' on its radiator. Eleven hundred children took part in the 'Parade of Youth' that day. Note all the bunting in Cecil Square*



# Margate Civic Society

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

## Committee for 2010/11:

**President:** Mr Ralph Handscomb

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

**Chairman:** Mrs Pamela Pople

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

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Harry Scobie

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

**Secretary:** Mrs Susie Hewins

4 The Courts, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5HP (Tel: 833540)

**Treasurer:** Mr Mike Wilton

30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF (Tel: 844717)

**Membership Secretary:** Mrs Lynda Smith

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

**Newsletter Editor:** Mr James Brazier

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

### Other Committee Members:

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

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

Mr Julian Smith, 1 Barn Crescent, Margate CT9 5HF (Tel: 298292)

Ms Elaine Phillips, Flat 1, 9-11 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DW (Tel: 296598)

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

✂.....

## Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £ .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

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

### Subscription rates for 2010/11:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual	£6.00	£10.00	50p	£10.00
Life Membership	£50.00	£70.00	-	-

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