

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Winter 2013
Newsletter
Issue No. 373



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

What a busy year it has been and it is now less than six months before the Clock Tower Time Ball is once more brought back into operation. The Society's Time Ball Restoration Project Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Lynda Smith has successfully raised a substantial sum towards the costs of the necessary works despite being unsuccessful with their bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. On 28th November 2013, the Society handed over to Thanet District Council the first tranche of monies raised (see page 12) and, as I write this Editorial, wonderful news has just been received that Panther Securities Plc have generously donated the sum of £2,000 towards our appeal.

The response from local organisations and individuals to our appeal for funds to meet the cost of restoring the operation of the Time Ball really has been tremendous. However, we have not yet reached our target. Please do support our appeal by whatever means you can and do make a note in your diary for the special concert to be held at the Theatre Royal on 24th May 2014 (see page 13 for details).

It can be seen from the contents of this issue of our Newsletter that there is much going on in our town. One just needs to look out for events which are sometimes not particularly well publicised. Of course, the annual Service of Remembrance held at Margate War Memorial in Trinity Square needs no publicising. What was particularly moving about this year's Service of Remembrance (see page 8) was the number of children present: it seemed noticeably higher than in previous recent years. That has to be good.

Some of our older members will remember Christopher Alexander who taught art at the Thanet School of Art & Crafts at Margate in the years immediately following the Second World War. His son, Steven, has written a book (see page 6) about his father's artwork and has kindly offered to give an illustrated talk to the Society on that same subject. Our meeting scheduled for 3rd April 2014 has been provisionally earmarked for this talk by Steven Alexander. Arnold Schwartzman, a former pupil of Christopher Alexander, considers that Christopher Alexander's artwork is much deserving of a local retrospective exhibition. Now that is an idea that really ought to be followed up! Wouldn't it be good if Turner Contemporary were to mount such an exhibition? □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new members

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

Liz Gore
Ann Keirsmaekers
Mr & Mrs Andrew Hudson
Shirley Madin
Aileen Christodoulou

Lynda Smith
Membership Secretary

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st October 2013. 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. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. □

Lynda Smith
Membership Secretary

New Committee Appointment

At our AGM held on 5th October 2013, the Committee for 2013/14 was re-elected. The Committee remains unchanged from the previous year except that Roger Hayes has now kindly joined the Committee.

Contact details for all Committee post-holders are shown on the back page of this Newsletter. □

Town Pride Awards 2014

Nominations of specific properties in our area are invited from members of our Society for the 2014 Town Pride Awards. All nominations should be submitted to our Chairman, Pamela Pople (see back page for contact details), by not later than 14th February 2014. The results of the Judging Panel will be announced at our meeting to be held on 8th May 2014. □



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



Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project - Update

The Society is proud to announce that Admiral The Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL, Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports, has confirmed he will be delighted to officiate at the ceremony to start the Time Ball on Saturday 24th May 2014. Clarence House had sent news that HRH the Prince of Wales would be unable to attend on that day. Lord Boyce is well placed to officiate at the ceremony. The title of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports is today an honorary, but still prestigious, position which was formerly held by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Tickets for the Thanet Festival Choir's performance to be held at the Theatre Royal on Saturday 24th May will be available to purchase at the Margate Civic Society February meeting at the Walpole Bay Hotel at the cost of £7.50 per ticket. Tickets will also be on sale at the Winter Gardens box office, telephone: 01843 292795. The new spring brochure giving details of performances at the Theatre Royal and Winter Gardens will be out in December. The Thanet Festival Choir's performance of royal and patriotic music, has been arranged to celebrate the completion of the restoration of the Margate Clock Tower's Time Ball. The programme will include favourites such as "Jerusalem", "Rule Britannia", "Zadock the Priest" and "Land of Hope and Glory" as well as some less well-known music associated with royalty.

The Time Ball account now stands at over £10,000. Some of this amount is ring fenced for either scaffolding or a 'cherry picker' to enable the outside work to be completed safely. Most of the work on the Time Ball, which is to be carried out by Keith Scobie-Youngs from the Cumbria Clock Company, will be done from inside the Clock Tower where a new system of a variable speed, motor-driven winch will lift the ball to the halfway position ten minutes before the hour. At three minutes before the hour, the Time Ball will then be lifted to the top of the mast and then drop quickly on the hour to half way and then slowly to the bottom. Keith has now cleared the tube of clinker and other material, which had accumulated over the 124 years of the Clock Tower's life. Keith will remove the top pulleys from the mast and, once overhauled, will reinstall the lubricated pulleys and fit new stainless-steel wire cables to the Time Ball. Keith will make the motor-driven winching system in his workshop.

Margate Civic Society approached Standfast Security locks to ask for help with the replacement of the Margate Clock Tower door lock. This was immediately agreed by Standfast who were happy to donate time and materials to the project. Standfast will reinstate the lock to the main door of the Clock Tower. This sounds simple enough but it had to be 'in keeping' with the history of the listed building. As a local family business, Standfast are proud of their connections with Margate. Standfast were tasked with supplying a suitable old lock & key but this was not possible and so their locksmiths set about adapting and making new parts for an antique lock. The lock was originally from a church with an intricate new handmade key; luckily our locksmiths have experience in this line of work, having worked on various antique locks for over 30 years. This was a time-consuming specialised project.

Standfast started by turning down the shaft on a lathe to create the diameter, detail and length required. They then milled it to accommodate the head and bit. The head was roughly cut from a piece of 6mm mild steel then shaped to create a quatrefoil style head. The next task was to make the 'bit', which is the part that turns in the lock. This was cut and shaped from a piece of 12mm mild steel, both of these parts were slotted in place and attached to the shaft. To help protect this lock from the elements, a steel escutcheon complete with flap has been made and attached to the external side of the door to give some protection from the elements.



The new key for the Clock Tower door lock being made by Standfast. Note the large size of the key!

Standfast were now ready to repair the lock prior to cutting this key. Despite its age, surprisingly the lock only needed a small amount of repair, namely the outer casing where the weather had caused corrosion. Standfast were then able to start cutting the key 'bit' to suit the lock. This, like the whole job, is labour intensive as each part is cut slowly by hand, and to perfection with no mistakes! Once this was completed, the key was polished.

Finally, the timber case. After returning to the Clock Tower for final measurements, the block of hardwood was cut to size and fitted to the lock. A striking box was then made and the timber sealed.

The finishing touch will be a brass plaque that will be mounted on the lock and the key engraved with the date. It will help future generations trace the history of the lock and key, should they wish.

A second mortise lock is to be inserted in the door to the Clock Tower and this will serve as the necessary secure lock to meet the insurance requirements.

Kent Volkswagen garage, a family business in Upper Grove, Margate has agreed to pay for the mortise lock.

The Society wishes to thank Standfast for their time and effort; this work has been carried out free of charge, and to Kent Volkswagen for their donation.

Clock Tower models in coins

The British Empire cancer campaign was supported in 1962 by the former Kent Hotel which organised a "Margate Clock Tower to be modelled in pennies". The landlady at the time, Ruby Banks, was well known to many local residents in Margate for her charitable work. The Kent stood opposite the Clock Tower where the Flamingo amusement centre in Marine Terrace now operates. The famous Kent and England batsman Colin Cowdrey was invited to knock it down using a cricket bat - which he did. The total raised was over £1,000 and weighed two tons when completed. This was quite an achievement especially as there were 240 pennies in the pound in those days.

Jane Bishop, owner of the Walpole Bay Hotel, has kindly agreed to have a similar model built in the hotel's reception area. The model will be formed out of twopenny coins and all proceeds will go to the Time Ball project. If you would like to help please save your spare twopenny coins and take them along to the Walpole Bay Hotel.

Similar projects are being undertaken at Margate Museum and at Everybody's Inn in Addington Street. Turner Contemporary is considering having one as also is Hartsdown Academy. These establishments will collect proceeds for their own charities whilst still making the public aware of the Margate Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project.

Lovely's Art Gallery - auction of oil-painting by local artist Anthony Giles in aid of Time Ball Project

To help with the fund-raising of the Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project, local artist Anthony Giles has kindly donated an original painting of his in oil on linen with the subject being Margate Clock Tower. The work, which is painted in an impressionist image, will be the subject of a silent auction to be held at Lovely's Art Gallery in Northdown Road Cliftonville. Bidding will start on Saturday 7th December to conclude on Saturday 21st December with a minimum bid of £25. The silent auction will comprise sealed bids placed in a box. At the end of the auction, all bids will be opened and the highest bidder will receive the painting; just in time for Christmas.

The work has been beautifully framed by Lovely's and measures 18 inches x 20 inches.

All proceeds are to be donated to the Margate Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project.

Anthony Giles recently exhibited in Cork Street Gallery, London and has had work selected by the Royal Society of Marine Artists.

Kingsgate Lodge give support to the Time Ball Project

The Kingsgate Lodge No. 4882 - has generously donated £500 to the Time Ball Restoration Project. The Society would like to thank Ray Pople for recommending our charity for consideration.

Quiz night

On Thursday, 14th November, Margate Civic Society members teamed up for a quiz night held at the newly-opened Ales of the Unexpected micro-pub at Westbrook (105 Canterbury Road). Proceeds taken on the night were donated to the Time Ball project. The team were delighted they won by two points - the prize of £40 was added to the donation making a total of £80 for the project that night. □

Lynda Smith

Chairman, Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project Sub-Committee



MARGATE CLOCK TOWER OF PENNIES FOR CANCER FUND,
AT THE KENT HOTEL, MARGATE

Photo courtesy of Valerie Kirschner

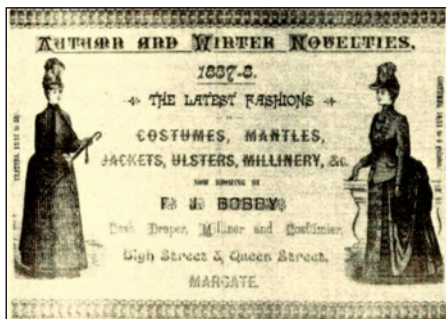
The amazing model of Margate Clock Tower made from old pennies in the Kent Hotel in 1962



This c.1950 photograph shows the former Kent Hotel with its now long-gone ornamental iron shelter which once made the building so attractive

Advertising posters for Bobby & Co Ltd designed by F. Gregory Brown (1887-1951)

Following the interesting article "Bobby's was Margate" featured in the MCS Winter 2012 Newsletter No. 369, readers of the MCS Newsletter might appreciate being acquainted with a selection from a collection of more than a dozen posters designed by Gregory Brown for Bobby & Co Ltd's Department Stores, produced between the years 1924-1933.

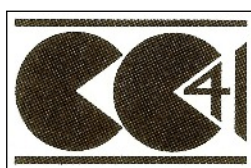


F J Bobby's advertisement 1887

Bobby & Co Ltd was founded in Margate in 1887 and was later bought by Debenhams in 1927. The name Bobby ceased c.1972.

Gregory Brown's Art Deco style posters were in sharp contrast to the advertisement published by Bobby in the year of Gregory Brown's birth.

As a young boy growing up in Cliftonville at the end of WWII, I began a love/hate relationship with Bobby's in Northdown Road as I would frequently accompany my mother to Bobby's to buy furnishings for my parents' small hotel. I would watch as the salesman would turn back carpet after carpet to display their numerous patterns, a process I found to be very tedious, save for



The CC41 Utility Mark

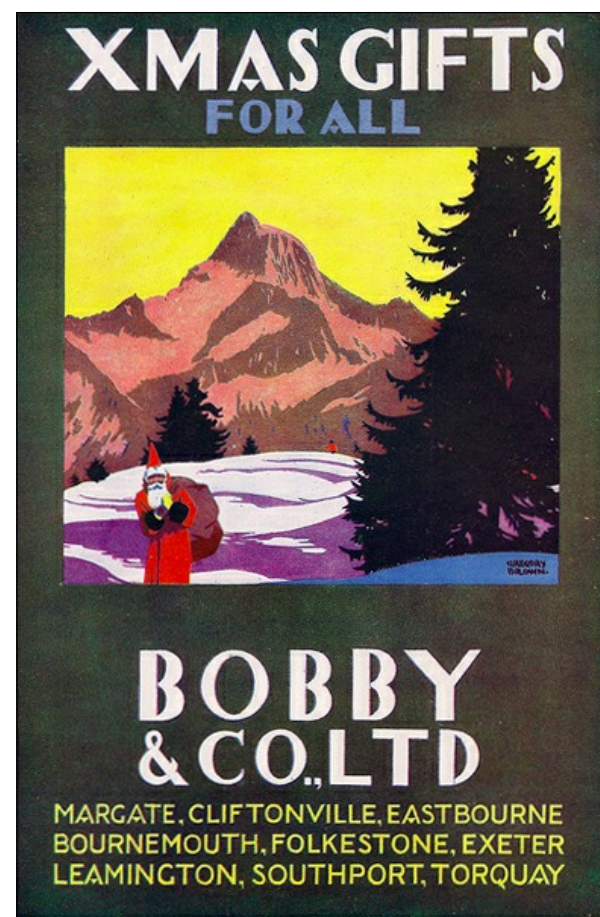
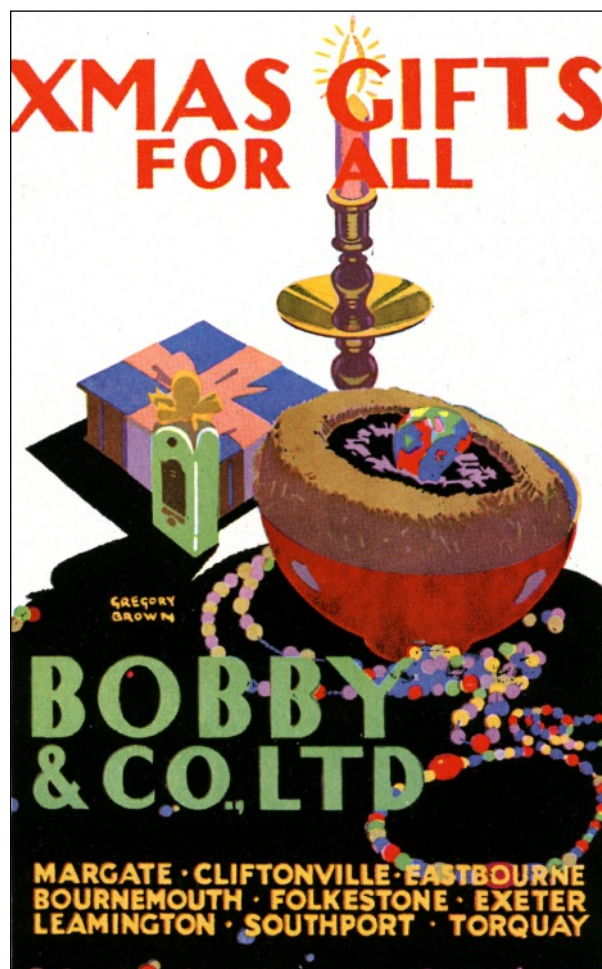
my interest in the graphic of the CC41 Utility Mark which stood for Civilian Clothing (the mark was known as 'the cheeses') which was introduced in 1941 and came attached to much of the store's items during those immediate post-war years.

During my days as a student at the Thanet School of Art & Crafts, I purchased a 1926 copy of "Posters & Publicity, Fine Printing & Design" at Dr Horvath's second-hand shop in the Market Place, a fine reference book which I still possess to this day.

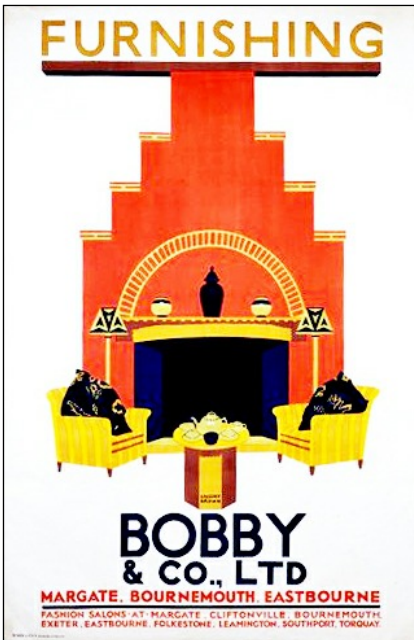
Of the many excellent posters reproduced in the book, the one that particularly took my fancy was a 1924 lithograph by Gregory Brown, "Xmas Gifts for All" which he had designed for Bobby & Co Ltd. Its flat use of colour was typical of the posters of the time, exemplified in the work of his contemporaries, such as Frank Newbould and Tom Purvis.

F. Gregory Brown was born in London the son of J. Terrell Brown an art master. Following Gregory's apprenticeship as a metal worker, he initially worked as an illustrator for magazines and later as a poster designer and landscape painter, for which he won a diploma at the Milan International Exhibition in 1923. He was an early member of the Design and Industries Association, (DIA). In addition to his work as a poster designer for companies such as Bobby's, Derry & Toms, ICI, the Railways and London Underground, he also designed textiles for which he won a Gold Medal at the 1925 Paris Exhibition of the Decorative Arts (*L'Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes*).

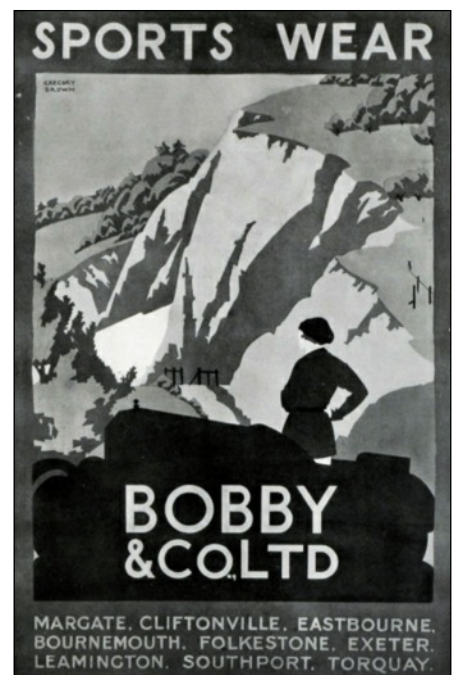
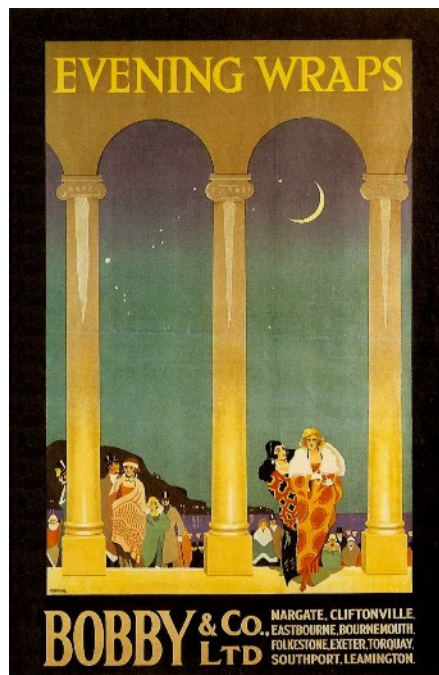
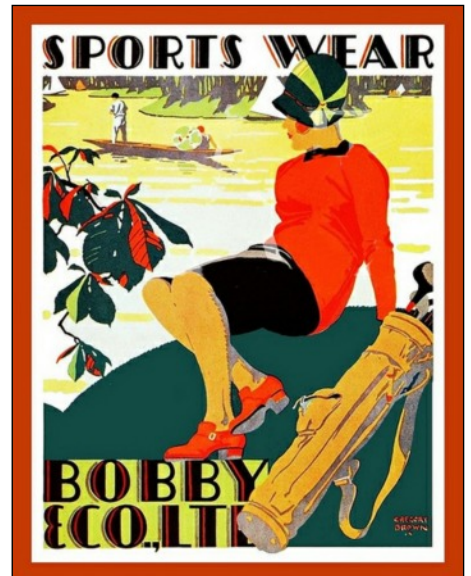
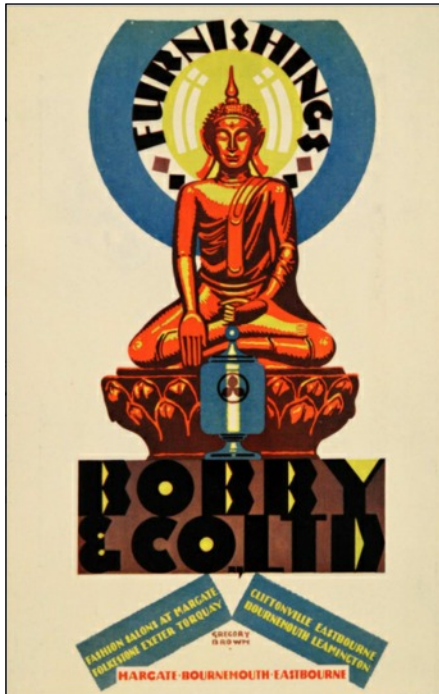
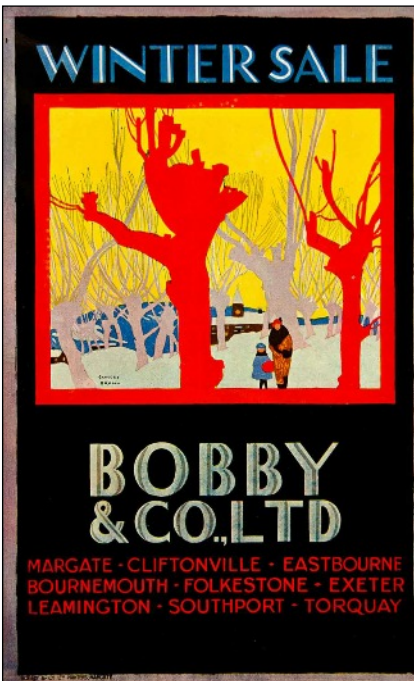
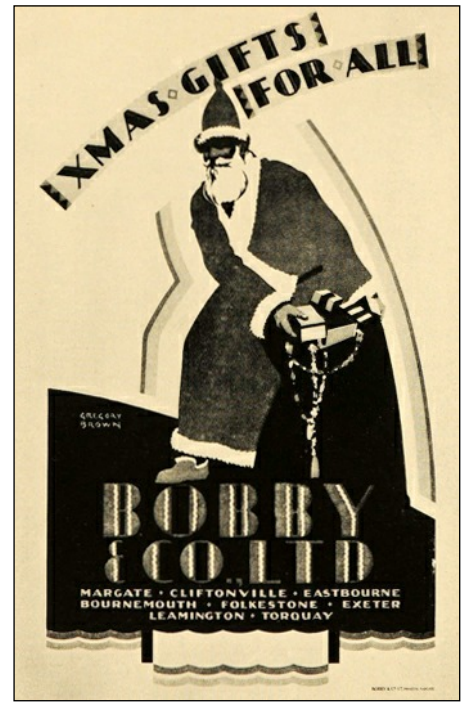
Other posters for Bobby's by Gregory Brown included: Dainty Frocks, 1925 and Cooling Drinks in the Tea Lounge, c. 1925. □



Two seasonal posters by F. Gregory Brown for Bobby & Co Ltd



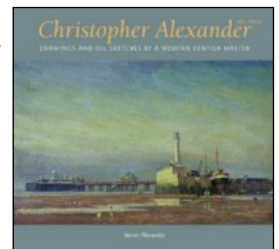
Some more of Arnold Schwartzman's collection of posters designed by F. Gregory Brown for Bobby & Co Ltd who had stores in Margate High Street and in Northdown Road, Cliftonville as well as in a number of other coastal towns including Bournemouth and Torquay



Painting: *Margate Jetty & Harbour* by Christopher Alexander



The above painting of Margate Jetty and Harbour is the work of Christopher Alexander and a book on the artist and his artwork was published earlier this year. The book *Christopher Alexander: Drawings and Oil Sketches by a Modern Kentish Master* has been written by his son Steven, who is also an artist. I had seen the book for sale in the University of Kent Bookshop and read that Christopher Alexander, amongst other teaching posts, had taught art and drawing in the 1950s at the former Thanet School of Art & Crafts in Hawley Square. Knowing that Arnold Schwartzman* had attended that Art School, I invited Arnold to write a few words about Christopher Alexander for inclusion in our Newsletter and he very kindly replied as follows:



The cover of Steven Alexander's book

In 1951, at age of 15, I enrolled for evening classes at the Thanet School of Art & Crafts, Hawley Square. Shortly after, I became a full-time student there. Among my favourite tutors was Christopher Alexander, a young graduate from the Royal College of Art, who taught me the rudiments of drawing. I envied Chris's long tresses but most of all his fine draughtsmanship. After a two-year period at Margate, I obtained my intermediate certificate. I then went on to Canterbury College of Art for a further three years where Chris continued to tutor me until I obtained my National Diploma in 1955. I owe what drawing skills I may have garnered to the teaching of Chris Alexander. Sadly, he died at an early age. Many of Margate-born Christopher Alexander's paintings are a wonderful chronicle of a bygone Thanet and I believe his artwork is much deserving of a local retrospective exhibition.

The book is fully illustrated and contains superb reproductions of a good number of Christopher Alexander's super paintings of local scenes as well as many drawings of individuals. Much of the artwork dates from the 1950s and '60s. The book is published in hardback at £29.99 and is highly recommended. I am advised that copies of the book are held in local public libraries should you wish to first see the book. □

* Arnold Schwartzman

Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI later became a full-time illustrator for the Sunday Times, Radio Times, Vogue, etc. He is presently a member of the Board of Governors of The University for the Creative Arts, of which Canterbury College of Art became one of its several campuses.

Arnold requires no introduction to members of our Society. Despite living in Hollywood, California, Arnold is one of our most stalwart members. He is a regular contributor to the Newsletter (see his latest super contribution on pages 4 & 5 of this issue), has given talks to our members and is, of course, Patron of the Society's Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project. On behalf of the Society, I thank Arnold for all that he does to support our Society.

JB

An original art installation in Godwin Road, Cliftonville

If you haven't yet seen the new art installation at 1 Godwin Road, Cliftonville, it simply has to be seen to be believed. It features the facade of a former vacant house which appears to have slid down a floor. In reality, the original facade of the building was removed and a new facade constructed using, in part, curved bricks. It is described as an outdoor sculpture and is by the British London-based artist Alex Chinneck. The art installation was opened on 1st October 2013 and it will remain in place for a year. After that, the future of the building is uncertain. It has to be said that it is highly original and quite eye-catching to anyone passing by. Whether it will attract art lovers to Cliftonville, however, remains to be seen. Certainly, its location could be said to be somewhat remote for day-visitors to the town arriving by train. Strangely, the new facade is reminiscent of the Georgian style of domestic architecture, yet Cliftonville was not developed (as Margate's New Town) until the second half of the nineteenth century. For that reason, the architecture of the art installation really does not fit the environment. The art installation was named by the artist as *From the knees of my nose to the belly of my toes*. All of the photographs on this page were taken on the day of the opening. □

JB



The art installation as seen from a 'cherry-picker' on the day of the opening



This photograph was taken at street level. To achieve the appearance of the net curtains following the curvature of the bricks, the window panes were made using two layers of curved polycarbonate with the net curtains placed in between



The artist Alex Chinneck at the opening of his art installation which he named From the knees of my nose to the belly of my toes



If you haven't been along to see it yet, you should do so. You might even like it!

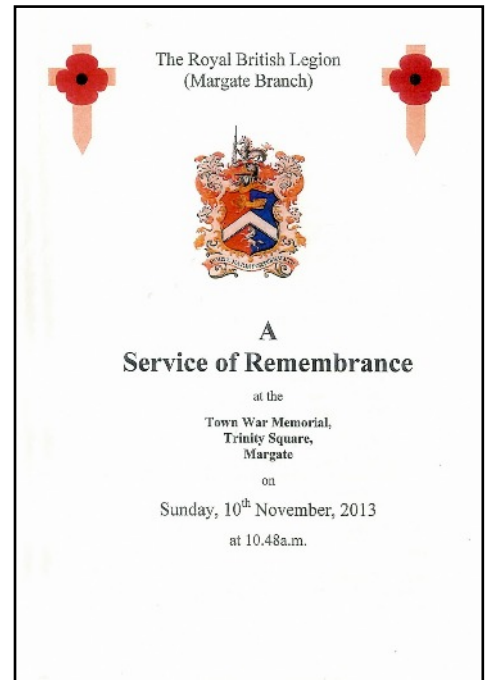


It was good to see Isle of Thanet Gazette reporters Thomas Brown and Jodie Nesling at the opening

Remembrance Sunday at Margate War Memorial



The scene at Margate War Memorial in Trinity Square on Remembrance Sunday (10th November) when the townsfolk honoured the fallen at the annual Service of Remembrance. The moving ceremony was once again organised by the Margate Branch of the Royal British Legion. As can be see from this photograph, it was a clear autumn day - just perfect for the occasion



The Order of Service that was printed for the Service of Remembrance



Some of the many wooden crosses in memory of family members who had sacrificed their lives in war

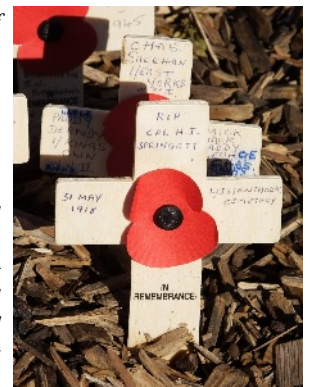


Two of the many wreaths that were laid at Margate War Memorial during this year's Service of Remembrance. The wreath on the left was laid by the Mayor and Mayoress of Margate, Cllr John Edwards and Mrs Pat Edwards. The wreath below was from the President of Margate Rotary Club



Some of the dignitaries who laid wreaths during the Service of Remembrance on behalf of the armed services and other organisations

A close-up photograph of one of the many wooden crosses planted in the garden of remembrance behind the War Memorial. This particular wooden cross was planted in memory of Corporal Henry John Springett, 255th Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers who was killed in action, aged 26, on 31st May 1918. He lies in Lijssehaek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium. His name is inscribed on Margate War Memorial



The Silence of Knitting: An act of remembrance on Armistice Day



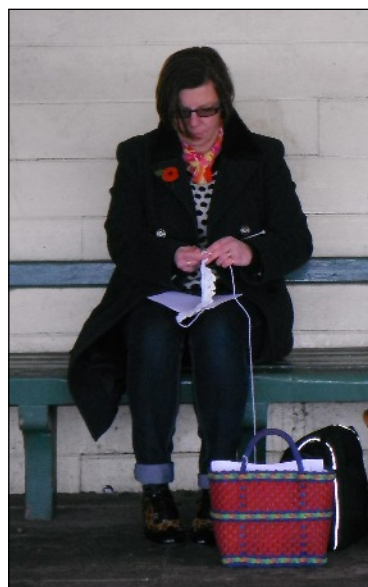
These photographs were taken during The Silence of Knitting event held at the Edwardian public shelter in Marine Drive from shortly before 11.00am on Monday, 11th November 2013. The event was part of a national art project The Silent Cacophony exploring silence during war and conflict. Twelve knitters gathered at the shelter shortly before the event and each, in turn, dispersed separately after reading aloud their knitting pattern to the remaining knitters. The Silence of Knitting explored the act of knitting comforts

for servicemen during both world wars and the unspoken, silent words of hope, love and good luck that each stitch represented. The event lasted around twenty minutes.

It was a moving event particularly when the Clock Tower clock struck eleven o'clock for the commencement of the two-minutes' silence. However, it has to be said that whilst the knitters knitted in total silence, the continuous flow of traffic passing the shelter ensured that silence was in short supply during the event. □



Jenny Duff



Local artist Dawn Cole who organised The Silence of Knitting event



Dan Chilcott

Four years earlier - do you remember this other artwork held at the same location?



By coincidence, this photograph was taken shortly after eleven o'clock on 11th November 2009 (Armistice Day) - four years to the hour after the above photographs of The Silence of Knitting event took place this year



The 'lace' knitted by Dawn Cole during The Silence of Knitting event held at Margate on Armistice Day 2013. Inside the card, seen in the above photograph, was a reference to the shelter overlooking the sea off Margate where the German Zeppelin L15 crashed in 1916 after being shot down by anti-aircraft fire

Little things mean a lot



The original sign - photograph taken in September 2012



The re-painted sign - photograph taken in October 2013

Many older residents will fondly remember Lyons Teashop in Margate Lower High Street. The sign (top) above the door at 40 High Street was all that was left of the former teashop which closed in the 1950s. When the photograph of the original sign was taken in September 2012, the sign was barely legible. The developers of The Sands Hotel took the opportunity to re-paint the original sign - a little touch which certainly adds interest to this part of the High Street which has seen huge improvement during the last year and is much appreciated by those who hold so many happy memories of our wonderful town. □

The Flight Team

By sheer good luck, I just happened to leave Turner Contemporary with my wife, Sue, as The Flight Team 'landed' outside the gallery's cafe. The three-person 'crew' - Clive Holland as the captain, Steven Crane as the navigator and Emily Parrish as the stewardess - then proceeded to put on a magnificent performance and I have to admit that my first thought was that Virgin Airways were putting on a commercial. However, when the stewardess handed me an 'Isle of Thanet Passport' I realised that things were not as I had first thought. The 'crew' went through the standard air-safety procedures with all the hand gestures before announcing their flight departure. Loud music from the Lighthouse Bar could clearly be heard in the background and the song being played was a cover version of Harry Nilsson's huge hit from 1969 *Everybody's talkin'* with the magical verse:

I'm going where the sun keeps shining

Thru' the pouring rain

Going where the weather suits my clothes

Backing off of the North East winds

Sailing on a summer breeze

And skipping over the ocean like a stone.

The evocative sound of that song whilst the 'crew' took off and 'flew' along The Parade was simply magical. It all happened within a few minutes but the choreography of their performance was simply unforgettable. By good fortune, I had my camera to hand and was able to run off a series of photographs



of The Flight Team's superb performance. I hope that the pictures on the following page will convey the atmosphere of the occasion. Do look out for these thespians. They are very, very good indeed!

For more pictures of this troupe's memorable performance outside Turner Contemporary, see page 11 of this issue. □

JB

Clive Holland - whose Ramsgate-based theatre company Mischievous Theatre recently put on the acclaimed production of *Pugin* at the King's Theatre, Ramsgate - has been an actor, writer, director, producer and workshop leader for over thirty years.

More Conservation Areas in Cliftonville?

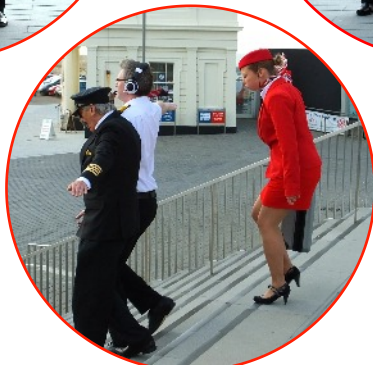
As this issue of the Newsletter was nearing completion, news came in that a meeting was to be held in the Council Chamber, Thanet District Council Offices at 6.00pm on 2nd December 2013 to discuss the current position regarding the designation of six more Conservation Areas in Cliftonville West. Representatives of residents' groups in Cliftonville have been invited to the meeting with Councillors and Council Officers. It is hoped that a report on the meeting will be published in the next issue of our Newsletter. It is understood that the meeting was requested by Cllr Will Scobie at a recent meeting of the Council.

At present, there is only once Conservation Area in Cliftonville - the Dalby Square area. It has been proposed that a further six areas in Cliftonville West be designated as Conservation Areas by Thanet District Council. □

The Flight Team perform at Turner Contemporary



The Isle of Thanet Passport contained details of the thespians' forthcoming stage performances throughout Thanet



This highly original performance took place outside Turner Contemporary during the afternoon of Sunday, 6th October 2013

First tranche of Time Ball Appeal monies handed over to Thanet District Council on 28th November 2013



This photograph, taken in the Council Chamber, shows the Leader of Thanet District Council, Cllr Clive Hart, receiving a cheque from Ralph Handscomb, President of Margate Civic Society and Lynda Smith, Chairman of the Society's Clock Tower Time Ball Restoration Project Sub-Committee. Also in the photograph is Cllr Iris Johnston, Deputy Town Mayor of Margate and TDC Cabinet Member for Community Services. The cheque, for £7,105, is the first tranche of monies to be handed over from the Society to TDC which is commissioning the necessary works to the Time Ball for it to be brought back into operation next year. Further funds need to be collected by the Society in order to meet the full costs of the restoration which is the local community's commemoration of HM Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Please do help our appeal. □

Ethelbert Crescent in Edwardian times

This superb Edwardian postcard shows Ethelbert Crescent (including the imposing Cliftonville Hotel) & Gardens superimposed with the town crest and - somewhat surprisingly - an image of the Goodwin Sands. The Pulhamite artificial rockery can be seen in the bottom right-hand corner of this postcard. Sadly, this part of Cliftonville has changed almost beyond recognition. However, many of the once elegant houses remain and it is hoped that this area will see much regeneration in the coming years. Certainly, there are signs that this is already happening. □





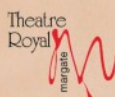
THEATRE ROYAL MARGATE
Margate Civic Society
in association with
THE THANET
FESTIVAL CHOIR

present
A MUSICAL CELEBRATION

Spring Programme
Saturday, 24th May 2014, at 4pm

Tickets £7.50

Box Office: 01843 292795



www.theatreroyal margate.com

Proceeds to benefit
The Margate Jubilee Clock Tower
Time Ball Restoration Fund
in celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth II's
Diamond Jubilee

Designed by Arnold Schwartzman

‘Land Art’ at Westbrook Bay

Kent Coastal Week 2013 was launched at Margate on Sunday, 27th October. The theme of its various events and activities was to raise awareness of the ever-changing dynamic coastline, including the future possible effects and adaptations needed to meet the effects of ‘climate change’. The countywide launch event was entitled The Changing Coast at Margate and involved stalls, exhibits and activities at both The Piazza and at Droit House. At The Piazza the undercover stalls were manned by representatives from Coastal Communities 2150, London Array, Southern Water and Visit Thanet. At Droit House, Thanet Coastal Project mounted a static display and slide-show demonstrating how Thanet’s coastline had changed over the last century.

My wife, Sue, and I decided to walk from Westbrook to Margate to visit the various stalls that day and it was whilst walking along the promenade at Westbrook that we noticed a



number of young adults on the sands creating various designs using pieces of chalk that had been washed up on the sands. Not going anywhere without my camera, I took the opportunity to photograph some of their creations and to speak to Adam Burgess, one of the young persons who had designed some of those creations. He very kindly explained what he and his colleagues were doing that day.

He told me that he and colleagues were Art Foundation students from Barton Peveril sixth form College at Eastleigh and that, as Art Foundation students, they had come to Margate with their tutor to take in the landscape and the art which it holds. He told me that they were drawn by Margate's art history and were inspired to create artworks of their own. “What was great about Margate was the space and the sands”. He also told me: “Many of us saw this as a great opportunity to create pieces of 'Land Art' and create shapes and symbols which would surely fade away, but make an impact on the location before they were washed away or covered up by the sand, or even destroyed through human impact.” Adam had created a few pieces along the sands, primarily of simple shapes, including some balancing stones (with the assistance of two fellow students). He told



Another creation of ‘Land Art’ at Westbrook Bay

me that the balancing stones were primarily to represent culture or the history of a given place. Many people had pointed out to him that it almost like a miniature

Stonehenge, whereas most people believed it to be a mushroom patch or just a scatter of white rocks. The formation and act of balancing stones reminded him of Aztec architecture and of community and culture.

It was a real pleasure to speak to Adam and for him to take the trouble to explain what he was doing and for him to tell me how taken he was with his first visit to Margate.

I told Adam about the RIBA Sandcastle Challenge that had been held on Margate Sands earlier in the year and he very kindly subsequently put me in touch with his tutor, Toby Saville who very kindly explained a creation of his own ‘100 Stones’ at Westbrook Sands as follows:

The piece in question was a response to a chance meeting of time and place at Westbrook Bay on Sunday 27th October. As I considered constructing a sculptural line from the uniquely white stones at the back of the beach I sought to make a simple visual statement about what was around me and record that through the most direct medium I could. A nearby chiming clock sounded out the start of a 10-minute piece of work with its 10 chimes at 10.00am. The length and angle of the shadow cast across the sand from a beach sign post seemed to be the most simple statement about time and place and so the chance idea became clear. 10 minutes to align 10 piles of 10 stones equally spaced out along the exact length of a shadow of a sign at 10.00am!

I was interested to return to the site to observe the constant movement of the shadow as the day progressed. The shadow rotated out from the base of the stone line and the combination of the stone line and the silent and gradually shifting shadow simply behaved like clock hands - marking the passing of time.

Thanks to Margate for providing us with a unique setting to explore creative ideas!

With kind regards,

Toby Saville

*Art Foundation and ‘A’ Level Tutor
Barton Peveril Sixth Form College*

It was by chance that my wife and I had stumbled across these imaginative examples of ‘Land Art’ during our walk into Margate to attend the Changing Coast of Margate event. Indeed, it was probably a coincidence that Barton Peveril Sixth Form College should choose to visit Margate that day but I am pleased that they did and even more pleased that I should meet such pleasant young people who clearly were thoroughly enjoying their visit to Margate that day.

Meeting some of the students and seeing their creations of ‘Land Art’ certainly made for a most memorable day. □

JB

What's On

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

Date	Subject
2014	
6th February	'Artistic Thanet' by Richard Lewis
6th March	'The History of RAF Manston' by Bob Barnham (subject to confirmation)
3rd April	An illustrated talk on the artwork of Christopher Alexander given by his son, Steven Alexander (subject to confirmation)
8th May	Presentation of Town Pride Awards 2014 followed by a talk by Rory McEvoy, Curator of Horology, Royal Observatory Greenwich



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

Date	Subject
2014	
4th January	"From bandstand to pavilion" - " <i>We cannot live on air alone</i> " The opinion expressed by Lewis Haismer at the Public meeting of the Westgate Parish Council in 1922, summed up the ongoing controversy about Westgate and its entertainment – or lack of it!
1st February	Financial scandal! How the great bankruptcy of February 1884 affected Westgate for half a century, leaving it in the hands of the bankers.
1st March	1894 – A Parish Council for Westgate on Sea - at last Westgate on Sea really existed! What difference did it make? – And were the Westgatonians happy?
5th April	What's New? As the meeting last August - when members talked about their discoveries - was such a success, members will again be invited to talk about what new information they have discovered about Westgate's people and its built environment.

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

Christmas Quiz

The photograph on the right shows a building being used as the Headquarters of the 6th (Thanet) Battalion, Kent Home Guard (KT6). Can you identify where this building stood and what it was used for before its use as the HQ of the local Home Guard?

The photograph on the left is a close-up of the large notice-board shown at the front of the building.

The answer will be published in the Spring Newsletter. □



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.

Committee for 2013/14:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

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

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(e-mail: rogerhayes365@gmail.com)

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

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Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £

Name:

Address:

Tel: **e-mail:**

Subscription rates for 2013/14:

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Life Membership	£75.00	£100.00	—	—

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

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Electronic Newsletter means you will have a full-colour copy e-mailed to you which you can view on screen or print