

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



**Summer 2016**  
**Newsletter**  
**Issue No. 383**



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

It is very good news that the squabble over the splitting of Margate Charter Trustees' assets with Westgate-on-Sea Town Council is now over. The Town Council had received more than £50,000 from the Charter Trustees but - like Oliver - had wanted even more. The squabble had run from an early meeting of Westgate Parish Council (as it was originally named) and continued until their meeting on 4th April 2016 when it was finally agreed not to pursue the matter any further. Had the Town Council chosen to have pursued the matter, it would have resulted in the dispute being referred to an arbiter as required under the terms of the Order which created Westgate Parish Council. The involvement of an arbiter would, undoubtedly, have resulted in legal costs being met by either (or both) the Town Council and the Charter Trustees. Commonsense on the part of the Town Council finally prevailed and the matter has now been put to rest - after many hours of fruitless deliberation by the Town Council. Amazingly, the Town Council then failed to inform the Charter Trustees of the Town Council's decision taken in April regarding the splitting of the Charter Trustees' assets. The news of that decision was first passed on to the Charter Trustees by a member of the public on 21st April 2016 at the lighting of Margate's beacon at The Fort to mark HM The Queen's 90th Birthday.

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council has now been in existence for a little over one year. During that time, it has had five Clerks (latterly Town Clerks) and when it came to setting its first Budget, it had five different versions from which to choose. When it did select which version to approve, the Town Council thought that they had approved a no-increase-in-precept budget but then found that it had, inadvertently, approved a 5.1% increase in its precept.

At its meeting in May 2016, the Town Council elected its Chairman for 2016/17. Of the eight other councillors present at that meeting (the tenth councillor had sent his apologies for absence), only three councillors voted in favour of Cllr Tom King being re-elected as Chairman and four councillors voted in favour of Cllr Dave Morrish, with one councillor abstaining. Cllr King then exercised his casting vote in his favour and, by the skin of his teeth, was re-elected for a second year. The Vice-Chairman (Cllr Ron Rolfe) was not so lucky. He was not even nominated as Vice-Chairman for 2016/17: there was only one nomination (Cllr Martyn Pennington) who was duly elected. By way of contrast, at the Mayor-Making ceremony at Margate later that month, both Cllr Robin Edwards and Cllr Rosamund Dixon were returned unchallenged as Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively. What a difference! □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

## Welcome to new members

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

Philip Evans  
Paul & Jacqui Cooper

We are very sorry to report the recent passing of two of our long-standing members who were both regular attendees at our meetings: Mrs Hilda Jennings and Mr Ron Wassell. We extend our sincere condolences to their families and friends in their sad loss.

**Roger Hayes**  
Membership Secretary

## Civic Voice Design Awards 2016

Eleven schemes across England received Civic Voice Design Awards at a Parliamentary event held in London on 24th May. It was very pleasing that, amongst those eleven, was the Scenic Railway at Dreamland which received the Restoration Category Judges' Special Mention Award. The overall winner this year was Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool New Build Category. The Road of Remembrance War Poppies at Folkestone won the Public Realm Category Judges' Special Award. The Scenic Railway had only a few days earlier won our own Society's 2016 Town Pride Plaque and Certificate (see also page 2). □

**JB**



*Steve Villette (representing Margate Civic Society) with representatives of TDC and the Dreamland Trust receiving the Civic Voice Award at Portcullis House, London*

## Civic Day 2016

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June**

Due to circumstances beyond our control, it is - with regret - announced that the Society will not be participating in Civic Day this year. The Society has participated in this national event, which is overseen by Civic Voice, every year since Civic Voice was founded some six years ago.

It is expected that the Society will participate in Civic Day next year and we apologise to those members who were looking forward to supporting our Society at this year's event. □

**Pamela Pople**  
Chairman

# Presentation of the Society's 2016 Town Pride Awards

The results of the judging of this year's prestigious Town Pride awards were announced by our Chairman, Pamela Pople, at our meeting held on Thursday, 9th May at The Walpole Bay Hotel. Pamela reported on the high standard of the refurbishment works and of the attractive architecture of the new developments for all the properties nominated by members of the Society for this year's Town Pride awards and our President, Ralph Handscomb presented the awards in the presence of Mrs Dorothy Collins (Mayor of Margate) and Geoffrey Dixon, (Consort of the Deputy Mayor). The Mayor (Cllr Robin Edwards) and his fellow TDC Councillors were unable to attend our meeting due to a TDC meeting starting at 7.00pm on the same day - although the Mayor did manage to get along to our meeting later on in the evening after the TDC meeting had finished and he was made very welcome by the Society.

Pamela Pople, who organised the event, said "I should like to thank KCC Cllrs Mo Elenor and Will Scobie for their support in providing five years' funding towards this project, which enabled us to commission Croft Cast Signs to create a bespoke new durable blue plaque depicting the Margate Clock Tower, which has become a symbol of our Society. I am delighted once again that we received nominations of a very high calibre, resulting in one Town Pride winner this year and five 'Highly Commended', each of which was diverse, reflecting the exceptional high standard of new projects that have been undertaken in the local area, which will contribute greatly in raising its ethos and a sense of pride in our community."

This year, the Panel decided to award one Town Pride Plaque & Certificate and five Town Pride Commendation Certificates as follows:

The **Town Pride Plaque & Certificate** was awarded to:

The Scenic Railway, Dreamland, Marine Terrace  
and the five **Town Pride Highly Commended Certificates** were awarded to:

1, 2 & 5 Surrey Road & Nautical Mews, Cliftonville

The Beach Houses, Westbrook

5 Zion Place, Cliftonville

Smugglers' Cottage, 7 Lombard Street, Margate

The London Tavern, Addington Street, Margate



*Pamela Pople announcing the results of the judging for this year's Town Pride Awards at the Walpole Bay Hotel on 9th May 2016*



*The Scenic Railway - Awarded Town Pride Plaque and Certificate  
L to R: Ralph Handscomb, Andrew Baker (Director, Dreamland Trust), Nick Dermott BEM  
(TDC's Heritage Advisor) and Pamela Pople*



*The Scenic Railway, Dreamland,  
Marine Terrace, Margate*





*1, 2 & 3 Surrey Road & Nautical Mews, Cliftonville*

This development is a transformation of the site of the former Leslie Hotel in Surrey Road. The development comprises three town houses at the front (as seen above) and two mews-style houses behind. The project involved a number of organisations including KCC, TDC and the Homes & Community Agency.



*1, 2 & 3 Surrey Road & Nautical Mews, Cliftonville - Awarded Commendation Certificate. L to R: Ralph Handscomb, Donald Farquharson, Executive Head, Capital Programmes, KCC and Pamela Pople*



*The Beach Houses, Westbrook Promenade - Commendation Certificate  
L to R: Mike Pearson (Guy Holloway Architects), Mike Darling (W W Martin Ltd), John Harriss (Harriss Property Ltd), Ian Posnett (W W Martin Ltd) and Phillip Pick (Harriss Property Ltd)*



*The Beach Houses, overlooking Westbrook Promenade, Margate*

These new quality contemporary seafront properties are part of the larger former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital project. The Beach Houses involved Harriss Property Ltd working in partnership with award-winning Guy Holloway Architects and W. W. Martin Ltd.



*5 Zion Place, Cliftonville*

For many years, this site remained in a derelict state but has now been transformed with the construction of this property to complete the terrace. The choice of materials, particularly the timber-framed sash-windows, has ensured that the property makes a welcome and fitting addition to the street scene. The development is seen as an enormous asset to Zion Place and to Cliftonville as a whole.



*5 Zion Place, Cliftonville - Awarded Commendation Certificate  
L to R: Torquil Peters, Steve Rampling and Martin Spence*





*Smugglers' Cottage, 7 Lombard Street, Margate*

This is a very sensitive, thoughtful and rather special restoration of a Grade II listed cottage in Margate Old Town. The project involved the owners, Gary & Margit Pond, in partnership working with a local contractor, G & W Gardner, architect Sam Causer and structural engineer Tim Baker with support from Nick Dermott, TDC's Heritage Advisor, and Martin Parnell, TDC's Building Control Officer. The property joins an ever-increasing number of excellent restorations within the Old Town, further enhancing the area considerably.

*Gary & Margit Pond of Smugglers' Cottage, 7 Lombard Street - Awarded Commendation Certificate*



*The London Tavern, Addington Street, Margate*

public house. The interior of the property in particular is definitely worth seeing. □

The name of this two-storey 18th century hostelry in Addington Street has, following a most sympathetic restoration, reverted to its original name and has been transformed into an up-market restaurant and



*The London Tavern, Addington Street - Awarded Commendation Certificate  
L to R: Carl Hilliard, Nancy & Joe Bradley*

## Two Blue Plaques now installed at the Harbour Steps in Marine Drive



At last year's Civic Voice Design Awards, the Harbour Steps was announced as the winner of their Public Realm Category and was awarded a blue plaque by Civic Voice. The previous year (2014), the Harbour Steps had been the winner of Margate Civic Society's Town Pride awards and



it was decided that a plaque, similar in style to that of Civic Voice's should be duly commissioned by Margate Civic Society for the Harbour Steps and for subsequent years' winners of the Town Pride Awards. The two plaques were finally installed side-by-side in May 2016. □



## Bruges visit 24th May 2016



*This group photo was taken immediately after everyone (including the driver) had disembarked from the Carol Peters coach and before everyone had gone their separate ways to explore the many delights of Bruges. As can be seen, not everyone was paying attention to the photographer!*

Forty-six members of our Society and friends paid a most memorable visit to the Belgian city of Bruges - the Venice of the North" - on Tuesday, 24th May. It was fitting that the visit took place on that date as it was the anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth and the date exactly two years earlier that the Society had successfully raised funds to reinstate the operation of the Time Ball on Margate's Clock Tower which was erected in 1889 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. Many older members will also remember that the 24th May was Empire Day and remained so until it was renamed Commonwealth Day in 1958 and the date changed to the second Monday in March each year.

The weather in Bruges was relatively kind to us (it did not rain) and most of our group managed to fit in visits to chocolateries, lace sellers, cafes, bars, the Cathedral Church of St Saviour, and a good number went on boat trips around Bruges' canals. Pony-and-traps were available for hire in

the Market Place although it is not known whether any of our group took advantage of them or even climbed the steps to the top of the Belfry. There was no shortage of things to do or of places to visit. The only shortage was of time. Nevertheless, we had four hours in Bruges and a lot can be squeezed into four hours - as many of the party will confirm. One of our group, who shall be nameless, had an unintended extended visit involving an overnight stay - but all ended OK in the end thanks to the generosity of our tour organiser. It all made for a most memorable visit following our successful visit to Dunkirk last year. We are indeed very fortunate, living so close to the Continent as we do, that we are able to make day visits to a number of places which from other parts of our country necessitate three- or four-days visits to enjoy their sights and other attractions. The following photographs illustrate some of the many attractions of Bruges. I hope that you will enjoy them. □

**JB**



*Richard & Glenys Clements with Pamela & Ray Pople looking forward to their boat-trip*



*A selection of views showing the canals of Bruges*



*This fine monument dominates the Market Place →*





## Some ways to see Bruges



## Shops to entice in Bruges



*One of Bruges' well-known chocolateries...*



*...and another of Bruges' well-known chocolateries...*



*...and who could resist sampling one of these mouth-watering delicacies seen in a confectionary shop-window display?*



*A beautifully arranged shop-window display of Belgian lace*



## ...and some of the architectural and heritage features of Bruges



*Jan Breydel and Pieter de Coninck are patriotic heroes in Belgium for, in 1309, leading an uprising in Bruges against the French. The inscription on the back of the stone pedestal records that the memorial was erected in 1887 - which, coincidentally, was the year as Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee for which Margate Clock Tower was erected - two years late - in 1889. Cars have not been permitted to park in the Market Place since 1997. However, pedestrians need to be constantly aware of the number of cyclists crossing the Market Place heading in all directions and often at high speed*



*The the Chapel of the Holy Blood was restored in 1830*



*Above: This fine model of the Belfry is made of bronze and is specifically provided for the blind.*

*Explanatory text is provided in braille in a number of languages*



*The Belfry*



*Three former merchants' houses - the centre one is dated 1626*



*This house dates from 1675*



*The Recorder's Office dates from 1535-37*



*The upper storeys of the magnificent Hotel de Ville*

### **A big THANK YOU to Mike Wilton**

Our day-trip to Bruges was another success story for our Society and thanks must go, in particular, to Mike Wilton - our Treasurer - for organising the trip, for ensuring that it all went off well on the day and for his invaluable assistance the following day in resolving the problem that had been left behind the previous day. □



# Memories of Margate

by Brian Sacks

*On a recent visit to Margate, Arnold Schwartzman spoke to your Editor regarding the possibility of an article from Brian Sacks on his memories of Margate in the 1950s and '60s. I thought that such an article would fit very nicely into our Summer Newsletter and contacted Brian Sacks to thank him for his very kind offer. Brian Sacks is a writer and his brother, Jonathan, is Rabbi Lord Sacks having previously been Chief Rabbi (Lord Sacks can often be heard on BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day). As Editor, I am extremely grateful both to Arnold for facilitating this article and to Brian Sacks for writing of his memories of the many happy summer holidays he and his family spent at Margate over 50 years ago.*  
- Ed

I am a Londoner, an authentic Cockney, born within the sound of Bow Bells. I spent my childhood, together with my parents and three brothers, in Finchley, North London. But for one month a year, throughout the 1950s and '60s, our household relocated 80 miles eastward. Its new setting was Margate's genteel next-door-neighbour, Cliftonville. But to us boys it was Margate, and the name conjured up magic.

Every year, in late July, we would each pack our child-sized suitcase to spend a month's holiday away (in the first year or two that I can remember, it was five or six weeks away). When I was ten, eleven or twelve – this was the early-1960s - I would typically pack my case with a couple of Richmal Crompton *Just William* books, two or three board games and some bats and ping-pong balls. I wouldn't dream of packing clothes; that was Mum's department.

My preparation for the holiday would have begun early in the year. I remember that at age eleven, in my last year at primary school, my pocket money was one shilling per week. I saved up for 20 weeks to accumulate the pound that would see me comfortably through my time in Margate.

The Margate experience had its own ritual, an ordered sequence of steps, each one carried out just once a year for this one purpose. My father bringing the ladder upstairs and the luggage cases down from the loft; my father securing the roof rack to the car and the luggage to the roof rack before setting off on the journey. The journey took us through the hallowed Blackwall Tunnel, in which the car noise echoed back in a low-pitched whistle, syncopated into

sections corresponding to the sections of the tunnel walls. Once we were beyond London and speeding along the A2 (before the days of the motorway M2) we watched to see how high the speedometer-needle went. Our record was 83 mph, this being before the days of the 70 mph speed limit. We considered that speed to be close to the physical limit for a production car, much as the speed of light was the overall physical limit to speed in the universe. As we headed into the final 20 miles of the journey, we watched for the first two-toned cream and mauve East Kent bus and for the first glimpse of the sea. Journey's end was a detached house, 12 Avenue Gardens, which my family shared for the month with my cousins June and Philip Gordon and their daughter Susan.

On arrival, the grown-ups busied themselves bringing cutlery and crockery out of storage, cleaning rooms and making beds. Within a day, Dad and Philip had the task of taking the panels of the canvas beach-hut out from the garage and down to the Palm Bay beach. They then set up the hut on the same spot as each previous year, behind the platform, a few yards to the west of Sackett's Gap.

My father would normally stay with us for the first week, before travelling back to London and to his shop for the middle weeks of the holiday. He would return to Margate

for the weekends, and for the final week of the holiday. He loved walking, and I and my brothers would often walk with him along the cliff-top to the "Captain Digby" inn, a mile and a half each way, with an ice cream as our reward.

The days in Margate had a reassuring sameness and structure. During the mornings, the women - my mother, June and our home-help Ada – cooked and shopped. Sometimes I and my brothers would accompany my mother to the shops, or else we played: cricket in the back garden, putting on the nearby green, or cricket, frisbee or, with limited success, kite-flying, on the cliff-top. Sometimes, I would walk along the Northdown

Road, destination Woolworths, WH Smith's or one of the bookshops. Or I would run along the promenade to The Lido, with nine pence in my hand as my passport to slot-machine diversion. The Lido was a semi-subterranean amusement arcade - all that was visible above ground was the 40-foot-high beacon that displayed the Lido name. I remember one of the amusement machines where the different options featured black-and-white photos of Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner and other film stars - so I learned their names many years before I ever saw them in films. I spent many a penny on the vertical pinball



Jonathan, Libby (Mum), Alan, Brian, Louis (Dad) and Eliot  
at Palm Bay around 1963



machines where one needed to get the ball to land in one of the holes in the middle of the 'clock face' rather than the hole at the bottom; and to some extent I learnt the knack and could almost break even on those machines.

One year, most probably when I was 13, June and Philip had come down to Margate with their dog, and on several mornings I ran to Broadstairs and back together with the dog on its lead. Strange to relate, there were two years during which I consistently studied in the morning: when I was twelve and preparing for my bar mitzvah, and when I was 14 and studying for the School Certificate Hebrew Examination that I was to take that October. But those two years were exceptions. For much more of the time, mornings were a time of freedom, walking along the wide, brightly-gravelled cliff-top promenade, my mind exulting in a current chart hit that captured the euphoria of that special time – "San Francisco", by Scott McKenzie or "Something in the Air" by Thunderclap Newman. Perhaps my mood was enhanced by the salt-water seaside air, the most invigorating that I have ever inhaled.

Margate lunch would be shepherd's pie, not quite up to my mother's unsurpassable London standards, but wonderful nevertheless. After lunch, we packed up a sturdy wheeled basket with the provisions and towels we would need for the afternoon, and walked down to our Palm Bay beach hut. In more recent years, Palm Bay has lost out as a resort to foreign competition, but back then it was still in its heyday. In August the beach was filled with holiday makers. Children were digging holes and building sand castles, adults were relaxing in their deck chairs, playing quoits or carving up the waters in their speedboats. As far as we boys were concerned, it was the best beach in the known world. The bay was dominated by a huge platform, standing on metal columns six feet above the sand, accommodating beach huts, an ice cream kiosk and a cafe. Along the shoreline there was a large bank of seaweed, and my father used to take some of it back for his mother to add to her bath.

Afternoons on the beach during those '60s summers were spent beneath blue skies – or so my memory tells me. Actually, I and my brothers took a statistical interest in Margate weather, because the Evening Standard maintained a "Sunshine League", recording the hours of sunshine, daily and cumulatively over the summer, for the country's main seaside resorts. Margate normally maintained a respectable position in the top half of the table, rather like Tottenham Hotspur in the Football League. The winners were always Jersey (somewhat unfairly included in this English league), Shanklin and Eastbourne.

My brother Jonathan and I liked to dig very large holes on the beach – mine would be up to five feet deep, more than my own height. Jonathan noted that these holes could be disguised by constructing a cover of newspaper and spreading sand over it; but I am sure that he never allowed

any mischievous consequence to come to pass. Another diversion was to polish copper coins in the sand so that they shone like new. That of course was in the pre-decimalisation days when pennies and half-pennies were sizeable coins that had real value. On a related subject, spending a penny – literally – at the beach for us meant clambering up the stairs of the platform that dominated Palm Bay, running over hot concrete past the beach huts, up four wooden steps and past the ice cream kiosk and cafe, back down another four wooden steps, over more hot concrete and then along a boardwalk to reach a gents' toilet built into the cliff at the far end of the bay. In my mind I can still hear the clatter of my feet on that boardwalk. Inside the toilet, I would pop my old penny into a brass slot to enter a cubicle where my sandy feet would make their imprint in the sand-and-urine paste of those who had come before.

Beach afternoons always included a trip up to the kiosk for ice cream. Mine was often a neapolitan wafer, its vanilla, strawberry and chocolate sections leaving their corresponding colouring on the sides of card in which it was packaged. Normally, afternoon tea was made from the provisions that we had brought down from the house, but occasionally for a treat we would visit the cafe on the platform. I have memories of cheese straws and of the novel experience of sliding my tray along canteen rails.

Our evening treat once or twice a week was a visit to the Dreamland fun-fair park. When I was young I enjoyed "hooking the duck". Once hooked, the plastic duck was inverted to reveal the painted number that indicated the little prize that one had won. But the attraction of that stall diminished with advancing age, to be supplanted by more active attractions: the dodgems, the electric cars (until I crashed, causing a painful meeting between nose and steering wheel), the

helter-skelter, the rollercoaster and the ghost train. At the end of the evening we would make our way out to the seafront road, a golden furlong of slot-machine-and-bingo arcades. Young and older generation alike would indulge in two or three games of bingo, testing their luck against two dozen other players for prizes worth about ten or twelve shillings.



In August 2008, I returned for a sentimental journey with my daughter Jessica. Neighbouring Broadstairs was thriving, its beach and streets were busy. But the Margate sea-front was uninviting and Cliftonville seemed a shadow of its former self. Its hotels had been demolished or converted into flats; Palm Bay beach was deserted and neglected. So it was really heartening to return a few years later on a glorious May bank holiday and see the beaches crowded again. Margate is back on the rise. I look forward to soon visiting a Dreamland restored to its former magnificence. And then, in a few more years, to sharing the joy with my grandchildren! □

**Brian Sacks**



*Brian, Ruth Raphael (cousin), Jonathan and Alan  
at Palm Bay around 1959*



## Margate celebrates HM The Queen's 90th Birthday - 21st April 2016



*The Mayor of Margate, Cllr Robin Edwards, reads the Royal Proclamation before lighting the beacon. The Mayoress is on the right and the Deputy Mayor is on the left*



On a bitterly cold and blustery evening, the Mayor and a few of the Charter Trustees together with the band of the local Air Training Corps and a small number of members of the public braved the elements to witness the lighting of Margate's beacon at 7.30pm on 21st April at The Fort in celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday.

Margate's beacon was one of a number of beacons that were lit that day following the lighting of the beacon at Windsor Castle by Prince Charles earlier that evening. Another local beacon was lit at Birchington and also one at Broadstairs. As can be seen in the accompanying photos, the beacon blazed fiercely in the strong wind but the fire brigade was on hand to take action had it been necessary. It wasn't! □



*The beacon burning brightly with The Paragon in the background*

As can be seen in the accompanying photos, the beacon blazed fiercely in the strong wind but the fire brigade was on hand to take action had it been necessary. It wasn't! □

**JB**

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!



*Photo taken November 2015*



*Photo taken May 2016*

The removal of the Borough of Margate sign at Canterbury Road next to the golf-club car-park was an early decision of the new Westgate-on-Sea Town Council. At the Town Council's request, Kent County Council finally removed the sign in May 2016. Whether the original sign, or a replacement, will be reinstated at another location by KCC remains to be seen. However, it would be interesting to know whether Margate Charter Trustees were informed of the Town Council's decision. For some reason, the Cinque Ports sign has been left *in situ* although it is even less legible than it was last year when the three signs were featured in our Autumn 2015 Newsletter. □

**JB**



## Cllr Robin Edwards is re-elected as Town Mayor of Margate for the second successive year

Margate Charter Trustees held their Annual General Meeting at the Queen's Hall, Winter Gardens, on Monday 16th May 2016. Cllr Robin Edwards was appointed Mayor, Mrs Dorothy Collins was appointed Mayoress, Cllr Rosamund Dixon was appointed Deputy Mayor and Mr Geoffrey Dixon her Consort. All four were appointed for a second successive year. Afterwards, invited guests - including a number of mayors from other towns - were provided with tea and cakes. Margate Civic Society was represented at the event by Pamela Pople (Chairman), Geoff Orton (Secretary) and James Brazier (Newsletter Editor).

Margate Charter Trustees is a body that was created in 1974. It originally comprised those 23 TDC councillors who represented the wards within the former Borough of Margate. The fundamental role of the Charter Trustees is to act as trustees of Margate's Charter of Incorporation which established the town as a borough in 1857. The body largely performs ceremonial functions.



*The Mayor, Cllr Robin Edwards, proudly standing in front of the Margate Charter Trustees's banner, incorporating the former Borough of Margate coat-of-arms, immediately after the Mayor Making ceremony by which time the Town Mace (as can be seen in the photo below) had been removed for safe keeping!*

In 1986,

Birchington

Parish Council was created and, last year, Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council (which, later, was to metamorphose into Westgate-on-Sea Town Council) was also created. The loss of both Birchington and Westgate has resulted in a reduction in the number of Charter Trustees from 23 to 17. A consequence of the reduction in the

*The Mayor, Cllr Robin Edwards, presenting cheques for £200 each to three very smart representatives of the army, navy and air cadets towards the close of the Mayor Making ceremony*

area covered by the Charter Trustees is that the amount of Council Tax paid by residents of Margate has increased to offset the reduction in the Charter Trustees's tax base. Margate Charter Trustees, as a body, is one of the few remaining throughout the country. An attempt was made two years ago to change from Charter Trustees to a Town Council (as happened at Ramsgate) but the

endeavour failed to gain support from the residents people of Margate although a small number of residents in Westgate were successful in their objective of Westgate, once again, having its own Parish Council. Until 2015, Westgate last had a Parish Council in 1935, which it had for the first time in 1894. □ **JB**



*Seated at the top table (L-R):*

*Rev John Richardson (Mayor's Chaplain 2015/16)*

*Mr Geoffrey Dixon (Deputy Mayor's Consort), Cllr Rosamund Dixon (Deputy Mayor),*

*Mrs Dorothy Collins (Mayoress), Cllr Robin Edwards (Mayor), Ingrid Spencer (Mayor's Assistant),*

*Alan Miles (Honorary Town Clerk) and Dennis Payne (Honorary Burgess). Note the Town Mace*



## Secretary's Report



*Standing (L to R): Liam Nabb, Pamela Pople, Geoff Orton, Steve Vilette, Cllr Iris Johnston (Thanet District Council), David White (Chairman, The Deal Society), Cllr Dave Morrish (Westgate-on-Sea Town Council) and Chris Weatherall (Prince's Trust)*  
*Sitting (L to R): Harry Scobie, Sarah James (Civic Voice Senior Development Officer), and John Walker (Deputy Chairman, Civic Voice)*

Members will recall that Margate was selected to pilot the BIMBY (Beautiful In My Back Yard) Toolkit use of which enables communities to help developers and planners understand what is wanted. Appropriate and acceptable development only please. MCS invited Sarah James of Civic Voice and the Prince's Foundation to come and give us and the Neighbourhood Plan Forum a demonstration of the Toolkit (which is now available online – just google Bimby Toolkit) and most of your Committee attended (see above photo showing all attendees). All unwittingly the Forum has already incorporated basic Bimbyism and aims to publish the Neighbourhood Plan this summer.

Westgate are starting to think 'Garden Suburb' instead of a 'bolt-on estate' strangling limited existing facilities. Others dream of a 'Westwood EcoTown' to replace all those redundant Big Boxes as online shopping marches on apace (but the High Streets get a new lease!).

In similar vein, Design South East were commissioned by TDC to mount a series of 'Living Space' Workshops around the Isle of Thanet. Again, the idea is to help the community think about what they most value under the general 'Localism umbrella'. The Margate Workshop was lucky to get a preview of Sam Causer's 'Margate Coastal Park' concept on which he has been working for the University of Kent: sweeping from the railway station along to Botany Bay, from 'the 'civilised' to the 'wild'. This will soon be available 'interactively' online. A resurrection of the Victorian shelters is a major feature.

Westgate Town Councillor (and MCS Member) Dave Morrish is keen for the Park to extend eastwards and no doubt eventually the whole initiative could run from Pegwell Bay to Plum Pudding Island. 'Health and Wellbeing' mount increasingly high on the National Agenda. Think Sugar Tax: we need smaller people for the 'affordable' housing. (Why build unaffordable?)

Her Majesty's Government are reviewing Local Plan Processes and even their own Expert Panel has detected legitimate discontent with 'methodologies'. Civic Voice

asked societies for their views: our submission reiterated initial reservations but added 30% to reflect the increased housing projections. There is an arguable case for our population standing still without serious Powerhouse Thanet plans. As a generally low-skilled low-paid economy, we shall have real problems as Automation, Austerity and the Living Wage take effect – a third of the workforce are in care, retail and public sectors and these are the most vulnerable. Not good.

The major industry of the year so far has been devising the Margate Economic Plan in readiness for the launch of Round Four of the Coastal Community Fund – the first *tranche* provides £36 million for 116 resorts so it is a highly competitive market. Naturally, we think that The Margate School (see last Winter's issue) is streets ahead for innovative and regenerative thinking:

- creates quality jobs
- revitalises High Street space(s)
- opportunities for entrepreneurs with 3-D printer
- optimises on-line learning possibilities
- international linkages
- ability to become self-sustaining
- enhances 'creative cluster' reputation
- builds on the Magical Margate Momentum

Other themes in the Margate Economic Plan are 'Seafront Upgrade' which will push for implementation of the 2011 Jacobs Report and expansion of the Town Team idea into Cliftonville. The Margate Coastal Community Team (your Secretary is Hon Co-ordinator) is grassroots and open to ideas from the community. We are enjoined to think 'Impact, Scale and Deliverability': projects from £50,000 upwards and for completion by end 2019.

The Margate Economic Plan will soon be available online and is a living document to be owned by the community and the whole notion of Coastal Community Funding may well roll over whoever is in power (that's my surmise).

The Minister for Coastal Communities, Mark Francois MP, came down to Thanet in late March, enjoyed an ice cream in Broadstairs and another ice cream in Dreamland (has he not heard of the fate of Guy the Gorilla, died young at London Zoo of a surfeit?).

As you may see from the picture above he also got a (free) ride on the Scenic Railway (and a copy of Mike Bundock's Margate Clock Tower book): Margate clearly trumped Broadstairs.

He well appreciated what the airport had already done for regenerating Southend (he's East Essex) and found the idea of a Ramsgate-to-Ostend Eurotunnel Two 'very interesting' but he may have been merely polite. There appears little prospect of Crossrail 3 (Milton Keynes to Margate). □



**Geoff Orton**  
**Secretary**





*The Chapel from where the walks start*

# Margate Cemetery Walks for 2016



*The two Cemetery Chapels*

The cemetery is on Manston Road just past the crematorium entrance. Limited parking is available on the outside road and within the adjacent crematorium

## General Cemetery Tours

These tours are about the general cemetery and will include some of the listed graves and give an overview of the site. This tour starts at the times detailed below from the left-hand side Chapel which is inside the entrance road past the Entrance Lodge (now, a stone-mason's office). The tour will include graves of both World Wars including a visit to the German War Graves still present at the cemetery within the Commonwealth War Graves Commission area.

1. Saturday, 11th June at 2.00pm
2. Saturday, 25th June at 2.00pm
3. Sunday, 10th July at 2.00pm
4. Saturday, 23rd July at 2.00pm

## Maritime Tours

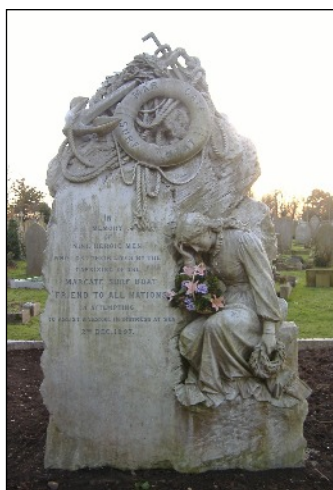
These tours use the same chapel as the General Cemetery Tours and are specifically about the lives of those people interred in the cemetery who have had links with the sea. Being a coastal town and a base for a RNLI lifeboat, this tour focuses on those who have had involvement with the sea.

1. Saturday, 4th June at 2.00pm
2. Saturday, 18th June at 2.00pm
3. Sunday, 3rd July at 2.00pm
4. Saturday, 16th July at 2.00pm
5. Saturday, 30th July at 2.00pm



*The CWGC WWII area*

All tours take place in the cemetery and on occasions those taking part may be invited to leave the main footpath and roadways to look at specific memorials. Accordingly, sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Tours generally take two hours. □



*The Surfboatmen's Memorial - a Grade II\* listed building*



*The Entrance Lodge*



*The two Chapels are both Grade II listed*

These walks are highly recommended



*The CWGC WWI Cross of Sacrifice*



# Westgate-on-Sea Town Council appoints Dr Dawn Crouch as its first-ever Honorary Freeman

At an Extraordinary Meeting of the one-year-old Westgate-on-Sea Town Council held on May 9, 2016, it was resolved that Dr Dawn Crouch be appointed the town's first-ever Honorary Freeman in recognition of her voluntary services to Westgate over many years. Councillor Joanna Cornford had proposed that Dawn Crouch be made the town's first Honorary Freeman and her proposal received unanimous support from all Westgate's town councillors. It was fitting that it was Cllr Joanna Cornford who made the proposal as her late father, Alderman Frederick Cornford, had himself been made a Freeman of the Borough of Margate in 1950.

Dawn first fell in love with West Bay on a late afternoon in 1970, when she was driving along Sea Road with a lot on her mind. The sea shimmered in the sunlight and it was just incredibly beautiful and peaceful. Opposite the bay, there was building work going on and she discovered that a small apartment block was going to be erected. She took one of the rare risky decisions of her life, visited the site office and, before she knew what she was doing, agreed to buy - what was then - a hole in the ground. She has never once regretted it and the magnificent view from her flat never fails to delight and inspire her.

At the time, she was living in Minster with her mother – her father had recently died – and teaching at Dane Court School in Broadstairs. She and her mother moved into the flat in November 1970, but it was some years before she was able to take a really active part in life in the town because of her work commitments and her domestic commitments. In 1980, after her mother's death, she went to work in London, returning to Westgate at weekends.

In 1988, she came back to work locally and, almost immediately found that there was much for her to do to fill her spare time. The Revd Stanley Evans, who was then vicar of St Saviour's Westgate, asked her to consider representing the Diocese of Canterbury as a Foundation Governor for St Saviour's CoE Junior School. She was given responsibility for children with Special Educational Needs, a position she thoroughly enjoyed for 12 years. They were exciting years, when much energy was spent in trying to obtain a replacement school for the Victorian building that was bursting at the seams and spilling over into "huttet" accommodation. After much frustration, this was achieved. One of her personal achievements was to have the school's original Foundation Stone removed before the site was sold to a developer and then to have it re-inscribed with the original wording, a project which was paid for by past pupils, teachers and governors, who answered an appeal to find the oldest surviving pupil.

In 1988, she also became Secretary to St Saviour's Parochial Church Council and was co-opted as a member. The following April, at the Annual Parish meeting, she was elected as a member and also as the parish representative on Thanet Deanery Synod. Fortunately, a new PCC

Secretary was soon found, as her typing skills were non-existent, but she continued to serve on Synod until 2004 and remained a member of the PCC.

In 1993, the vicar asked her to consider standing for election as churchwarden. This was such an honour, as it is an ancient office with many civic responsibilities as well as church ones. Little did she know, however, that it would change her life and would enable her to serve the residents of Westgate in a totally unforeseen way! As churchwarden, it was her duty to see that the inventory of all church property was brought up to date. Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately), she inherited a virtually empty folder – the inventory did not appear to have been made up since the 1930s. Rural Deans had, in vain, urged wardens to do this, but it had not been done. Of course, it was the kind of thing which intrigued her. One requirement was to copy all inscriptions – what a time she had! They were on windows and monuments, altar silver and brass, whilst in the vestry were the clergy and churchwardens' boxes – iron chests which contained the archives of the church. She discovered that most had never been disturbed since the time they were put in there. What treasures she found.

They opened a new world to her, which inspired what was to become a passion for Westgate's history, which resulted in an application to the University of Kent to become a postgraduate student, and research which led her all over the country, as she compared her beloved town with other "exclusive" resorts with the aim of proving Westgate to be unique in the history of the English seaside. In 1999, in her 70th year, she was awarded her PhD and, ultimately, this was to lead to the formation of the Westgate Heritage Centre, which goes from strength to strength and is inspiring others to find that love of history, which has given her such pleasure.

Dawn continued to serve as churchwarden until 2004 and then again from 2007-10. She also became chairman of the Friends of St Saviour's. Today, she holds no office except two which give her no responsibility but much pleasure – Consultant Historian to the Westgate Heritage Centre and Churchwarden Emeritus to St Saviour's Church. It was Dawn's delight and pleasure in 2014 to be able to help those residents from the south side of the town, who were seeking to register a "village green", by supplying them with the exacting information demanded by their opponents' legal team.

Dawn says: "To be made Westgate's first Honorary Freeman in a ceremony in the historic Council Chamber of the Town Hall, which, at last, is being used for the purpose for which it was built, is an honour I can scarcely take in!"

The formal ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 25 at Westgate. Due to space limitations in the Council Chamber, attendance at the ceremony will be by invitation only. □



*Dr Dawn Crouch on her Graduation Day in 1999*



# What's On

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

Date	Subject
2016	
6th October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'Civic Voice' by John Walker, Deputy Chairman, Civic Voice
3rd November	'Quex Gardens' by Sue Harris
December	To be decided
2017	
January	No meeting
2nd February	'The Medway Queen Preservation Trust'
5th March	'Rites of Passage' by Lee Ault
2nd April	A talk on either Sandwich Secret Garden or Monkton Nature Reserve
14th May	Town Pride Awards (Note: The evening will be wholly devoted to the 2017 Town Pride Awards)

Please do encourage your friends and neighbours to join our Society. With our evening talks, our outings, our Newsletter and our website, we are very active and we are also involved in much of what is going on in our area. We provide good value for money and we are a friendly group of like-minded people who care greatly for Margate and its environs.  
The Society is a founder member of Civic Voice.



### Westgate Heritage Centre (in the back of St Saviour's Church)

Usually, on the first or second Saturday of each month, at **10.30am**, there will be a talk by one, or more, of our members

**Summer season 2016** - the Heritage Centre will be open each Wednesday from 10.00am to 1.00pm and each Saturday from 10.00am to 12 noon. Please come and see our Collection. Refreshments available

Date	Subject
2016	
4th June	'Celebrating 130 years' - Part 2: St Saviour's CoE School 1945-1995* A morning of memories of the last 50 years in the 'old school' building, led by Dr Dawn Crouch, who was a school governor from 1988 to 2000. * The new building opened in 1995
2nd July	'The Mitfords at Exbury 1880-1890' - Algernon Mitford, for whom Exbury was built, was the grandfather of the Mitford Girls. Exbury in Sea Road is one of Westgate's most interesting houses
6th August	'Westgate-on-Sea in 1916' - Dr Dawn Crouch will talk about the effect on Westgate of another year of war
<b>EXTRA EVENT</b>	
8th to 20th August	Exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme with a special emphasis on Captain Wilfred Nevill's schooldays at Penrhyn Lodge in Westgate. (Captain Nevill led his men over the top kicking a football). This will coincide with the Annual Exhibition of the Westgate Art Group in St Saviour's Church ( <b>Note:</b> The Battle of the Somme Exhibition will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm except on Friday 12th and Friday 19th when the exhibition will be open only from 1.00pm to 4.00pm)
3rd September	'Christ Church Clock' - an illustrated talk by Dr Dawn Crouch and Mr Mike Bundock (Horologist) on the history of the clock of the URC church in Westgate-on-Sea

**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**



# 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 digitally illustrated, are interesting and of local interest; they are also varied in their appeal. A Newsletter is published four times a year.

## Committee for 2015/16:

**President:** Mr Ralph Handscomb, 14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 01843 293169)  
(e-mail: [handscomb@talktalk.net](mailto:handscomb@talktalk.net))

**Chairman:** Mrs Pamela Pople, Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 01843 221689)  
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**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Harry Scobie, 59 Gloucester Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3NP (Tel: 078 6227 6466)  
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**Secretary:** Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085)  
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**Treasurer:** Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF (Tel: 01843 844717)  
(e-mail: [wilton@btinternet.com](mailto:wilton@btinternet.com))

**Membership Secretary:** Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ  
(Tel: 01843 228858) (e-mail: [membership.mcs@gmail.com](mailto:membership.mcs@gmail.com))

**Newsletter Editor:** Mr James Brazier, "The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ  
(Tel: 01843 298038) (e-mail: [jasbrazier@talktalk.net](mailto:jasbrazier@talktalk.net))

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

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

✂ .....

## Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £ .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

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

## Subscription rates for 2015/16:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£11.00	£15.00	£4.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£9.00	£13.00	£2.00	£20.00

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

and send it to the Membership Secretary, Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ

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