

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



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Newsletter
Issue No. 387



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

Our Society ended its 2016/17 year on a 'high' with its Town Pride awards evening at the Walpole Bay Hotel on 11th May followed by its day-trip only twelve days later to Arras. Both events are reported on in this issue of the Newsletter and I hope that our members will enjoy my photographs of the two occasions. The undoubted success of both events is due in particular to our Chairman, Pamela Pople for the Town Pride evening and to our Treasurer, Mike Wilton, for organising our most memorable day in Arras. We now have a break in our meetings until October but, in the meantime, your Committee continues to be busy with organising the Society's Civic Day event on 17th June and the Heritage Open Days throughout our area in September. Details of these two events are shown in the issue of the Newsletter. Please do make a note of the dates in your diary and go along to them to support the Society.

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council has barely been in existence for two years yet already three of its original ten councillors have resigned. Richard Charlton and Ash Ashbee resigned last year and Graham Rickett resigned on 16th May of this year. A by-election was held in February 2017 to fill the vacancies caused by the first two resignations and it seems likely that there will be another by-election to fill the vacancy caused by Graham Rickett's resignation. Just how long will it be before a fourth councillor resigns from Westgate-on-Sea Town Council?

At its Annual General Meeting held on 8th May, the Town Council elected Cllr Tom King as its Chairman for 2017/18 but only after he had exercised his casting vote. Exactly the same thing happened last year indicating a continued lack of consensus between the councillors.

I am pleased to report that Margate Charter Trustees do not share that problem. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor



Margate's new Town Mayor, Cllr Rosamund Dixon, with her Consort, Geoffrey Dixon, at the Mayor-making held at the Winter Gardens on Monday, 8th May 2017. The Mayor and her Consort are seated behind the town's mace

Welcome to new members

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

Mrs Ingrid Spencer
Sue Baron
Sam Causer
Cllr Rosamund & Geoffrey Dixon
Denis & Julie Spencer
Sharon Quy-Verlander
Andy Barrett
Mrs D J Rowe

Sally Whitworth
Membership Secretary

Heritage Open Days 2017

8th - 10th September 2017

Thanet District Council is unable to organise this year's Heritage Open Days so the three towns' civic societies have agreed to organise the event between them as they all consider that, after last year's most successful Heritage Open Days in Thanet, it would be a great shame if the event did not take place. Geoff Orton, who is representing Margate Civic Society, has provided a list of our area's participants in this year's Heritage Open Days and these are shown on page 14 of this Newsletter. Full details of all the places participating will be published in the Autumn issue of the Newsletter which is expected to be published in early September.

Civic Day 2017

Saturday, 17th June

Margate Civic Society is again participating in this year's national Civic Day event. This year, the Society is mounting a display at Margate Museum of Town Pride Award winners over the years as well as providing information on Margate's historic War Shrine which was unveiled in April 1917 - one hundred years ago this year. The War Shrine was featured in our Spring 2017 Newsletter year. This year's Civic Voice event is being held in conjunction with Margate Museum.

Civic Voice are encouraging local civic societies to get involved in this national event and I encourage our members to go along to Margate Museum on Saturday, 17th June 2017 and give their support to both the Society and Margate Museum in their endeavours.

The event will be open from 11.00am to 4.00pm. □

Pamela Pople
Chairman

Planning Matters

Report from Mike Thompson, Committee member for Planning

Members will be aware that the Society is active in liaising with Thanet District Council as the local Planning Authority and the recently released second draft proposal of the Local Plan offered the opportunity for organisations and individuals to make representation on the proposals contained therein. No doubt some of you even made your own representations where you thought appropriate and the following observations are those submitted by Margate Civic Society in response to the proposals within the draft.

“Seventeen thousand proposed new houses equates to a population explosion of some 40,000 people and we can find no satisfactory evidence to support this. In addition, no allowance has been made to accommodate the existing unimplemented planning consents and empty properties amounting to some 7,500-plus units.

“There is a complete lack of firm infrastructure proposals to support development on this scale - this would include roads, transport networks, utilities, doctors surgeries, dentists’ surgeries, hospital capacity, schools, etc. It is simply not good enough to state that ‘discussions are on-going’ - this will guarantee nothing.

“We are totally opposed to any proposed change of use of (and please note) Manston Airport - not the ‘former Manston Airport’ as stated within the draft whilst the Development Consent Order (DCO) is still in progress.

“Margate Civic Society is also totally opposed to the use of Grade 1 agricultural land at ST1 and ST2 (Westgate and Birchington) in direct contravention of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012, section 11, subsection 112 which clearly states that the use of poorer-quality land should always prevail.

“In addition, the proposed development at ST1 would seriously impact upon the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Dent de Lion) and the historical and architectural Grade II*-listed Gatehouse which, until now, has enjoyed an open and uninterrupted aspect to the South. This setting should be preserved at all costs.

“We are also surprised at and opposed to the complete lack of joined-up thinking at a time when a number of east Kent local authorities, including Thanet, are seriously considering amalgamation to form a single combined district council. Surely, such a re-organisation should be looking to develop a plan based on the actual needs for the greater area, thereby rendering any lesser plan developed purely on local needs as obsolete and redundant.

“Finally, we are amazed at the total lack of meaningful consultation with your countless local stakeholders prior to issuing these draft proposals. This is in direct contradiction to the central Government’s published ‘Best Practice Guidelines’ and is most regrettable.”

That concludes a break-down of the main points raised in our response to the draft proposals.

Members should also be aware that we continue to scrutinise the schedule of planning applications every week and make representations relating to the applications where we feel it is appropriate to do so.

Should any member have specific concerns over any particular application, we will always endeavour to help where we can. □

Mike Thompson

The Battle of Margate 24th March 1387

This year commemorates the 630th anniversary of the Battle of Margate, an unknown English sea victory in the last half of The Hundred Years War.

The background of the battle lies in the political and economic turmoil of English and continental politics. During the 1370s and 1380s, the tide of war was turning against the English with the French raiding the English coast from the Isle of Wight to Essex and gathering an invasion fleet in 1386 at Sluys.

In March 1387, the English fleet mustered at Sandwich and set sail to intercept the combined French, Castilian and Flemish fleet carrying the year’s wine and other cargo from La Rochelle to Flanders. After a two-day battle, the English returned victorious with over two million gallons of wine, 39,000 pounds weight in iron and at least 40 ships. The war had been paid for by taxation so the King, the ship-owners and the combatants all received a share of the profits. The Earl of Arundel, as the Lord Admiral, received over £850 and the lowliest archer £3.17s.



Find out more about the battle in an exhibition currently on display at Margate Museum in the Old Town. Opening times are Wednesday from 11.30am to 2.30pm and Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 11am to 5pm. The exhibition is expected to run until the end of September. Further details are available from Margate Museum. □

Felicity Stafford
Vice-President, Margate Civic Society

Presentation of the Society's 2017 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, 11th 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 the Mayor's Consort, Geoffrey Dixon. The Mayor (Cllr Rosamund Dixon) and her fellow TDC Councillors were unable to attend at the start of our meeting due to a TDC meeting starting at 7.00pm on the same day - although the Mayor and the last year's Mayor (Cllr Robin Edwards) did both manage to get along to our meeting later on in the evening after the TDC meeting had finished and they were made very welcome by the Society.

This year, the Panel decided to award one Town Pride Plaque & Certificate and three Town Pride 'Highly Commended' Certificates as follows:

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

The Old Kent Market, Fort Hill, Margate

and the three **Town Pride 'Highly Commended' Certificates** were awarded to:

125 High Street, Margate

3, 3a & 3b Arnold Road, Margate

23-25 Grotto Gardens, Cliftonville



*L to R:
Ralph Handscomb, President of Margate Civic Society;
Andy Barrett, owner of The Old Kent Market;
and Pamela Pople, Chairman of Margate Civic Society*



*The Old Kent Market, Fort Hill
- awarded the Society's
Town Pride Award Winner 2017 plaque
and Certificate*



3 Arnold Road, Margate



*L to R:
Ralph Handscomb, President of Margate Civic Society;
Nick Christian, Managing Director, Millchris Developments Ltd;
and Pamela Pople, Chairman of Margate Civic Society*



*125 High Street, Margate (L to R):
Ralph Handscomb, President of Margate Civic Society;
Steve Grimshaw, Programme Manager of the No-Use-
Empty Property Initiative, KCC;
Kirk Longman, Site Agent, Jenner (Contractors) Ltd;
and Pamela Pople, Chairman of Margate Civic Society*



125 High Street, Margate



23, 24 & 25 Grotto Gardens, Cliftonville



*23, 24 & 25 Grotto Gardens, Cliftonville (L to R):
Ralph Handscomb, President of Margate Civic Society;
Steve Bedingfield, G & W Gardner Building Contractors;
Julie Bedingfield;
and Pamela Pople, Chairman of Margate Civic Society*



Group photograph of all the award winners and their associates

Presentation of Town Pride Awards 2017

- Pamela Pople's paper

The Society's Town Pride Awards evening is, in many ways, the highlight of our annual programme of meetings. Our Chairman, Pamela Pople devotes many hours to ensuring that the whole evening goes off without any hitches and it is to her credit that the evenings have been so successful in recent years. In putting this issue of our Newsletter together, Pamela very kindly gave me a copy of her prepared paper for this year's Town Pride Awards evening. I was so impressed by her preparatory work that I asked Pamela whether she would be agreeable to my reproducing it in the Newsletter. I am pleased to report that Pamela was receptive to my suggestion, so reproduce Pamela's papers. I feel sure that members will appreciate the Pamela's huge contribution to the Town Pride Awards and the background information that was prepared by Pamela on each of the properties that were nominated for awards this year.

- Editor

On 1st November 1983, the Society's Inaugural Town Pride Awards were organised and this tradition has been upheld for the past 34 years, during which time the Society has asked its members to nominate projects within the boundaries of the former Margate Borough area covering Cliftonville, Margate, Westbrook, Westgate-on-Sea, Birchington, Acol, St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre, that they feel have in the past year enhanced the built environment in our area.

In the past, Town Shame awards were also given but since I have organised this event, it was agreed that on this occasion, we concentrate on the positive rather than the negative, which often gets publicity. Needless to say, any concerns are referred to the appropriate agencies when necessary.

This year we had a panel of four judges who viewed all the Town Pride proposals during March, the criteria being:-

- Enhancing the built environment
- Using quality materials
- Aesthetically pleasing to the eye
- Restoring pride to a local community
- Contributing to the community amenity

I am pleased to report that this has again been an amazingly good year for Margate and Cliftonville and we received nine worthy nominations for Town Pride, all submitted by members, covering a wide spectrum: ranging from very large to smaller projects, private residences and commercial premises, modern design and traditional, renovations and new developments - all unique in their own way which made our task all the more difficult.

Details of all nominations were as follows:

3, 3a & 3b Arnold Road, Margate

An excellent new-build terrace of three dwellings from a former warehouse, using good quality materials.

- **23-25 Grotto Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate**
An excellent conversion of three former workshop units to residential dwellings, using quality materials.
- **The Old Kent Market, 8 Fort Hill, Margate**
A quirky and bold transformation and renovation of former empty premises in a seafront location, which will attract visitors to the town.
- **Cooke & Co, 147 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Margate**
This prominent and attractive corner sited property, which in celebration of the business's 25th anniversary, has undergone a transformation; demonstrates beautifully what can be achieved with an imaginative choice of heritage colours. It now makes a really positive contribution to the local street scene and is a significant model for the ongoing Cliftonville restoration project.
- **39-41 High Street, Margate**
Margate House (formally Burtons Outfitters) was built in 1935 and stood until 2013 when the store and adjoining Regal Snooker Club, shut down. Today, under Margate House Arts, the newly renovated building has found a new lease of life as a hub for arts, heritage and culture. This once vacant shop has now been occupied again and this is a lovely renovation to a lower High Street building of great architectural merit. The chosen colour scheme suits the property beautifully, which now makes a positive contribution to this part of Margate. Margate House Arts makes a commendable contribution to the community amenity as it is a start-up social enterprise, dedicated to empowering the lives and improving the health and well-being of the local community.
- **Sacha Court, 32 Addington Street, Margate**
An extremely bold, striking and impressive development, combining restoration in traditional materials with a new build modernist timber clad element. This approach combines the old and the new styles very well. A convenient location close to the town centre boosts the local housing stock in a very effective way.
- **125 High Street, Margate**
A total refurbishment of a fire-damaged site situated in the Upper High Street, making a positive addition to the street scene.
- **15 Carroway's Place, Margate**
A new-build terrace of three properties constructed in traditional materials and fitting well into the existing street scene. The properties are situated

in a convenient central location being close to the town centre and make a valuable addition to the local housing stock.

□ **Môr, 38 Fort Hill, Margate**

An attractive and quirky property which has been beautifully and stylishly renovated in a most pleasing colour scheme. A welcome addition to the existing local businesses, which will have a positive knock-on effect and further enhances the immediate area of the lower part of Fort Hill, complementing very well with the Turner Contemporary opposite.

Three 'Highly Commended' Certificates were awarded to the following projects:-

23-25 Grotto Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate - Award received by Stephen & Julie Bedingfield, G & W Gardner Building Contractors Ltd

This is a most thoughtful and carefully executed conversion of former workshop units into three exceptional residential dwellings. Careful retention of the character of the original buildings has been retained together with the use of quality materials.

Even the new galvanised tubular framed railings across the frontage pay homage to the industrial heritage of the site and the result is a striking addition to the street scene.

An excellent example of intelligent use of redundant industrial space, infilling housing requirements. This project is an asset to the local area.

3, 3a & 3b Arnold Road, Margate - Award received by Nick Christian, Managing Director, Millchris Developments Ltd

Quality materials and good brickwork have been used throughout to create three very attractive Town Houses on the site of a former warehouse. With their Juliette balconies, traditional style fenestration and roofing materials, these three houses fit very well into and enhance the local street scene and have increased the local housing stock in a most attractive fashion. A pleasing town-house development that is a credit to the local area.

125 High Street, Margate - Award received by Matt Beasley, Architect, Urban Surveying & Design Ltd & Kirk Longman, Site Agent, Jenner Building Contractors Ltd

This is an excellent example of partnership working with the developer, engaging through the local council with the Kent County Council 'No Use Empty' campaign, whereby loan funding is provided to bring empty or derelict properties back into use. In this instance, The KCC 'No Use Empty' initiative worked with the owners offering a £150,000 loan in addition to their own investment funds. Works started on the property and were nearly completed in 2014 when disaster struck and the building was totally destroyed by a fire bringing the property to the ground. KCC continued to work with the owners through this difficult time and with the owner's persistence and determination completed the project rather than leave the building derelict. The building itself is in keeping with the

High Street enhancing the built environment and offering light and airy family accommodation apartments within and completed to a high standard providing much-needed quality homes for the community. Following a disastrous fire, this property has risen 'like a Phoenix from the ashes' and great care has been taken to replicate the original architecture with the use of quality materials whilst contributing to the local housing needs by providing twelve self-contained flats.

The 'before' and 'after' photographs demonstrate the transformation between the old and new which speaks of how an unloved building which had stood empty for over a year was totally transformed.

A commendable project and model!

This year's **Town Pride Plaque & Framed Certificate** was awarded to:-

The Old Kent Market, 8 Fort Hill, Margate - Award received by the Owner, Andy Barrett

History

The Parade Cinema on Fort Hill opened on 26th June 1911. Typical of a purpose-built cinema of its era, it had a barrel vaulted ceiling and all seating was on a single floor. The right-hand side of the auditorium was extended beyond the main body of the auditorium, which gave a distorted view onto the screen for seating on that side. A sliding roof was provided for ventilation. The Parade Cinema was renovated in 1937. By 1952, it had been taken over by the Classic Cinemas chain, and was re-named Classic Repertory Cinema. It was closed in 1963, and became a Vogue Bingo Club. From July 1979 to November 1981, it went back to cinema use as a 16mm cinema club screening uncensored sex films, and was operated as the New Parade Cinema. In 1982, it was converted into a snooker club. A false ceiling was inserted in the auditorium, hiding the original barrel vaulted ceiling, and the main entrance was partially bricked in. Lastly it was known as the Thanet Matchroom Social Club. In 2013, construction began on the site of the old Parade cinema which was being restored to incorporate the building's history and heritage.

This is a stunning transformation and beautiful renovation to a prominent and attractive property, with a wealth of interesting architectural detail. The property makes a striking contribution to Margate's seafront and provides a valuable social amenity, together with a great opportunity for niche, valuable pop-up businesses to establish themselves and add further to the eclectic mix that now typifies the Old Town area of Margate. Edgy, quirky, bright, bold and imposing - this is a brilliant creative use of a neglected priority building. Excellent for Tourism and raising the profile of Margate.

I should like to thank former Cllr Will Scobie and former Cllr Mo Elenor for supporting my KCC Members' Grant Application for £1,000 to cover part-costs for this event over a period of five years, this being the fourth one. Due to this, we commissioned Croft Cast Signs to once again design a bespoke durable blue plaque this year, featuring the Margate Clock Tower, which complements the Time Ball Restoration Project and has become something of a

symbol for our Society. You may have noticed that one of these eye-catching plaques can be seen on the Harbour Steps, alongside the Civic Design Awards Plaque, which both give kudos to Margate and to our Society. My sincere thanks also to the Mayor's Consort, Mr Geoffrey Dixon, who was accompanied by Mrs Ingrid Spencer and to the new Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr Rosamund Dixon who amazingly managed to attend the last part of the evening, following her Council meeting.

As I am sure you will appreciate, an enormous amount of work is involved with organising an event such as this, but it could not be done without the support of others, so I should also like to thank my fellow judges namely Mike Wilton, Geoff Orton & Mike Thompson, with special

thanks to Mike Wilton, who has also been extremely supportive, photographing the nominations and preparing the digital presentation; Mike Thompson for liaising with Croft Signs on the plaque design; Garry Cowans for designing the certificates and my husband, Ray (for his usual behind the scenes support and patience). Grateful thanks to all the Committee members and to Heather Wilton for performing their various roles on the evening, which I am delighted to report was a very successful event and received positive comments and gratitude from our four very deserving winners. □

Pamela Pople
Chairman



Margate's Town Mayor, Cllr Rosamund Dixon with her her Consort, Geoffrey Dixon, and Ralph Handscomb, our President sitting in the front row with a number of familiar faces behind



The Society's Planning Advisor, Mike Thompson (wearing striped shirt) chatting to two of the award winners whilst others in the room take the opportunity



The Mayoral party with Ingrid Spencer, the Mayor's PA, sitting next to the Mayor and Felicity Stafford, one of our Society's Vice-Presidents sitting behind

A selection of some informal moments during the Town Pride Awards evening at the Walpole Bay Hotel



Tony Snow in the audience. Tony is one of the Society's Vice-Presidents

Turner Contemporary selected as the host venue for the prestigious 2019 Turner Prize

One of the best known prizes for the visual arts in the world, the Turner Prize aims to promote public debate around new developments in contemporary British art. Every other year, the prize leaves Tate Britain and is presented at a venue outside London. In 2019 it will be presented at Turner

Contemporary which, since opening in 2011, has had a catalytic effect on social and cultural regeneration in Kent, and has established an international reputation.

Our congratulations go to Turner Contemporary for being selected as the host venue for the 2019 Turner Prize. □

Town Pride plaque proudly put up on the The Old Kent Market



Margate Caves

Immediately following the presentation of the Society's Town Pride Awards on 11th May, the opportunity was taken for Richard Ash, Chairman of Margate Town Team, to present a cheque for £300 to Margate Caves from Margate Town Team. The cheque was received by Dan Thompson. Richard Ash spoke of the contribution that

Margate Caves would make to the attractions of the town and Dan Thompson thanked Margate Town Team for the cheque. Dan also thanked everyone who had been involved in the re-opening of Margate Caves and the huge level of support for the scheme from both local businesses and residents. □



Richard Ash, Chairman of Margate Town Team, (right) presenting a cheque for £300 to local social artist/writer Dan Thompson, a Trustee of The Margate Caves Community Education Trust



Richard Ash, Chairman of Margate Town Team, (right) presenting the (real) cheque for £300 to local social artist/writer Dan Thompson

Arras visit 23rd May 2017

Forty-nine members of our Society and friends paid a most memorable visit to the French town of Arras on Tuesday, 23rd May 2017. This was the third of our annual visits to the Continent (we visited Dunkirk in 2015 and Bruges in 2016) and the event has now become a highlight of the year for many. It was fitting that we visited Arras this year for 2017 is the centenary of the Battle of Arras in April/May 1917. Indeed, in planning our visit, we decided to take the opportunity to visit the recently-opened Visitor Centre at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and to visit the hugely impressive Vimy Memorial that was unveiled in 1936. We were allocated 90 minutes at Vimy and members of the party could visit the Visitor Education Centre, the Vimy Memorial and the preserved trenches which were close by. Sadly, the time proved insufficient to visit all three locations but most members were able to visit both the Visitor Centre and the Vimy Memorial which is what was planned. The immense strategic importance of Vimy Ridge was apparent immediately we arrived at the Vimy Memorial. The weather on the day was perfect with a blue sky providing a magnificent backdrop to photographs of the Canadian Memorial - as can be seen from a number of the photographs accompanying this report.

From Vimy, our coach took us on a five-mile drive to the centre of Arras where we had three-and-a-half hours to explore the town and partake in its many delights. The Belfry was a popular attraction particularly as it houses the town's Visitor Information Centre and provided excellent maps and other leaflets



on the town. Of particular interest was a 50-minute town trail of 1.56 kilometres. The town trail took in most of the town's historic attractions.

Carol Peters was our coach operator. Our driver was excellent and the day went totally without any hitches. We even caught an earlier shuttle home than expected and were back in Margate by nine o'clock.

We are indeed very fortunate to live so close to the Continent and we are very lucky to have Mike Wilton to organise our trips so efficiently for us. Mike also serves as our Treasurer and Webmaster. So thank you Mike for all you do and particularly for organising our trip to Arras this year. Do look out for our trip to the Continent next year. The year 2018 will mark the Society's 50th birthday: it will also be the centenary of the end of the First World War. Perhaps a trip to Ypres would be appropriate but, wherever we do decide to go, it should not be missed.

The following photographs illustrate some of the many sights of Arras (including the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and new Visitor Education Centre). I hope that you will enjoy them. □

JB



Our coach party on arrival at the Canadian National War Memorial at Vimy Ridge. The memorial can be seen in the background. Mike Wilton, who organised the day-trip, can be seen on the extreme left



1:1 scale replica of Allward's statue of Peace on display in the Visitor Education Centre



The entrance to the Visitor Education Centre at Vimy. The Centre was opened on 10th April 2017 (the centenary of the Canadian Corps taking Vimy Ridge) by Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada



A selection of photos of the Canadian National Memorial sculpted by Walter Allward. He devoted 14 years of his life to creating the memorial (1921-35)



MCS members, Harry & Anthea Preston at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial



The Lion and the Sun emblem also features on a series of clous (studs) marking the trail of a 50-minute historical walk around Arras



The dramatic memorial to the Arras members of the French Resistance who were shot during the Second World War between 1940 and 1944. The memorial is at the front of the Hotel de Ville



The Hotel de Ville and Belfroi (Belfry) in the Place des Héros. Note the sun glistening on the gilded 'The Lion and the Sun' weathervane at the top of the Belfry

PLACE DES HEROS
Formerly called the Petit Marché (Small Market) it continues to fulfil its twelve century-long role of holding the Wednesday and Saturday morning markets. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the houses on the Place des Héros and the Grand'Place were rebuilt in brick and stone with Flemish gables. Strictly-enforced town planning rules gave rise to this architectural ensemble of 155 Baroque facades overlooking the two squares. After the ravages of the First World War, the architect Pierre Paquet undertook an identical reconstruction and restored this urban landscape, unrivalled in Europe. Since 1945 it has been called the Place des Héros in tribute to the resistance fighters of Arras who were shot during the Second World War.



This metal cover-plate near the main entrance to the Hotel de Ville records that the Belfroi (Belfry) was originally built in 1463 and destroyed in 1914 and that the Hotel de Ville was originally built in 1502 and similarly destroyed in 1914



The Grand'Place with the tower of Église St-Jean-Baptiste in the background



A welcoming and very eye-catching sign

Arras has a most interesting history and our day-trip allowed time to admire the architecture and features of the town (as well as visit some of its many bars and cafes) as evidenced in these photographs which give a sample of the many delights of Arras.

The lively - and very trendy - Rue Ronville with 'flowers of remembrance' suspended above the roadway



The house in Rue Robespierre where Maximilien Robespierre lived from 1787 to 1789. The house was built in 1730



The Hotel de l'Univers in the Place de la Croix Rouge was often used by parties of pilgrims visiting the battlefields of the First World War in the 1920s and 1930s. The building is probably some two hundred years old. Note the opening to the courtyard for horse-drawn carriages to enter



The plaque on Robespierre's house that was put up in 1923. Robespierre was born in Arras in 1758 the son of a lawyer. Maximilien Robespierre was educated in Paris and, after qualifying as a lawyer, became one of the best known and influential figures associated with the French Revolution (1789-1799). He died in 1794, aged 36



The impressive gateway to the Abbey of Saint Vaast. It was the original Benedictine abbey built on this site that gave rise to the Medieval town of Arras. Entirely rebuilt from 1750 onwards, the Abbey was destroyed by enemy bombing during the First World War. After the war, the Abbey was identically reconstructed. Today, it houses the Museum of Fine Arts

This facade is one of the many Art Deco buildings in Arras





Close up of the sculpture of Joan of Arc by Georges Prud'Homme

This plaque was erected in 1930 to mark the 500th anniversary of Joan of Arc being held captive in Arras from September to December 1430. The plaque is on a building in Rue Gambetta

This magnificent monument "The Bugler" was presented to the town of Arras on 10th April 2017 as a gift from the City of Barrie, Canada to the Vimy Foundation. This photograph shows the monument in its temporary location in the Hotel de Ville at Arras but it will be permanently installed in the Vimy Foundation Park at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. Many of the Canadian Soldiers who died at Vimy Ridge were trained at Camp Borden, a Canadian Forces base near the City of Barrie. The statue was designed and created by Canadian artist Marlene Hilton Moore



The figure of Canada on the Vimy Memorial with the slag heaps of the Lens coalfield on the horizon



The monument - as seen through the coach window - at Vimy to Canadian artillerymen who were killed in the Battle of Arras



The flags of France and Canada at Vimy. It would appear that a third flag has been removed from one of the flagpoles!



The 'Banksy' mural at Dover seen through the coach window on our return

Manston Airport - Latest News

RiverOak Strategic Partners recently announced seven public consultation events for the Manston Airport Development Consent Order. The following report is based on their announcement which will be of much interest to many of our members:

Seven public consultation events will be held between Wednesday 14th June and Saturday 24th June, as part of a six-week consultation period on RiverOak Strategic Partners' proposals to reopen Manston Airport as an air freight hub, creating thousands of jobs for Thanet and the wider regional economy.

RiverOak has published details of the consultation in a Statement of Community Consultation. These events are open to any member of the public that would like to attend and further details of the locations, local public transport services and other information can be found in the Statement of Community Consultation which can be downloaded from Realising Strategic Potential's website www.rsp.co.uk

The consultation enables the local community to scrutinise our proposals. At the events visitors will be able to view consultation documents, talk to members of RiverOak's professional team and give their feedback.

Feedback forms can also be emailed or sent in, right up until the closing date of the consultation on Sunday 23rd July. This feedback will enable RiverOak to refine the proposals further before submitting the Development Consent Order application to the Planning Inspectorate, later this year.

In addition to the public events there will be two business-only briefings, at The King's Hall in Herne Bay, on Wednesday 14th June and at the Pavilion in Broadstairs, on Thursday 15th June. Businesses interested in attending should email manston@communityrelations.co.uk for further information and to secure a place.

The full consultation period will run from Monday 12th June 2017 to Sunday 23rd July 2017.

Public consultation event date for Margate

The Sands Hotel, Margate

Saturday 17th June: 10.00am to 2.00pm

Consultation documents in libraries

Copies of consultation documents will be available from 12th June at www.rsp.co.uk and at the following public libraries during their normal opening hours: Birchington, Broadstairs, Cliftonville, Deal, Herne Bay, Margate, Minster-in-Thamet, Newington, Ramsgate, Sandwich and Westgate.

The full Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) is a very large document and will only be available in full at Deal, Herne Bay and Margate libraries. A non-technical summary will be available at all libraries, at the consultation events and on the RSP website, as part of an Overview Report. □

JB

MARGATE CIVIC SOCIETY - HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2017

Friday 8th September, Saturday 9th September and Sunday 10th September (*Position as at 31st May*)

*** 12 Arthur Road Cliftonville ('Hotel Cecil')**

Saturday and Sunday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

MCS committed to stewarding this project which is to be open to the public for eight days a year. Saturday will be the first public showing but we are arranging a members' preview and recruiting stewards beforehand

*** Drapers Windmill**

Saturday and Sunday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

*** Margate Museum**

Saturday and Sunday 11.00am to 5.00pm

*** Monkton Nature Reserve**

Saturday 10.00am to 4.00pm

*** St John's Church**

Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm, Sunday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

*** Theatre Royal**

Saturday: tours at 10.30am, 12 noon 1.30pm and 3.00pm

*** Tudor House**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11.00am to 5.00pm

*** Westgate Heritage Centre (at Town Hall Buildings)**

Saturday 12 noon to 4.00pm

*** Birchington Heritage Trust (Burley Room, Library, Alpha Road)**

Saturday 10.00am to 1.00pm

*** Powell-Cotton Museum**

Sunday : Museum and Gardens 10.00am to 5.00pm

Quex House 1.00pm to 4.00pm

*** India House, Hawley Street (Boys & Maughan)**

Saturday 10.00am to 4.00pm

We are also expecting the Dreamland Trust to participate.

All events are free and Heritage Open Days are an occasion to visit many properties which are not otherwise open to the public

Thanet District Council will be printing a leaflet, similar to the magnificent one that TDC produced last year, during the summer months. Details of all the events in our area will also be published in the Autumn Newsletter and on the Society's website. □

Geoff Orton
HOD Co-ordinator
Margate Civic Society

What's On

Margate Civic Society (talks all start at 7.30 pm at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville)

The programme of talks for the forthcoming year is shown below:

Date 2017	Subject
5th October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'The Secret Gardens of Sandwich' by Steve Edney
2nd November	'The Vikings are Coming' by Imogen Corrigan
14th December	Christmas Soiree: Films, Christmas Raffle and Refreshments - guests are most welcome for a nominal charge of £3.50 each
2018	
January	No meeting
1st February	'Christopher Alexander's paintings: Mediterranean Theme' by Steve Alexander
1st March	TBA
5th April	'Public Timekeeping on the Isle of Thanet' by Mike Bundock
10th May	Town Pride Awards followed by refreshments

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 and an active participant in Civic Day



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

During our summer season, the Heritage Centre will be open each Wednesday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and on each Saturday from 10.00 am to 12 noon. On the first Saturday of each month, there will be a talk by one or more of our members at 10.30 am. In addition, we are also holding an evening event on Wednesday, 21st June at 7.30 pm (see details below) in St Saviour's Church. Home-made refreshments are available at our meetings

Date 2017	Subject
3rd June	'A walk further along Sea Road' - an illustrated talk by Sally Whitworth on a few more of Sea Road houses of special interest.
Wednesday 21st June at 7.30 pm	'Correspondence from Westgate-on-Sea' - Come and listen to readings of letters written over the years by Westgateonians voicing their opinions or making their complaints. This is a social and fund-raising event. Tickets available at the Heritage Centre at £5 each include a glass of wine, or other drink, and light refreshments
1st July	'A Westgate Artist' - an illustrated talk by Jean Osikoya on either Henry Weigall RA or Louis Wain
5th August	'Westgate-on-Sea in August 1917' - a talk by Dr Dawn Crouch, based on original archives, on how the town was coping on the Home Front after three years of war
2nd September	'Childhood memories of the chalk cliffs and stacks around West Bay' with contributions from some of our members

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



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 2016/17:

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

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

Vice-Chairman: Mr Harry Scobie, 59 Gloucester Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3NP (Tel: 078 6227 6466)
(e-mail: harryscobie@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085)
(e-mail: geoff.orton@tesco.net)

Treasurer: Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF (Tel: 01843 844717)
(e-mail: wilton@btinternet.com)

Membership Secretary: Ms Sally Whitworth, C/o 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 07949 835777)
(e-mail: whitworthandbird@hotmail.co.uk)

Newsletter Editor: Mr James Brazier, "The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ
(Tel: 01843 298038) (e-mail: 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)

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 2017/18:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£12.00	£16.00	£4.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£10.00	£14.00	£2.00	£20.00

Please note that Life Membership subscription is no longer available

and send it to the Membership Secretary, Ms Sally Whitworth, C/o 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR

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

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