

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Winter 2017/18  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 389



Margate Civic Society is a  
Founder Member  
of Civic Voice

As we approach the start of the new year, we can look back on another successful year for our Society. Our Town Pride Awards evening once again went off well thanks largely to our Chairman (Pamela Pople) and our day-trip to Arras and Vimy Ridge was much enjoyed by those who went on it. Next year, we are making a day-trip to Ypres where we plan to stay for the Last Post ceremony which is held at the Menin Gate at 8.00pm every day. It promises to be another successful trip across the channel. As the year 2018 is the centenary year of the Armistice that ended the Great War, it is very fitting that we should visit Ypres in 2018. If you have never visited Ypres before, it is a most delightful Belgian city with numerous attractions. The Society is also organising a coach trip to Sheffield Park, Sussex in September. Details of our planned visits are shown on pages 6 & 7. Book early to avoid disappointment! Our thanks go to Mike Wilton for again making all the arrangements for the trips. Another success for the Society was our involvement in this year's Heritage Open Days following TDC's reduced role in HODs. Geoff Orton represented Margate Civic Society on the Thanet team that organised the events that took place throughout Thanet that weekend. Two of the properties in Margate that participated in this year's HODs were India House in Hawley Street and 12 Arthur Road, Cliftonville. Many people visited these two properties which had not been open to the public previously and told how much they enjoyed their visits and how interesting they found the two properties. We are indeed very fortunate that both Ian Priston (from Boys & Maughan Solicitors) and Sam Causer (Architect) have very kindly contributed articles on each of these properties for our Newsletter.

As many of you will know, our Society has agreed to host the eight annual public open days of 12 Arthur Road, Cliftonville which are a condition of the Townscape Heritage Initiative grant in respect of the property. Members of our Society who would like to help ensure that our Society meets its commitment to host the eight public open days a year should speak to Geoff Orton at any of our meetings or contact Geoff outside of our meetings (see back page for contact details). It is anticipated that 12 Arthur Road will be ready for rental bookings from Spring 2018.

And lastly, I must thank our Chairman and the other members of our Committee for bestowing on me the position of Vice-President of Margate Civic Society. I feel that it is a great honour and privilege to be granted this title. This issue of the Newsletter is my 50th issue and I hope you all enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed putting it together. □

James Brazier  
Newsletter Editor

## Welcome to new members

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

Anny Squire  
David Hewstone  
Amber Butchart  
Christine Miller

Sally Whitworth  
Membership Secretary

## Subscriptions

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st October 2017. If you have not renewed your subscription, please note that this issue of the Newsletter will be the last one that you will receive. To ensure that you do receive future issues of the Newsletter without interruption, please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary, Ms Sally Whitworth, C/o 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR.

The subscription rates for the current year are shown on the back of this Newsletter. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated.

Sally Whitworth  
Membership Secretary

## Town Pride Awards 2018

Nominations of specific properties in our area are invited from members of our Society for the 2018 Town Pride Awards. All nominations should be submitted to our Chairman, Pamela Pople (see back page for contact details), by not later than 14th February 2018. The results of the Judging Panel will be announced at our meeting to be held on 10th May 2018. □

Pamela Pople  
Chairman

## DISCLAIMER

Please note that the Society is not responsible for the accuracy of material reproduced in the Newsletter. The content of the Newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter Editor or of the Committee of our Society. □



We wish all our members  
a very  
Merry Christmas



## Profiles of our President and each of four Vice-Presidents

At our AGM in October 2017, our Chairman, Pamela Pople, announced that the Committee had decided to ask your Newsletter Editor whether he would agree to becoming one of the Society's Vice-Presidents. It came as a complete surprise to me and the news was totally unexpected. Of course, it was a real honour to be asked to be a Vice-President and I willingly accepted the position after thanking Pamela and other members of the Committee.

The question that subsequently came to mind was: who else is currently also a Vice-President of our Society?

We all know that Ralph Handscomb is our President - a position he has now held for 13 years. Ralph Handscomb joined the Society in 1991 and was appointed Acting Secretary in December 1992 before taking over as Secretary in 1993 - a position he held until 1997 - when he was elected Vice-Chairman. The following year, Ralph was elected Chairman - a position he held from 1998 to 2002. Dr Alan Kay was our President when Ralph joined the Society in 1991 and it was Alan Kay



Ralph Handscomb

who proposed Ralph to be his successor in 2004 - a position he has held since that time. Alan Kay sadly died in 2006.

The Society now has four Vice-Presidents - Felicity Stafford, Robin Colyer, Tony Snow and me (James Brazier). Roy Adsett was a Vice-President until he passed away about seven years ago.

It occurred to me that our members might be interested in learning something about each of our Vice-Presidents.

**Felicity Stafford** joined the Society in 1971-72. This was a few years after it was founded by Roy Adsett, David Scurrrell and Dr W Pleuger. The Society had just fought its first successful battle to prevent the demolition of historic Georgian houses in Cecil Street. In its first 25 years, Felicity had the honour of acting for the Society as Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman and was delighted to be asked to become a Life President many years ago.



Felicity Stafford

Felicity writes:

*As it heads for its 50th year, the Society should be proud of its achievements. These have included: exhibitions, the production of town trails and excellent programmes of talks year on year. From its earliest days the newsletter has been important in keeping members informed. How lucky the Society is to have the current newsletter which is informative, witty and reminds us all of the need to be a "critical friend".*

*The introduction of the Town Pride Awards was an important part of encouraging good new development and celebrating the transformation of the old into exciting new projects. The many plaques that are proudly displaced around the town are proof of its success. One of the most important but unseen aspects of the Society's work is the watchful eye it keeps on planning and development.*

**Robin Colyer** became a Vice-President in 2000 having previously served as Chairman for a few years. Robin joined the Society in 1980 and was served as Treasurer from 1980 to 1984. He was encouraged to join by David Scurrrell who had initiated the awards scheme and Robin carried this through after he had retired from the committee. Robin's main interests are the history of St John's Church and the restoration of Drapers Windmill. Currently, he is also President of Drapers Windmill Trust.



Robin Colyer

**Tony Snow** was elected a Vice-President of the Society seven years ago. Tony had previously held the position of Chairman for many years and also served as Secretary. He also served as a guide by taking many groups around Old Margate. Tony's wife, Pat, also served on the Committee for a number of years, latterly as Treasurer. Both Tony and Pat regularly attend our meetings and will be well known to our members.



Tony Snow

known to our members.

And lastly, we have our latest Vice-President - **James Brazier**, who re-joined the Society in 2004 when he moved back to Margate for his retirement. One of the first things James did was to get himself on to the Committee and, the following year, took on the role of our Newsletter Editor. James has held that position for over twelve years and this issue of our Newsletter will be James's 50th Newsletter. James also produced a Roll of Honour containing details of all those from our town who fell during the two world wars and subsequent conflicts. His Roll of Honour is on the Society's website for all to access. □



James Brazier

JB

# India House and the beautiful Gaiety girl - Phyllis Broughton



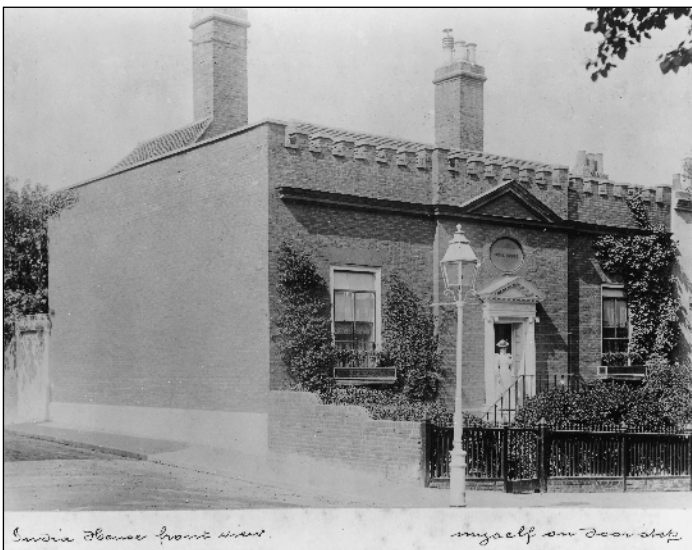
India House

Boys & Maughan Solicitors has been celebrating the 250th anniversary of their main office, Grade II\* listed India House in Hawley Street, this year.

The highpoint was the firm's contribution to Heritage Open Day on 9th September when the 1757 villa, built by Captain John Gould, a tea planter who made his fortune in Calcutta, was opened to the general public for the first time. The day was a great success, attracting close to 250 visitors.

One of the main attractions in September was the firm's collection of photographs, taken in about 1900, when Gaiety girl Phyllis Broughton was the owner of India House. Ian Priston, Boys & Maughan's marketing manager, restored the images and, picking up on a detail in one of them, displayed them on easels borrowed from Turner Contemporary. There are a dozen pictures and they provide a fascinating insight into the internal and external features of the building. Assisted by captions written on the photographs by Miss Broughton, the images were placed in the appropriate rooms and spaces, demonstrating how India House has changed over the past century.

Phyllis Broughton can be seen proudly posing on the front steps of India House in one of the pictures and many visitors were intrigued by how an actress owned - what architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner described in *The Buildings of England* - as the "best house in Margate."



Phyllis Broughton posing on the front steps of India House

Phyllis Harriet Wright Broughton was born in 1862 to a theatrical family and studied dance during her childhood. By 1880, aged 18, she was established in the Gaiety Company and went on to become the "toast of toasts among young London clubmen". It was said of her that "if there were players of more genius at the Gaiety there was no more lovely woman." From 1886, she was widely accepted as one of the most beautiful women of her day.



Autographed postcard of Phyllis Broughton sold in aid of The Actors' Orphanage Fund

*Lloyds Weekly Newspaper* reported in 1895: "She has made her mark early in life. In the home circle her bright and happy nature causes her to be the life and soul of the house."



Postcard view of India House in the snow - 1910

Phyllis Broughton became engaged to nobleman Lord Dangan, the eldest son of Earl Cowley, who was four years her junior. He then broke off the engagement and she sued him for breach of promise in 1888, four or five months after their engagement was announced. Phyllis obtained damages of £2,500. Actresses were infamous for their targeting of rich men at this time and Phyllis found herself on the wrong end of the press which speculated that she was copying another actress, May Fortescue, who had received a large settlement from Earl Cairns in another breach of promise case.

At the height of her fame, a colliery owner named John Hedley fell in love with Miss Broughton and they were engaged. The wealthy son of a Northumberland coal-mine owner, his affection for the actress was beyond question. In 1889, a few days before the wedding, however, Broughton jilted Hedley in a curt telegram cancelling the engagement.

John Hedley had built and furnished a large home called Longcroft for his bride in Hayes, Kent. Hedley never married, nor did he live in the Hayes house but he always kept the shuttered premises in perfect repair. Six gardeners were employed tending the 14 acres of land around Longcroft.



*Entrance Hall of India House*

On 12th October 1897, Dr Robert Thomson of Elmshurst, Grosvenor Place, Margate, sold India House to Lt-General Coote Syngé-Hutchinson (1832–1902). In his twenties, as a major in the 2nd Dragoon Guards, Coote Syngé-Hutchinson was awarded the Indian Mutiny Medal, with Lucknow clasp, for his service with the 2nd Dragoon Guards at the Siege of Lucknow during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Perhaps Syngé-Hutchinson was drawn to the building's strong historic associations with the country it is named after.

In November 1897, less than a month after purchasing India House, Lt-General Hutchinson passed it to Phyllis Broughton. The indenture states that the money used for the purchase "was in fact the proper money of Phyllis Broughton". She had asked Coote Syngé-Hutchinson to make the purchase as a trustee for her.

Boys & Maughan's collection of photographs feature Phyllis, General Hutchinson, Haidee (Phyllis's sister who

Gould. Haidee was adopted by the General in 1883. General Coote Syngé-Hutchinson married Emily, Phyllis and Haidee's mother, in 1888. All four had rooms at India House when the photographs were taken.

The General died in 1902. When the 31st March 1901 census was taken he was head of the household and resident with Emily, Haidee and various others in Westminster.

On that evening, Phyllis Broughton was the sole occupier of India House. The census describes her occupation as Independent Means and states that she was 35 when she was, in fact, 39.



*Phyllis Broughton's Bedroom, India House*

Aged 55 in January 1917, Phyllis married Dr Robert Thomson, the previous owner of India House and apparently a long-term admirer, at the Parish Church of St James, Piccadilly. His residence was Ivy Dene, Sweyn Road, Margate. She gave her address as Swallow Street, Westminster. Robert was a bachelor and Phyllis a spinster.

Despite her betrothal and the passing of close to 30 years, John Hedley continued to send Phyllis Broughton a basket of fruit and flowers cut from the gardens at Longcroft, week after week. His last gift was sent when Phyllis was dying. The two never met again after their engagement was broken but Hedley hugged the romance to the end, not only of Phyllis's life, but also of his own.

Hedley would make occasional visits to Longcroft, though they were never more than to address a few words to the gardeners about the weekly gift of flowers and fruit, or to take a walk through the empty rooms. When his health failed Hedley lay bedridden for 18 months in a room decorated with scores of Phyllis Broughton photographs. Eventually his nephew, Oswald Hedley, himself a wealthy coal owner, persuaded the old man to go to Windermere in the Lake District. Taking the photographs with him, Hedley went there and died in 1936.

John Hedley left £655,129 in his will and the former Gaiety girl was named as the residuary legatee (the person or persons named in a will who receive any residue left in an estate after bequests of specific items are made). Longcroft was donated in memory of Phyllis Broughton as a sanctuary for poor and aged actors and actresses.

The actress left more than £230,000 when she died in 1926. Her jewels sold for £36,000 at Christie's.

Visitors to the Heritage Open Day in September, particularly younger ones, were fascinated by Phyllis



*Dining Room of India House*

was born in 1882) and Emily Wright-Broughton. The pictures were sent to the firm by the Reverend Michael Gould of St Leonards-on-Sea, a descendant of Captain John

Broughton's wealth and fame. It is tempting to think of her, from the 21st century perspective, as someone to be admired as a high achiever and modern woman of her era.

If you browse Google you'll find promotional pictures of Phyllis Broughton dressed as a man amongst other more traditional images. Phyllis was a good male-impersonator and the androgynous look suited her. It would probably, however, be wrong to read too deeply into this side of her character and it shouldn't be overlooked that most of her roles were played for comedy.



*The General, Mother, Phyllis & Haidee in the Garden of India House*

The 1890s Gaiety girls were respectable, elegant young ladies, unlike the corseted actresses from London's earlier musical burlesques, and it appears that Phyllis Broughton's values were rather traditional. Text books list her amongst anti-suffrage thespians, for example. The anti-suffragists were a close-knit and well-connected group and their elites were women in Society with a capital S. Phyllis Broughton certainly moved upwards through the social ranks but did not, unlike a number of similarly famous Gaiety girl contemporaries, marry into the upper classes. Perhaps this ceased to be her ambition after the failed match with Lord Dangan.

Phyllis appears to have preferred to make her mark through philanthropy and charitable causes. The Dr Robert Thomson and Phyllis Broughton Scholarship Fund was established when Phyllis Broughton's will was proved on 1st September 1926 and it exists to this day, for example. The fund attained charitable status in 1965 and is administered by Epsom College, Surrey. After the war, Phyllis Broughton also remained a member of the Theatrical Ladies' Guild and the Rehearsal Club, a charitable institution established in 1892 to provide a quiet retreat for girls who took smaller parts in theatrical productions.

Precisely how long India House was the main home of Phyllis Broughton is not known but she appears to have left by 1917 and a postcard from the collection of Richard Clements, published in his book *Margate in Old Photographs*, shows that she was resident in 1910. Another postcard that can be found online suggests that she was resident in London in 1905.

In 1917, India House was occupied by Dr W. C. Esse, former Chief Physician at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. It

seems unlikely that Phyllis Broughton was also resident in 1917 in light of her marriage to Robert Thomson that year.

On 29th March 1920, Phyllis Broughton sold India House to Cyril Collingwood Maughan. Cyril went into partnership with Toke Boys in 1902 and Boys & Maughan Solicitors have now been the occupiers of India House for nearly 100 years.

Boys & Maughan's document collection begins with a conveyance in 1860. Earlier documents, starting with the purchase of the land on which India House is built, in 1763, were donated to the Kent History Centre in Maidstone in 1986. They can be seen there by appointment amongst many other old papers relating to Margate.

India House was first listed as Grade II on 10th April 1951 and upgraded to Grade II\* in July 2008.

The 2008 assessment said of India House:

*"The elements of its design, while of high quality, are not unusual for their time; it is the way in which they are deployed that lends the building its unique character: a crenellated Palladian villa on a diminutive scale whose ambition belies its proportions... the fine full-height entrance hall is of a scale befitting a much grander town house, there is an elegant stair, and a good general survival of joinery and decorative features. The house has a considerable historic interest as a status dwelling occupied by a retired nabob, marking the C18 growth of Margate as a fashionable place to live and visit, and may be an example of the genre of the eccentric seaside villa."*

Members of the Civic Society who were unable to attend the Heritage Open Day might like a free illustrated booklet detailing the history of India House that was given to visitors in September. If you would like a copy, visit Boys & Maughan in Hawley Street and ask for Ian Priston or email him at [ijp@boysandmaughan.co.uk](mailto:ijp@boysandmaughan.co.uk)

**Ian Priston**

*Very many thanks to Ian Priston for contributing this most interesting article and for arranging for India House to be open to the public during this year's Heritage Open Days. Ian is a member of our Society. The illustrated booklet referred to in Ian's article is superbly produced and full of detailed information on the history of India House.*  
- Editor



*The Blue Plaque that was put up on India House by Thanet District Council some 20 years ago recording that Phyllis Broughton lived in the house at one time*

# Margate Civic Society COACH TRIPS 2018

## YPRES

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May

To include the Menin Gate  
Last Post Ceremony at 8pm

Optional visit to Tyne Cot  
CWGC Cemetery  
(no extra charge)

Leave Margate 10am  
arrive back 11.30pm

£30 per person



## SHEFFIELD PARK

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Includes entry to the  
National Trust gardens  
and a return journey on the  
Bluebell Railway

Leave Margate 10am

£37 per person

Travel by Carol Peters coach      Ypres trip via Eurotunnel

Pick-up points: Wheatsheaf - Beacon Bingo - Hussar - Summerlands - Birchington Square

For tickets or further information, please contact Mike Wilton on (01843) 844717  
email [treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

## COACH TRIP TO YPRES

I'm pleased to say that we have now confirmed that our first coach trip of 2018 will be to Ypres, in Belgium, on Tuesday 15th May. Ypres is, of course, famous for the tragic battles which took place during World War I in and around the city and a visit to the In Flanders Field Museum (for a small charge) brings home the horror of those times. Our coach will take us on an optional visit, at no extra cost, to the CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing which are about six miles from Ypres. Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the world. Whether or not you choose to go to Tyne Cot, there will be plenty of time to explore Ypres, which is a charming city in its own right, with its famous Cloth Hall in the Grand Place where there are also many shops, bars and restaurants.

We will be staying to participate in the Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony. This touching ceremony takes place every evening at 8pm at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing and includes buglers playing the Last Post and Reveille, with a minute's silence.

We will be using a Carol Peters coach and travelling to the Continent via Eurotunnel. We will pick up around 10am (times to be confirmed) to travel on the 11.50am train. We should arrive in Ypres at around 3pm local time. We will leave immediately after the Menin Gate Last Post ceremony and should arrive back in Thanet around 11.30pm. A long day but it should be just as enjoyable as our other trips have been. The price is £30 per person.

We are currently planning our second trip of the year, which will be to Sheffield Park National Trust gardens in East Sussex, on Tuesday 11th September. These are beautifully-landscaped gardens and, as an added attraction, we will be including a return journey to East Grinstead on the Bluebell Railway – steam-hauled, of course. Further details in the next edition of the Newsletter, but the price will be in the region of £37, to include entry to Sheffield Park and the railway journey. There will be a reduced price for National Trust members who can gain entry to Sheffield Park using their own membership.

Tickets for Ypres will be on sale at our meetings or by contacting Mike Wilton on 01843 844717 or by email to [treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk). Tickets for Sheffield Park will be on sale in the spring.

**Mike Wilton**



*The Cloth Hall in the Grand Place*

## TDC defers review of its boundaries by the Boundary Commission

It is understood that TDC has decided not to ask the Boundary Commission to carry out a review of the TDC ward boundaries until 2022 in time for the 2023 local elections. This deferment of the previously-proposed 2018 review will mean that the anomaly of the non-inclusion in the current Westgate-on-Sea Ward of Essex Road, Chester Road, Queens Road and Hockeredge Gardens in Westgate-on-Sea Ward will continue. The anomaly being that residents of houses in those roads will continue to fall outside Westgate-on-Sea Town Council's area notwithstanding that this area is an important part of 'old Westgate'. Up to 2003, this area was always included in the former Westgate-on-Sea Ward. In 2003, the Boundary Commission carried out a review of the Ward boundaries and decided to transfer this part of the old Westgate-on-Sea Ward to Westbrook Ward. That switch merely resulted in electors in those roads being represented on TDC by Westbrook Ward councillors rather than of Westgate-on-Sea Ward councillors. When TDC made the Order creating Westgate Parish Council (as it was originally named in 2015), TDC decided that it would have caused a long delay to have changed the boundary to switch these roads back into Westgate-on-Sea Ward. In 2015, a local elector drew Westgate-on-Sea Town Council's attention to the anomaly and the Town Council agreed to ask TDC to seek to transfer the properties concerned back into Westgate-on-Sea Ward in time for the 2019 local elections. Not all the residents in that part of Westgate have the desire to come under the Town Council's area as it would result in their paying a much higher council tax bill to meet the precept of the Town Council rather than the precept of Margate Charter Trustees.

Another consequence of the decision by TDC not to ask the Boundary Commission to carry out a review until 2022 is that the number of its councillors will continue at 56 rather than be reduced to 36-40 as had been proposed following the collapse of the 'super district council' proposal.

Lastly, it seems likely that the deferment of the boundary review will bring forward the implementation of the request made by Margate Charter Trustees to carry out another community governance review with a view to the Charter Trustees being replaced by a Margate Town Council. Such a review was carried out only 3-4 years ago when there was a total lack of appetite shown in Margate for a Town Council. A very small number of residents of Westgate expressed favour for the creation of a Westgate Parish Council and TDC, in its wisdom, decided not to create a Town Council for Margate but to create a Parish Council for Westgate. The consequences of that decision are today only too apparent culminating in the calling of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council by two of the Town Councillors. That meeting took place on 23rd November 2017 and a report on the meeting is contained on page 14 of the Newsletter.

Is it really necessary for TDC to carry out yet another community governance review so soon after the last review when there was a total lack of appetite for the creation of a Town Council to replace the Margate Charter Trustees?

**JB**

## 12 Arthur Road, Cliftonville

A late Victorian house, 12 Arthur Road in Cliftonville has been conserved with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Thanet District Council by architect Studio Sam Causer, as part of the *Dalby Square Townscape Heritage Initiative*. The house is now complete, and available for holiday lets from Spring 2018, as well as being open to the public free of charge for eight days a year, hosted by the Margate Civic Society.

*Sam Causer explains:*

Cliftonville was established in the late nineteenth century as a posh suburb of Margate to serve the needs of more discerning holiday-makers. The town planning is clever and simple. Two main arteries extend eastwards along the coast, connecting the harbour and railway station in the west, with the new hotels, boarding houses and leisure facilities in the east. One artery is urban - Northdown Road – a tram route lined with shops, restaurants and offices, the other a linear country park encouraging leisurely meanders along the cliffs, sprinkled liberally with fun things to do such as play tennis or croquet, chat with new friends in an elegant sheltered bench, or take in some music at a bandstand or concert at the Winter Gardens. If you're T. S. Eliot or Ralph Vaughan Williams you may also contemplate the world around you, and turn it into seminal Modernist poetry or get out your violin and mimic ascending larks, thus establishing Margate's place in the English cultural landscape.



*Photo: David Grandorge*

*Arthur Road looking north. No. 12 on the right*

Running north/south between the two arteries, between the town and the sea, between commerce and leisure, the civilized and the wild, are rows of terraced houses, most with bay windows reaching out to catch the dichotomous views up and down the streets, as well as straight across to your neighbours if your interests are more earthly. 12 Arthur Road is one of these houses, and one of the grandest, with double front, leaded lights, Corinthian detailing and a glazed porch, rumoured to have been added in the early twentieth century for a recuperating Marchioness.



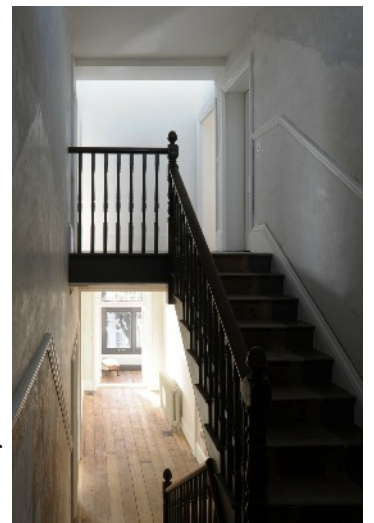
*Photo: David Grandorge*

*One of the five bedrooms with restored leaded lights*

The deeds that accompany the house are complete, showing every transaction, mortgage, and rental occupation since the land was purchased from the trustees of the estate of deceased landowner Thomas Dalby Reeve in 1895 by the builder J. Brown. The first occupant appears to be 50 year old Londoner, retired fruit salesman and widower Emmanuel Levy. Levy kept the house in addition to his Holland Park flat, with his two daughters Amelia and Sophie, and maids Arabella and Emily. The family were wealthy, when Levy died in 1912, the probate records show his estate valued at £47,926 12s 6d, worth roughly £4 million today.

The house remained in private ownership until 1930 when it was extended upwards one floor and became part of the Frederick Hotels chain. By the early 1950s, the hotel came to the Gregory family, who held it right through till octogenarian widow Ivy Gregory sold it to my clients, the Walker brothers from London, in 2013. Over the previous half century, the Gregorys had run the house first as a B&B, and later as 13 separate holiday 'flatlets', which may have hosted over 30 people a night at peak times. Each bedsit had its own cooking and washing facilities in the corners of the room, all of which remained from the 1960s, their slow decay testament to the area's declining tourist activity. Fortunately, the house avoided being turned into flats as so many Cliftonville houses have been, and the interiors remained remarkably intact.

The HLF and TDC-funded *Dalby Square Townscape Heritage Initiative* led by Thanet Heritage Advisor Nick Dermott sought to help owners transform their buildings - in accordance with strict Conservation standards - in the



*Photo: Liam Nabb*

*The top-floor landing with new roof-light*



belief that raising the quality of the built environment will reflect well on peoples' perception of it, and thus support a resurgent tourist economy.

Working alongside designer Liam Nabb, we were appointed as Architects to repair and conserve the derelict building to form a whole-house holiday let. The THI grant funded what's called the 'Conservation Deficit' which is the difference between the cost of the project, and the value of the building once complete, which allowed an otherwise impossibly high level of research and conservation work to take place, showcasing Cliftonville's finest interiors.



Photo: David Grandorge

*New rear closet wing with pivot door to the garden*

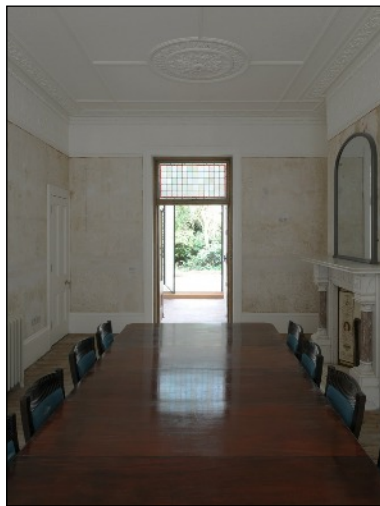


Photo: David Grandorge

*Dining Room*

which can't be removed without damaging the layers below. Along with the deeds, this fabric means we know a great deal about the life and development of the house over the last 120 years, and are able to share it with you.

The conservation work was carried out with a delicate touch by Ramsgate-based contractor DG Joinery. It now feels as though we haven't done anything, but in fact difficult decisions were made throughout, regarding what to remove, what to repair and what to replace. We established a hierarchy of significance, retaining the best of each of the remaining states of the house, to retaining a sense of age and passing of time, rather than taking the interiors 'back' to 1895, or

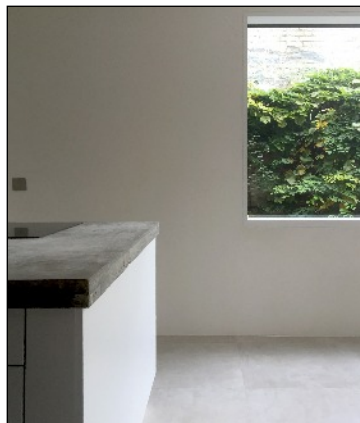


Photo: Liam Nabb

*Kitchen with concrete worktop and sheer windows*

completely 'forwards' to now. It's more of a melange.

Virtually every surface and piece of timber has been carefully taken out, conserved and put back, all 31 leaded lights re-set by Ramsgate-based specialist Rob Croudace and all the plasterwork delicately stabilised and re-moulded by Margate's Tony Andreu. The



Photo: David Grandorge

*One of the five bathrooms*

masonry walls to the rear wing and 1930s top floor have been insulated internally with breathable wood fibre panels, sprayed with lime plaster and rubbed smooth with Marseille soap. All eight marble fire surrounds have been restored by Jonathan Griffith from Canterbury, and all four fireplaces on the ground floor lined and made safe for guests to use.

In addition to the conservation work, the plumbing and electrical services are all new, a large kitchen formed, walls removed and five new bedroom suites created, each occupying half a floor of the house, providing views through new interconnecting doorways cut through from front to back.



Photo: David Grandorge

*Bedroom and landing with repaired lime plaster walls, showing remains of the only assumed original wallpaper in mosaic pattern*

The layout has been designed to suit a variety of uses to support Margate's economy, moving on from its current use as a whole house for holiday-makers, it will also work as a highly-serviced hotel, and/or a venue for cultural or business events, to ensure a viable future.

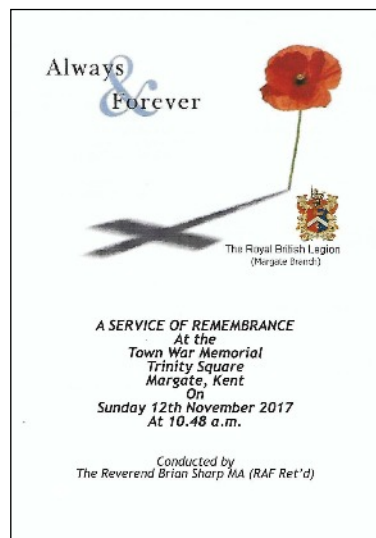
We are delighted that the Margate Civic Society have agreed to host the eight annual public open days which are a condition of the THI grant. You also have the opportunity to rent the house – also a condition – from Spring 2018. All details can be found here: [www.12arthurroad.com](http://www.12arthurroad.com)

**Sam Causer  
Architect**

# Margate Remembers its Fallen - Remembrance Sunday 2017



Some of the town-folk at Margate War Memorial taking part in the annual Service of Remembrance



The wreath laid by the Town Mayor, Cllr Rosamund Dixon

**Note: In 2018, Remembrance Sunday will fall on Sunday, 11th November which will be the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice at eleven o'clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918**



Sir Roger Gale MP lays his wreath whilst the Town Sergeant, Denis Spencer, maintains a firm grip on the Town Mace



The Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr Rosamund Dixon, lays a wreath on behalf of the Margate Charter Trustees and the people of Margate

## The arrival of the civic dignitaries shortly before this year's Service of Remembrance at Margate War Memorial



The Town Sergeant (Denis Spencer) leads the Civic Party to the War Memorial followed by (left to right) Deputy Lieutenant of Kent (Frank Martin DL), a representative of the Air Training Corps, the Town Mayor (Cllr Rosamund Dixon), the Chairman of Thanet District Council (Cllr Janet Falcon), Honorary Town Recorder (Judge James O'Mahony), Honorary Burgess (Cllr Mick Tomlinson), Chief Executive, Thanet District Council (Madeline Homer), Honorary Town Clerk (Alan Miles) and Honorary Burgess (Cllr Iris Johnston). Amongst the other dignitaries in the Civic Party, who cannot be seen in this photograph, was the Member of Parliament for Thanet North (Sir Roger Gale MP)



The parade to Margate War Memorial was led by the Boys' and Girls' Brigade marching band

This year's very moving Service of Remembrance was, once again, ably conducted by the Rev Brian Sharp (RAF Ret'd)



Members of the Royal British Legion (Margate Branch) on parade



The youth were represented by these contingents from the Scouts

## Wreaths laid at Margate War Memorial



*Photo taken immediately after this year's Service*



*This photo shows, hidden behind the wall at the back of the memorial, a number of wreaths that were laid last year. There were also a number of last year's wreaths amongst this year's wreaths laid on the memorial. Surely someone at TDC ought to have ensured that the memorial was in a fit and proper state before the start of this year's Service of Remembrance?*



*This wreath, laid at last year's Service of Remembrance was still lying on the war memorial at the end of this year's Service. No blame can be placed on the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (M.O.T.H.) for this serious failure by TDC to remove last year's wreaths before this year's Service of Remembrance. Regrettably, The M.O.T.H. wreath was one of many others lying on the memorial from last year's Service of Remembrance.*

*Other wreaths from last year were lying behind the back wall of the memorial as can be seen in the upper photograph. Let us hope that this will never happen again to mar an otherwise memorable and moving occasion*

## Remembering Pte Geoffrey Gadsden

Among the many wreaths and crosses at Margate War Memorial that had been laid during the act of remembrance was a plastic sleeve containing a photograph of a soldier accompanied by both a photograph of his CWGC headstone and a short hand-written note from his



late brother's descendants. The fallen soldier was Pte Geoffrey Charles Gadsden who died of wounds on 4th December 1917 - 100 years ago. I knew that I did not have a photo of him amongst my collection of photographs of Margate's war dead so, not wanting to disturb the contents of the plastic sleeve, I photographed the photograph without taking it out of the sleeve. The result is shown above it is not perfect but, considering the circumstances, it is not too bad a reproduction and is certainly good enough for inclusion in our Newsletter.

As the publication date for this issue of our Newsletter is likely to be on or around 4th December 2017 (the centenary of Geoffrey Gadsden's death on 4th December 1917), it occurred to me that it would be appropriate to include the photo of Geoffrey Gadsden in this issue alongside my report on the town's Service of Remembrance held on the day after the 99th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended the Great War.

I regret that my research into Geoffrey Gadsden revealed little information other than that he served in the 1/6th King's Liverpool Regiment, that he died of wounds aged 20 on 4th December 1917 and that his grave is at Maubeuge Centre Cemetery, France. Further research revealed that it is probable that he died in a German prisoner-of-war camp. The 1911 Census showed him living with his family at 7 Church Street Cottages, Margate. To me, the photo of Geoffrey Gadsden represented all those names on Margate War Memorial which are now just names.

Interestingly, his name is shown incorrectly on Margate War Memorial as J. C. Gadsden. Presumably, someone wrote his forename down as Jeffrey rather than as Geoffrey. But such errors on war memorials throughout the country are common. In my Roll of Honour shown on our Society's website, I have shown all the names exactly as inscribed on Margate War Memorial and shown their proper names alongside where different. Errors such as these are part of the history of the war memorial and, in my opinion, ought not be corrected on the war memorial itself. If any of Geoffrey Gadsden's relatives read this column, I would appeal to them to contact me (see back page for contact details) in order that I may add to the information held by me on Geoffrey Gadsden and shown on the Roll of Honour on the Society's website. A better image of the original photo of him would be especially welcomed.

## Gormley statue has a near miss

Margate woke up on Sunday 8th October to find that a cargo ship (*Islay Trader*) carrying broken-glass had run aground only feet away from the Sir Antony Gormley sculpture *Another Time* which had been featured in the last Newsletter. The ship was refloated at high tide later that same day with the help of a tug. These photos, taken by Richard Clements, show how close the encounter was that day.

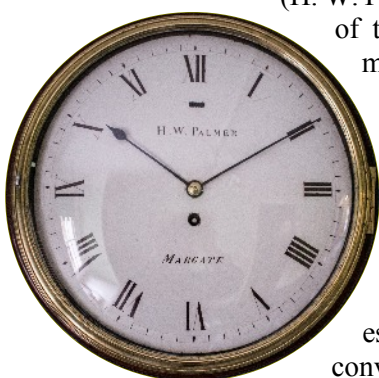


It had originally been planned to remove the Gormley sculpture on 5th November 2017 but it had proved such an attraction that Turner Contemporary recently decided to leave it in place until November 2018. Many visitors have expressed the view that it would be even better were the sculpture to remain in situ indefinitely. □

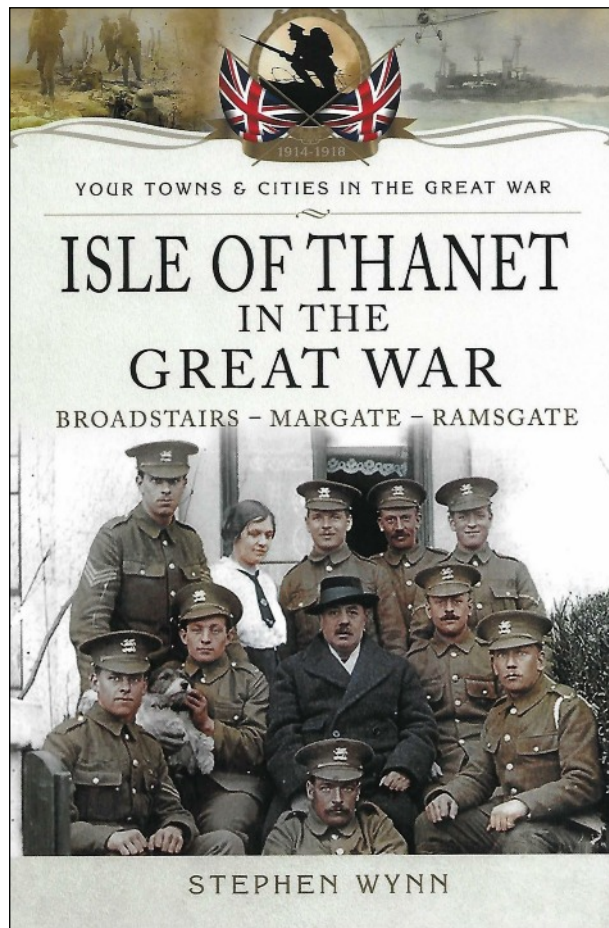


## The Old Margate Clock at India House

Without doubt, one of the most interesting properties that participated in this year's Heritage Open Days was India House. It was a real privilege to see some of the rooms in this magnificent building but it was also an opportunity to have a close look at Boys & Maughan's superb 200-year-old fusee dial clock dating from c. 1813. The name on the dial



(H. W. Palmer) is believed to be that of the retailer rather than the maker of the clock. The clock is wound each week and cannot be overwound because there is a stop to prevent anyone from doing so. The clock has a hole on the face because it originally had a verge escapement before it was later converted to a pendulum. □



New book published:

### *The Isle of Thanet in the Great War* *Broadstairs - Margate - Ramsgate* by Stephen Wynn

Hot off the press is this new book published at the end of November by Pen & Sword. The author, Stephen Wynn, is a retired police officer and has written a number of other books in Pen & Sword's popular 'Your Towns & Cities in the Great War' series. The book contains a wealth of information on how the Great War impacted on the three Thanet towns of Broadstairs, Margate (including both Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington) and Ramsgate. It tells the story on a year-by-year basis and ends with lists of the fallen from each of the locations. Much of the information has been gleaned from local newspapers published at the time and the author has also picked up on a number of interesting court cases that took place during those war years - which probably reflects his time spent as a police officer. This book will appeal particularly to those who have an interest in the Great War and how it impacted on Thanet 100 years ago. The book does contain a short index but would have benefited from better proof-reading - particularly by someone having both local knowledge and an interest in that war.

The book is published in softback and contains 240 pages. It is published at £14.99. Copies of the book may be obtained directly from the publishers at a **special 25% discount** for our members by adding the review code THNT25 when ordering through the publisher's website [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk) or by quoting the review code over the phone on 01226 734222. □

JB

# Margate Charter Trustees and Westgate-on-Sea Town Council - Latest News

Reference was made in the last Newsletter to the Public Interest Report (PIR) issued last August by Margate Charter Trustees' external auditors (PKF Littlejohn LLP). The PIR contained the external auditors' findings following their investigation into the formal objection, lodged by a local elector last year, to the payment of £30,000 made in 2015/16 by Margate Charter Trustees to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council as Westgate's share of the Charter Trustees' assets as at 1st April 2015. The Charter Trustees were statutorily required to give proper notice of a public meeting at which the PIR was to be discussed and agreement reached as to the action to be taken by the Charter Trustees. That public meeting was duly held on 25th September 2017 when the Charter Trustees acknowledged that there had indeed been an overpayment made of £18,372.78 and the Charter Trustees decided to request Westgate-on-Sea Town Council to return the overpayment (as well as the two silver cups that had been handed over to the Town Council in 2016).

At the meeting of the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association held on 13th November 2017, their Chairman, (Cllr Mick Tomlinson - who is one of the Charter Trustees) reported that a letter had been sent from the Charter Trustees to the Town Council requesting the return of £18,372.78.

An Extraordinary meeting of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council was called by two of its councillors following the failure of the Chairman, Cllr Tom King, to call an Extraordinary meeting. The Extraordinary meeting took place on 23rd November when, unexpectedly at 8.20pm, the Chairman simply closed the meeting, put his coat on and walked out before all the items on the agenda had even been discussed. During that Extraordinary meeting, Cllr Joanna Cornford - who had attended the W&WRA meeting - stated that Cllr Mick Tomlinson had reported to that meeting that a letter had been sent to the Town Council requesting repayment of the £18,372.78 but Cllr King simply refused to allow members of the Town Council to discuss that matter. It will be interesting to see what provision, if any, the Town Council makes in its 2018/19 Budget for this outstanding liability.

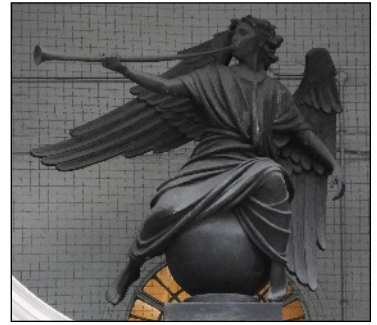
Another meeting of Margate Charter Trustees was held on 27th November when it was reported by the Mayor, Cllr Rosamund Dixon, that legal advice on the recovery of the overpayment had been obtained from Boys & Maughan Solicitors. It was also reported by the Mayor that no reply had been received to the letter sent by the Charter Trustees to the Town Council requesting repayment of the overpayment of £18,372.78. The Charter Trustees agreed to send another letter to the Town Council seeking a formal reply to their first letter requesting repayment of the monies.

It is a matter of concern that Westgate-on-Sea Town Council is refusing to acknowledge the decision of the Charter Trustees made on 25th September 2017 and that Cllr King appears not to have informed his fellow councillors of the letter from Margate Charter Trustees requesting repayment of the £18,372.78. □

## Is Westgate's Winged Angel a Herald?



*Do these two examples of architectural sculpture have much in common? The winged angel with trumpet above is in Fleet Street and the one on the right is in Westgate*



*A close-up of the sculpture 'The Herald' at 85 Fleet Street, London*



One of the many features of the Grade II Town Hall Buildings (1909) at Westgate is the fine example of architectural sculpture that can be seen immediately below the clock-face at the front of the building. It is not known who the sculptor was but the figure is very reminiscent of Sir William Reid Dick's bronze sculpture *The Herald* on the former Reuters building (built 1938/39) at 85 Fleet Street, London. The architect for the Reuters building was Sir Edwin Lutyens who commissioned Sir William Reid Dick to create the sculpture which portrays a messenger bringing news. *The Herald* is a winged angel blowing a trumpet. The figure on the Town Hall Buildings shows a winged angel gazing towards heaven and holding a similar trumpet resting on his legs. The magnificent Town Hall Buildings were commissioned by Sir William Ingram who was the proprietor of *The Illustrated London News* among other publications and who, towards the end of his life, lived at Westgate. Could it be that the Westgate sculpture is a representation of *The Herald* at rest after having broadcast news for many years through Sir William's publications? It certainly is a fine example of early-twentieth century sculpture. Unfortunately, it would appear not to have been signed by the sculptor although it is possible that the signature is located at the rear of the sculpture and cannot now be seen.

It would appear that the figure is made of bronze and that it hasn't been cleaned for decades - if ever! The effect of bird droppings, salt air and general pollution over many years has taken its toll on the statue but, on the other hand, its location high up has ensured that it has not been subject to vandalism.

Does anyone know anything about this sculpture? Your Editor would love to hear from anyone who has some knowledge of it - especially the name of the sculptor. Further research on this sculpture is called for. □

# What's On

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

Date	Subject
<b>2017</b>	
14th December	Our Christmas social evening, including films, our Christmas raffle, our quiz and refreshments. Guests £3.50 each
<b>2018</b>	
January	No meeting
1st February	'Christopher Alexander's paintings - Mediterranean Theme' by Steve Alexander
1st March	'Westgate-on-Sea in the 1950s' by Sally Whitworth
5th April	'Public Timekeeping on the Isle of Thanet' by Mike Bundock, Chairman of the Herne Bay Historical Records Society
10th May	Town Pride Awards followed by refreshments. Guests £3.50 each nominal fee
4th October	AGM followed by 'Thanet's Gift to the World' by Dr Andrew Brown BA, PhD, MCBA, Planning Director, South East Planning Group, Historic England
1st November	'Time to Thank Them' by John Drewy, Patron of The Nursing Memorial Appeal
13th December	Christmas 50th Anniversary Celebratory Event - a 1960s-theme evening with films, music, photo-quiz, raffle and refreshments - full details to be confirmed



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

Winter/Spring programme - Open on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 am to 12 noon when there will be a talk by one or more of our members at 10.30 am Do come and see our Collection. Home-made refreshments are available at our meetings

Date	Subject
<b>2018</b>	
6th January	'Westgate-on-Sea - Our Favourites' - a special look at any of our members' favourite memories
3rd February	'The Story of two (or three) Wills relating to Westgate-on-Sea - Part I' by Sally Whitworth and Dr Dawn Crouch
24th February	As part of Screen South's '100 Miles - 100 Years' First World War Walking Trails project, the Westgate-on-Sea Walking Trail will be launched at St Saviour's Church at 11.15 am by Sir Roger Gale MP. The Heritage Centre will be open that day from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. 100 walkers (not necessarily from Westgate) are sought to walk the 1.5 mile round trail from St Saviour's Church
3rd March	Annual General Meeting followed by a short talk by Dr Dawn Crouch on some of the Heritage Centre's interesting artefacts
7th April	'The Story of two (or three) Wills relating to Westgate-on-Sea - Part II' by Sally Whitworth and Dr Dawn Crouch
20th April (Note: This is a Friday event)	'The Victorian Soirée' - Come and join us at St Saviour's Church for a typical social evening of Victorian entertainment. Tickets £5 each which includes wine and refreshments. Note: Starts at 7.30pm

**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)

Supported by



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 2017/18:

**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)  
(e-mail: [pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk](mailto:pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk))

**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)  
(e-mail: [geoff.orton@tesco.net](mailto:geoff.orton@tesco.net))

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

**Membership Secretary:** Ms Sally Whitworth, C/o 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 07949 835777)  
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**Newsletter Editor:** Mr James Brazier, "The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ  
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**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:** .....

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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

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