

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Winter 2018
Newsletter
Issue No. 393



Margate Civic Society is a
Founder Member
of Civic Voice

This year, the whole nation commemorated the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice on 11th November 1918. The nation's tribute took many forms and it is only fitting that this issue of our Newsletter contains reports of some of those local events. One of those events was the unveiling of a new memorial plaque at Lymington Road Recreation Ground, Westgate-on-Sea. This recreation ground was specifically provided in 1920 as a memorial to Westgate's WWI Fallen. For some reason, a plaque was never erected at the site and most residents were oblivious to the recreation ground being a war memorial. Thanks to the endeavours of members of the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre and others, a memorial plaque has now been erected



The new memorial plaque at Lymington Road

and unveiled - only a few days before the one hundredth anniversary of the Armistice. A full report on this new memorial is contained in this Newsletter on pages 4, 5 and 6. At the meeting of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council held on 2nd October 2018, it was falsely claimed by Cllr Tom King, former Chairman of the Council, that Margate Civic Society should not publish reports relating to Westgate as Westgate is no longer part of Margate. This Society will continue to report in our Newsletter on matters affecting Westgate - whether they be positive or negative reports. We are a civic society and we have an interest in all matters, including civic affairs, affecting our 'patch'. One only has to see our name to be aware of that. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Town Pride Awards 2019

Nominations of specific properties in our area are invited from members of our Society for the 2019 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 2019. The results of the Judging Panel will be announced at our meeting to be held on 9th May 2019. □

Pamela Pople
Chairman

Welcome to new members

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

Robert Bird
Veronica Marshall
Jon Finegold
Stephanie Nsom
Lakruwan Senevirathne
Jorinde Hess Senevirathne
Jasmine Hess Senevirathne
Susan Redgrave

Sally Whitworth
Membership Secretary

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st October 2018. 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

1968-2018

Margate Civic Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary

Do join us in our celebrations at the Walpole Bay Hotel on Thursday 13th December from 7.00pm until 10.00pm (see page 15 for details). □

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, the Committee of our Society or of any individual contributors. □



**We wish all our members
a very
Merry Christmas**



COACH TRIP TO SHEFFIELD PARK AND THE BLUEBELL RAILWAY



Margate Civic Society members and friends at Sheffield Park

The latest of our very successful coach trips took place on 11th September, when thirty-two members and their friends visited the National Trust gardens at Sheffield Park, East Sussex, followed by a trip on the heritage Bluebell Railway.

We left Margate at 8.30am on our very comfortable Carol Peters coach and, after the usual pick-ups between Margate and Birchington, we were soon on our way. Our driver took a scenic route and we enjoyed seeing the Kent and east Sussex countryside. We arrived at Sheffield Park at 11am by which time many of the group decided coffee was needed and made for the restaurant. The gardens are particularly noted for the huge variety of trees and, although the autumn tints had not quite begun to show, there is an amazing range of colours. Combined with the lakes, water cascades and wildlife, this is a really beautiful place and everyone enjoyed strolling round enjoying the views. We didn't have any sunshine but the weather was mild and just right for walking.

After another visit to the restaurant and the shop, we boarded the coach again for the very short journey to Sheffield Park station on the Bluebell Railway. We had time to look around the very attractive old station before boarding our reserved carriage on the 3:45pm train to East Grinstead. Our train was hauled by 0-6-0 steam locomotive No. 30541, which was designed by Richard Maunsell for the Southern Railway and built just before the Second World War. After our 45-minute journey to East Grinstead, we had an opportunity to have a look at the engine before returning to Sheffield Park.

Although this trip was not as well supported as some of our other ones, those who went had a most enjoyable day. Time now for your Committee to think about our next coach trip, which we usually hold towards the end of May each year. If you have any ideas for a day out, please let any Committee member know. □

Mike Wilton
Treasurer



One of the many delightful vistas at Sheffield Park

THE BLUEBELL RAILWAY
WAS STARTED IN 1959 BY A SMALL
GROUP OF ENTHUSIASTS & HAS GROWN
OVER THE YEARS TO WHAT YOU SEE TODAY.

Signage at Sheffield Park Station



Steam locomotive No. 30541 at Sheffield Park Station

Margate Civic Society

Our Spring 2019 coach trip



BOULOGNE



Tuesday 21st May



Leave Margate 8.00am
Travel via Eurotunnel
Leave Boulogne 6.00pm



TICKET PRICE £27



Coach pick-ups at Wheatsheaf, Clock Tower, Hussar, Summerlands and Birchington Square

Tickets on sale at our meetings or contact Mike Wilton on (01843) 844717 or email treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Margate Civic Society

Our Autumn 2019 coach trip

CHATHAM HISTORIC DOCKYARD 'SALUTE TO THE 40S' FESTIVAL

Sunday 22nd September

Leave Margate 9.30am

Return from Chatham 5.30pm

TICKET PRICE £27

which includes Dockyard admission

All the usual Dockyard attractions plus one of Britain's best vintage festivals



Coach pick-ups at Wheatsheaf, Clock Tower, Hussar, Summerlands and Birchington Square

Tickets on sale at our meetings or contact Mike Wilton on (01843) 844717 or email treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Recording the Westgate-on-Sea Recreation Ground 1914-18 War Memorial on the Centenary of the Armistice

Four-and-a-half acres of land in Lymington Road were purchased in 1920 and funded by public subscription to create a recreation ground in memory of the men of Westgate who fell in the Great War. Within just three years, there was demand for a war memorial which could serve as a focus for acts of remembrance and so the war memorial on Sea Road was built and, since 1923, has served as the town's war memorial. There is no record of a plaque ever having been erected on the Lymington Road

recreation ground although the recreation ground is recognised as a war memorial. Accordingly, it was considered by the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre that a plaque should finally be erected in time for this year's 100th anniversary year of the Armistice which ended the Great War in 1918. The following photographs illustrate the story of how a plaque was finally erected. The plaque should ensure that the recreation ground is long recognised as an important war memorial in Westgate's history. □



Lymington Road recreation ground - March 2007



Photo courtesy of Cllr Jane Catchesides, Chairman of Helions Bumpstead Parish Council, Essex
Helions Bumpstead's memorial wall and plaque which served as a model for Westgate's new memorial wall and plaque



Selection of the site for the memorial wall and plaque - 23rd May 2018



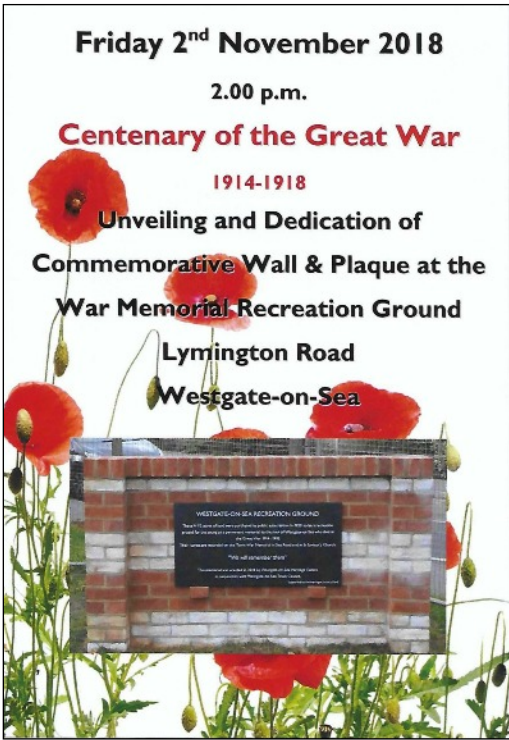
Jon the bricklayer taking great care over building the wall - 16th October 2018



Dr Dawn Crouch visits the nearly-completed wall - 17th October 2018



The Union Flag veils the new plaque on the morning of 2nd November 2018. Note the WWI brass shellcases at either end of the wall



The front cover of the Order of Service for the Unveiling and Dedication of the Commemorative Wall and Plaque at the Recreation Ground in Lymington Road

On the Centenary of the Armistice, a new Commemorative Wall and Plaque is Unveiled and Dedicated at Westgate-on-Sea

In bright autumn sunshine, over one hundred local residents attended the unveiling and dedication of the new plaque at Lymington Road recreation ground as illustrated below:



The Union Flag is lowered to reveal the Commemorative Wall and Plaque



Dr Dawn Crouch, Honorary Freeman of Westgate-on-Sea and Founder of the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre, welcoming everyone to the historic occasion on 2nd November 2018. Relatives of three of the men whose name listed on Westgate's war memorials are standing next to the Revd Susan Wing



Sue Troke (on left) and Jane Hammond unveiling the Commemorative Wall and Plaque. Sue Troke is the great-niece of William & Frederick Pointer (brothers) and Jane Hammond is the great-niece of Alfred Eede whose names are inscribed on the war memorials on Sea Road and in St Saviour's Church



The Revd Susan Wing dedicates the Commemorative Wall and Plaque



Sir Roger Gale MP, leading a tribute to the men of Westgate-on-Sea who gave their lives in the Great War

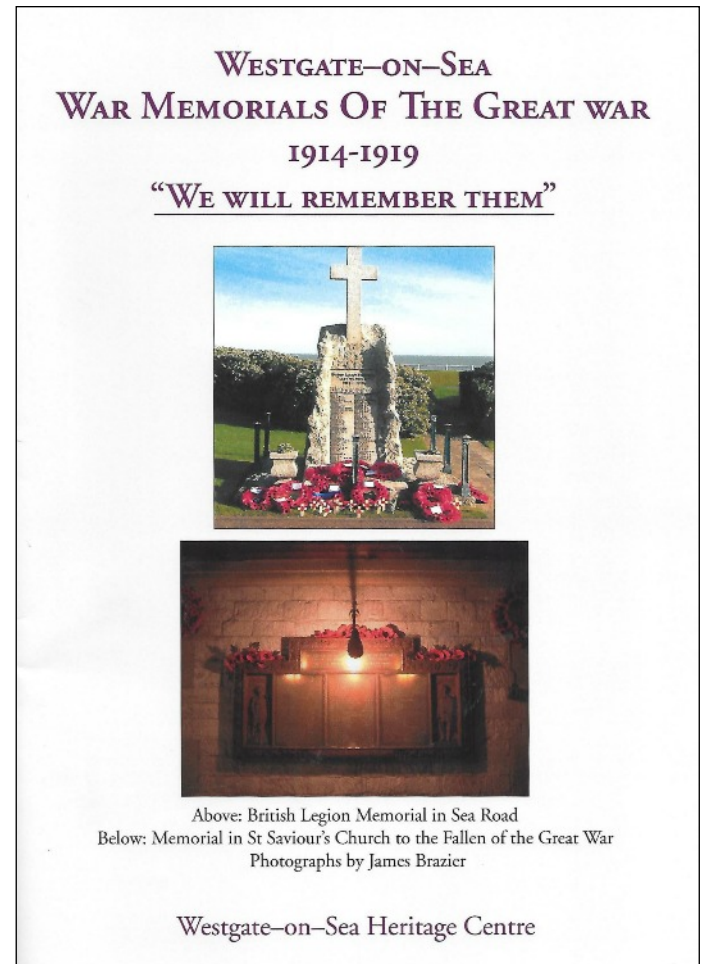
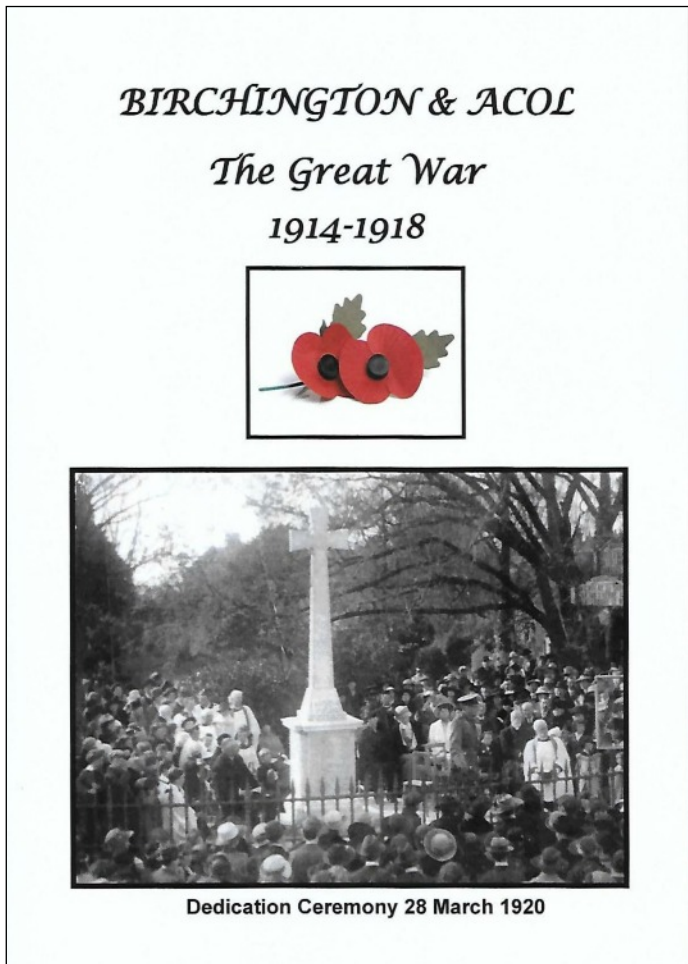


Dr Dawn Crouch stands next to Jon and Alan, the builders of the wall, immediately after its unveiling - 2nd November 2018



The carefully-chosen words on the plaque tell the story of the recreation ground in Lymington Road as a permanent memorial to the men of Westgate-on-Sea who fell in the Great War

Book Reviews ~ These two timely booklets recently published by local heritage organisations on the Centenary of the end of the Great War are both highly recommended to our members:



The above 24-page A5 highly-illustrated booklet recently published by the Birchington Westgate Trust contains much fascinating information on Birchington & Acol's contribution in the Great War. The booklet contains numerous reproductions of original photographs or local service personnel and of local buildings used as VAD hospitals, etc during that war. Copies of the booklet are available from Birchington Heritage Trust or from Birchington Library at only £3.00 each. The compilers of the booklet - Jennie Burgess and Janet Denyer - have done a great job.

The above 32-page A4 publication recently published by the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre on Westgate's WWI war memorials contains a wealth of information on Westgate's war memorials and former war shrines relating to the Great War. It also contains a full listing of the names of those from Westgate who fell in the Great War. Copies of this booklet are available from the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre at £3.00 each. The new memorial wall and plaque on the Lymington Road recreation ground were erected and unveiled after publication of this booklet. This booklet is another great piece of work.

Westgate Remembers its Fallen in the Great War

Immediately following the Annual Service of Remembrance held at St Saviour's Church on each Remembrance Sunday, a procession makes its way to the town war memorial on Sea Road where a service is held starting at around 12 noon. As can be seen in the photograph immediately below, the town's youth organisations are very well represented at the act of remembrance held at the war memorial. The Revd Susan Wing from St Saviour's Church and the Revd George Kalu from the United Reformed Church officiated at this year's service held at the war memorial. A bugler sounded *Last Post* and *Reveille* and a display of poppies organised by Lorraine Hambidge, each featuring the name of one of Westgate's Fallen from the Great War, was attached to the hedgerow surrounding the war memorial.

The string of poppies (shown in the photo at the end of this report) was made by Lorraine Hambidge on behalf of the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association (W&WRA) and the six-foot tall cut-out of a WWI soldier (which can be seen to the left of the large poppy in the same photo below) and also the large poppy emblem (seen right) was made by Lorraine's husband, Richard. Both Lorraine and Richard also contributed to the W&WRA WWI display in the Westgate United Services Club.

Lorraine told me that, after earlier visiting Minster and seeing the wonderful display of poppies there to mark the centenary of the Armistice, both she and Richard felt that something similar ought to be done for Westgate as, on their walk through Westgate, the only shop with a poppy display was the undertakers and how disappointing she found that for Westgate with its history.



A bugler sounds the Last Post during Westgate's service of remembrance. The large poppy was made by Richard Hambidge

JB



AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

on

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
(WW1 CENTENARY: 1918-2018)

at

THE WAR MEMORIAL
WESTGATE-ON-SEA

(Adapted from an Order of Service prepared by the Royal Army Chaplains' Department)

Words in bold type face are said by all.
Words in normal type are said by a minister or worship leader.
[Whistle is blown to signal the commencement of the Service]



Some of the 80 poppies, each showing the name of one from Westgate who had fallen in the Great War, on the hedgerow surrounding the memorial

Margate Remembers its War Dead



The civic dignitaries are led to the town's war memorial by the Macebearer, Clifford East

This year's Service of Remembrance at Margate War Memorial was indeed a very special one held on the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice. However, unlike two years ago when insufficient time was allowed before the striking of Big Ben at 11 o'clock resulting in the omission from the service of the Lord's Prayer, this year's ceremony started some ten minutes early resulting in an extremely long pause between the start of the service and the striking of Big Ben. Perhaps next year, the timings will be much improved.



The scene at the war memorial at the start of the Service of Remembrance



A drum major and youth band leads the parade to the memorial

Just as the solemn service started, it began to rain dampening everyone's spirits but, fortunately, it rained for only a short while and, as the service progressed, the sun came out in time for the laying of wreaths at the memorial. Having regularly attended this annual service over very many years, your correspondent estimates that this year's service attracted the highest congregation for a good many years. □

JB



The scene at the war memorial during the service



Mr Desmond Crampton DL of Chilham and the Town Mayor, Cllr Julie Dellar, lay their wreaths



The wreath laid by the Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr Julie Dellar, next to the wreath laid by Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, Mr Desmond Crampton DL of Chilham



Some of the many wreaths laid at the war memorial during the service. By this time, the rain had passed and the sun had come out in a clear blue sky. It was pleasing to note that, unlike last year, all of the old wreaths had been removed from the site before the start of this year's service



This year's service was conducted by the Revd Dawn-Louise Watson, Assistant Curate, St John the Baptist



A selection of poppies from yesteryear



The scene at the first Remembrance Day service held at Margate War Memorial on Saturday, 11th November 1922. The service was conducted by the Revd David Railton MA MC, Vicar of Margate. The war memorial had been unveiled by Lord Harris the previous Sunday (5th November 1922). Revd David Railton was the originator of the idea of a Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. This photograph shows Holy Trinity Church behind the war memorial. The church was severely damaged by enemy action in 1943 and was finally demolished around 1959

Margate's Beacon Lighting held on 11th November 2018



Margate Charter Trustees and Revd Dawn-Louise Watson at Margate's Beacon on 11th November 2018

Margate Charter Trustees organised the lighting of Margate's Beacon on The Fort near the top of Fort Hill as Margate's contribution to the nation's tribute to 100 years of remembrance organised by Battle's Over. The event started at 6.45pm with the arrival of the Mayoral Party who had walked in procession from the Mayor's Parlour. At 7.00pm, the Beacon was lit and a short service of remembrance was led by Revd Dawn-Louise Watson from St John's Church, Margate. Unlike the lighting of the Beacon in April 2016 to mark the Queen's 90th birthday, when there was the local ATC Band in attendance, this year's event was relatively low-key with only a piper and a small number of members of the public in attendance to witness the event. Margate's Beacon was one of three in our area which were lit to mark the nation's tribute to those who fell in the Great War: the other Beacons which were lit to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice were at St Mildred's Bay (see report below) and at Epple Bay where Birchington Parish Council had organised the event. □

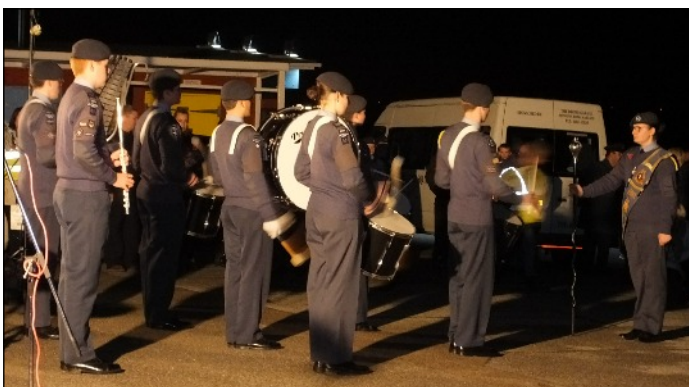


Revd Dawn-Louise Watson leading the service

Westgate's Beacon Lighting Event held on 11th November 2018



Cllr Martyn Pennington, Chairman of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, introducing the Thanet Big Sing Community Choir



The 438 (Thanet) Squadron Air Training Corps Band gave a short concert during the programme

As part of Westgate's contribution to the nation's tribute to 100 years of remembrance organised by Battle's Over, the Town Council organised a very successful and well attended Beacon Lighting Event on the promenade at St Mildred's Bay on 11th November 2018 - the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. The event started at 5.30pm with a very well-received concert given by the Thanet Big Sing Community Choir which was followed by a short but very impressive concert by 438 (Thanet) Squadron ATC Band. A short service of remembrance then followed with the reading of the names of Westgate's Fallen before ending with a procession to the temporary beacon erected on 'The Rounder' above St Mildred's Bay which was lit at 7.00pm as were more than 1,000 beacons around the country. □

ADAPT *and* FLOURISH ! - Dalby Square's Experimental House

Civic Voice invited nominations for its 'Your Favourite Conservation Area' competition this summer and MCS was delighted to find the Dalby Square Townscape Heritage Initiative on a short shortlist compiled from a gratifying 250 or so entries. Given the wide local council and community input into regeneration, quite right too!

Apart from 12 Arthur Road, which MCS has been stewarding on Open Days (and successfully using as a 'recruiting depot'), there is an intriguing further experiment going on in Dalby Square itself: according to the town-planner professionals who visited: 'it is fantastic and inspiring – an ambitious project combining educational research on intergenerational living, climate change adaptability and conservation enhancement'.

It may be hard to credit that, a century ago, Cliftonville had some claim to being the most exclusive resort in England (as well as attracting an estimated 5,000 pupils to its boarding schools – Empire Days !). Dalby Square itself is the grandest of the suburb's residential areas ('Margate New Town') and was built in the 1870s. Times of course changed for the considerably worse – but now are changing again as our Victorian forebears' tastes and ingenuity are increasingly appreciated.

Following on from funding by the Technology Strategy Board, an investigation was carried out by Thanet District Council and the Kent School of Architecture in 2011 into a 'Climate Changed Adapted Multi-Generational House' possibility. And it was found that, due to the massive traditional construction, terraced configurations and high ceilings, houses in the Square actually performed environmentally far better than most modern dwellings: rather useful to know as we become more 'Mediterranean' weatherwise.

The most far-reaching discovery was that it was of vital environmental importance *not* to subdivide the building internally – especially the staircase, which runs continuously from the basement to the top floor in this type of five-storey house, acts as a natural 'ventilation stack'.

The Project has served to prove that houses in Dalby Square are not just 'reservoirs of embodied energy' and aesthetically pleasing artefacts in themselves but also have a highly sustainable future substantially complementing the TDC's desire to promote family-sized housing in 'problem' wards and reduce 'bedsitterdom'.

The University of Kent is presently assembling a 'Sustainability Toolkit' which will attract wide interest and show how such properties can be intelligently designed for multi-generational living. Layouts can be designed for maximum flexibility with the oldest generation occupying the semi-basement and ground floors, the youngest at the top (where the Victorian nursery and maids and Mrs Rochester will have haunted) and the 'middlings' in the middle. Each generation would have its own facilities but there would be a shared space in those grand first-floor reception rooms overlooking the Square and gardens.

And the research also took into account the importance of the role that gardens play in mitigating climatic extremes. They have a cooling effect in hot weather by generating airflow and providing shade whereas in winter

their planting acts as a windbreak. Gardens, and parks generally of course, contribute enormously to 'quality of community life' and TDC has recognised this by enclosing the central gardens, reverting the car park at the north end to garden and providing suitable street lighting.

The whole object of this commendable experiment is to create an exemplar of how historic buildings can be adapted to modern circumstances, drawing attention to issues of housing shortage and overcrowding, fuel poverty, climate change, building tenure, 'place-making', sustainability, social cohesion and social isolation.

One can but hope that all those prospective new-build estate developers will pay close heed to an innovative physical and social experiment! □

(Note: The actual property that is subject to the present experiment is being kept anonymous out of respect to its residents' privacy.)

Geoff Orton
Secretary



An Edwardian postcard showing Dalby Square as it looked around 1905. The photograph was taken from Warrior Terrace. Note the tennis courts and the total absence of motor-vehicles

CORRESPONDENCE

On 10th November 2018, our Chairman, Pamela Pople, received the following e-mail:

My apologies for the lateness of this letter of thanks, we have been exceptionally busy travelling to give the Talk. The 100 year centenary I think has probably helped to promote the Appeal . We really enjoyed our time at Margate everyone was so friendly and interested in our story. Your very generous donation of £184.50 is very much appreciated.

**Kind regards
Sonja Curtis**

**Secretary to the Board
Nursing Memorial Appeal
Charity No 1150276**

OF TREES AND GOOD HEALTH

Member Robin Haddon as Chairman of Margate Museum Trustees was pleased to host a Tree Planting Ceremony at the Tudor House for Her Majesty's 'Commonwealth Canopy' project which was launched in 2015 when an appeal was made to all 53 Commonwealth nations to contribute areas of indigenous forest to be preserved in perpetuity to mark the Queen's lifetime of service.

Margate Museum Trust was one of 10,000 members of the public who planted 50,000 trees in the UK this autumn. The offer was snapped up in minutes in a free tree giveaway made possible by a partnership between the Woodland Trust, Sainsbury's and ITV.

The giveaway supported a landmark documentary, 'The Queen's Green Planet', at the heart of which was a discussion between Her Majesty and Sir David Attenborough in the gardens of Buckingham Palace which many will have admired.

Each specially-labelled tree pack contains five UK-sourced-and-grown native broadleaf trees - two silver birch, two rowan and a hazel – for the public to plant and Margate Museum was delighted to invite planters Viscount De L'Isle (our Lord Lieutenant), Lady Suzy Gale, Cllr Julie Dellar (Mayor), Cllr Iris Johnston and Seppy Oduwole from Holy Trinity & St John's School.



*A budding arboriculturalist gets to work. The five trees will complement the Tudor House's Knot Garden and enhance the overall site attractions and maybe fight the carbon monoxide!
(Photo taken 23rd October 2018)*

Thanet is notoriously treeless but Mr Gove's 25-year Green Plan encourages 'environmental awareness and concern' in the interests of health & wellbeing and parks are clearly a 'community good' to be nurtured. As monies flow in to 'residentialise' High Streets, parks become ever more important to us. Accordingly, our new member Stephanie Nsom set about reinvigorating Dane Park with a will. The Park was created in 1896 on land presented by John Woodward from the profits of nearby speculative development (21st century estate developers and local planners note well!).

Stephanie's initial move was to crowdfund the planting of cherry trees to which Margate Civic Society contributed and nearly £3,000 was swiftly raised. Heartened by that evidence of community interest, she is planning more trees,

woodcarvings, a much improved children's playground and an innovative 'street library' scheme for our most deprived wards. 'Colourful Margate' has been formed to drive the project forward. MCS is to have its contribution acknowledged by a plate affixed to its own tree - a 50th anniversary legacy.

The 'Raffles Fountain' was inaugurated at a grand civic ceremony in 1907. It's related to Torquay's whose mouldings were used for casting the one at the eponymous hotel in Singapore - from Walter Macfarlane & Co of Glasgow's Saracen Foundry. They were the premier late-Victorian and Edwardian ornamental furnishers so we have yet more precious heritage to preserve – what we now need is a better developed Town Trail (working on it – contributions welcome!). □

**Geoff Orton
Secretary**

*I never thought that I would see
A poem lovely as a tree'*

*(Alfred) Joyce Kilmer – killed in action
on the Marne battlefields - July 1918*



This Edwardian postcard shows Dane Park Fountain shortly after it was inaugurated in 1907

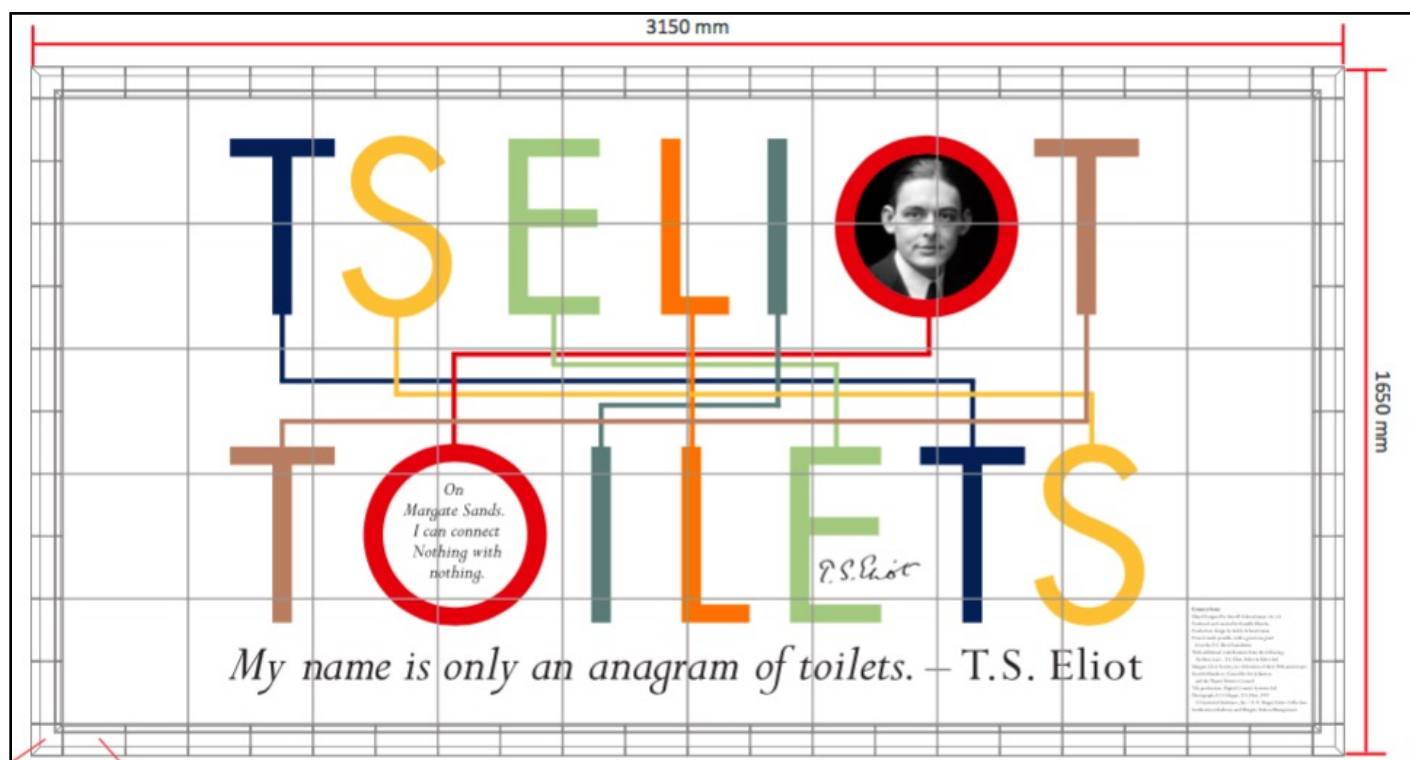


This photograph shows Dane Park Fountain as it looks today. The water features have long gone but the floral planting makes for a grand and very attractive display

STOP PRESS

A tree was planted in Dane Park on 29th November to mark Margate Civic Society's 50th Anniversary. See photos and text at the bottom of pages 14 & 15. □

New mural shortly to be installed at Margate Railway Station



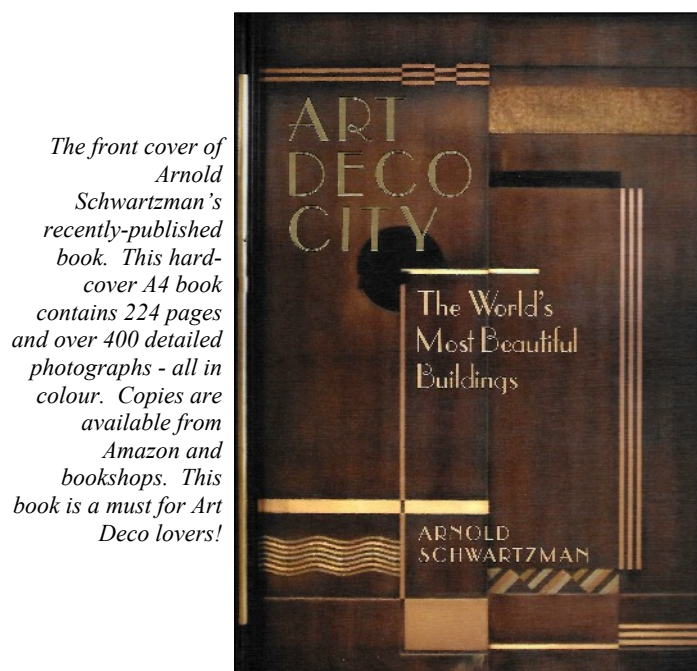
The above design created by Arnold Schwartzman is reproduced with kind permission of T.S. Eliot, the Estate of T.S. Eliot and Faber & Faber (Publishers)

Members of our Society will be pleased to learn that Arnold Schwartzman's highly-original tiled-mural to mark T.S. Eliot's connection with Margate is scheduled to be installed in the Waiting Room at Margate Railway Station on Monday, 17th December 2018. I understand from Arnold (a long-standing member of our Society) that, to date, no arrangements have been made for any unveiling ceremony. A full report on its unveiling will be published in the next issue of our Newsletter.

The mural is some ten-feet wide and some five-feet tall (in old money) and promises to be a most attractive feature to be seen by users of our very impressive railway station.

It is a very clever design which incorporates T.S. Eliot's 'Margate Sands' reference and is broadly based on the famous London Underground map. Amongst the credits shown in the bottom right-hand corner of the tiled-mural is one to Margate Civic Society and recognising that this year marks the Society's 50th Anniversary. Margate Civic Society is very lucky to have such a distinguished world-famous designer and author amongst our membership.

JB



The front cover of Arnold Schwartzman's recently-published book. This hard-cover A4 book contains 224 pages and over 400 detailed photographs - all in colour. Copies are available from Amazon and bookshops. This book is a must for Art Deco lovers!

In Memoriam - Peter Bloore

It is with much sadness I have to inform you that former Committee Member Peter Bloore sadly passed away on 2nd November.

Peter, originally from the Midlands, moved to Birchington in 1961 in order to take up work at Pfizer in Sandwich. He played a very active role in Birchington community life and was instrumental in the formation of the Birchington Village Centre (that opened in 1964) and made a huge contribution to Quexpo that was held at Quex Park for 16 years. In addition to this, he was also on the Birchington

Carnival Committee and at the forefront of the formation of the association of Kent Carnival Committee.

Following his retirement, Peter moved to Margate when he became a member of Margate Civic Society and continued with his community work until his health deteriorated.

Peter's friend, Steve Vilette, represented the Society at Peter's funeral.

A donation will be made to Arthritis UK on behalf of Margate Civic Society.

Pamela Pople, Chairman

The Margate School - Situation Report

At last, signs of life! Members will recall that The Margate School (TMS) was the ambitious lead project in the Margate Coastal Community Team's Economic Plan. A bid to the Coastal Community Fund for £3.5 millions was submitted a couple of years ago but we were pipped by Blackpool (understandable) and Brighton (not so understandable) for large initiatives.

Our selling points were the need to find alternative uses for High Street retail premises to mitigate the 'Ghost Town Effect' (Margate having about the emptiest High Street in the country) and to provide technology for the 'creative cluster' following in the wake of the Turner – playing to our strengths as a community. The House of Commons now has a 'High Street Committee' and the House of Lords a 'Regeneration of the Seaside' one – so you know things are pretty serious - well, you knew this 20 years ago!

For the Fifth Round of the Coastal Communities Fund we modified our bid to a 'Phase One Fast Track' application of just under £500,000 to make a 'kick start' with a FabLab (Fabrications Laboratory). This would be the first such in Kent (Devon is making great strides already) and it will provide digital printing and imaging with analogue facilities accessible to local creative businesses alongside professionals for training and prototyping and testing purposes. Enterprise-based courses and talks through creative specialists in their field (for example copyright and intellectual property law, business planning and finance and whatever else feedback tells TMS is required).

The TDC Local Plan identifies 'creative industries' as a major component of its economic strategy and 'doing something about the High Street' as another priority. TMS addresses both these issues.

FabLabs themselves were originated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and there is a worldwide network of them exchanging experiences and ideas. The UK has about 40 of them (from Falmouth to Sunderland) – popular in struggling 'coastal peripheries' that may be left behind and particularly vulnerable to the forthcoming technological tsunami which respectable analysts forecast will see the loss of 30% to 50% of jobs in low-skill and low-wage areas (which includes, of course, Thanet). Ominously, France

and Holland already have per capita four or five times as many FabLabs as the UK.

Margate Civic Society-member Uwe Derksen is the TMS Director (with Arnold Schwartzman as the Patron) and he can call on 30 years' background in the university sector – including 'mentoring' from the Plymouth College of Art FabLab and other university networks. More distantly, perhaps, are international prospects involving institutions in Rouen/Le Havre and elsewhere – some dream of an annual Calvados & Brie Week!

More immediately, Uwe plans to work with local artists and traders on designing installations to brighten up the empty shops and despite the national decline in NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training), recent statistics show that Thanet is against the trend – we shall need to find ways of engaging 'the youth'.

It is early days, of course, and the search for suitable premises continues. Not everything will happen at once but momentum will be gathered and the 5-Year Plan is mapped out – a select launch is planned for mid December to outline the programme to local creatives and a larger conference for the spring on a general 'Regeneration' theme. Tracey Crouch MP, when Minister for Civil Society, published a White Paper in the summer all about 'rebuilding' and somewhere in the vaults of various financial institutions lies in excess of £2 billion of 'dormant funds' which it is high time were turned to productive use. We live in hope that some of that money will be pumped into improving our island skills-base – anything up to 40,000 jobs need to be found if you have read the Local Plan. The sequence is: first Skills, then Investment, then Jobs then Housing.

One of Thanet's disadvantages has been that its low skills-base doesn't attract investment (hence all the empty residential and commercial properties). The House of Lords is well aware of low attainment and low ambition along the coasts – and usually the lack of significant STEM employers (science-based industries). But TMS is working on it, however modestly – Margate has a great cultural heritage and should be rivalling Folkestone as an East Kent Magnet. Best skies in Europe per JMWT! □

Geoff Orton
Secretary



Tree-planting in Dane Park on Thursday, 29th November 2018 to mark our Society's 50th Anniversary

A full report on this historic occasion will appear in the Spring 2019 Newsletter. See also the group photograph taken at the event reproduced on page 15. □

Our Secretary, Geoff Orton, posing with a spade before the hole was dug in which the cherry tree, sponsored by Margate Civic Society to mark the Society's 50th Anniversary, was planted.

Stephanie Nsom offering slices of the delicious cake kindly made by a neighbour of hers to those Margate Civic Society members who braved the inclement weather to attend the occasion in Dane Park to mark our Society's 50th Anniversary. The cake was suitably decorated with 'MARGATE CIVIC SOCIETY - 50 YEARS'



What's On

Margate Civic Society (talks all start at 7.30pm at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville)
Guests: £3.00 nominal fee (unless otherwise specified)

Date	Subject
2018	
13th December	Christmas 50th Anniversary Celebratory Event - a 1960s-theme evening with films, music, photo-quiz, raffle and refreshments (Starts at 7.00pm and ends at 10.00pm) (Guests £6.50 fee)
2019	
7th February	'The Dregs of the People Remain - the Black Death and its aftermath' by Imogen Corrigan
7th March	'A Schoolgirl's War - the story of a Kent schoolgirl during WWII by Mary Smith
4th April	Jane Wenham-Jones (author, journalist, presenter, interviewer, creative writing tutor, writing-competition judge and speaker) - subject to be confirmed
9th May	Town Pride Awards followed by refreshments (Guests £4.50 nominal fee)
3rd October	AGM followed by 'Nautical Chic: High Style on the High Seas' by Amber Butchart (Fashion historian and author working across cultural heritage, broadcasting and academia) (Guests £4.50 nominal fee)
7th November	'Doing Our Bit' by Steve Hookins (a presentation given in character about the roles carried out by some of the Home Front's unsung heroes in WWII)
12th December	Christmas Soiree - with films, music, raffle and refreshments (Guests £4.50 nominal fee)



Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre Spring Programme 2019

Please note that the Heritage Centre returns to St Saviour's Church in January. The restoration work on the clerestory windows in the church is on schedule. The church will be open from 10.00am for the first Saturday of each month with a talk at 10.30am. Refreshments available

Date	
2019	
5th January	Illustrated talk by Dr Graham Field on the history of Westgate-on-Sea Railway Station
2nd February	Illustrated talk - subject and speaker to be confirmed.
2nd March	AGM followed by a short talk by Dr Dawn Crouch on 'Objects we have been given in the past year' - with the objects available for viewing

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



Another photograph taken at the cherry-tree planting at Dane Park on 29th November 2018 (see also page 14)

This group photograph shows some of the Margate Civic Society Committee and other members who were in attendance at the event (left to right):

*Diane Addison
Mike Thompson
Pamela Pople
Geoff Orton
Mike Wilton
Heather Wilton
Stephanie Nsom*

Dane Park Fountain can be seen at the rear (between Pamela Pople and Geoff Orton)

Margate Civic Society

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 2018/19:

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 2018/19:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£13.00	£17.00	£5.00	—
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



 Cliftonville Partnership

CHRISTMAS IN CLIFTONVILLE CELEBRATION!

"SWITCH ON" OF DECORATIVE FESTIVE TREE LIGHTING

VENUE: St Paul's Church, Northdown Road, Cliftonville

DATE: Thursday, 6 December 2018

TIME: 17:00-18:30



- ✿ **16:50** - Arrival of Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr Julie Dellar and her Consort, Mr Ray Dellar
- ✿ **17:02** - Welcome by Rev Nick Ratcliffe
- ✿ **17:05-17:15** - Special Personal Appearance of Children's Favourite **SIMPLE SIMON**
- ✿ **17:15-17:20** - Off The Hook Productions Dance And Performing Arts Academy
- ✿ **17:20-17:25** - Performance by 'Fame The Musical' Cast
- ✿ **17:30-17:35** - Countdown by Gordon Clarkson, followed by "Switch on" of the Decorative Festive Tree Lighting by the Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr Julie Dellar
- ✿ **17:40-18:00** - Holy Trinity & St John's COE Primary School Choir with Susan Blyth
- ✿ **18:05-18:30** - Talented classical pianist: **David Ruddock** playing Christmas carols
- ✿ Complimentary Tea/coffee/fruit squash & mince pies available (Sponsored by St Paul's Church volunteers and Tesco plc)
- ✿ **17:00-18:30** - Balloon modelling and Magic by the fantastic **Spinning Top Children's Entertainment** (one FREE balloon per child in attendance)
- ✿ **17:00-18:30** - Face painting by **St Paul's Youth Group**
- ✿ Supported by the Margate Carnival Court
- ✿ Please note we will be inside - apart from the actual "Switch On!"

Contact: Pamela Pople, Co-ordinator - Mobile: 07903 126 530 or Email Pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk

All Welcome - hope to see you there!