

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Spring 2019
Newsletter
Issue No. 394



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

So many complimentary remarks were received regarding Lynda Smith's article 'A Margate Girl' published in the Autumn Newsletter (No. 392) that it was decided to invite other members of our society to write articles regarding aspects of their lives in Margate. In response to our appeal for such contributions, I am pleased to report that one of our older and most stalwart members - Vera Jenkins - provided a most interesting account of her family's arrival at Garlinge in 1937 and her evacuation to Staffordshire as a schoolgirl just three years later at the time of the Dunkirk crisis. Vera's article, which appears on pages 11 to 13 of this Newsletter, also contains much interesting information regarding her family's connections with the Wing family. Tom Wing was a very successful local house-builder throughout the first half of the last century and many of his houses can be seen in Westbrook. It is hoped that Vera's article will prompt other members of our society to tell their human-interest stories of yesteryear in Margate. Contributions do not need to be typed; hand-written accounts are also welcome together with a photograph which will be scanned and returned.

Also in this issue of our Newsletter is an article by Stephanie Nsom who joined the Society only last year yet has already made an impression on Margate. In her article on pages 8 & 9, Stephanie writes of the improvements being made by local residents to Dane Park. Indeed, her Dane Park Project has been nominated for a Town Pride award this year. Her project illustrates how local residents can make a positive contribution to the improving the town's attractions by voluntary effort and is to be commended.

Dane Park was Margate's first park and was gifted to the town by former resident John Woodward. It was opened by the Lord Mayor of London in 1898. Since that date, the former Margate Corporation acquired land at Westbrook from the Hatfeild family and land at Northdown from the Friend family resulting in Hartsdown Park and Northdown Park respectively. These three public parks, along with recreation grounds, the cliff-top open areas and other green spaces in our 'patch' are hugely important as the town's 'lungs'. Indeed, only recently has the World Health Organisation emphasised the importance to communities of green areas in countering mental health and anxiety issues. It is for this reason that it is hugely important that land designated as 'public open space' is not developed and, in that respect, concern has been expressed by a number of our members regarding TDC's recent approval of plans to further develop land at Hartsdown Park for activities associated with Margate Football Club. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new members

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

Mark Addison and Anne Bryen
Tania Bianchi and Massimo Cozzi
Jeremy Richardson
Margaret Hay & Roger Woods

Sally Whitworth
Membership Secretary

Civic Day 2019

Saturday, 22nd June

Please make a note in your diaries that the Society is planning to, once again, participate in this year's Civic Day events which are being held throughout the country. Civic Voice are encouraging local civic societies to get involved in this national event and I encourage our members to go along to our local event on Saturday, 22nd June 2019 and give their support to the Society in its endeavours. This year, we are planning to again steward 12 Arthur Road, Cliftonville. Full details of our event, including hours of opening, will be published in the Summer Newsletter and on the Society's website www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk. □

Pamela Pople
Chairman



New 'village gates' at Garlinge

These new 'village gates' were recently installed by KCC on Garlinge High Street. It is interesting to compare the wording on the larger 'gate' with that on the large new sign on Margate Seafront featured on page 10. □

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

Nominations for Town Pride Awards 2019

Supported by



This year, the Society received the following seven nominations for Town Pride Awards:



'Brompton Villas', 34, 34A and 34B Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea



*Photo: courtesy of Mike Wilton
Mulberry Tree Public House, Dane Road, Margate*



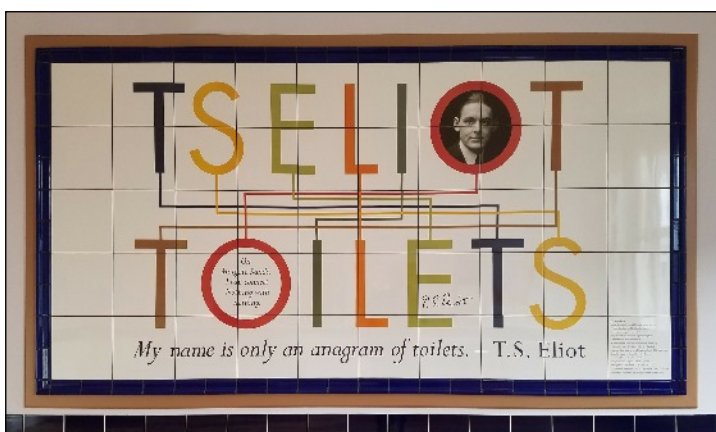
*Photo: courtesy of Mike Wilton
'Baybrook Heights',
10 Union Crescent, Margate*



'Sandy Villas', 1, 2 & 3 Old Boundary Road, Westgate-on-Sea



*Photo: courtesy of Mike Wilton
Dane Park Project, Margate*



*Photo: courtesy of Kamilla Blanche
Arnold Schwartzman's TS Eliot mural
at Margate Railway Station*



*Photo: courtesy of Mike Wilton
44 Canterbury Road, Westbrook*

The results of the judging for the Society's 2019 Town Pride Awards will be announced at our meeting to be held on Thursday, 9th May 2019 when presentations of the Awards will be made to the winners. □

T.S. Eliot mural installed at Margate Railway Station on 18th December 2018

Visitors to Margate Railway Station will now have the pleasure of seeing a most attractive and highly original art installation in the waiting room on Platform 1. It is a tiled mural designed by Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI which was featured in the Winter 2018 issue of our Newsletter. We are very privileged to have Arnold as a member of Margate Civic Society. Arnold also kindly served as Patron of the Society's Time-Ball Restoration Project some five years ago. Arnold lives in Hollywood, California and, accompanied by his wife Isolde and daughter Hannah, attended our Society's 50th Anniversary celebrations held at the Walpole Bay Hotel on 13th December (see page ? for a report on that occasion).

At the time of writing this report, the date for the formal dedication of the mural has yet to be determined but it is expected to take place later this year.

Arnold is a world-renowned graphic designer and his design for the mural is loosely based on the world-famous London Underground map. It is fitting that this mural should be installed in Margate as Arnold lived in the town for many years where his parents owned the former Hotel Majestic in Lewis Crescent, Cliftonville.

The mural is very generously also funded by the T.S. Eliot Foundation to celebrate T.S. Eliot's famous poem *The Waste Land*, part of which he wrote whilst in Margate.

Kamilla Blanche, the Producer and Curator of the mural writes: "I am proud to have produced a permanent mural in Margate that honours Arnold's work in the creative fields of art and design in the town where he grew up".

Do go along to the Railway Station to see the mural. You will not be disappointed.

For more information regarding Arnold Schwartzman, do 'google' him on the web. You cannot fail to be impressed by his many achievements.



Arnold Schwartzman and Kamilla Blanche standing in front of the tiled mural designed by Arnold. Kamilla is the Producer and Curator of the mural and lives in Margate. When this photograph was taken, the installation was unfinished with the wooden batten beneath the mural yet to be removed and part of the wall to be repainted

I feel sure that I speak for all of our members in congratulating both Arnold on his marvellous design and Kamilla for making all the arrangements for the mural to be successfully installed in a fitting location in Margate where T.S. Eliot famously wrote about Margate Sands in his famous poem *The Waste Land*. □

JB

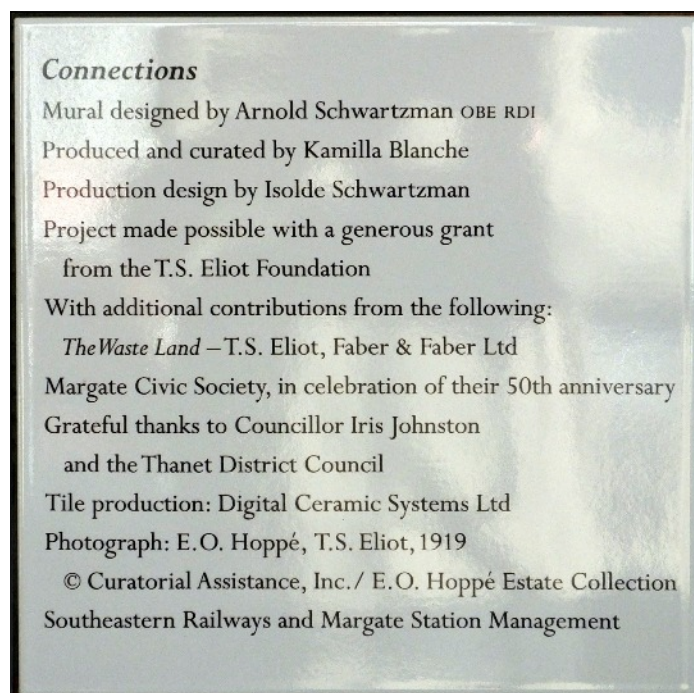


A close-up of the letter 'O' in TOILETS which is connected to the letter 'O' (containing the photograph of T. S. Eliot as can be seen in the photograph above) in his name. The quotation is from T.S. Eliot's famous poem *The Waste Land* written in Margate



Workmen grouting the tiled mural in the Waiting Room of Margate Railway Station on Platform 1 on 17th December. Appropriately, the ladies' and gentlemen's toilets are located off the waiting room

A close-up of the tile in the bottom right-hand corner listing those organisation/people who had a connection with the mural being located at the Railway Station. Note the reference half-way down the list to the mural being installed in celebration of Margate Civic Society's 50th anniversary year



Margate Civic Society celebrates its Golden Anniversary

Our Society was founded on 28th November 1968, when several passionate individuals decided to get together, in response to concerns regarding the comprehensive development of historic but rundown town centres, asking interested people to join them in proposing conservation areas for the town, one of which was the Hawley Square Conservation Area. Although we have modernised the Society in recent years, we maintain those traditional core values and our purpose and aims continue to encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Margate and its environs; 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.

In order to celebrate our Golden Anniversary, we held a social evening at the Walpole Bay Hotel on 13th December 2018, celebrating all things “1968” with a Members’ Photo Quiz, postcard and fashion video, films, poetry, quiz, music, refreshments (including pineapple cheeses!) and a raffle, which was very successful and great fun! Our special guest was Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI, an award-winning documentary film maker, internationally-renowned graphic-designer and author, who attended with his wife, Isolde, and his daughter, Hannah.

A few days later, an e-mail was received from Arnold before he returned home with Isolde to Hollywood, California, USA as follows:

Dear Pamela *et al*,

We wish to thank Margate Civic Society for inviting Isolde, Hannah and myself to your 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Thanks also to the Society for generously contributing towards the construction of the T.S. Eliot mural that I had designed, which is very much appreciated.

It is planned to have a formal unveiling of the mural at Margate Railway Station this coming April, of which you should receive further information nearer the date.

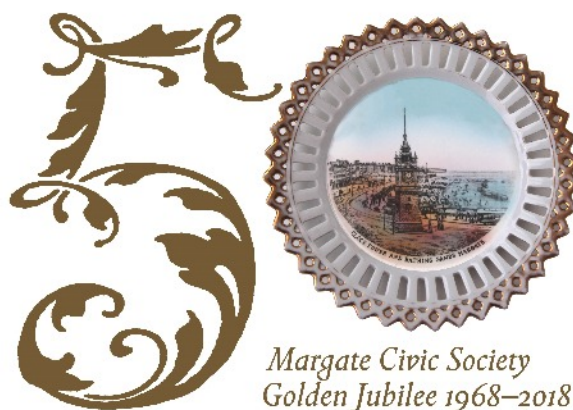
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2019.

Yours

Arnold Schwartzman

The social evening proved to be a great success and was well supported by our members. James Brazier, our Newsletter Editor, took a number of photographs during the evening and shares many of them with our readers in this issue of the Newsletter. I feel that they capture the mood of the occasion and trust that those who attended the occasion feel likewise.

**Pamela Pople
Chairman**



Our 50th Anniversary logo designed by Arnold Schwartzman



Our Chairman, Pamela Pople, in her 1960s-outfit and amazing wig



Felicity Stafford proudly holding her prize for winning our annual Christmas Quiz. The prize was a CD of 1968 songs. (Felicity is a Vice-President of our Society)



Our 50th Anniversary celebratory cake



Our Chairman, Pamela Pople, sharing a happy moment with Arnold Schwartzman in the Bar



Harry and Anthea Preston giving their poetry recitals which were received with much acclamation



Iris Johnston and John Edwards (each having served as Town Mayors of Margate)



Sheila and Julian Poupard with Arnold and Isolde in the Bar



Harry Scobie, our Vice-Chairman, announcing the winning lottery-ticket numbers in his inimitable style

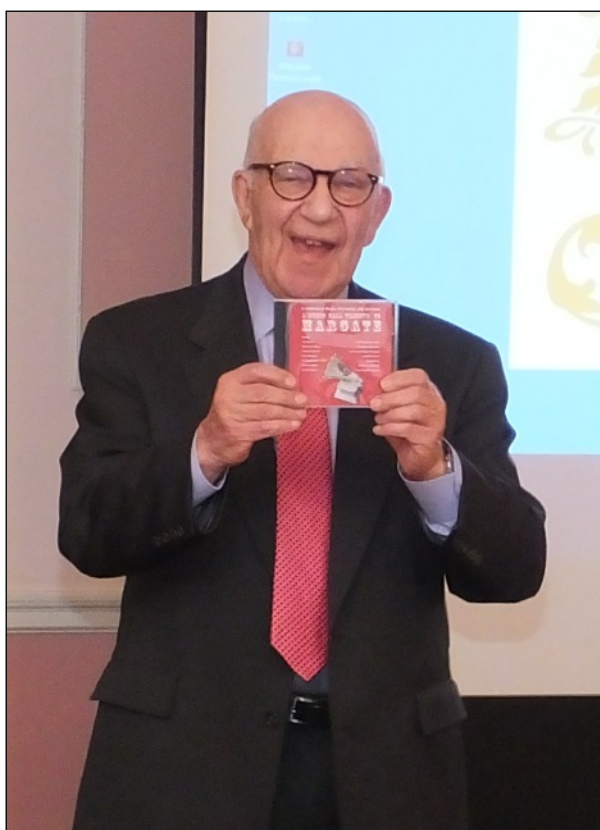




Some of our members enjoying the memorable occasion



Arnold Schwartzman with his daughter, Hannah, and his wife, Isolde



Arnold Schwartzman holds the CD containing 100-year-old songs relating to Margate which he has generously produced and of which copies will be sold to raise funds for Margate Civic Society in the near future



Glenys and Richard Clements enjoying Arnold's presentation. Note Glenys's 1960s CND earrings

► The quiz, organised by Mike Wilton, containing photographs taken in the 1960s of many of our members was very popular. Helpfully, the display board on the left-hand side provided the answers. How many faces did you identify?

Here's to the continued success of our Society for the next 50 years!



Colourful Margate Established

We are delighted to have this opportunity to introduce Colourful Margate and have greatly appreciated MCS support over our formative months. We look forward to your ongoing enthusiasm for many years yet. We set up this community group last year and our name comes from the idea that we want to carry out projects and activities that help “green” and add further colour to the area.

Studies show that *doorstep green spaces* in less affluent districts really do have a very positive impact on a community's health and wellbeing. So, we targeted Dane Park and Cliftonville with the aim of enhancing the environment by reviving public spaces and embracing the loyalty shown by many of the locals to 'their patch'. Our overall aim is to make a significant local impact by improving life quality and general enjoyment and act as a beacon for Margate as a whole.

Initially we are focusing on two community driven projects:

Our first project is to help revive Dane Park as Cliftonville's 'green lung' and to transform it into Margate's cherry blossom destination. Sadly, investment in the Park has been marginal for lack of resource as the Council hasn't the budget and neglect and vandalism are too apparent. We aim to turn this state of affairs around!

In partnership with Dane Valley Woods and in close collaboration with Thanet District Council, we ran a hugely successful crowdfunding campaign in 2018 to raise £1,350 and plant cherry trees round the fountain. One of the local cafés, Cliffs on Northdown Road, became involved by donating money from each cup of tea bought and other businesses support came from del Renzio & del Renzio, Curve Roasters, The Grain Grocer and The Bus Café. In addition, Kent County Councillor Barry Lewis found monies from his Members' Grant and of course MCS contributed as well. A true community venture well publicized by local media.

The first five trees were planted by the Open Space Team at TDC and in late November, despite unpromising weather, some thirty volunteers turned out to help plant a further eleven trees and that event coincided happily with MCS's 50th Anniversary; so cake was supplied!



We are also working to enhance the Park with tree-stump carvings and six of them were unveiled by local artists Steve and Lee from TribalAnimal Chainsaw Carving: a Wizard, an Owl, a Fairy House, a Gnome, a Mushroom and a Green Man to the delight of young and old alike.

The second project is 'Street Libraries'. We want to install between three to five a year over the next five years providing space that allows the community to recycle spare books which are free to borrow. Everyone is invited to participate. Our project will help elderly and less able people to gain access to reading material and feel part of the community and young people to feel



The Owl tree-stump carving in Dane Park

inspired to read more and nurture a love of books. Unlimited access will help raise standards of literacy in a deprived area and we want ultimately to become a flagship reading hub.

Street libraries are popping up all over the world: made from bird cages, dolls' houses, recycled fridges and even carved into tree trunks. They have enormous potential for connecting communities and my husband and I built one in front of our previous home in Hither Green (SE London). Within days, it became a real success as everything went 'viral': more than 410 'likes' within hours on the local



Stephanie Nsom sitting on a tree-stump carving in Dane Park



The Gnome tree-stump carving in Dane Park with its creator - Lee from TribalAnimal

Facebook group and an anonymous admirer even left flowers at the library! Thereafter, another three were established by local residents and we know these are still cherished concerns since our departure to Margate.

We are excited at the imminent prospect of our first Dane Park cherry blossom but we don't want to stop there.

More cherry trees and regular litter pickups are planned, a large woodcarving and the first improvements to the children's playground will be made this year in close collaboration with TDC. Fundraising for the projects has just started and all support would of course be greatly appreciated. The online address is

<http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/cherrytrees2019>

and please don't hesitate to share your pictures from Dane Park under the Hashtag **#iLoveDanePark**. You can find Colourful Margate on Social Media like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

We also want to look into a broader regeneration of Dane Park itself, with advice from a local horticulturist and landscaper from Ramsgate, and in close consultation with TDC. The first draft plan takes into consideration the current planting and activities enjoyed by the community. The proposed planting of the cherry trees along the paths will create shade, colour and soften the visual impact of the paths in the park. Areas of condensed planting, by the fountain for example, and at various 'junctions' around the

park will form pockets of dappled light and shade for the community to enjoy.

The distribution of the carved tree stumps adds interest and fun. The ongoing future goal, funded and organized by Colourful Margate or others, could be to add a sports equipment and wildlife space for all, especially the younger community, to enjoy. The map

shows suggested planting and designated areas for other creative projects. Please share your thoughts with us. We are interested in hearing your views.

And Dane Park's future? Well, wouldn't it be wonderful to walk under cherry blossom canopies, enjoy an outdoor movie screening and see how newly married couples take their wedding pictures under the cherry trees? This is a wonderful vision we hope you share with us. A vision that we hopefully can build over time and that one day can become a reality.

Thank you ! □

Stephanie Nsom
Chair of Colourful Margate



The Wizard tree-stump carving in Dane Park



The Fairy House tree-stump carving in Dane Park



The first street-library in Hither Green built by Stephanie Nsom and her husband

See also pages 14 and 15 of our Winter 2018 Newsletter (No.393) for a brief report on the tree-planting at Dane Park on 29th November 2018

Margate welcomes visitors again with its new sign



The old signs on Canterbury Road, Westgate which were removed at the request of the newly-formed Westgate-on-Sea Town Council in 2015



The old barely-legible Cinque Ports sign at Westgate that was taken down in 2015. Note the reference to Margate being 'A Maritime England Heritage Town'

A glossary of the symbols used



The above photo shows the two new signs that were erected on the Canterbury Road near the Nayland Rock shelter on 6th February 2019. Note (i) the absence of any reference to Margate's twinning links; (ii) the brown tourist sign with the 'M' logo; (iii) to drivers no longer being asked to drive carefully; and (iv) to Margate losing its former status as a 'Maritime England Historic Town'. Note also that Margate's coat-of-arms design (seen at the very top of the old sign in the photograph above left) has been replaced with the Kent 'Invicta' symbol - but that is probably because it is understood that the two signs above were erected and paid for by Kent County Council. Interestingly, the two new 'Retroreflective' signs were made by Royal British Legion Industries. Let's hope that the new signs are not vandalised in any way.

One could be forgiven for thinking that the Cinque Ports sign is advertising the popular Cinque Ports Public House on Marine Terrace which was awarded a Town Pride plaque in 2018. However, it is believed that the sign is actually intended to promote Margate's status as being a limb of the Cinque Ports. Nevertheless, it is considered unfortunate that Margate's coat-of-arms has not been included on one or other of the new signs. The photograph of the two new signs was taken three days after the signs had been erected. Since taking that photograph, another road-sign has appeared at Garlinge and is featured on the front page of this Newsletter. It remains to be seen whether yet more road-signs will appear elsewhere in our 'patch'. □



A close-up of the 'Invicta' sign that appears at the top of the new Margate sign. The white horse on a red background is reputed to be the symbol of Horsa and the ancient Saxon kingdom Kent



The 'Brown Tourist Sign' used to denote a museum or art gallery in the town. As specific reference is made on the sign only to the Turner Contemporary, one can only hope that visitors to the town will also find Margate Museum



A close-up of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports coat-of-arms used on the new Cinque Ports sign. It features the front half of a lion joined to the back of a ship



Margate's coat-of-arms proudly featuring the emblem of the Cinque Ports (half lion and half ship). This particular design of Margate's coat-of-arms has been used as our Newsletter's mast-head since 2005

My Story by Vera Jenkins



This photo shows Kandy's tearoom in the 1920s. The houses at the rear are in Mutrix Road



This photo shows Garlinge Farm Dairy's barn advertising the twice-daily delivery of milk to customers. St James's Church steeple can be seen in the background. The farm cottages to the right of the picture as well as the barn were demolished in the 1930s



This photo shows G. L. Willcocks & Co's tobacconists and confectioners shop in the late-1930s



The same location today. What was Kandy's is now a Chinese take-away (with red shop-front). The lamp-post is in the same location as shown in the first photograph

My family's arrival at Garlinge

I was born in London in 1927. My sister, June, was born one year and four months earlier. In late 1937, my father was told that he must go to the seaside for his health, at the same time taking a holiday and to ease his workload, for he and my mother had been running a wholesale tobacconist and confectionery business in London.

While we stayed with our grandparents in Whitstable, our Dad combed the coastal towns and found Kandy's tearoom on the main Canterbury Road, Margate - opposite The Hussar public house and near a Belisha-beacon crossing; bus stop and telephone kiosk; blue police-box - all within fifteen yards.

It looked an ideal location to his business eyes, for the village of Garlinge was due for expansion and there were two large plots of land - one on either side of what was to become 'our shop'.

Two perfectly good tobacconists and confectioners were in Garlinge, but my Dad always believed that competition was good for both business and the consumer.

Tom Wing, the builder, was to be our neighbour, so who better to do away with superfluous structure to expand the width and fit out a modern shop-front with black glass and stainless steel while Dad took the family on a much-needed holiday, visiting a WWI cemetery that he had helped build before leaving the Royal Flying Corps - to visit Grasse, Cannes and Nice - the whole Riviera and Chamonix in the French Alps.

We returned from our holiday to find our new shop exactly as Tom Wing and our Dad had planned it - a high-class tobacconist and confectioner's with the black glass and stainless steel-edged showcases - standing on a newly-tiled forecourt with cigarette-dispensing machine outside for when the shop was closed. The two large showcases to be seen in the accompanying photograph contained to the left Basildon Bond stationery of all descriptions and, to the right, dummy boxes of different confectionery also sold inside the shop. On the front of the shop was a sunblind to protect the confectionery in the summer and to protect customers when it rained.

Inside, to the right, was the confectionery counter with a small glass case in the centre. The home-made chocolates within were made by Dowlings of Margate and, after being chosen by the customer, were picked up with silver tongs and placed in a gold-coloured box in two layers and tied for carrying.

Cigarettes - Players, Senior Service, Gold Flake and - for Maud Wing - the pink-packeted very expensive Passing Cloud. For those customers of modest means we stocked Weights and Woodbines, and for the 'make your own' smoker we stocked Golden Virginia and packets of Rizla cigarette-papers.

For the 'pipe and tobacco' smokers (of whom my father was one), I can only remember Old Holborn and Golden Virginia. Perhaps the reader can remember other brands?

We were a very happy family now with both June and me having passed the 'Scholarship' - now called the 11-plus examination. We had both joined Miss Helm, the Headmistress of Ramsgate County School for Girls. BUT a short illness of my father, an operation, a closure of the wound and death - within one week and before his 40th birthday! Disastrous for my family.

But our connection with the Wing family did not end there. Our Dad had to be buried and Maud Wing (Tom Wing's wife) helped my mother to choose the plot next to the grave of her nineteen-year-old son, Frederick Joseph Wing, who had died in a motor-cycle accident in February 1926 - before both June and I were born. To our dismay, June and I were not allowed to go on Dad's last journey, so Maud invited the two of us to play with her baby foxes in the garden which I shall describe. Built in 1929, Tom and Maud Wing lived in a beautiful thatched-roof house that had been built by Tom Wing and his workmen on the corner of Bridge Road and Canterbury Road. Tom was well established locally as a master builder and had built many large houses along Westbrook Avenue, Pembroke Avenue and Barnes Avenue. *Cornerwyse*, as they named their house (now known as *White Rose Thatch*), was designed with modern features and materials yet gave a warm, cosy feel to the large detached property. The garden was beautifully laid out with a gate going through to a vegetable patch and to a kennel and a secure run for the baby foxes that had been rescued after a 'hunt' for Tom Wing was 'Master of the Hunt' at our nearest 'Meet' - which was out in the country.

Mrs Maud Wing took us to one 'Meet' of the East Kent Hunt at Elham where riders on horseback and walkers met to have a drink at a local hostelry before they set off with about 50 hounds, all looking alike, but each known by its individual name.

Mrs Maud Wing (*née* Reynolds) was the daughter of Joseph Reynolds, a confectioner with a business at 19 The Parade, Margate (as shown in the 1911 Census).

Dunkirk and Evacuation to Stafford

War and our evacuation to Staffordshire followed soon afterwards but not before our Anderson shelter was built in the back garden of the shop and ready for use. (If you did not have enough garden for an Anderson shelter, you could have a Morrison shelter which could also be used as a table.)

My sister and I always travelled to school, first by bus to Margate Railway Station and then by train to Ramsgate Station. We had carriage prefects on the train so there was no moving about on the train as each carriage was individual. We walked in pairs in 'crocodile formation' from the station via Ellington Road and Thompson's Passage into Clarendon Gardens. This is where Miss Helm, out head mistress throughout the war, got the name Clarendon House which, on our return from Stafford, was changed from Ramsgate County School for Girls for ever.

We were to be pupils at Ramsgate for less than two years because 'Dunkirk' came and we were told to leave the premises and to go home until instructed further for our trains were needed immediately for French and British troops, that our school was needed for accommodation and our parents would be informed of our next move. As we waited for 'our' train home, the troops were so pleased to be in England that they threw we school-girls French coins, medallions - indeed anything they had to show us how pleased they were to be safe from the Nazis. That was the beginning of Dunkirk and would be the start of a new adventure for my sister, June, and me but a dreadful time

for our mother with her husband so recently dead, losing her daughters to evacuation while she kept the shop going. My heart almost breaks as I think of her plight.

I end my story with a tribute to Maud Wing who was a lovely lady who had buried her mother (Mrs Reynolds) just a year before my Dad

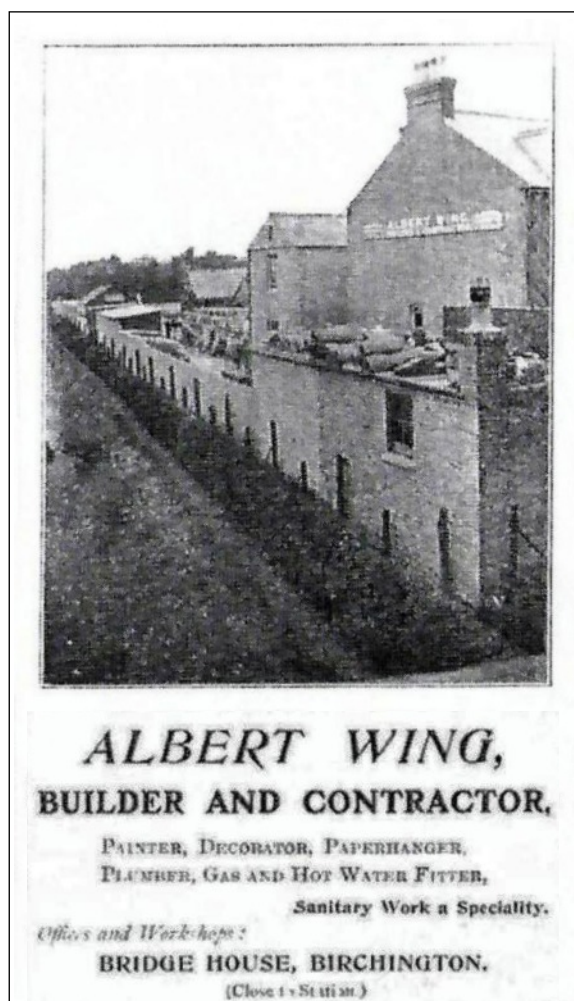
was buried. Their graves are on either side of Frederick Joseph Wing's grave (see accompanying photos). I am now aged 91 and have worked on these three graves for many years trying to keep them tidy and, if possible, free from the growth of marauding large trees for I have toiled with others as a Friend of Margate Cemetery since the year 2000. This graveyard, rightly known as St John's Cemetery is open to the dead, mourners, visitors, dog-walkers, bird-watchers and historians alike - anyone in fact.

Maud Wing's name is not anywhere to be seen in Margate Cemetery yet, to her, the parent of many, I dedicate these memories - God bless her! □

Vera Jenkins



This photo of Vera Jenkins was taken recently at home. Vera is now an Honorary Life Member of our Society



This advertisement dates from 1903. Albert Wing was Thomas Wing's father

Remembering *Cornerwyse* and the family graves in Margate Cemetery referred to in Vera Jenkins's article



The former Wing family house Cornerwyse circa 1930. The house is now known as White Rose Thatch

See page 14 of our Spring 2015 Newsletter (No. 382) for the plan dated January 1928 showing Mr T. Wing's Westbrook Estate



Part of the roof of Cornerwyse today showing the recent additions of the models of a fox following a partridge along the ridge of the thatched roof. Thomas Wing was, at one time, Master of the Hunt



◀ *The Wing family grave in Margate Cemetery with the Reynolds family grave to the left and the Willcocks family grave to the right. Note that the Wing grave is located on a corner plot - as was their house originally known as Cornerwyse*

IN MEMORY OF
FREDERICK JOSEPH WING
DIED FEB 21st 1926
AGED 19 YEARS.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MY DEAR HUSBAND
THOMAS WING
DIED JUNE 5th 1961
AGED 79 YEARS



◀ *The headstone on the Reynolds family grave in Margate Cemetery. Maud Wing (wife of Thomas Wing) was the daughter of Joseph and Jane Reynolds*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JANE ANN REYNOLDS
WHO DIED OCTOBER 20th 1937
AGED 78 YEARS.
ALSO OF
JOSEPH REYNOLDS
WHO DIED DECEMBER 12th 1940
AGED 84 YEARS



◀ *The headstone on the Willcocks family grave in Margate Cemetery. Vera Jenkins - the author of this article - is daughter of George and Beatrice Willcocks*

TO THE DEAR MEMORY OF
MY HUSBAND
GEORGE LATIMER WILLCOCKS
WHO ENTERED INTO REST
NOVEMBER 30th 1938, IN HIS 40th YEAR
ALSO OF BEATRICE GRACE
WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED SEPT. 17th 1969

REVIVAL OF THE KENT COAST

FROM THE TIMES JANUARY 26, 1919

The bracing air of Thanet conduces not only to good health, but to optimism. For the last four years its seaside resorts have been struggling; now every thought is concentrated on the future. I asked an old lady in Margate what that town most required to restore its former prosperity. "Two things," came the reply, "a fine summer and plenty of paint" — and that seems to sum up the situation for the whole of Thanet. Already the changes are noticeable. One by one the military restrictions have been withdrawn. One can again walk on the glorious

sands after sunset without fear of peremptory challenge. Windows need no longer be shaded; lights are everywhere. A few days ago there was a sight which cheered everyone. Along the front were masses of barbed wire and sandbags, and while they remained in position nobody could hope to forget the war. Then, to the general joy, the Army turned its attention from construction to destruction, and in the last few days the work of four years has been obliterated. The sand has been restored; miles of wire have been torn down, and the promenade is again ready to receive visitors. And the same thing is true of Ramsgate and Broadstairs, Birchington and Westgate (though here, of course, the activities of the seaplane station have not ceased). The Kent coast, in a word, is itself again.

Even the dugouts are being filled in. Margate had well over 150 enemy visitations from air and sea, so an

elaborate system of protection for the civil population had to be devised. Parts of the town must be honeycombed with underground residences. Some of the hotels had private dugouts, fitted out with sofas, rugs, and electric lights. Now that they are no longer required, they are being filled in, though perhaps one or two may be retained to remind future generations of the coast-dwellers' share in the war.

And now for the future. Paint is an urgent necessity. Almost every house on the coast requires a coat, and until that has been done, Margate and the adjacent towns cannot hope to regain their former glory. But houses are being snapped up again; the melancholy display of "To let" boards grows smaller every day and builders and decorators are flooded with orders.

THE TIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

The above report from one hundred years ago was re-published in The Times on 26th January 2019 and is reproduced in our Newsletter with the kind permission of The Times. The report brings to life the transformation of the Kent coast immediately after the end of the Great War and the optimism that existed at that time in our town. But some things simply never change: the town will still benefit from a fine summer and plenty of paint. Let's hope that we get a fine summer in 2019 and that many buildings and features in the town will receive a coat of paint to refresh them!

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council - Latest News

At a number of recent meetings of the full Council, Cllr Tom King (the former Chairman of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council) has complained bitterly about articles that have appeared in our Newsletter since 2015 regarding Westgate. He claimed that since the creation of the Town Council, Westgate is no longer part of Margate and, consequently, Margate Civic Society has no interest in the activities of the Town Council and should not, therefore, report on them in our Newsletter. He even claimed that all of the Society's Newsletters published since May 2015 that contained any articles relating to Westgate should be taken down off the Society's website. A formal letter was sent by the Town Clerk to our Secretary seeking a meeting to discuss the contents of Westgate-related articles in our Newsletter and complaining about inaccuracies in those articles. When the Town Council was asked to specify which articles contained inaccuracies regarding Westgate, the Town Council failed to do so.

It is apparent that certain members of the Town Council are adverse to any articles which they consider reflect negatively on the Town Council. For example, they took exception to an article which drew attention to the number of Town Clerks which that have had over the past three-and-a-half years. I have now lost count of the number of staffing changes that have taken place over that time but half of the councillors have resigned since the Town Council was first created in 2015 (five out of ten). Such a high level of turnover indicates - to me - that something is wrong somewhere.

Westgate remains part of Margate Civic Society's 'patch' regardless of the changes that took place in 2015. As members will know, our 'patch' includes not only Margate, Cliftonville, Westbrook, Westgate and Birchington but also includes Acol, St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre. The last three villages were never part of the pre-1974 Borough of Margate. Birchington, like Westgate, was - from 1935 - part of the old Borough of Margate and, when it gained Parish Council status in 1986, Birchington remained within the Civic Society's 'patch' as did Westgate when it too gained Parish Council status in 2015 (later that year changing to Town Council status).

Margate Civic Society is, by its very name, a 'civic society' and quite rightly takes an interest in civic matters throughout our 'patch' and that includes Westgate! The reporting in our Newsletter of the 'squabble' between the Town Council and Margate Charter Trustees over the splitting of the Charter Trustees' assets was fully justified despite the Town Council choosing to refuse to refund the overpayment made to them by the Charter Trustees of some £19,000.

Westgate featured prominently in the last issue of our Newsletter owing to the number of events which took place in Westgate to commemorate the signing of the Armistice in 1918 which ended the Great War 100 years previously.

To demonstrate Westgate-on-Sea as still being in Margate Civic Society's area, two of the nominations for this year's Town Pride awards are, indeed, Westgate properties. □

JB

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
2019	
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 Summer Programme 2019

Please note that the Heritage Centre at the back of St Saviour's Church is open from 10.00am to 12noon and every Wednesday from 11.00am to 1.00pm from the beginning of May to the end of August. On the first Saturday of every month, the Heritage Centre will be open at 10.00am to 12noon with a talk given starting at 10.30am. Refreshments available

Date	
2019	
6th April	Illustrated talk by Jill Beechey - 'More Westgate Memories'
4th May	Illustrated talk by Dr Graham Field - 'Kent Lodge, Westgate Bay Avenue, home of the Meyer family'
1st June	Illustrated talk by Sally Whitworth - Subject to be confirmed
6th July	Illustrated talk by Dr Dawn Crouch - 'July 1919 - How Westgate celebrated Peace'
3rd August	Illustrated talk by Dr Dawn Crouch - 'The end of an era: the sale of the Westgate Estate in August 1919'

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

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

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. □

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.

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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:

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

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