

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Winter 2019/20  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 397



Margate Civic Society is a  
Founder Member  
of Civic Voice

At our Annual General Meeting held on 3rd October 2019, all members of the existing Committee were re-elected for another year with no other names being proposed for any of the positions. Immediately after the election, your Editor announced his decision to stand down at the end of the 2019-20 year as, by that time, he will have produced more than 60 issues of our Newsletter in its current format over fifteen years. He explained that he had intended to stand down after ten years in the role but that he had subsequently decided to continue if he was re-elected at successive AGMs. However, your Editor will be 80 years old in October 2020 and feels that he should step down to allow someone else to take on the role of Editor and take the Newsletter forward into the 2020s. The Committee has a year in which to find a new Editor. If anyone wants to put their name forward with a view to taking over from the AGM in October 2020, please approach the Editor or any other member of the Committee in order that a smooth transition can be achieved.

This issue of our Newsletter contains a report by Mike Wilton on the visit by Society members last September to Chatham Dockyard. Your Editor was sorry not to be able to go along on that visit due to family circumstances but, by all accounts, it was a most successful day much enjoyed by those who went. Mike has made arrangements for a day-trip to Ostend on Saturday, 30th May 2020. Details of the trip are shown on page 14. Book your place early in order to avoid disappointment. Our previous trips to the Continent in recent years - Dunkirk, Arras, Ypres and Bolougne-sur-Mer - have all been great successes as well as being great fun. The Society is most grateful to Mike Wilton for organising these trips as well as serving as our Treasurer and our Webmaster for a good number of years.

The compilation of this issue of the Newsletter has been achieved during the run-up to yet another General Election; the results of which will not be known until a few days after the Newsletter has been published. It will be interesting to see the election results and to learn whether Brexit is ever going to happen in some form or other. After some three-and-a-half years, it seems that we are no nearer to knowing what Brexit will really mean to the nation apart from 'Brexit means Brexit' - as we were consistently told throughout 2017. Let us hope that, whatever the result of the General Election and its consequences, the country is re-united and that the division that exists today between 'Leavers' and 'Remainers' soon becomes nothing more than a distant memory. However, that just might prove to be a pious hope. We shall see! □

James Brazier  
Newsletter Editor

## Welcome to new members

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

Tracey Emin, CBE, RA  
Dennis Jackson  
John Richardson  
Cllr Rob Yates  
Aileen Christodoulou and Andrew Nolan  
Sue Finch

Sally Whitworth  
Membership Secretary

## Subscriptions

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st October 2019. 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 2020

Nominations of specific properties in our area are invited from members of our Society for the 2020 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 2020. The results of the Judging Panel will be announced at our meeting to be held on 14th May 2020. □

Pamela Pople  
Chairman



We wish all our members  
a very  
Merry Christmas



# Our Society's coach trip to Chatham Dockyard

In the latest of the Society's coach trips, on Sunday 22nd September, forty-four members and friends enjoyed a trip to Chatham Historic Dockyard. This date was chosen as it was the weekend of the Dockyard's "Salute to the 40s" festival so, as well as the usual Dockyard attractions, a huge number of events were taking place.



Event programme cover

As usual, our coach company was Carol Peters and, despite the coach being slightly late at the pick-up points, we arrived at Chatham at 11am. We had been sent wristbands and admission tickets in advance to hand out on the coach, so we were able to go straight into the Dockyard and enjoy our first sight of all the many attractions or, in most cases, a welcome coffee break.

Many of us were already familiar with the Dockyard's exhibits, including the vessels HMS *Gannet* (1878), HMS *Cavalier* (1943), which is the National Destroyer Memorial, and the Oberon-class submarine HMS *Ocelot* (1964), as well as the famous Ropery. This amazing building, which dates from 1728, was when built the longest brick-built building in Europe at 1,135 feet long and incredibly is still used commercially to make rope.

As well as these and the other Dockyard exhibits, we saw and heard singers and musicians with 1940s music; displays of cars and commercial vehicles of the time; the Dockyard train running slowly up and down; a fun fair; and lots of food stalls, including the NAAFI. Perhaps most interesting were the several re-enactments of WWII shops



Air-raid shelter shops made from Anderson shelters

and buildings, including the National Fire Service fire-station which was incredibly detailed and a whole street including a greengrocer and Post Office, all beautifully detailed with lots of interesting exhibits on display. Added to this were many people dressed in 1940s costumes, ranging from Royal Navy admirals to US Navy seamen and from very dressy ladies to 'spivs' carrying suitcases full of illicit goods for sale.



Mike Wilton and group

The weather was not quite as kind as it could have been although luckily the rain which was forecast held off except for one short shower. Otherwise occasional sunshine with a cool breeze, nothing bad enough to spoil the enjoyment.

Chatham Historic Dockyard is the home of the RNLI Heritage Museum and of particular interest to our group was the lifeboat *North Foreland*, which is exhibited in a prime location. This lifeboat was stationed at Margate from 1951 until 1978. Following the destruction of the jetty in the storm of the night of 11th/12th January 1978, the lifeboat house was cut off from the shore and a crew had to be landed on the jetty by helicopter, to launch the lifeboat and take it round to Ramsgate. A photograph of this event can be seen in the Summer 2012 edition of our Newsletter. One of our party, who was a police officer on



HMS *Gannet*



*War-time street scene complete with a 1939 Austin Seven saloon and a selection of Women's Voluntary Service salvage-collection bags*

the police launch at the time, helped to man the lifeboat on this occasion and recalls the element of danger and the thrill of being launched down the slipway of the badly damaged jetty.

We now look forward to our next coach trip. Traditionally, these take place towards the end of May, when there is at least a chance of good weather, and to a Continental destination. We have a few possibilities in mind and your Committee will be deciding soon, so watch out for an announcement. If you can suggest a destination which you feel we would enjoy visiting, please pass it on to any member of the Committee. □

**Mike Wilton**



*Commercial vehicles display*



*Former Margate Lifeboat (North Foreland [Civil Service No. 11])*



*The stern of the former Margate Lifeboat*

*All photos accompanying this article are courtesy of Mike Wilton*

## **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. □

# Ribbon-cutting of Arnold Schwartzman's award-winning T.S. Eliot mural at Margate Railway Station on 14th September 2019

*Arnold Martin Schwartzman. OBE, R.D.I.  
Welcome to the T.S. Eliot Mural.*

The welcoming sign above Arnold Schwartzman's imaginative creation of Margate's Great Wall of China which is displayed on the wall in the Waiting Room on Platform 1 at Margate Railway Station directly opposite Arnold's T.S. Eliot mural funded by The T.S. Eliot Foundation

The waiting room on Platform 1 at Margate Railway Station was filled to capacity on Saturday, 14th September when Oscar-winning director and internationally-renowned designer Arnold Schwartzman's T.S. Eliot mural was finally 'unveiled' by Margate Mayor, Cllr Mick Tomlinson, cutting the ribbon in front of the mural. Arnold with his wife, Isolde, had flown over from Hollywood for the occasion and Tracey Emin was amongst those who attended the ceremony along with a number of other members of Margate Civic Society..

During the ceremony, Arnold said:

*"Margate holds a special place in my heart and I'm very pleased to be back here again, and able to donate my artwork to a town that has provided me with such a fruitful career.*

*Thank you to the Margate team at Southeastern for supporting my project. It's an honour to have been given the opportunity to create something special for passengers to enjoy while using the railway."*

After the short ceremony, everyone was invited back to The Margate School (in the old Woolworth's Building in the High Street) for refreshments.

Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI is a stalwart member of our Society and served as Patron of the Society's Time-Ball Restoration Appeal in 2014. He is also Patron of The Margate School. Born in 1936, he has written numerous books on design generally and in particular on architectural design. Indeed, he is currently putting the finishing touches to his latest book on Arts & Crafts buildings.

The following photographs are a record of Arnold's recent visit to Margate. □

**JB**



Arnold before the ceremony enjoying a 'cuppa' from his coffee-mug bearing his design for the T.S. Eliot mural behind him



Cllr Mick Tomlinson, Mayor of Margate, formally cutting the ribbon to 'unveil' Arnold's imaginative and most attractive mural



The Mayor with Arnold's Margate's Great Wall of China design and his welcoming sign (see top of page) on the wall behind with him



Arnold, Geoff Orton and Uwe Derksen (Director of The Margate School) listening intently to the Mayor making his speech



L to R: Uwe Derksen, Cllr Mick Tomlinson, Iris Johnston, Arnold & Isolde Schwartzman and Richard Ash (Chairman of Margate Town Team). Mick Tomlinson and Iris Johnston are Margate's existing Honorary Burgesses (the only other person made an Honorary Burgess of Margate - Dennis Payne - having sadly died earlier this year)



Jane Bishop from the Walpole Bay Hotel proudly showing the napkin featuring Arnold's Margate's Great Wall of China design to Arnold's daughter, Hannah (partly hidden) whilst Uwe chats to Isolde and Arnold savours the occasion with a glass of wine in his hand



Arnold Schwartzman enjoying a glass of wine at The Margate School with Tracey Emin and his wife, Isolde. Tracey has since joined our Society and we are very proud to welcome another internationally famous artist to join our Society



Photo of Jane Bishop courtesy of Hannah Schwartzman

Jane Bishop holding her latest addition to her famous napery on display at the Walpole Bay Hotel. The napkin features Arnold's design for Margate's Great Wall of China. The design features numerous items of souvenir china dating from Victorian and Edwardian times and are from Arnold's collection. Each item of china either features a Margate view (such as Margate Jetty or other long-lost building) or proudly displays Margate's coat-of-arms on crested china which was so popular in those days. The design also contains narrative which tells some of Margate's history as a seaside resort. Jane's napery contains a number of brilliant designs by both Arnold and Tracey Emin. If you haven't yet visited the Jane's napery, you are highly recommended to do so



With Arnold visiting Margate in September, the opportunity was taken, at The Margate School, to present Arnold with our Society's Town Pride 'Highly Commended' Certificate for his T.S. Eliot mural.



Arnold Schwartzman proudly holding the Society's Town Pride 'Highly Commended' Certificate for his T.S. Eliot mural. Arnold was unable to collect the certificate in person at our Town Pride Awards evening last May. Also in the photo are Geoff Orton, Pamela Pople and Ralph Handscomb

# Westbrook's Sunken Garden



*Sunken Garden circa 1966 (Courtesy of Brian Handley)*

This local gem was laid out in the 1930s and remains a hidden oasis of calm along the Royal Esplanade. Much loved by children and adults alike, it provides a green alternative to the beach and a shelter for when the winds sweep across the bay. Laid out with lush bedding, limestone rock walls and sunken grass pools, it is a unique feature in the landscape.

In 1930, the Government urged local authorities to find work for the unemployed. Later that same year, the Government reversed their policy which caused problems for Margate Borough Council for it had made plans for various works to be carried out. Because local authorities had to seek approval to the borrowing of monies (known as loan sanction) to finance their capital projects, the Mayor made a personal visit to the Ministry of Health accompanied by the Deputy Town Clerk, Mr A. E. Orchin, in an endeavour to obtain loan sanctions for each of the various capital works that were planned by Margate Borough Council to proceed. Their visit proved successful.

The Garden was built in 1931 and completed the following year. It is believed that Margate Borough Council's Parks Superintendent at the time, Sidney Legg, was responsible for the original design of the Garden. The Sunken Garden was a product of the Great Depression with the idea coming from the Mayor, Cllr Percy Bosworth Osborne (known as Margate's 'Optimistic Mayor'). The town needed to obtain sufficient earth (20,000 cubic yards) to construct the approaches to a new railway bridge at Westbrook. Local excavation would provide a sunken garden for nothing and create work for the unemployed.



*Sunken Garden circa 1963*

The following extract from the *Thanet Advertiser and Echo* dated 13th November 1931 tells the story of how the Sunken Garden came into being:

## Mayor's Bright Idea

Feeling, however, that it was necessary that all the Council's schemes of work, which had involved months of preparation, should not be rejected, the Mayor, in company with Mr. Orchin, made a personal visit to the Ministry and made out so strong a case that the Council had not only had the offer of a small grant for the car park scheme, but sanction for loan in addition.

Continuing, Councillor Abbott said it was on his journey to Whitehall that the Mayor passed the new bridge at Westbrook, then in the course of construction, and, realising the difficulties of the Borough Surveyor in finding filling to construct the approaches to the bridge, brought the matter to the notice of the Council. The birth of a thought led the Mayor to suggest a sunken garden at Westbrook, whereby sufficient earth could be obtained to make the roads to the bridge. It was entirely due to the Mayor that this project was introduced and materialised. A happy thought it proved to be, for the cost of the bridge alone was estimated at £16,170, but the complete undertaking, the bridge and the sunken garden, involved an expenditure of only £13,850. Thus credit was due to the Mayor, not only for saving the town a sum of £2,300, but for providing the town with a splendid sunken garden for nothing.

*Source: The British Newspaper Archive*

By February 1931, three relief schemes were operating in the Borough of Margate. Thirteen men were employed to work on the Sunken Garden, while others worked on the new sewer and cliff defence works at Palm Bay.

During the Second World War, the Garden 'did its bit' for the war effort by giving up 'unnecessary' railings and, according to Historic England, there was a pillbox actually in the Garden with a searchlight battery just outside.

After the Second World War, the Garden continued as a popular visitor attraction until 1995 when government cutbacks led to its neglect.

Nowadays, there is a thriving community project to revive the Garden spearheaded by horticulturalist Peter Hasted with a corps of enthusiastic volunteers under the banner of the Sunken Garden Society. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust (an excellent regular Newsletter – do look them up!) continues to act as a fundamental partner in the revival, aiming to secure the Garden as a haven for bumble bees (of course) and other pollinators alike.



*Sunken Garden circa 1950s (Note the vacant building plots behind)*

Formed in 2018, Peter and the group have already achieved acclaim from local community and gardening organisations. Awards include a Bronze level from the Kent Wildlife Trust 'Wild About Gardens' scheme, runner-up in Kent Life magazine 'Best Community Gardens' and a Level Five 'Outstanding' by the Royal Horticultural Society/Britain in Bloom 'In Your Neighbourhood' scheme. The Sunken Garden Society has a Facebook page.

As readers will know, 'nature' is increasingly recognised as an integral part of mental and physical 'wellness' and Margate Civic Society is working up an application for an 'Eco Trail' incorporating refurbished coastal information boards together with an enhanced Dane Park 'Experience' – the Sunken Garden forms a useful 'bridge' between shore and inland and the marvels of modern technology mean that any amount of educational material can be downloaded from a prompt – certainly by seven-year olds!

As a footnote, Stephanie 'Cherry Tree' Nsom is pleased to announce that our area's first 'Street Library' has now been installed at Madeira Road, Cliftonville. This is an international idea to promote the reading habit for young and old and to generate a community spirit. Stephanie's earlier experiment at Hither Green proved a great success and she hopes Street Libraries will now proliferate in Margate and the wider Thanet world. □

**Geoff Orton**  
with acknowledgments to  
the Sunken Garden Society's  
Peter Hasted and Sue Finch



*The main entrance to the Sunken Garden (sometimes referred to as the Sunken Gardens) - photo October 2018*



*Sunken Garden circa 1930s*



*Planting by volunteers - February 2019*



*Sunken Garden looking west - photo February 2019*



*Sunken Garden looking east - photo February 2019*

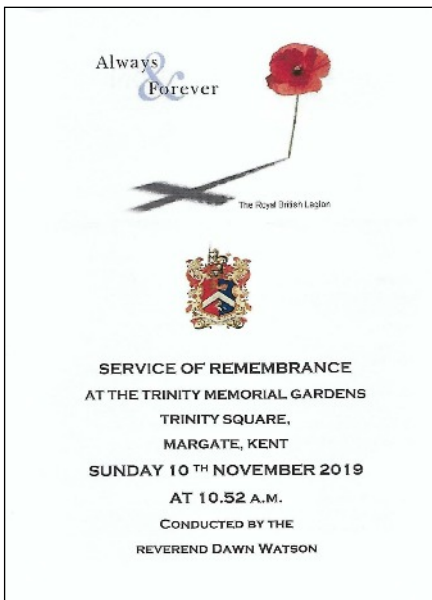
# Margate remembers its Fallen



The Civic Party is joined by the townspeople of Margate at the town's War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday for the annual service of remembrance



The Macebearer (Clifford East) leads the Civic Party up Trinity Hill towards the War Memorial. The Macebearer is accompanied by the Mayor (Cllr Mick Tomlinson), the Deputy Lieutenant for Kent (Clive Stevens) and others



The front page of the Order of Service which was conducted by the Revd Dawn Watson, Priest in charge of St John the Baptist Church, Margate and All Saints Church, Westbrook

The attendance at this year's service of remembrance was certainly amongst the highest it has been for very many years. Perhaps it was because the occasion marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice Day commemorations that were first held in London on 11th November 1919 and when the two minutes' silence, as decreed by HM King George V, was observed for the very first time. However, this year's service at Margate was not without mishaps. Firstly at 11 o'clock, part of a recording of a New Year's Eve celebratory broadcast was played over the public-address system. That was followed by a much extended period of silence due, seemingly, to confusion as to the precise moment when the two minutes' silence had began that morning. Apart from those mishaps, the service was a huge success and it was pleasing to see the large number of townspeople - particularly young people - in attendance this year. As one who has attended the service every year since returning to live in Margate in 2004, I can vouch for continued growth in the attendance each year. □ **JB**

## A picture from the past



Courtesy of Chris Sandwell

Armistice Day 1930 - Inspection at The Parade by the Mayor (Cllr Percy Bosworth Osborne). The Mayor is accompanied by the town's Chief Constable (William Palmer) and the Town Sergeant (Alfred Swain)

The Civic Party mounts the steps leading to the War Memorial immediately before the service of remembrance commences. Cllr Harry Scobie, one of the Margate Charter Trustees and our Society's Vice-Chairman can be seen at the rear behind Sir Roger Gale and Craig Mackinlay who attended the service as members of the public







*A solemn moment during the Remembrance Service. Standards of the Royal British Legion are raised whilst the choir sang. This photograph captures the moment in glorious sunshine. The choir, together with the youth bands, were particularly good this year were a credit to the town*



*The Revd Dawn Watson conducting the Service of Remembrance seen with representatives of the armed services in attendance. The standards of the Royal Engineers Association and the Royal Naval Association can be seen in this photo as can a number of Royal British Legion standards and others*



*Wreath from the Mayor, Mayoress, Charter Trustees and the Townspeople of Margate*



*Another photo which indicates the number of large people attending this year's Service of Remembrance. Margate can rightly be proud of how its townspeople remembers the town's fallen on this year's Remembrance Sunday. The weather was perfect for the occasion: the air was still, the sky was blue and the sun was brilliant throughout the service. What more could one ask for - particularly in November?*

# Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre donates a second memorial bench at St Mildred's Bay to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council



*Dr Dawn Crouch, Chris Sandwell and Cllr Martyn Pennington, Chairman of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council*



*Chris Sandwell ceremonially cuts the ribbon*

A beautiful bench tribute to the men and women who gave service to the civilian defence forces during Second World War has been officially unveiled in Westgate.

Some 30 people gathered at St Mildred's Bay to witness the Chairman of the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre, Dr Graham Field, present the seat to the Chairman of the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, Cllr Martyn Pennington, to mark the beginning of the Heritage Centre's commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of the Second World War.

The seat, which is placed close to the memorial to the Westgate Seaplane Base of the First World War and complements the one donated in June this year, is a tribute to the men and women of the civilian defence forces, who are so easily forgotten.

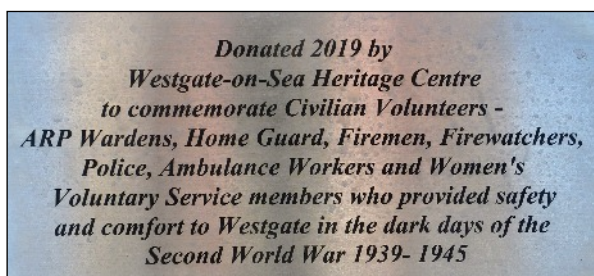
After a brief introduction by Dr Dawn Crouch of the Heritage Centre in which she outlined the services given by the civilians in the dark days of the war, the ribbon was cut by Chris Sandwell.

His mother, Marjorie Clifford, had served with the Auxiliary Fire Service in Westgate at its wartime headquarters in Roxburgh Road, close to where the ceremony was taking place.

He spoke briefly of the stories passed on to him by his mother. Cllr Pennington then accepted the seat on behalf of the Westgate community and the Revd Karen Gooding, Priest-in-Charge of St Saviour's Church, Westgate, led a short act of thanksgiving and remembrance. □

**Dr Dawn Crouch  
Honorary Freeman of Westgate-on-Sea  
and Founder of the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre**

*Close-up of the wording on the plaque affixed to the new bench*

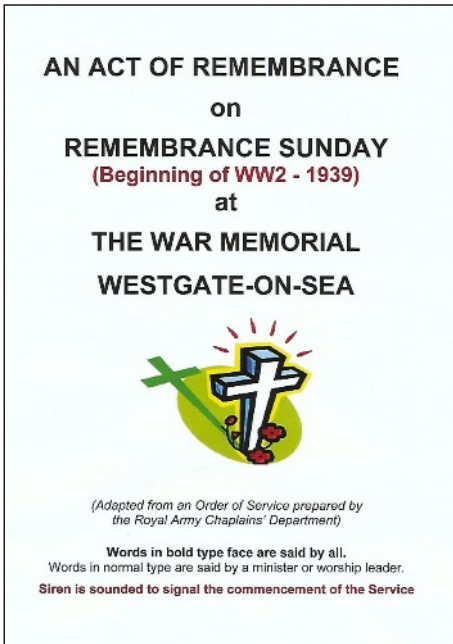


*Front-cover of the Order of Service*



*The two memorial benches at St Mildred's Bay flanking the First World War RNAS Seaplane Base memorial plaque*

# The Act of Remembrance held on Remembrance Sunday at Westgate-on-Sea



The front cover of the Order of Service which was conducted by the Revd Susan Wing

This photo shows just some of the large number of townspeople who attended this year's service. The two 'there but not there' soldier-figures made from chicken-wire can be seen in the foreground surrounded by young people. It was particularly pleasing to see so many young people present at this year's service



These two 'there but not there' soldier-figures made from chicken-wire were the creations of Richard Hambidge who, together with his wife Lorraine and friends, installed a number of cut-out figures and numerous poppies throughout the town especially for Remembrance Sunday



The Rev Susan Wing can be seen in the foreground as three representatives of the Royal Air Force lay their wreath



Lorraine and Richard Hambidge to whom full credit should go for 'painting the town poppy red' in the days leading up to Remembrance Sunday



This photo shows just some of the townspeople what attended the service under the most beautiful sky that morning.



Thanet District Councillors Matt Scott and Sam Bambridge lay a wreath on behalf of TDC during the service

# Remembering Alf Swain - Margate's Town Sergeant 1918-1937

Alf Swain was undoubtedly a character. The accompanying photograph of him in his uniform probably dates from the mid-1920s when he was around 50 years old. It shows him with his waxed-moustache which, reputedly, was some ten inches wide. Alf Swain was born in 1874 and took over the position of Town Sergeant from John Kevis in 1916 (not in 1918 as shown on the Board in Margate Museum). Alf Swain served as an Orderly at Wanstead VAD Hospital throughout the Great War with the rank of Private, for which he was awarded the British Red Cross Society War Service badge. He also served in the Margate Ambulance Corps during that war and was awarded their War Service badge. His VAD service and his Margate Ambulance Corps service were voluntary as he was employed throughout that time by the Town Council.

Alf Swain served as Town Sergeant for 21 years. His predecessor, John Kevis, had served at Margate's Town Sergeant for 28 years. It is believed that Margate's first Town Sergeant was John Scott who was succeeded by John Kevis around 1888. Although Margate became a Borough in 1857, it did not acquire a mace until 1865. It is not known why the Board in Margate Museum recording the names of the town's Town Sergeant fails to show either John Scott's name or John Kevis's name.

Alf Swain is also featured in this issue of the newsletter in a photograph taken on Armistice Day in 1930 on page 8. Interestingly, he is shown in that photo carrying the mace on his left shoulder whereas, today, the Macebearer carries the mace on his right shoulder.

As the newspaper cutting from the *Thanet Advertiser and Echo* dated 2nd July 1937 below states, Alf Swain took early retirement in 1937 after 36 years' service with Margate Corporation. He died at Tunbridge Wells in 1943. □ JB



*Courtesy of Chris Sandwell*  
Alfred James Swain in his Town Sergeant's uniform. Note his medals as detailed below



*Courtesy of Chris Sandwell*  
Alf Swain at Margate War Memorial on Armistice Day in 1928 followed by the Mayor, Cllr Edward Coleman



*Margate Ambulance Corps War Service Medal.*

*The inscription on the reverse reads:  
Presented by the Margate Town Council  
in recognition of  
services rendered during the  
Great War 1914 - 1918*

**MR. A. J. SWAIN**  
**MARGATE TOWN SERGEANT**  
**RETIRING**

Mr. Alfred J. Swain, the Margate Town Sergeant, who has been in the employ of the Corporation for nearly 36 years, will sever that long association with the local authority in September.

The question of Mr. Swain's service was considered by the Finance Committee at a meeting on Wednesday and, after some discussion, the committee recommended the Council to grant Mr. Swain a superannuation allowance in excess of the bare allowance to which he would be entitled under the scheme.

The recommendation will be considered by the Council in Committee this evening.

Mr. Swain has not enjoyed the best of health during the past few years and, for that reason, is retiring before he would be compelled to under the superannuation scheme. If the Council approve the decision of the Finance Committee he will be given leave of absence until September.

Mr. Swain succeeded the late Mr. John Kevis as Town Sergeant in 1918, and, in February next, would have completed 36 years' service with the Corporation, for he acted as assistant to Mr. Kevis for some 14 years. Mr. Kevis was Town Sergeant for about 28 years.

*Source: The British Newspaper Archive*



*The headstone on Alf Swain's grave in Margate Cemetery*



*British Red Cross Society War Service medal*

# Location of Christopher Alexander's drawing of gas-lamp has been identified



Courtesy of Steven Alexander

Christopher Alexander's sketch that his son, Steven, asked our members if anyone could suggest the location of the scene with its very decorative gas-lamp

This fine sketch drawn by the late Christopher Alexander in the summer of 1956 was published in the last issue of our Newsletter following a request by his son, Steven, to determine whether any of our members could identify its location. Richard Clements had initially suggested that it might be of the Randolph Hotel in Zion Place.

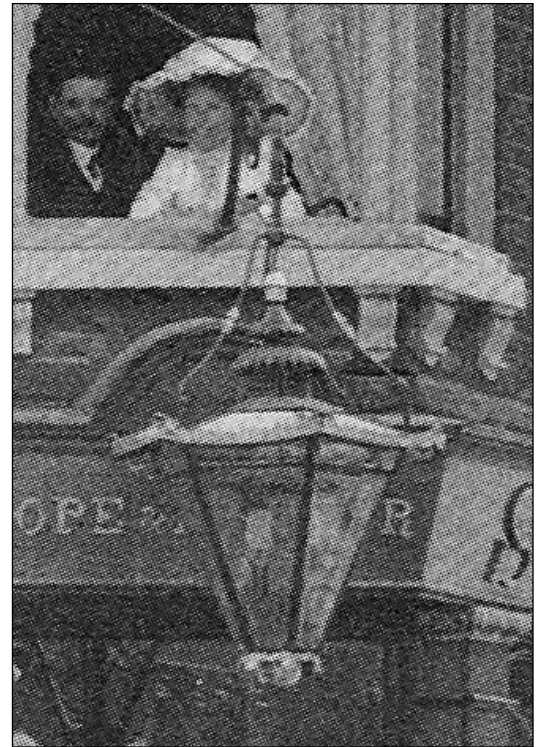
Following publication of the sketch, other suggestions were received from members of our Society.

Janet & John Robinson put forward the suggestion that it might be the former Hope & Anchor public house that once stood at 173/175 High Street, Margate. By zooming in on the lamp in the photograph, it can be seen that the lamp was very similar - if not identical - to the lamp in the sketch. However, the lamp outside the Hope and Anchor public house can be seen

in the photograph to be above the entrance door on the 'chamfered' corner of the building whereas the lamp in the sketch can be seen to be above the entrance door parallel to the road.

Another suggestion was received from Jane & Dudley Gore that the sketch showed a location in Ramsgate rather than in Margate - the former Iron Duke Inn (previously known as Belle Vue Inn) located at the junction of Belle Vue Road and Plains of Waterloo. It is believed that the ornamental gas-lamp was removed from the building some 40 years ago. Sadly, its current whereabouts are unknown.

So, congratulations to Jane & Dudley Gore for correctly locating the scene depicted in Christopher Alexander's fine sketch and a sincere thank you to those who put forward other suggestions. Thanks also to Terry Wheeler for providing the image of the Iron Duke Inn at Ramsgate. □ **JB**



By zooming in on the lamp shown in the photo below left, it can be seen how similar was the lamp that once hung outside the former Hope and Anchor public house at Margate to the one that once hung outside the Iron Duke Inn at Ramsgate



Courtesy of the Mick Twyman Collection

The Hope and Anchor public house that once stood at 173/175 High Street, Margate. It was on the corner of the upper High Street and Church Street, before Bulmers Court. All this area was demolished around 1955/56, i.e. around the time that the sketch was drawn



Courtesy of Ramsgate Historical Society

The Iron Duke Inn on the corner of Belle Vue Road and Plains of Waterloo. Its name was changed from the Belle Vue Inn to the Iron Duke Inn around 1960

## Margate Civic Society

# Our Spring 2020 coach trip **OSTEND** at Anchor



**Saturday 30th May**

Leave Margate 6.45am

Travel via Eurotunnel

Six hours in Ostend

**TICKET PRICE £34**

Ostend at Anchor is a well-established maritime event held in the harbour at Ostend.

150 sailing vessels

Street entertainment

Food and drink stalls

Processions & bands

Search & Rescue demonstrations

Ostend shopping and restaurants

Optional drop off and pick up after two hours at the Atlantic Wall Museum, Ostend (admission fee not included).

SCAN ME



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](mailto:treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

If you purchase a ticket and subsequently are unable to travel, we will refund the full price if we are able to re-sell it. If we are unable to re-sell it, we will refund 50% of the price.

## Correspondence

The following three letters sent by e-mail have been received since our last Newsletter was published:

The first dated, 16th September, is from Arnold Schwartzman and sent to our Chairman, Pamela Pople, reads:

*Dear Pamela,*

*I'm most grateful to receive the framed Town Pride certificate duly signed by yourselves.*

*I am also pleased to now have the certificate on tile mounted next to the mural.*

*Many thanks to Margate Civic Society for all your wonderful assistance.*

*Warm regards,*

*Arnold*

The second, dated 8th November, is from Steve Hookins (our speaker at our October meeting) also sent to our Chairman, Pamela Pople, reads:

*Pamela*

*Just to say how much I enjoyed the talk yesterday. Occasionally a talk really stands above the others because of the venue/group/atmosphere all come together & last night was one of those nights.*

*I am pleased that your group enjoyed themselves & the presentation.*

*Many thanks for booking me for next year (5th Nov) for Bits That Don't Fit. I have already booked the hotel (same room) for two nights!*

*See you next year*

*Steve*

The third dated 16th November is from Wendy Sharpless (who lives in Truro, Cornwall) and sent to our Secretary, Geoff Orton, which reads:

*Dear Secretary*

*I would like to thank you for your excellent website and the list of names on the war memorials. I was able to find my Uncle Bill, William Stevens. This gave me a lot of new information. I never knew him as I was born in 1938.*

*The accounts of the men are very moving and remind us of their bravery and sacrifice for which I shall always be grateful.*

*I was with my Grandma at the opening ceremony and remember the wall shape. She had difficulty in having his name recorded as he was not killed on active service. But I am pleased he and others were recorded. They all served our country.*

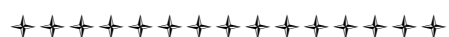
*Please thank Mr Brazier for his hard work. It will have been appreciated by many people.*

*Thank you.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Wendy Sharpless*

**Note:** The 'wall shape' referred to in Wendy Sharpless's letter is the wall at the rear of the Margate War Memorial WWI Cross. The 'wall' incorporates tablets on which are recorded the names of the WWII Fallen and was unveiled in April 1952. - Ed



# 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
<b>2019</b>	
12th December	Christmas Soirée - with poetry readings by Anthea & Harry Preston, music, quiz, raffle and refreshments (Guests: £6.50 nominal fee [which includes cocktail snacks and one complimentary drink]). <b>Note:</b> The Christmas Soirée starts at 7.00pm and finishes at 10.00pm
<b>2020</b>	
January	No meeting
6th February	'Victorian Holidaymaking' by Felicity Stafford, Vice-President, Margate Civic Society and Trustee of Margate Museum
5th March	'Rogues, Rascals and Rebels' by Chris McCooey (Freelance Writer and Speaker)
2nd April	'The Early Days of Westgate-on-Sea' by Sally Whitworth, MCS Membership Secretary and Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre Newsletter Editor. A talk about the area before the town was built and the people who helped create what was to become an upmarket Victorian watering-hole. Please note that, during the evening and, prior to the raffle, there will be a request for donations towards a WWII bench
14th May	Town Pride Awards (followed by raffle and refreshments) Guests: £4.50 nominal fee
1st October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'The History of Local Newspapers in Thanet, by Jodie Nesling, Journalist and Co-owner of <i>The Isle of Thanet News</i> (followed by raffle and refreshments) Guests: £4.50 nominal fee
5th November	'Bits That Don't Fit!' (Stand-up History! Weird and wonderful historical square pegs) by Steve Hookins (After-Dinner Speaker, historical presentations)
10th December	'The Goose is Getting Fat! The History of Christmas Traditions' by Imogen Corrigan (Lecturer on Anglo-Saxon & Medieval History of Art) followed by raffle and refreshments Guests: £6.50 nominal fee



## Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre is open in the winter on the first Saturday of each month for a talk at 10.30 a.m. All are welcome.

Date	Subject
<b>2020</b>	
4th January	Westgate in the Second World War - part of a rolling programme based on the stories of local people to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the war. 'The Phoney War - September 1939 - April 1940'. Script written by Dr Dawn Crouch and read by Heritage Centre members
1st February	'My experiences as a NHS doctor' by Dr Graham Field
7th March	Annual General Meeting followed by a short talk by member Karl Troop on how he was inspired to do research on Christopher Moor (the chandelier in the Memorial Chapel is in his memory) and his family, following a chance encounter with a member of the Moor family at the Heritage Centre in 2019
4th April	Illustrated talk prepared by Dr Dawn Crouch based on recent research. 'The changing face of Westgate south of the A28 after the Second World War'

**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 and a founder member of Civic Voice. It was also both an affiliated member of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and a member of the Kent History Federation but, sadly, both those organisations have recently been wound up.

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 2019/20:

**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: ortong14@gmail.com)

**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 2019/20:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
	£	£	£	£
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	13	17	5	–
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	10	14	2	20

*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