

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



**Autumn 2015**  
**Newsletter**  
**Issue No. 380**



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

Congratulations go to Cllr Iris Johnston for recently being elected by her fellow Margate Charter Trustees as an Honorary Burgess of Margate. Iris - as she is known to everyone - served as Town Mayor in 2011/12 and was Leader of TDC immediately before last May's elections when Ukip took over control of TDC. Iris is the third person to be honoured with the title of Honorary Burgess and joins Cllr Mick Tomlinson and former councillor Dennis Payne (both former Town Mayors of Margate) with that title. Meanwhile at TDC, the new Ukip-controlled council under Leader Cllr Chris Wells is going through a 'sticky patch' over their wish for TDC to make a CPO of Manston Airport and Margate Charter Trustees, also under Ukip majority, is prepared to give, perhaps over-generously, some £50,000 of their assets to the new Westgate Parish Council.

Following our successful day trips to the Houses of Parliament, Dover Castle and Dunkirk, it was decided that the Society should have a day trip to London which will now take place on Tuesday, 22nd September. Members will have the choice of being dropped off at either the Imperial War Museum or at the Victoria and Albert Museum at South Kensington. At the time of writing this Editorial, 39 seats had already been sold with only a few seats remaining. At only £13.00 a head, the charge is a real bargain!

The Northdown Way estate has interested me for many years but it was only recently that I came across a reference to it described in an official document as a 'small garden city'. As some of our members might not be familiar with the Northdown Way estate, this issue of the Newsletter contains a short illustrated article on the estate and it is hoped that the article might yield further information from readers on that development. After having produced the article, I found it interesting that a recently-leaked document relating to the future of Manston Airport referred to the possibility of turning the airport into a circa 800-acre 'garden city' with up to 10,000 homes. Clearly, such a large 'garden city' would be very different from the Northdown Way small garden city but, nevertheless, it is perhaps a coincidence that the future of Manston might be that of another garden city in our locality. Whether Manston will ever return to being an airport or become a 'new town' remains to be seen. In the meantime, it is ready to be used as a giant lorry park to relieve the pressures on the M20 of Operation Stack - something that none of the residents of Thanet ever wanted or ever imagined when the airport was sadly closed last year. □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

## The Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

will take place at the Walpole Bay Hotel on Thursday,  
1st October 2015

Nominations are invited for each of the positions on the Committee and should be submitted as soon as possible before the meeting to the Secretary at:

25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea  
Margate CT8 8RR

With the exception of Roger Hayes, our Membership Secretary, who has declared that he will be standing down at the AGM, all incumbents are prepared to carry on subject to re-election at the AGM. The Society is, therefore, specifically seeking a new Membership Secretary to take over from Roger. If you are interested in helping the Society in performing this particular role from the date of the AGM, please contact our Secretary, or any other member of the Committee, for details of what the position entails.

**Geoff Orton**  
Secretary

## Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2015 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. Please note the proposed new subscription rates (subject to approval by the members at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 1st October 2015) are effective from 1st October 2015 and are shown on the back page of this Newsletter. The proposed subscription rates are unchanged except that, for those members who receive printed Newsletters, it has become necessary to increase their subscription rates to offset higher postage rates, etc. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. Members can renew their subscriptions at the AGM or by post before 1st October to me at:

11 Saltwood Gardens  
Cliftonville  
Margate CT9 3HQ

Arrangements will be announced at the AGM for the renewal of subscriptions after the AGM has been held. We also offer the facility of membership payment by electronic transfer. For details of this facility, please see our website [www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

**Roger Hayes**  
Membership Secretary

# President's Report 2015

Hello everyone. It only seems like yesterday I was writing my report for 2014. Up to May this year, your committee was very busy dealing with the many facets of running this organisation. You will have read about most of these commitments and work on your behalf in our newsletters, local newspapers or from the Chairman's reports at our evening meetings.

Since May, I have been out of action and thank those members who sent their best wishes. As you know, we have a break for the summer after the May meeting and the Town Pride Awards, but some of the committee continue to deal with planning queries, attending various meetings and keeping up to date with contentious issues such as Manston Airport and Dreamland. After the council elections, we now have a new batch of councillors at TDC and hope they will be more sympathetic to our suggestions and aims.

So, once again, I come to the members of your committee and their contributions to making it a very successful one.

Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople. Pamela has led the team with enthusiasm. She has kept members informed of community projects, consultations and events, organised the evening meetings' speakers and annual Town Pride Awards, at the same time being busy with her day job. Ray has been a constant help to her and the MCS. Thank you Ray. Both have been plagued with medical problems which I hope are now behind them.

Vice Chairman: Harry Scobie. Now that he is no longer a TDC Councillor, he has been able to give more of his time to the Society, always willing to help in any way he can.

Secretary: Geoff Orton. For ever 'on the go' dealing with all matters concerning MCS - planning disputes, meetings and helping other committee members. An excellent organiser.

Treasurer/Webmaster: Mike Wilton. Reliable, the voice of reason, always ready to help, keeps the finances on a sound and steady level and organises our trips. Thanks also go to Heather for her running of the Raffle at our monthly meetings.

James Brazier: Newsletter editor. Has given us another year of brilliant newsletters full of interesting subjects and photos. He had a good display of WWI and WWII artefacts, letters and photos at our Civic Day event at the Droit House. This event was well attended by some of our members, local councillors and the new Mayor plus a number of local citizens.

Membership Secretary: Roger Hayes. He now has control of the Membership situation. Unfortunately, he states he wishes to stand down as a committee member at the AGM. This leaves a gap in our committee and needs to be filled. If any member would like to take on this important role, you will be welcomed with open arms. If interested, please get in touch with any member of the committee.

Planning Officer: Mike Thompson. Deals mainly with checking planning applications and passing on his findings to the committee, preparing his responses. Any correspondence is then dealt with by Geoff. Mike is usually able to help at our events and his knowledge of Council procedure in this field is very useful.

That's all from me, I again thank all the committee for their continuous expertise and enthusiasm. You are a great group and I feel privileged to be your President. I also thank our members for your continuous support and look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

**Ralph Handscomb**  
President

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## Planning Matters

*Mike Thompson, Committee Member with the Planning Brief, writes :*

The Committee regularly scrutinises Thanet District Council's weekly lists of planning applications. A regular objection made to TDC on behalf of Margate Civic Society is to proposals to convert (sometimes retrospectively) to Homes in Multiple Occupation. It is established Council policy to refuse these in parts of Margate Central and Cliftonville West wards and MCS fully supports the drive away from 'bedsitterdom' to 'family friendly' as is beginning to happen in the resurgent Dalby Square area. We would like such restrictions extended so that, for example, the old Dog & Duck Hotel in Canterbury Road, does not add further to local congestion and 'social imbalance'. MCS was strongly against the former Thanet Press premises being turned into multiple occupation – it's a large central space crying out for creative use.

There has been a steady trickle from the Palm Bay area of people attempting to convert garages into living accommodation which would spoil amenity. We always welcome comments from members.

Sarre Mill has got into a sorry state in that it has become less of a mill with its machinery removed and more of commercial residence. We are considering applying to upgrade its listing (from Grade II to Grade II\*) to afford greater protection but are pleased to report that Thanet District Council have inspected the premises and are monitoring the situation more closely after our representations. □

### Roy Adsett

I am very sorry to report that Roy Adsett, one of the 'founding fathers' of Margate Civic Society, passed away on 30th August after a long illness: he was 83. I know that our members will want to join me in sending our condolences to Roy's wife, Vivienne, and his family at this sad time. Roy was a Vice-President of our Society and we all owe him much gratitude for his huge contribution towards in setting up the Society in 1968. Roy also served for many years as President of the Ramsgate Society and as a committee member of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies. □

**Pamela Pople**  
Chairman

## Margate Civic Society celebrates Civic Day 2015



*The Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr Robin Edwards flanked by Cllrs Mo & Jeff Elenor (holding the framed WWI medals awarded to two of his relations) together with our Chairman, Pamela Pople at Droit House on Civic Day. Cllrs Mo & Jeff Elenor are both members of Margate Civic Society*

As part of Civic Voice's national Civic Day programme, Margate Civic Society held an exhibition on Sunday, 21st June at Droit House to mark the 75th anniversary of Operation Dynamo (the evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940 in which Margate had played an important part) and the centenary of WWI. A PowerPoint slide-show featuring photographs taken at Margate during those dark days was shown throughout the day and members of the public and of the Society were invited to bring along artefacts relating to those two events. The event attracted a good number of visitors many of whom brought along medals, photographs and general items of militaria to share their memories of those times with us. □

## Margate's Turner Mosaics

We reported in the last Newsletter that Margate Civic Society had joined forces with Margate Town Team to share the costs of cleaning and renovating the ten mosaics at the Margate end of the Turner to Dickens Flagship Walking Route. This work was carried out in June 2015 and the accompanying photograph was taken shortly afterwards. These attractive mosaics, which can be seen outside Holy Trinity & St John's CE Primary School at the junction of Addington Street and St John's Road, portray scenes from J M W Turner's work including 'The Fighting Temeraire', and they complement the Dickens-themed mosaics at Broadstairs.



*Photo: Aaron Ford-Wilson, Co-ordinator, Margate Town Team*

*L to R standing: Geoff Orton (Secretary, Margate Civic Society), Martin Cheek (Master Mosaicist), Berni Johnson (Mosaicist), Pamela Pople and Danny Short (Headmaster) with - kneeling - pupils of Holy Trinity & St John's Primary School*

All of the mosaics were designed locally by Martin Cheek an internationally-renowned mosaicist with the aid of school pupils in 2008 and mark the Margate part of the three-mile Turner to Dickens Walk to Broadstairs which passes along St Peter's Footpath past Drapers Windmill and is increasingly popular with the health conscious. Martin Cheek has published many books on mosaic making and runs mosaic classes – see his website [www.martincheek.co.uk](http://www.martincheek.co.uk) for full details.

Pamela Pople, Chairman of Margate Civic Society and Secretary of the Town Team, said : "We were pleased to apply Kent County Council monies left over from the Time Ball Fund which County Councillors Will Scobie and Mo Elenor found for that project. The mosaics are a delightful enhancement of our townscape and Martin has been doing a marvellous job in the ongoing maintenance of them."

An earlier article on these mosaics appeared in MCS Newsletter No. 355 (Summer 2009) following the putting up of the mosaics in 2008. □



## The Victory Llugger/Northern Belle Memorial Tablet - Update

We also reported in the last Newsletter that some of the wording on the memorial tablet erected on the Stone Pier to replace the original tablet was illegible only two years after it had been erected. We are very pleased to report that work to the tablet was carried out only a few days after publication of the Newsletter and the lettering is now clearly legible. This is an important memorial table which commemorates the the disastrous loss of the "Victory" Llugger in 1857 with the loss of nine lives. □

# MARGATE GOES NATIONAL!

Civic Voice has inaugurated a National Design Award as a kite mark that will be recognised by community groups, professionals and local government alike. It is unique as it won't be professionals complimenting other professionals but community organisations nominating projects which they feel make significant contributions to the quality of their environment, whether village, town or city.

As Griff Rhys Jones, our President, said at the Awards Ceremony: "Here's our chance to be known as NIMBYs which can also stand for 'Nicely In My Back Yard' - please!"

There were 62 entries for three categories: Public Realm, Restoration and New Build. MCS naturally proposed 2014 Town Pride winners The Harbour Steps for Public Realm and The Sands Hotel for Restoration. The Harbour Steps won Public Realm with Max Farrell as the Chief Judge saying: "...how it proves that you can turn functional into a feature – an outstanding example of successful integration of civil engineering and place-making which has made a real difference to the regeneration of Margate."

Your Secretary together with the Project Artist, Chris Tipping, attended the Awards Ceremony and received the superb Blue Plaque as you see in the picture. Your Committee now wants a 'twin plaque' to complement the earlier Town Pride Award.

This continues Margate's Time Ball momentum! A tremendous compliment to Mike Humber's Project Team at TDC. Some inspiring examples of creative use of public space set one thinking. Overall winner was the Gloucester Services Northbound station which created 374 jobs in a depressed area. Bizarre but brilliant. I found the Orange Box at Halifax, turning a 19th century warehouse into a youth centre and actually consulting youth, the most heartwarming. The Churches Conservation Trust's regeneration of All Souls Bolton as a multi-faith community centre was also impressive. Westgate Hall in Canterbury got a similar honourable mention. What Margate could do with Thanet Press, the former Royal Sea Bathing Chapel, Fort Road Hotel, the Lido, ... ! However, watch out for Valerie Kirschner's Margate Caves which has all the makings of a future Margate Award Winner. Chris Tipping is a pioneer of the creative hub Thanet is fast attracting – he came down to



*Our Secretary, Geoff Orton, proudly holds the 2015 Civic Voice Design Awards' Public Realm Category plaque which was awarded to The Harbour Steps - with Christopher Tipping, the Project Artist, and Griff Rhys Jones, President of Civic Voice, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster on 17th July, 2015*



Ramsgate (via London and Lancashire) and is currently engaged on reshaping Merthyr Tydfil Bus Station which will bring a whole new perspective to proverbial wet Sundays. You will enjoy browsing Chris Tipping's website [www.christophertipping.co.uk](http://www.christophertipping.co.uk) - and may Civic Voice's initiative go from strength to strength! □

**Geoff Orton**  
Secretary

*A close-up of The Blue Plaque awarded to The Harbour Steps*



*The Harbour Steps flood prevention works*

## Works on frontage of 47-48 Hawley Square, Margate

The controversial de-listing of 47-48 Hawley Square was reported upon in MCS Newsletter No 377 (Winter 2014). Further controversy has been caused by the developers installing to replacement bays which are considered by the Margate Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG) to be totally out of keeping with other Georgian houses in Hawley Square.

Indeed, on 31st July this year, the CAAG lodged a formal complaint regarding the bays with Thanet District Council and requesting that enforcement action be commenced immediately so as to prevent further depletion in the quality of CAAG's Conservation Area.



Close-up of one of the replacement windows

*works commence on Nos 49-50 that a similar fate will not befall that property, however a strong and decisive response from Thanet District Council may change this. We request that enforcement action is commended immediately so as to prevent further depletion in the quality of our Conservation Area. It is the opinion of the CAAG that the new bays should be rebuilt as per the approved plans.*

*The harm to the appearance of the Conservation Area, and the context of Listed Buildings that form the magnificent Hawley Square, outweighs any profit-margin concerns an individual developer may have.*

Your Committee gave this matter consideration at their meeting held on 7th August when it was agreed that MCS would give their full support of the representations made by the Margate CAAG. The Committee also agreed to insist that Enforcement Action be commenced by TDC immediately to reconstruct the front entrance in accordance with the original frontage (and approved plans) which we were assured would be replicated.

Geoff Orton, our Secretary, wrote accordingly to TDC and a reply was received from Steve Albon, TDC's Principal Enforcement Officer on 19th August, as follows:

*I can advise we have met with the owners and their agent regarding this matter. They will remedy the situation, to ensure the windows resemble the originals, in relation to scale and features. I thank you for bringing this to the Council's attention.*

Let's hope that the situation will indeed be remedied and that a similar situation will not arise as works to the frontage of 49-50 Hawley Square are carried out.

Our thanks go to TDC for responding so speedily to this matter and well done Margate CAAG for their action in drawing the matter to everyone's attention.

**JB**

The following paragraphs are extracts from the CAAG's letter to TDC:

*The original bays to the front elevation have been completely demolished and replaced with new, poorly-designed bays that:*

- Do not resemble the size, scale and period detailing of the originals, or others in close proximity;*
- Do not accord with the planning drawings approved by Thanet District Council;*
- Are not designed to protect the fabric from rapid decay – absence of window sills, for example.*

*Over the past two years, the local authority have made continued concessions to the developer, despite reasoned opposition from the local community, and it is proving to be to the detriment of our built environment. We remain unconvinced that once*



47-48 Hawley Square



*This photo shows Nos 47-48 Hawley Square on the left and Nos 49-50 Hawley Square on the right  
(All the photos in this page were taken on 19th August 2015)*

## Drapers Windmill Trust - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Greetings

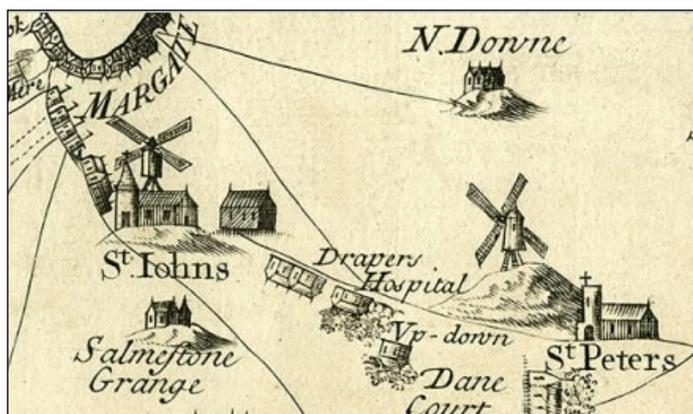
*'The derelict old mill was anything but a thing of beauty then a handful of enthusiastic dedicated volunteers got to work on it – and thanks to their unflinching efforts it is now a joy forever'*

From: *My Weekly* (1978)

R M ('Reg') Towes, Headmaster of the Primary School across from the Mill, was aghast to learn that the 1845 smock mill constructed by John Holman of Canterbury was to be demolished in favour of a housing development. Its last commercial use was in the late 1950s when it was used as a school 'tuck shop' run by a Miss Hart.

Drapers is the last survivor of three mills on the site. At one time there had been ten mills in Margate alone and no less than twenty in Thanet.

The 1717 map of Thanet shows a mill at Drapers and,



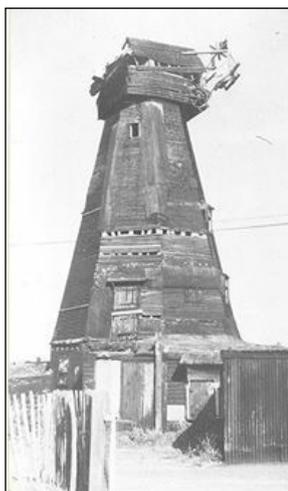
1717 map showing Drapers Mill

given the archaeology hereabouts, Thanet corn probably fed the RAOR (Roman Army Of the Rhine). There is evidence of a Roman villa nearby and certainly the local archaeologists believe there would have been a mediaeval mill. 'Geofizzing' a couple of years ago showed there may well be Iron Age huts among the straight Roman lines.

Reg Towes together with Florence Cates, John Edwards, David Keep and Joe Brown negotiated an eleventh hour stay of execution and Kent County Council was eventually prevailed upon to offer the developer an alternative site.

Said John Edwards, former Chief Cashier of a Margate bank: "People used to say to us 'Why worry about Drapers Mill when you can see windmills in Holland' but we wanted to see our own windmills still standing. Why should things which form part of our heritage and traditions be pulled down? We felt it was a shame that perhaps some youngsters would never see a windmill in their lives. This example of early engineering was of particular value and it has proved to be a tremendous asset to the town."

The fight to save the Mill began in October 1965 when some 64 people gathered at the school. Working with KCC



*Drapers Mill in a derelict state - circa 1965*

to exchange the land with a part of the then playing-field took another three years. There was a unfortunate 'windfall' when the Black Mill at Barham burnt down in 1970. Their reefing stage that runs around the 'skirt' of a smock mill ended up as a donation to Drapers.

As they say, 'It's an ill wind ...'!

The staging was installed by Vincent Pargeter who is still consulted as a premier, if not the premier, millwright in England. He also hoisted the sails (or 'sweeps' as they are known in Kent) – the first two in 1972 and the second pair in 1974.

Drapers Windmill Trust had very actively set about contributing towards the overall cost of £12,000 (which must translate as a breathtaking £100,000 in today's terms and makes this generation's Time Ball Project look positively modest). It meant an awful lot of jumble sales, coffee mornings, and regular Windmill Fairs on the playing-field - all driven by the Headmaster's 'Vision Thing.' They raised a handsome sum of £2,500 and, by 1972, were able to commence grinding. Peak District millstone for the coarser product and French 'Burr' for more refined flour. More recently, Drapers 'twinned' with Moulin Tellier, Bussus Bussuel, in the Somme District.

'Reg' was Headmaster of Drapers Mills for 25 years from 1949 but was sadly killed in a car accident a year after his retirement. He was also the first President of Margate Civic Society. The picture below shows him and a dedicated band seated on the nineteenth-century miller's cart in May 1972 which also came from Barham.



They were certainly quixotic in those days; as John Edwards said: "If it hadn't been for Reg Towes there'd have been no Drapers Mill." Apart from the Mill itself (shades of Sir Christopher Wren and St Paul's here: 'If you require a monument, look around') there is a memorial plaque to Reg Towes set near the Mill's Margate Civic Society's Town Pride Award plaque.

MCS stalwarts long associated with Drapers Mill Trust are Robin Colyer, Ralph Handscomb and Steve Villette. Steve is now the Chairman and David Keep continues as Vice-Chairman. The Mill is open from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Sunday afternoons in June and July and on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons in August as well as

Easter, National Mills Weekend and Heritage Open Days. A steady trickle of schoolchildren on 'holiday projects' is gratifying to behold. Group Visits can always be arranged and it is hoped to be milling again once the gas engine is overhauled. Steam, as an auxiliary power source, had been used but a gas engine was installed in 1916, a time of ever increasing threat to the nation's survival and 'food security' was at the forefront. The Margate Bakery Company owned the Mill by 1925 and in 1927 the sweeps and fantail had been removed as 'unsafe.' The Mill had finally ceased to grind



*Drapers Mill today*



*Drapers Mills circa 1880*



*Drapers Mills circa 1900*



*Drapers Mills circa 1900*

*(The three old photographs above are from the Collection of the late Mick Twyman)*



*The gas engine which came from Royal Victoria Docks*

by the mid-1930s and became used as an animal-feed storage depot by Longbottom Pantony and Lythgoe's.

Nowadays, Drapers Mill is the only one in Thanet open to the public since the worrying situation at Sarre developed. It requires constant maintenance and the Trust is consulting with KCC on further sums to be raised. Wishing to at least partly follow the example of those

intrepid 1960s 'pioneers' by raising some funds with their own bootstraps the Trust are fomenting ideas to make more of the Mill's unique educational resource as part of Thanet's and indeed the nation's agricultural heritage: mills are the prime example of early civil engineering.

And when one looks out to sea these days, one cannot help but think that wind has been rediscovered as a renewable with a definite future. Here's to the next 50 years at Drapers and the memory of Reg Towes! □

**Geoff Orton**  
**Secretary**

*Volunteers are always required. If you are looking for an interest and can make a contribution, please contact the MCS Secretary*

## **DRAPERS WINDMILL**

**BUILT BY**  
**JOHN HOLMAN OF CANTERBURY**  
**1845**

**RESTORED BY**  
**THE DRAPERS WINDMILL TRUST**  
**1965-1975**

THE TRUST CONTINUES TO MANAGE THE WINDMILL  
ON BEHALF OF KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
ENQUIRIES :- 01843 - 226227

*Drapers Mill sign showing restoration dates 1965-1975*

## Northdown Way - Margate's very own 'small garden city'



Today, it is very much the trees and hedges which add to the charm of Northdown Way as can be seen from the two photographs above

It was when I was researching the boundary changes of the former Margate Borough Council that had taken place prior to the creation of 'Greater Margate' in 1935 (when Margate 'swallowed up' both Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington) that I stumbled across a copy of a most interesting document. The document was the formal 'Memorial' which Margate Borough Council submitted to then Local Government Board in 1911 seeking an extension of the then Borough boundary to incorporate parts of the Parishes of Garlinge, Northdown and St Peter Extra, all in the Isle of Thanet. The sought-after extension of the Borough boundary was duly acceded to by the Local Government Board and the boundary changes came into effect on 1st April 1913. However, what I found of particular interest were two references in the Memorial document to Northdown Way.

The first reference read:

At Northdown, just outside the Borough boundary, is situated a small garden city known as Northdown Way, which is in need of drainage, and an agreement was about to be entered into between the Rural District Council of the Isle of Thanet and the Corporation of Margate for the drainage of this small garden city, and the remainder of Northdown and part of the Parish of St Peter Extra. If the proposals contained in this Memorial are acceded to by the Local Government Board such agreement will of course not be necessary, as the Corporation would carry out the work themselves.

The second reference read:

The manner in which land is developing on this side of the town (i.e. the east side) is shown by the rapid development of the small garden city estate of Northdown Way, of which some 2½ acres at the back of Hodges' [sic] Flagstaff, and of the Estate at George Hill. (It is believed that the 'Estate at George Hill' refers to the development in the area comprising Percy Avenue, Kingsgate Avenue and Fitzroy Avenue.)

Firstly, I was not aware that, before 1913, Northdown Way was outside the Borough boundary but - more importantly - I had never heard or seen any reference before to Northdown Way being described as 'a small garden city'. I had admired the architectural styles of many of the older houses and the abundance of hedges in Northdown Way for maybe half a century but I had not appreciated that the development was considered - even in 1911 - as being a small garden city.



151 Millmead Road - believed to be the first house built on the Northdown Way estate. It was built in 1907

There were only ever two true garden cities in England - at Letchworth (founded 1903) and at Welwyn (founded 1920). Far more numerous were garden suburbs such as at Hampstead (founded in 1905) and villages (of which Northdown might be considered to be one). It is interesting that the references in the 1911 Memorial document refer to Northdown Way as being a 'small garden city'. I suppose the emphasis is on the word 'small' as a true garden city (like Letchworth) was deemed to contain not just residential properties but also industrial and/or commercial premises and communal facilities. Northdown Way has always been wholly residential and, I suppose, could perhaps be better described as a 'small garden suburb' rather than a 'small garden city'. Of course, when the first houses in Northdown Way (and its immediate neighbourhood) were built in 1907, Northdown Way was in the Parish of Northdown and, therefore, would then not have been considered to be a suburb of Margate.



very popular in garden cities and garden suburbs (viz. Broadway, Meadow Way and Station Way at Letchworth Garden City and Northway, Southway and Meadway at Hampstead Garden Suburb).

The accompanying photographs show how the trees have matured over the years. The area, with its many Arts & Crafts houses, is most delightful one and is quite different from any other location in our area. If you haven't visited Northdown Way, I do recommend you do so - preferably on foot - on a summer's day when it can be seen at its best.



Anyway, I was sufficiently stirred by the references to Northdown Way as a 'small garden city' to take my camera along and take a few photographs for the Newsletter in the hope that an article would generate some interest amongst our members in these attractive houses and, more importantly, might even elicit more information from our members about the history of Northdown Way.

With hindsight, the name Northdown Way is itself points to it being located in a garden city as the word 'way' was

#### Further reading:

The English Heritage publication *English Garden Cities* by Mervyn Miller published in 2010 at £9.99 and the Shire book *Garden Cities* by Sarah Rutherford published in 2014 at £6.99 are both excellent introductions to the Garden City Movement and both are superbly illustrated. The founder of the movement was Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928). □



The front cover of the English Heritage book



## Remembering the late James Walter Hart MM

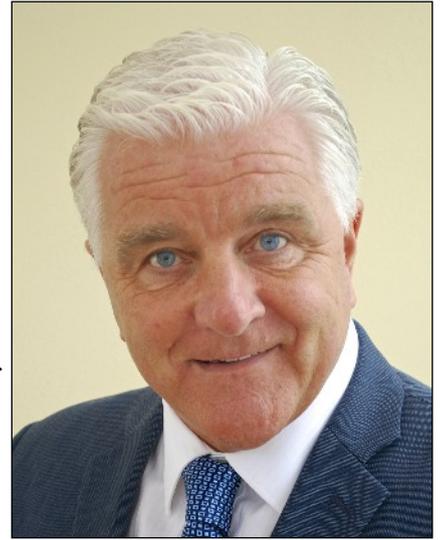
Clive Hart is a former Council Leader who stood down from TDC in April to join NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group. He is also a long-time member of Margate Civic Society and served for a number of years on the Society's Committee. In recent years, Clive was unable to get to many of our meetings due to his heavy Council commitments but he and his wife Sandra did come along to our meeting last May for the illustrated talk on Margate's part in Operation Dynamo (the evacuation of the allied troops from Dunkirk in 1940) given to the Society to mark the 75th anniversary of that momentous event. At the end of that talk, Clive told the speaker that his father, after the war had finished, had worked on repairing the bomb damage to the Winter Gardens. As the Winter Gardens had featured large in the story of Margate's part in Operation Dynamo and had been very badly damaged by enemy bombing in the Second World War, your Editor was only too pleased to accept Clive's kind offer to supply some old photographs of his father for publication in our Newsletter. It is as much the people of Margate as it is its fine architecture that have made the town what it is today. Indeed, it is due to the love of the town by people like Clive and his father, James Walter Hart, that Margate Civic Society continues to thrive.

From a personal point of view, it is good that local politicians of all political persuasions join our Society and take an interest in the Society's activities and local concerns. It is particularly pleasing that amongst our new members this year, we have two members of Margate Charter Trustees. According to my reckoning, that makes a total of five Charter Trustees as members out of a total of 17. It would be even more pleasing if some of the other Charter Trustees - particularly those who live in our area - were also to join the Society and demonstrate their support of our aims and purposes.

Clive is very proud of his father and of his service in The Buffs in the Second World War. Clive wrote: "He was orphaned at a very young age and fibbed to get into the army so we're not quite sure of his date

of birth but he was somewhere between 71 and 73 when he died."

Anyway, these are the photos and press cutting kindly supplied by Clive Hart together with his very personal captions. I feel sure that readers will find them of interest. If you can identify any of the other men in these photos, please do let me know.



Clive Hart



"My father (sitting) on the left of a small group working on restoration of the Winter Gardens in 1946 following war bomb damage. Dad was a plasterer's labourer right up to my own childhood, when I would hear him return from work each evening long before he came into sight. His whistling could be heard from our home in Laleham Road when he was dropped off from a van outside the King Edward public house in Dane Valley" - Clive Hart



"The 'Winter Gardens Team' is exactly that - the team that restored the Winter Gardens after war damage. My father (middle row - sixth from the right - set back between two others), is the coolest looking dude in the team wearing a dashing Indiana Jones hat. I remember Dad saying that they repaired the ornate ceilings in the main hall" - Clive Hart



Clive's father, the late James Walter Hart MM

# MODEST WAR HERO SAW ACTION AT DUNKIRK AND IN THE DESERT



Margate war hero Mr. James Walter Hart died in the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital on Friday after a year-long illness.

Mr. Hart (71), of Selborne Road, was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry at Dunkirk and was decorated at Buckingham Palace by King George VI.

He was also awarded a bronze oak leaf emblem after being mentioned in dispatches for outstanding bravery in North Africa.

His wife Esther said: "He was a very reserved man and spoke little about the incidents. He was proud of what he did, but did not

like to boast about it."

Mr. Hart joined the 5th Battalion of the Buffs as a young man before the outbreak of war. He first saw military action in Palestine.

He then went to Dunkirk and was finally involved in the cam-

paign to liberate Italy.

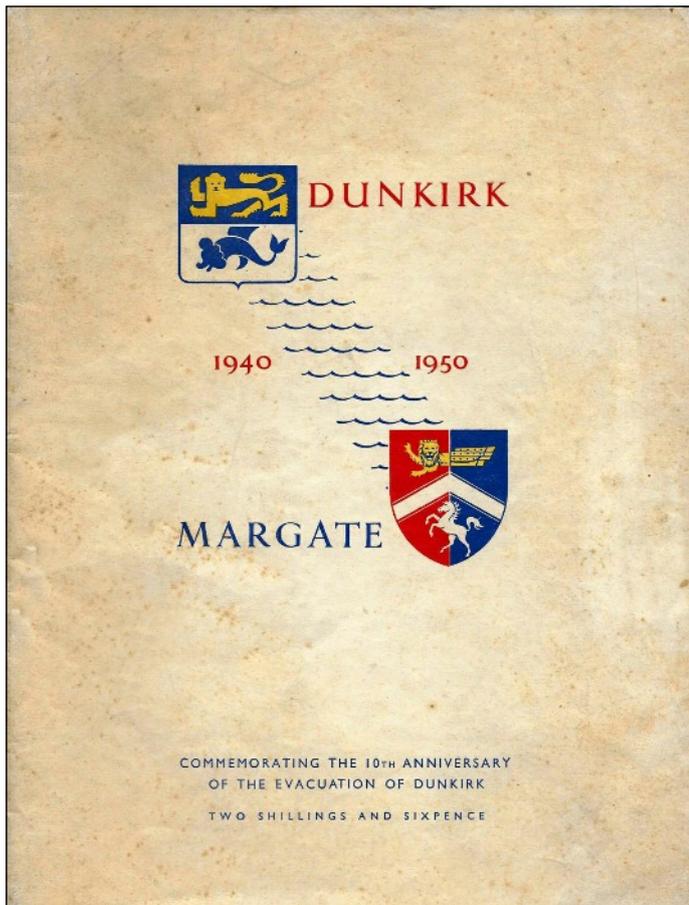
He left the Army after the war and went into the building trade.

Mr. Hart leaves a widow, one daughter, three sons and six grandchildren.

The funeral is today (Friday) at Thanet Crematorium.

James Hart — war hero

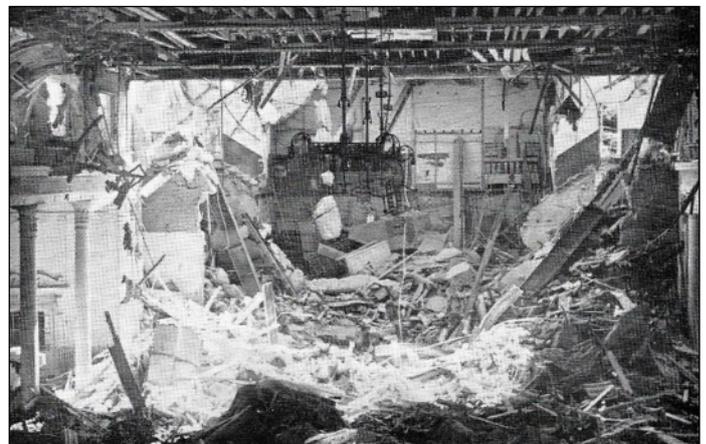
The report of the death of James Hart as it appeared on the front page of a copy of the Isle of Thanet Gazette published in 1989



The above press cutting records that the late James Hart was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry at Dunkirk and that he was decorated with his medal by HM King George VI at Buckingham Palace. James Hart was also awarded a bronze oak leaf emblem after being mentioned in despatches for outstanding bravery in North Africa. Yes, he well deserves the title of 'war hero' and, Clive, you are right to be immensely proud of your father.

JB

This commemorative souvenir booklet was published by the former Margate Corporation in 1950 to mark the tenth anniversary of Operation Dynamo. The booklet contained a programme of events that were held at the end of May/beginning of June 1950. Copies of the booklet were sold at 2/6d each and, today, occasionally turn up at local auctions and second-hand bookshops.



This shows the extent of the damage caused to the east wing of the Winter Gardens by an enemy bomb which fell through the roof in July 1943



Workmen clearing bomb damage at the Winter Gardens. Note the men's clothing, in particular their hats



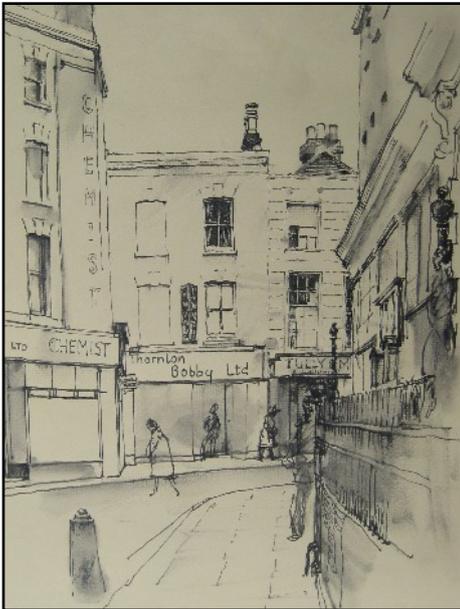
This shows the wrecked main stage of the Winter Gardens

# Memories of Margate in the 1950s/60s from the sketchbooks of Christopher Alexander (1926-82)

A selection of Christopher Alexander's artwork was exhibited at Turner Contemporary this summer and a good number of our members visited the exhibition. It is hoped that a larger exhibition of his works will be put on by Turner Contemporary in the not too far distant future. This summer's exhibition, which ran concurrently with a major exhibition of Grayson Perry's artwork, certainly drew the public's attention to this important Margate artist with record attendances. Christopher Alexander's son, Steven, has very kindly agreed to give an illustrated talk - Part III of his father's artwork - to the Society next April. Don't miss it. □



*The Clock Tower from Queen Street*

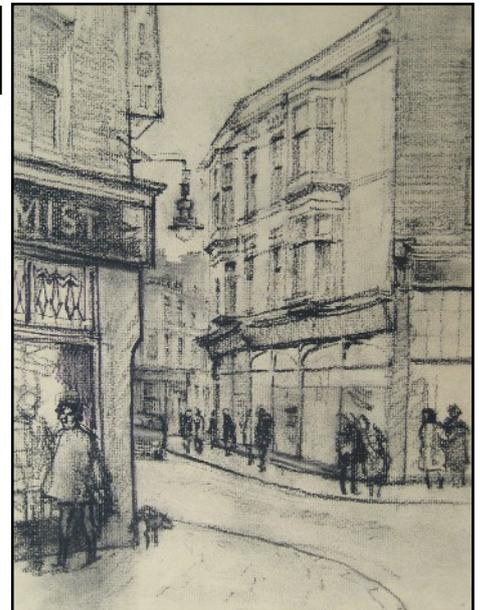


*Queen Street looking south*

These sketches are reproduced with kind permission of Steven Alexander



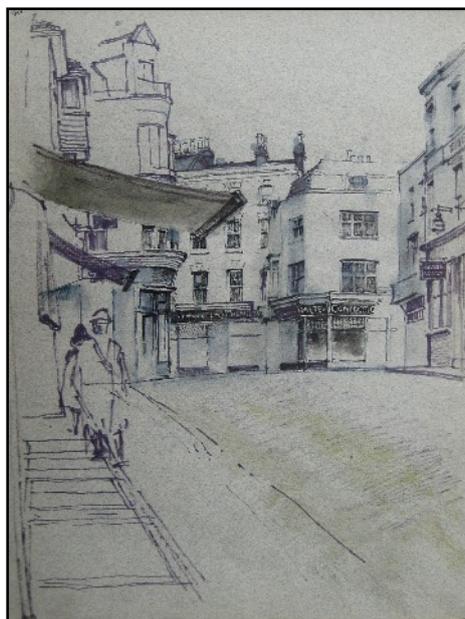
*The Spread Eagle Public House, Victoria Road*



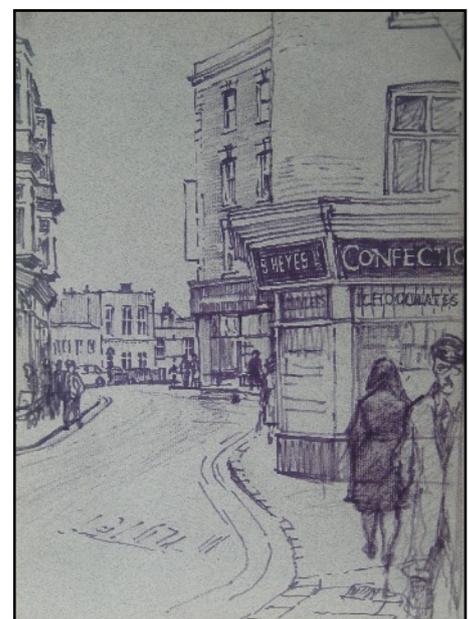
*Queen Street looking west. Note the old gas-lamp on the corner*



*Cecil Square from the High Street*



*The Wellington Inn, Duke Street*



*Queen Street looking east*

## Westgate Town Council - Update

There can be no better example of the ‘law of unintended consequences’ than the outcome of the wishes of Margate Charter Trustees, more than two years ago, to metamorphose into Margate Town Council. The Charter Trustees formally requested TDC to carry out a community governance review with the objective of gaining support from the people of Margate for a Town Council to be created in place of the Charter Trustees. TDC carried out such a review but the outcome was not what anyone had anticipated nor was it what the Charter Trustees had wished for. The review revealed that there was simply no desire from the people of Margate to replace the Charter Trustees with a Town Council. However, due very much to a vociferous campaign led by a former TDC Westgate-on-Sea ward councillor to create a Westgate Parish Council, TDC, in its wisdom, decided to make an Order on 25th February 2015 which duly created a Westgate Parish Council which effectively came into being immediately following the May elections. Readers are reminded that, in the first-stage survey, only six persons expressed a preference for a separate Parish Council for Westgate (equivalent to 0.0167%). In the second-stage survey, there were 131 responses from Westgate residents out of which 81 were in favour of a Westgate Parish Council and 50 were not in favour. Although only 2.4% in total of Westgate’s electors responded to TDC’s second-stage survey, TDC went ahead and created Westgate Parish Council despite the distinct lack of interest within Westgate of having their own Parish Council. This lack of interest again revealed itself when only ten persons put their names forward for election to the new Parish Council and, because the Order allowed for ten councillors, all ten were deemed to be duly elected although not a single vote was cast in favour of any of the candidates by the electors of Westgate. It remains a matter of debate as to whether TDC were right to create Westgate Parish Council given the poor responses to TDC’s community governance review. Not only did Margate Charter Trustees fail to achieve their objective of changing into a Town Council but, because TDC created a Westgate Parish Council as a consequence of the process, the Charter Trustees, under the provisions of the Order, must now split their assets with the new Westgate Parish Council. This splitting of the assets will cost the Charter Trustees dear. At the time of writing this article, the Charter Trustees have agreed to split their cash reserves on the basis of the proportion of the number of Council Tax Band D equivalents as provided for in the Order. This means that of the Charter Trustees’ cash reserves of £126,181 at the end of March 2015, £20,642 will be paid over to the Parish Council. In addition, the Charter Trustees hold two silver presentation cups which are Westgate-related and it has also been agreed that those be passed over to the Parish Council. However, Westgate Parish Council consider that, in addition to the £20,642 cash reserves and the two silver cups, they are also entitled to a further £50,000 from the Charter Trustees. In response, the Charter Trustees have offered £30,000 in addition to the £20,642 from the cash reserves (making a total of £50,642). This *impasse* has resulted in what the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* aptly described in one of its reports as a ‘squabble’ between the two public bodies. This

squabble has rumbled on for more than three months and at a meeting of Margate Charter Trustees held on 24th August, it was reported by the Town Mayor, Cllr Robin Edwards, that a meeting was to be held between representatives of the Charter Trustees and the Parish Council at which TDC’s Head of Legal and Democratic Support and Monitoring Officer, Tim Howes, would act as mediator in an endeavour to resolve this *impasse*. The Basis of the Charter Trustees’ offer of the additional £30,000 is not known but it seems to be more than over generous to the Parish Council at the expense of the Charter Trustees. Already, there is growing support within Margate for any final decision to pay such a huge sum to the Parish Council, without there being a reasonable basis, to be challenged when the Charter Trustees’ annual accounts are placed on deposit for inspection by electors next year.

This story illustrates the ‘law of unintended consequences’ which so many politicians discover to their cost. Had the outcome of the Charter Trustees’ request some two years ago been known at the time, they would surely not have made the request in the first place.

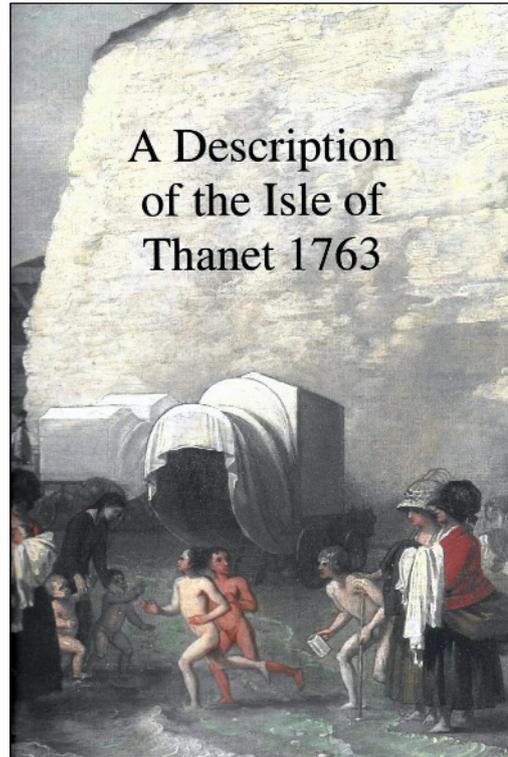
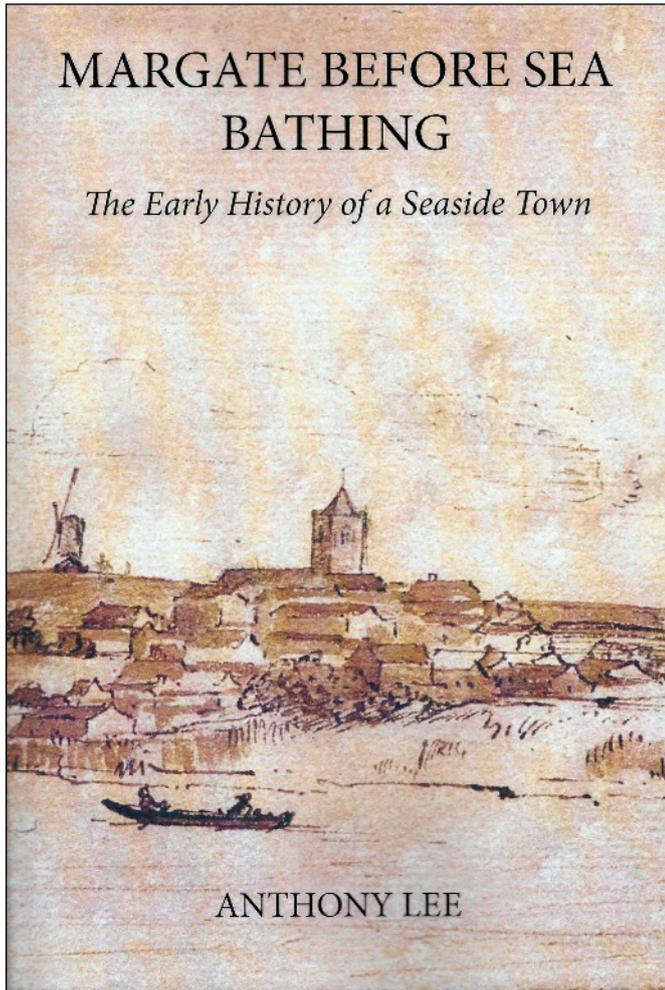
But the story isn’t finished yet. When TDC made the Order creating the new Parish Council, TDC made the mistake of naming the new body as Westgate Parish Council. This caused much upset in Westgate as the town has always been known as Westgate-on-Sea and the former Parish Council (which lasted from 1894 to 1935) was always known as Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council. The new Council decided that they would simply change their name by adding ‘-on-Sea’ and to re-designate their status from a Parish Council to that of a Town Council (with, of course, the power to appoint a Mayor). As commented in my Editorial last time, I doubted whether the Parish Council had any legal powers to change their name so simply. I subsequently took this matter up with TDC’s Tim Howes who advised me that, although the Parish Council had powers to re-designate itself as Town Council, the change of name from Westgate Town Council to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council required the formal approval by TDC under Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972. WTC has now formally requested TDC to approve that change which will go before TDC full Council on 15th October. Until the change of name is so approved, the name of the new Council remains as Westgate Town Council. There must be many who wished that none of this sad story had ever happened!

Up until very recently, contact addresses of elected Councillors were readily available. For example, TDC used to put all their Councillors’ contact addresses on the TDC website. Now, whilst e-mail addresses are shown for all councillors, their home addresses are shown for only a number of Councillors. A consequence of this change is that one cannot determine how many of the TDC Councillors (as Margate Charter Trustees) actually live in Margate. Similarly, Westgate Town Council has only published the e-mail addresses of their Councillors making it impossible to determine which of their Councillors live in Westgate. Whatever happened to public accountability?

JB

## Book Reviews

Two new books were published this year both relating to Margate's early history. One is an academic study containing much that has not been published before: the other is a reprint of perhaps the earliest guide to the Isle of Thanet (and particularly to Margate) which was published in the very early days of sea bathing.



*A Description of the Isle of Thanet and particularly to the Town of Margate* - originally published in 1763 and republished in facsimile in 2015 in softback by Michael's Bookshop, 72 King Street, Ramsgate at £3.99

Michael's Bookshop really has come up with a super little book in A5 format of 72 pages. Around a third of the book is devoted to Margate and its attractions in those days whilst the remainder of the book covers the rest of Thanet and beyond including Sandwich and, indeed, Canterbury. The book contains much interesting detail of Benjamin Beale's bathing-machine with a full explanation of its structure. The book contains a most interesting two-page map of the Isle of Thanet which I had not seen before together with a charming reproduction of a print showing the bathing-rooms that were near the bottom of Margate's High Street with two horse-drawn bathing machines on the foreshore. The booklet was originally published for early visitors to the town who desired to explore the area in some depth. As it is a facsimile of the original, the font is what might be described as 'old English' but one soon adapts to the letter 's' looking more like the letter 'f' but that all adds to the charm of the booklet. Michael's Bookshop is to be congratulated on both finding and reproducing another early publication at an affordable price when a copy of the original - if one could find one - would set one back perhaps as much as £60. If you haven't yet visited Michael Child's bookshop at Ramsgate, I do recommend you do so as he has now reproduced over 100 publications all of local interest at very inexpensive prices. We are lucky to have a local bibliophile who is forever on the search for originals of books of local interest such as this one to reproduce.

JB

*Margate before Sea Bathing: The Early History of a Seaside Town (1300-1736)* by Anthony Lee - published 2015 in softback by Droit House Press

In Anthony Lee, Margate is extremely fortunate to have someone who possesses huge depth of knowledge of the history of our town and has access to such a broad archive of material. His book *Margate in the Georgian Era* and his superb website [www.margatelocalhistory.co.uk](http://www.margatelocalhistory.co.uk) have established the author as 'Mr Margate'. We are indeed blessed to have someone of Anthony Lee's ability to research the town's early history in such depth. His latest book *Margate before Sea Bathing* is not a picture book but it is a thoroughly well researched academic book containing 375 pages of which 40 pages are devoted to Notes and the Index. Before the pleasure of sea bathing became popular in the early eighteenth century, Margate was little more than a fishing village and the book uses a wide range of original documents to describe the early history of the town. The book also shows how the foundations were laid for the town's future prosperity. I obtained my copy from Amazon at only £14.64 inclusive of postage and I look forward to reading it over the winter months. On the basis of the author's high reputation, I just know that I will not be disappointed and I am sure that others who read the book will feel the same.

## What's On

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

Date	Subject
<b>2015</b>	
1st October	AGM followed by 'Turner Contemporary's Waste Land Community Project' by Trish Scott, The Waste Land Research Curator, Turner Contemporary
5th November	'The Royal School for Deaf Children, Margate' by Wendy Eadsforth, CEO/Principal and Joanna Meaden, Marketing Director
3rd December	Christmas Social Evening - arrangements yet to be confirmed
<b>2016</b>	
January	No meeting
4th February	'Shades and Zephyrs: The History of Fans and Parasols' by Lee Ault
3rd March	'Policing the Past: Heritage Crime' by Dr Andrew Richardson, Canterbury Archaeological Trust
7th April	'The Artwork of Christopher Alexander - Part III' by Dr Steven Alexander
12th May	Town Pride Awards followed by a talk - subject and speaker to be confirmed

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 each year.



**Westgate Heritage Centre** (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Autumn/Winter Programme 2015**  
On the first Saturday of each month at **10.30am**, there will be a talk by Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator of Westgate Heritage Centre

**Autumn/Winter at the Westgate Heritage Centre – all start at 10.30am (unless otherwise stated):**

**Saturday 3rd October** 10.30 am: "October 1973 – Water, water everywhere." John Naden, who was a young Police Constable at the time of the Canterbury Road flooding, will share his experiences of that night.

**Saturday 7th November** 10.30 am: The Heritage Centre remembers the men of Westgate who died in both World Wars. Those who died in 1945 will be especially remembered

**Saturday 5th December** 10.30 am: "A Westgate Family" - an illustrated talk by Sally Whitworth in which she will share her research on the Huckstep family

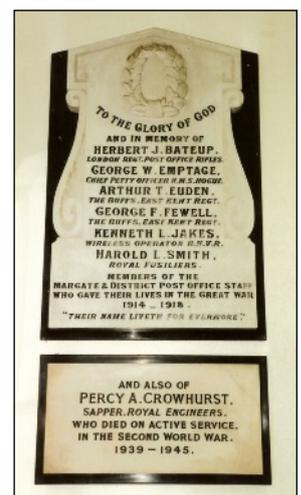
**Come and browse through our collection of material and photographs of Westgate, which is growing all the time. We have large-scale maps and plans which reveal great detail about your street or area**



*Margate Civic Society's coach trip to London (IWM/V&A) on Tuesday, 22nd September with Carol Peters Coaches will be more comfortable - and less exposed - than in these char-a-bancs used for the Margate Butchers' Annual Outing on 5th May 1926!*

### STOP PRESS

The Margate Post Office War Memorial tablets in memory of the Post Office employees who lost their lives in WWI and WWII have been removed from the former Crown Post Office in Cecil Square and are now located at the Royal Mail Sorting Office at 12 Addington Road. Unfortunately, at the end of August the two tablets had still not been affixed to the wall inside the public callers office, to be visible to members of the public, as we had been assured by Post Office Ltd. □



# Margate Civic Society

[www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk)



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity. It is a founder member of Civic Voice and is affiliated to both the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and the Kent History Federation.

The Society's purpose and aims are to encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Margate and its environs (Birchington, Westgate-on-Sea, Cliftonville, Westbrook, Garlinge, Acol, Sarre and St Nicholas-at-Wade); to stimulate public interest and care for the history and character of the area; and to encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general amenity and historical interest. To this end, Town Pride awards are given annually to those buildings which have been refurbished, cleaned or modified and which, in the opinion of the Society, have enhanced the appearance of the town. New high-quality buildings are also eligible for the award. The Society also vets planning applications and makes known to Thanet District Council any objections to those applications which it considers necessary.

Evening meetings are held monthly between October and May at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville. The lectures, mostly illustrated with slides, are interesting and of local interest; they are also varied in their appeal. A Newsletter is published four times a year.

## Committee for 2014/15:

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

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

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

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

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

**Membership Secretary:** Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ  
(Tel: 01843 228858) (e-mail: [membership.mcs@gmail.com](mailto:membership.mcs@gmail.com))

**Newsletter Editor:** Mr James Brazier, "The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ  
(Tel: 01843 298038) (e-mail: [jasbrazier@talktalk.net](mailto: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](mailto:mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com))

If you are interested in joining our Society, please fill in the enrolment form below and send it to the Society's Treasurer, Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF:

✂.....

## Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £ .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Tel:** ..... **e-mail:** .....

**Proposed subscription rates for 2015/16 (subject to approval at the AGM to be held on 1st October 2015) :**

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£11.00	£15.00	£4.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£9.00	£13.00	£2.00	£20.00

*Please note that Life Membership subscription is no longer available*

\* 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